

# Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2021)

## **Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club**

29 Edith Street, Georgetown, Town of Halton Hills

January 2022

### **Prepared by:**

John Mark Rowe – Heritage Halton Hills Committee

Laura Loney, Senior Heritage Planner – Town of Halton Hills

Tharushe Jayaveer – Town of Halton Hills

Kylie Robins – Town of Halton Hills

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## 1.0 Property Description

<b>29 Edith Street – The Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club</b>	
<b>Municipality</b>	Town of Halton Hills
<b>County or Region</b>	Regional Municipality of Halton
<b>Legal Description</b>	LT 115, PL 27, AKA YOUNG AND BARBER'S SURVEY; HALTON HILLS with PIN 25033-0045
<b>Construction Date</b>	Log Cabin (Clubhouse) - c.1843 Stable (Storage Shed) - c.1843
<b>Original Use</b>	Log Cabin – Residential Stable – Outbuilding
<b>Current Use</b>	Recreational
<b>Architect/Building/Designer</b>	Samuel Warnock
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Log Cabin
<b>Additions/Alterations</b>	Log Cabin (Clubhouse): Structure relocated and re-assembled in 1917 from 1 ½ to 1 storey with new roofing; interior alterations; 1975 extension; replacement doors and windows.  Stable (Storage Shed): Replacement windows and doors, garage door c. 1960, log cabin and storage shed connected c.1975, asphalt shingle roof.
<b>Heritage Status</b>	Listed
<b>Recorder(s)</b>	John Mark Rowe, Heritage Halton Hills Committee Laura Loney, Senior Heritage Planner Tharushe Jayaveer, Heritage Planner
<b>Report Date</b>	January 2022

## 2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 29 Edith Street in Halton Hills, Ontario. The report includes an evaluation of the property's cultural heritage value as prescribed by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The Georgetown Lawn Bowling property is located at 29 Edith Street, Esquesing in Georgetown, Halton Hills. The property is situated at the intersection of Edith Street and William Street. The property is legally known as LT 115, PL 27, AKA YOUNG AND BARBER'S SURVEY; HALTON HILLS (Figure 1).



Figure 1: The property at 29 Edith Street (Maplinks 2019 Aerial View)



## 2.1 Historical Background

### Lawn Bowling History

Lawn bowling and variations of the sport has been played for centuries. While lawn bowling was played unofficially in Halton Hills for many years, the first official Lawn Bowling Club in Canada was the Niagara-on-the-Lake Lawn Bowling Club (founded 1877). However, the Georgetown Club was not founded until 1907. There are several clubs in Ontario with historic designated clubhouses, including the Ottawa Tennis and Lawn Bowling Club, and the St. Matthew's Lawn Bowling Clubhouse in Toronto (Figure 2 and Figure 3). The Ottawa Club was designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for both its cultural value reflecting an era when lawn bowling was a popular sport among the Canadian middle class, and for its 1920s architecture. Similarly, the Toronto club, founded in 1899, was also designated under Part IV of the OHA for both its cultural value as an important institution in its community, and its design value as a clubhouse in Toronto specifically commissioned for lawn bowling.

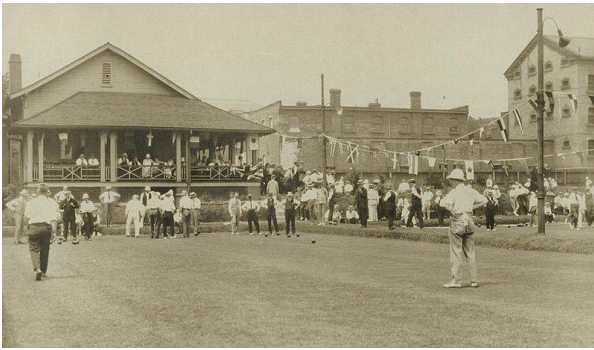


Figure 2: St. Matthews Lawn Bowling Club, c.1925 (City of Toronto Archives)



Figure 3: Ottawa Tennis & Lawn Bowling Club, n.d. (Ottawa Tennis & Lawn Bowling Club)

### Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club

The Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club property is a rectangular parcel known as Lot 115, part of the Young-Barber Survey, on Lot 18 Concession 8, Esquesing in Georgetown, located at the corner of William and Edith Streets.

The Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club is the oldest organized sports club in Georgetown, originally made up of the leading men of the community (Table 1). The original members of the Club were H. W. Kennedy, N. A. McCallum, J. W. Kennedy, W. A. F. Campbell, R. I. Creelman, H. A. Coffen, F. M. Scarff, Rene R. Barber, H. W. Bell, George W. C. Graham, R. D. Warren, S. H. McGibbon, J. McDermid, J. McBean, J. C. McKay, W. N. McKay, J. A. Willoughby, Dr. A. S. Elliot, Ed. Finlay, Ed. Flack, F. R. Watson, Dr. Samuel Webster, R. F. Cameron, F. J. Barber, Dr. McKinlay, G. A. Ramsden, J. P. Reid, F. W. Brooke, H. G. Brookes, A. M. Huestis, and W. A. Fraser (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Some members of the Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club gather in 1907 for a group picture on the bowling greens which ran behind today's Shepherd's Crook and the CIBC. Behind the wooden fence is 92 Main Street South (EHS00117).

**Table 1: Original Members of the Georgetown Bowling Club**

Member	Description
Hugh McKay	McKay Brothers flour, feed and groceries was established by Hugh McKay in 1863. Upon his death it was carried on by his sons William and John and joined by their cousin.
Dr. R.R. Nickell	Dr. R.R. Nickell was a veterinarian in Town.
Richard Irvine Creelman	R. I. Creelman operated Creelman Knitting Machine Company for 68 years. The company built small knitting machines and typewriters.
J. W. Kennedy	J.W. Kennedy owned and managed a hardware business since 1908 but was connected with business life of Georgetown for about 14 years previous.
H.W. Kennedy	H.W. Kennedy was a former teacher. He established a grocery and boot and shoe business in 1895 with his sister as his assistant.
Francis "Frank" J. Barber	F.J. Barber was a son of John Roaf Barber, owner of the Barber Paper Mills, later Provincial Paper. He lived in Berwick Hall at 139 Main Street South. He moved to Toronto and then to the USA where he died in 1961.
Dr. Samuel Webster	Dr. S. Webster had his medical practice in Norval from 1865. He had another office in Georgetown and worked with Dr. A.W. Nixon for 30 years until 1909. He served as Esquesing Reeve, County Warden and was Halton County Sheriff for nearly 20 years. He died in 1928 at the age of 86.
A.D. Thompson	A.D. Thompson was a dry goods merchant on Main Street and a village Councilor for two terms.
Rev. R. F. Cameron	Rev. R.F. Cameron was the pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church from 1904 until 1924.

John McDermid	J. McDermid came to Canada in 1862 and shortly afterwards began a grocery business in Georgetown. He was appointed postmaster in September 1913, to succeed Mr. William McLeod.
John Roaf Barber	J.R. Barber is the son of James Barber, founder of the paper mill. He built the mansion at 139 Main Street, "Berwick Hall." John R. Barber founded the Coated Paper Mills in 1905 and in 1911 consolidated both mills into Provincial Paper. He retired in 1912 and died in 1917.
Major Lachlan Grant	Maj. L. Grant was a long-time resident who once ran a store in Town, became Clerk of the Division Court and served with Village and County Councils. He was mobilized in the Fenian Raids and was a member of the Halton Rifles militia.
John McBean	McBean & Co. was successor to William McLeod, an established dry goods, boots & grocery business, in 1895.
Rene "Ray" Raoul Barber	R.R. Barber was a son of John Roaf Barber. Rene was involved with the paper mill and was a member of the Halton Rifles from 1898 to 1906. He served as a Major in the First World War and died in England in 1934.
Harold A. Coffen	H.A Coffen was proprietor of the Coffen House, formerly the Bennett House Hotel. He ran it for 18 years before dying in 1908.
Samuel H. McGibbon	S.H McGibbon purchased the McGibbon Hotel in 1895 in partnership with his brother John, who owned the Milton Inn. Ann McGibbon ran the dining room and the entire family lived at the Hotel.
John McBean	J. McBean purchased the iconic Mammoth House in Georgetown in 1895, selling dry goods, boots & groceries. He operated the store for 54 years.
William McKay	W. McKay with his brother John he took over his father Hugh's flour, feed, and groceries business in 1885.
John McKay	J. McKay with his brother William he took over his father Hugh's flour, feed, and groceries business in 1885.
John A. Willoughby	J.A. Willoughby established livery and real estate in 1901 on Mill Street. He had 21 horses and a bus to and from all passenger trains at the station. In 1907 he ventured into real estate. He presented the Library Board with a site for a new library, which was sold when the Congregational Church was given a gift to the library.
Dr. Francis 'Frank' R. Watson	Dr. F.R. Watson was a local boy, famed as a lacrosse player, who went on to become a dental surgeon. He lived his entire life in Georgetown.
Dr. C. McKinlay	Dr. C. McKinlay began his dental surgery in 1886 and built his office at 52 Main Street South, in 1891.

The inaugural meeting of the Ladies Bowling Club was held at the residence of Mrs. R.I. Creelman on July 6, 1918. Accounts for 1918 show \$12.50 in fees paid for Ladies Bowling, increasing to \$98.00 in 1920. A membership list from the 1929 accounts identifies 19 women, including Mrs. J. J. Gibbons, Mrs. J. H. Lillica, Mrs. A. E. Cordingley, Mrs. J. H. Haisen, Mrs. J. Reid, Mrs. T. Morley, Mrs. B. Leslie, Mrs. H. Hamilton, Miss J. Leavitt, Miss M. Thompson, Miss Mae Langan, Mrs. T. McMurchy, Mrs. H. Cleave, Mrs. G. Brown, Mrs. P. Blackburn, Miss H. Harrison, Mrs. LeRoy Dale, Mrs. G. Ford, and Mrs. P. Coffin. Men and women's lawn bowling remained separate until October 1, 1987. The Ladies Division unanimously decided they would like to merge with the Men's Division, and recommended that one executive would manage the club, with both men and women appointed to represent it at the District and Provincial

levels when necessary. Records could not be found after this date to confirm, but it is likely the two divisions had merged by 1988.



Figure 5: The Women's section enjoys lawn Bowling on the Edith Street court about 1945 (EHS22149)

In November 1863, James Young and his wife sold the lot to William Barber. In May 1869, Barber and his wife sold the lot to widow Jane Christison. In 1905, Samuel Gilmer bought the empty lot for \$300. He also purchased Lot 114 and constructed a simple cottage on it (Figure 6). On 2 May 1916, William Frampton bought Lot 115 for \$350. On April 27, 1917, Gilmer sold the property to LeRoy Dale, prominent lawyer and the Mayor of Georgetown, for \$425. On December 1, 1917, Dale sold the lot to Frank J. Barber, F.R. Watson and John W. Kennedy, trustees of the Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club, for \$400. The Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club has owned the property since that time.

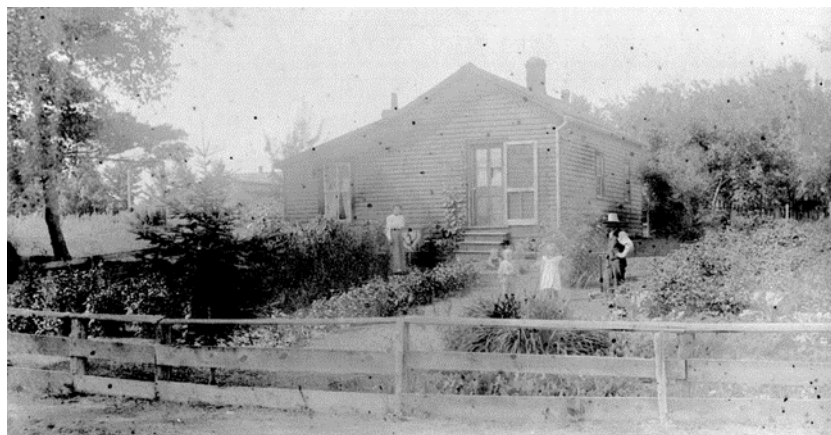


Figure 6: Samuel Gilmer residence at #31 Edith Street about 1901. Pictured are Mrs. Gilmer, Fred, Albert, and Elsie, and Samuel Gilmer. This structure has been replaced by a red brick house. The future bowling green is at left (EHS16577)

The Club's first bowling green was located in what is now a parking lot between the Shepherd's Crook and the Royal Canadian Legion along Mill Street in Georgetown. In 1917, the Club purchased the subject



property and increased their bowling greens from 2 lanes to 7 lanes, allowing for an increase in membership. In 1917, a log cabin and stable were relocated and placed on the Club grounds to be used as a clubhouse and equipment shed. The first meeting within the relocated log cabin was on July 13, 1917 (Figure 7).



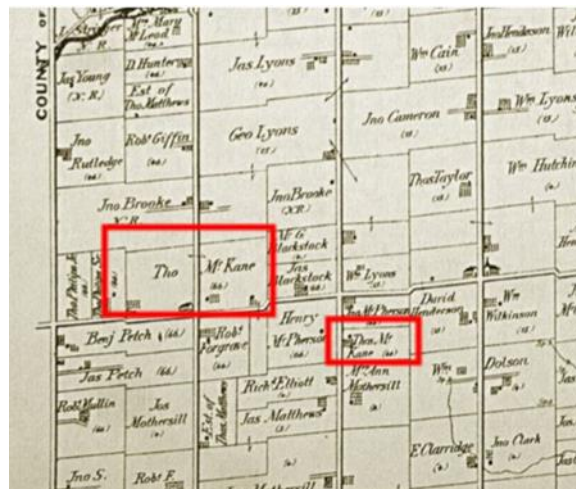
Figure 7: Georgetown Herald, 11 July 1917

The log cabin and stable were donated by the McKane family from Lot 22, Concession 4 West of Hurontario Street, Chinguacousy Township (Figure 8 through Figure 10). Lot 22, Concession 4 W was turned over to the Canada Company by the Crown. The Canada Company was incorporated in 1826 to sell Clergy and Crown Reserves and to populate the Huron Tract. Lot 22, Concession 4 West was transferred to the Canada Company on 18 July 1831. Matthew McPherson purchased the 100 acres in 1835 for £62/10 (shillings). The following year he sold the northly 50 acres to John McPherson and the southerly half to Samuel Warnock. Warnock sold his 50 acres to James McKane on 2 August 1843 for £181.



Figure 8: A section of Tremaine's 1859 map of Peel County showing James McKane's lot in red

No. of INSTRUMENT.	INSTRUMENT.	ITS DATE.	DATE OF REQUISITE.	GRANTOR.	GRANTEE.	QUANTITY OF LAND.	CONSIDERATION OR AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE.	REMARKS.
13385	Grant	18 July 1831.		The Crown	Canada Company	100 acres.		
13386	Conveyance	24 Dec 1835.	12 Nov 1836.	Canada Company	Matthew W. Penson	All	£65. 1/-	
21359	"	24 Sep 1836.	12 Dec 1836.	Matthew W. Penson	Samuel Kneock	Sold for	£45.	
319	"	2 Aug 1843.	8 Aug 1843.	Samuel Kneock et al.	James W. Penson.	"	£131. 5/-	
	"	25 June 1836.	16 Feb 1836.	Matthew W. Penson.	John W. Penson.	"	£50.	



While the log cabin may have been built by Samuel Warnock in 1836, the donation was by the McKane family so the date of 1843 will be construed as the date of construction. According to the 1851 census, James and Elizabeth McKane and their children lived in Chinguacousy Township. Land records show that in 1852, James McKane purchased 25 acres of Lot 22 Concession 5 West. The 1861 census lists James, Elizabeth and their son Thomas as living in a 1.5 storey log house, and the agricultural census of the same year states that James McKane also owned 75 acres of Lot 22, Con 4 in Chinguacousy Township. The log house they lived in was likely also located on this Lot and is likely the log cabin which was relocated to the Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club property. This is supported by the fact that according to the Club's records, the cabin was originally located in Chinguacousy Township on 4<sup>th</sup> line west.

According to land registry records, James McKane bought the east half of Lot 23, Concession 6 West in Chinguacousy Township on October 6, 1865. The 1871 census still lists James, Elizabeth and Thomas as farmers living in Chinguacousy. James died in April of 1877 and passed on his land to Thomas. The 1877

county atlas shows Thomas as the owner of the properties, owning land on Lot 23 on both concessions 5 and 6 west, as well as owning part of Lot 22, concession 4 west (Figure 10). Thomas died in 1893 and did not have a wife or children. His brother James and Marjorie (Beggs) McKane took over the property.

James McKane (1832-1916) and Marjorie Beggs McKane (1846-1926) had one son, James Albert McKane (1872-1960). James A. McKane and his wife Isadore (Lyons) McKane (1888-1966) lived in the area until 1954 when they retired to 50 Edith Street, Georgetown. When his mother died in 1926 it was noted, "The homestead on which Mrs. McKane passed away was one of the first farms to be cleared in West Chinguacousy." The family's connection to Georgetown was likely through the membership of the McKane family in Union Presbyterian Church, and several early members of the Bowling Club were adherents of Knox Presbyterian Church at Georgetown.



Figure 11: The Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club at 29 Edith Street about 1925. Note that the bowling lanes travel north to south. Today they travel east to west (EHS 10232)

In 1975, the cabin and the stable were joined together when a kitchen and washroom were built, and the stable was converted into a storage area. New vinyl windows were installed along the street side sometime in the past 10 or 15 years. The club has been continuously active since it was founded in 1907 through present day. The cabin has likewise been in continuous use as the clubhouse since it was first moved to its current location at 29 Edith St in 1917 (Figure 12 through Figure 16).





Figure 12: This 1963 photo shows players bowling north to south (EHS06478)

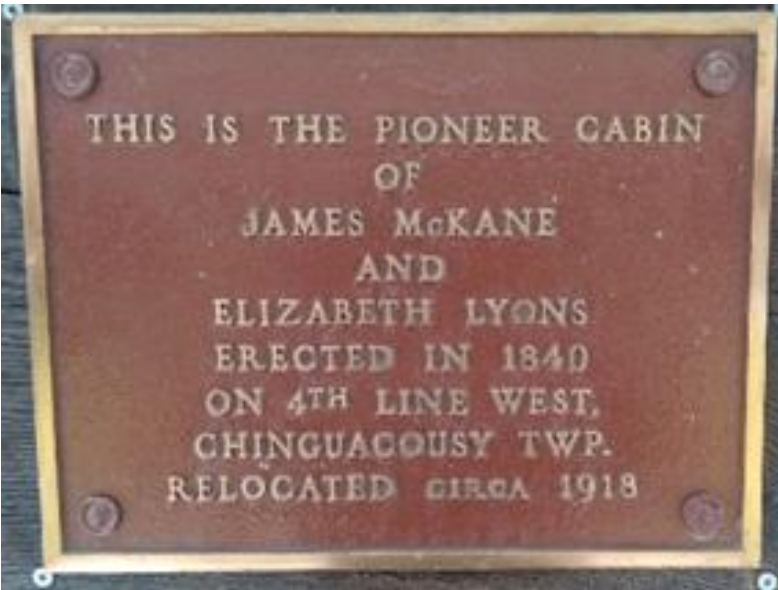


Figure 13: Bronze plaque at the Georgetown Lawn Bowling Clubhouse, 2016 (GLBC)

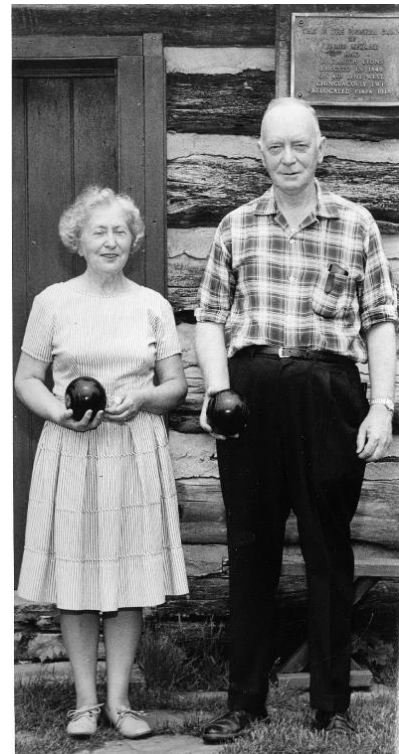


Figure 14: Helen Archer & Harry Moss, presidents of the two club sections, stand outside the clubhouse with the bronze plaque above his head, in this 1969 photo (EHS03651)



Figure 15: Funds raised at Lyons Family reunion in July, paid for this bronze plaque (Georgetown Herald, 1 October 1959)



Figure 16: Children in front of the storage shed in 1966 (EHS02577)

## 2.2 Property and Architectural Description

### CLUBHOUSE

The Georgetown Lawn Bowling Clubhouse is set back from the sidewalk on Edith Street. It measures 30 feet (9.144m) along the front with a depth of 16 feet (4.88m), making it exactly double the length of a typical Ontario cabin. Since the McKane's may well have used a standing cabin in 1843, that may date the wood as early as 1836.

The basic Ontario log cabin has been defined as measuring 15' (4.57m) by 16' (4.88m). These measurements were consistent with a traditional English cottage. The end of each piece of wood was beveled or "keyed" before it was placed, making for a tighter fit and a less draughty corner. This method was used by Swedish settlers in Pennsylvania from 1650 and is referred to as Swedish Keying. The other method was to square the logs and dove tail the ends. The cracks were chinked with first clay and then mortar. A chimney typically sat at the centre of a pitched cedar shake roof, to provide heat in all directions. Windows were originally 12-pane fixed construction, later modified into 6 over 6 pane sash windows.

The logs within the Georgetown Clubhouse are untreated, bare of bark with Swedish keying was employed in the construction. The poor fit of the beveled logs at Georgetown suggests the cabin was dismantled, transported to Town, and then put back together without marking the logs when it was disassembled. All the chinks have been heavily plastered with mortar or concrete.

The cabin sits on a poured concrete foundation that includes a poured concrete pad which serves as the floor of the clubhouse. The original 12 over 12 double-hung windows have been



replaced with modern single pane double hung vinyl windows. The front and back door are recent wooden slab doors with 9-pane upper windows over a lower panel crossed with diagonal mutons. An aluminum and glass screen door protects the wooden door from the elements and allows ventilation in the summer.

The reconstructed log cabin is a single storey with a pitched roof constructed on-site. The top layer of logs is notched to accommodate the rafters. The gable end is constructed of much smaller, likely pine, poles that appear to be cosmetic. Asphalt shingles cover the roof with modern aluminum roof vents installed.



Figure 17: Edith Street view of the clubhouse (J.M. Rowe 2021)



Figure 18: The top log notched to support the rafter (J.M. Rowe 2021)



Figure 19: The clubhouse from the bowling greens (GLBC 2015)



Figure 20: The 1975 addition to the clubhouse (J.M. Rowe 2021)

## SHED

The stable from the McKane farm measures 16 ft<sup>2</sup> (4.88m<sup>2</sup>). The street front includes a central doorway crudely frames with boards. Vertical barn board planks extend below grade. A sheet of plywood covers the opening from the inside, ensuring the door is not functional. The gable end facing the street uses the same smaller logs arranged horizontally. From the inside, vertical barn board supports the faux log exterior.

The Club-side of the shed contains a modern aluminum garage door with a small six-pane fixed window. The 1925/1945 photographs show a double six-pane fixed window abutting a small door. The one window and the widened door were removed for the installation of the 1960s era garage door. The original logs were cut. Figure 14 shows the gable sheathed in vertical barn board. The same barn board is covered in the faux log façade with a rectangular door cut into the centre.

The two buildings were joined together, the space being 5' 7" (1.7m) in length. It is clad in the smaller log façade. Two vinyl windows also punctuate the street-side wall. A picture window and door are on the club-side wall. The asphalt shingle roof extends from the log cabin over the extension and the shed. A porch roof extends over the concrete sidewalk over the length of the clubhouse.



Figure 21: Roadside front of the storage shed (J.M. Rowe 2021)

## INTERIOR

The log cabin has interior wood paneling nailed to a 2'x4' framing containing insulation. A narrow wooden baseboard skirts the walls as it meets the vinyl tiling on the floor. The ceiling is a suspended tile with florescent lighting. None of the original structure is visible from the inside. The extension contains a modern kitchen and bathrooms. The shed is not accessible from the clubhouse. The storage shed has no interior wall coverings, exposing the original logs.



Figure 22: Window and garage opening to the storage shed in 2021 (J.M. Rowe 2021)



Figure 23: Southern walkway where it meets the clubhouse (J.M. Rowe 2021)

### 3.0 Description of Heritage Attributes and Evaluation Checklist

The following evaluation checklist applies to Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under the *Ontario Heritage Act*: Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. The criteria are prescribed for municipal designation of Heritage Properties under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The evaluation tables utilize an 'X' to signify applicable criteria and 'N/A' to signify criteria that is not applicable for this property.

<b>Design or Physical Value</b>	
Is rare, unique, representative, or early example of a style, type, expression, material, or construction method	<b>X</b>
Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit	<b>N/A</b>
Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement	<b>N/A</b>

The property at 29 Edith Street has design and physical value as demonstrated by the original clubhouse (log cabin) and the storage shed (stable) being representative examples of vernacular log structures commonly found in southern Ontario in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They maintain proportions commonly used by pioneers and are notched in the Swedish key system.

<b>Historical or Associative Value</b>	
Has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community	<b>X</b>
Yields, or has potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture	<b>N/A</b>
Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community	<b>N/A</b>

The property at 29 Edith Street has historical and associative value due to its original connections to the McKane family of Chingacousy Township through the relocation of the log cabin and stable. The property also has significant value for its continued use as a recreational lawn bowling clubhouse facility since 1917, with minimal intrusions and alterations to both the log cabin and stable since their relocation in the early twentieth century.

<b>Contextual Value</b>	
Is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area	<b>x</b>
Is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings	<b>x</b>
Is a landmark	<b>N/A</b>

The property at 29 Edith Street has contextual value as the Georgetown Lawn Bowling clubhouse has been a landmark on Edith Street since 1917. The humble stature of the clubhouse and green space support the character of the neighbourhood in terms of housing scale and lot proportions. The clubhouse is historically linked to the adjoining bowling greens and its set-back from the street enhances its contribution to the area character.

#### **4.0 Summary**

The Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club at 29 Edith Street consists of a 7-lane bowling green and a clubhouse with three components. The meeting room is an 1843 rectangular one-storey gable-roofed log cabin moved on-site in 1917. The storage shed is a square one-storey gable roofed log cabin, built as a stable about 1843 and moved to this site in 1917. Joining the two heritage structures is a 1975 addition to the clubhouse clad in a log cabin style.

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 29 Edith Street has physical and design, historical and associative, and contextual value and therefore meets Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest.

The heritage attributes of the property at 29 Edith Street are identified as follows:

- The setback, placement, and orientation of the Georgetown Lawn Bowling Clubhouse along Edith Street;
- The scale, form, and massing of the mid-nineteenth century log cabin and stable with 1970s connection and gable roof;
- Materials, including original logs notched by hand tools;
- Original barn board exterior door on the storage shed; and,
- The lawn bowling green to the southwest of the Clubhouse.



## 5.0 Sources

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Brampton Lawn Bowling Club. "Club History in Brampton." *Brampton Lawn Bowling Club* accessed 20 Aug 2021. <http://www.bramptonlawnbowling.ca/p/club-history.html>.

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City of Ottawa. "Ottawa Tennis and Lawn Bowling Club." OSCA, Heritage Properties, 8 Feb 2021, <https://oldottawasouth.ca/heritage-properties/item/7258-ottawa-tennis-and-lawn-bowling-club>.

Dominion of Canada, Census Records, Canada West/Ontario, Halton County, Georgetown: 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901.

Esquesing Historical Society Archives Photo Collection

Esquesing Historical Society, MG7 B9, Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club

Esquesing Historical Society, MG12 A3 17.04, 1934 Georgetown Fire Insurance Map

Esquesing Historical Society, Halton.BMD.7301, *Georgetown Herald* (Georgetown, ON), 10 Oct 1934, p2.

Esquesing Historical Society, Halton.BMD.26495, *Georgetown Herald* (Georgetown, ON), August 31, 1961, 31 Aug 1961, p. 6.

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