

Designed and prepared by Anne Hunt,  
The Parsonage, Escott Ontario  
For Leeds & the Thousand Islands Archives

# Step Back In Time For A Virtual Walk Through Springfield/Escott



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### Springfield House

This is **Springfield House** at Escott in 1970's. This lovely Georgian style structure at one time was a popular Inn on the busy King's Highway #2.

In 1874, it was stated that *"the hotel will be kept in a manner to secure the comfort of it's guests and the patronage of the travelling public...and will always be ready to assist strangers and buyers in the purchase of stock and farm product"*.

A dedicated citizen's group restored this old inn in the late 1970's. It houses a library, meeting rooms, archives and museum. Murals depicting the story of the women's weavers of Escott Township on the third floor.

### Masonic Hall Front of Escott Township Hall

Located adjacent to Springfield House, it was the original meeting place for the Masons of this area. They relocated to a small building northwest of this spot and became amalgamated with the Lansdowne Masonic Lodge. The hall served the Township for many years as a local municipal building, community hall for wedding and anniversary celebrations as well as local dances and political meetings. It remained the hub of area gatherings until amalgamation in 2001. It is now the home of **The Leeds and the Thousand Islands Archives**.



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### School Section # 17 - 1875

### Escott School

This is the School building that served Escott area children until the mid 1960s. It stands west of Springfield House, on the south side of County Rd.# 2, across from the Escott Business Center which was formerly the new school, built to replace it, in the 1960s. This photo was taken after the students moved to the new school. However this school also closed in 2005 and the children were bussed to a new school, Thousand Islands Elementary School in Lansdowne. The building is used now as a private residence.



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The **Heaslip Store** in Escott in 1928, was located across from the Township Archive Building, formerly the Front of Escott Township Office. Charlie and Fanny Heaslip and Fanny's husband, Ernie Kelly, ran this store from 1920 to 1970. (Note the old gas pumps on left - they were removed in the 1940's). This store would have been a beehive of activity at this time located on the King's Highway #2, between Gananoque and Brockville, before the 401 or the scenic Parkway were built to the south. All the highway traffic from Toronto to Montreal passed by the door. The store was later owned by Wm. Finkle. It burned down in 1976.

Circa 1900





**The Mallory Homestead ~ 1910**

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Emma, Frances, Eliza, Hubert, Erwin Mallory pictured in front of the house. Herb Gilfoyle is on the horse. The main house was built in 1857 and additions were added in 1910 and later.

**W.T. Weeks Sawmill**



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An early photo of horses entering **W. T. Weeks Sawmill, Escott** located directly across from the present home of Mrs. Joseph Donovan. As you can see, horses are drawing in logs to the mill. The timber, at this point in time, was probably 2nd or 3rd growth pine or oak. There was a pond behind the mill where basswood logs used for cheese boxes were soaked to remove the bark.



**Methodist Church**

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The picture was taken looking west along Highway #2 in Escott or Springfield as it was once called. On the left is the Methodist Church which was torn down in the late 1950s. A township maintenance garage now stands on this spot. Barely visible to the left of the church is the township hall or Archives. To the right of the township hall is Springfield House once a popular inn for those travelling the King's Highway. Some of the pews from this church can be seen in various locations in the area.

**The W.T Weeks sawmill and cheese box factory** in 1904 in Escott. In the picture, we can see cheese boxes being loaded at the mill/factory. Dairying and cheese making became major agricultural industries in Leeds County in the 1870s. Note the sawn lumber on the ground.



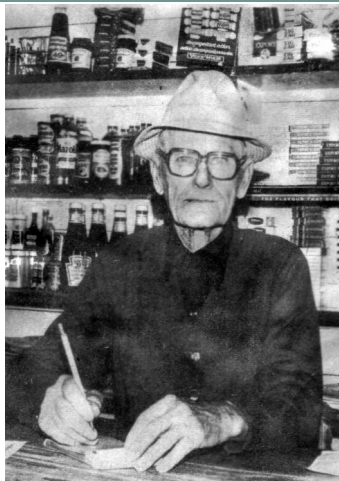
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This 115 year old house was originally **the Parsonage** for the Methodist Church, which stood on the site of the former Front of Escott Township garage.

It was completed in 1898 "by the Methodist people of this circuit who have been planning for some years to build," following the dedication of their church building on December 20th, 1889. The Gananoque Reporter Newspaper noted in October of 1898.....

*"the land, building, furnace and furniture will cost about \$1500, of which all but \$650 is in hand or readily payable from subscription." It was "thought appropriate that the opening be celebrated by a circuit gathering on the 11th (October)....dinner and tea were served and a Programme for afternoon and evening provided but owing to the unfavourable weather few came".*

The old Methodist Church became United upon Church Union in 1925. Then the Escott and Mallorytown Pastoral Charges were joined together in 1944. Following 34 more years of service the Church building was demolished in 1959. Over the years the Parsonage has been refurbished by some of it's residents and is presently owned by Anne and Morley Hunt.



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**Eugene Lynch** ran a tiny **General Store** on the South part of his home property across from the Front of Escott Township garage in Escott/Springfield. He sold gas there until 1945, and from then on just groceries and farm and household supplies. The building was demolished in the early 1990's.



There was a **cheese factory** at Springfield located near one of the natural "springs", from which Springfield got it's name.

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