



The Burlington Historical Society GAZETTE

Heritage Week 2026



It's almost August and that means it's time to officially celebrate the heritage of Burlington! Over 35 Burlington groups are involved in the celebration led by the Heritage Burlington Advisory Committee.

The following are the events sponsored by the Burlington Historical Society.

Check [Heritage Week - City of Burlington](#) for the complete schedule and to register, where required.

Month of July – mid August	Our historic posters are again on display at Spencer Smith Park and will be up for the entire month of July and for Heritage Week in August. This year we have added a new one – Freeman Station
Saturday, 1 st August 10-11 am	The opening ceremonies will be held at the LaSalle Park Pavilion, featuring our award winning Town Crier, David Vollick
Saturday, 1 st August 11:15 am	LaSalle Park and Waterfront Walking Tour - meet Alan Harrington at the waterfront side of the pavilion for a walking tour. Learn about the history of this unique natural area. Register by email to hb@burlington.ca
Sunday, 2 nd August	Release of the Fourth Heritage Driving Tour, focused on the waterfront. Heritage Burlington is sharing this self-guided tour on the BHS website www.burlingtonhistorical.ca
Monday, 3 rd August 10 am	Spencer Smith Park and Waterfront Walking Tour – Alan is walking again and this time he takes you on tour of our favourite park. For those who want to go along, the tour will end at the canal bridge, with stops along the way. Register by email to hb@burlington.ca
Wednesday, 5 th August 7 pm at BPAC	It's back.....So You Think You Know Burlington, Trivia Night. Join Don Thorpe and David Craig for some fun. The questions are all new! Register at burlingtonpac.ca/events/burlington-trivia-night/
Friday, 7 th August 12-4 pm at Central Library	The Heritage Fair is in the Centennial Room at Central Library on New Street. We will join other groups with displays, giveaways, kids' games and to hear interesting speakers
Saturday, 8 th August 10 am	The Kilbride History Group will host a Lowville History Walk – join at the Lowville United Church on Guelph Line 10 am. Register at Kilbride History Group

Join in the fun and make the week a great success!



Captain Daniel Henderson



From A Walk in Greenwood by Peggy Armstrong

Chapter 10 Sea Captains & Sailors

For many decades of the settling and growing years of Burlington and Nelson Township, the action and interest was at the waterfront. There were three wharfs at Wellington Square, and others to the east and west at Port Nelson, and what is now LaSalle Park. The waterfront was where supplies and people arrived to, and goods and passengers left from.



The waterfront also became a place of employment. Ships were being built which needed men and boys to sail on them. Often these were sons from the rural area who were familiar with the ships and where they were going. They drove regularly to the docks with their produce and lumber, ready for shipping to a market elsewhere on the lakes. Some of these early residents had indeed arrived here on ships, from Britain.

Greenwood Cemetery has several markers which clearly identify former residents as "Capt".

Captain Daniel Henderson - 1827-1906

Daniel Henderson was born in County Armagh, Ireland in 1827. He came to Canada with his parents at the age of one-and-a-half years, and settled at Little York, now Toronto. At the age of 12 years he began life as a sailor, which occupation he followed for over fifty years. He came from Toronto first to Bronte, before settling in Burlington. Daniel sailed out of this port for many years, having had charge of the *Sultan*, *Helen M Baxter*, and barge *Mary Jane* which he owned. A story in the Burlington Gazette in June of 1902, tells that Capt. Henderson was the 1st master of the *Ella Baxter*, built in 1862 by Baxter and Galloway.

The captain took a very prominent part, in saving the lives of the crew and passengers from the *Ocean Wave*, which was burned on Lake Ontario.

Captain Daniel Henderson and his wife Margaret (nee Reid) were survived by six daughters. He also had three brothers, Capt. Wm., of Kansas City, Missouri, Henry of Nelson Township, and J. W. of Burlington.

Captain Henderson was interred in his family plot, Block 4 of Greenwood Cemetery.

The inscription reads: Capt. D. Henderson died June 18 1906, aged 79 years.

Recently a member, Mark McLelland, shared this family photograph.

"This is Captain Dan Henderson and Margaret Reid Henderson. These are my Grama, Frieda Easterbrook McLelland's grandparents with children."

It's a wonderful family photo. How lucky Mark is to have it.



This is the Henderson home at 472 Elizabeth Street.

Today the house is home to Painted People Tattoos. I wonder if they know who used to own that house?

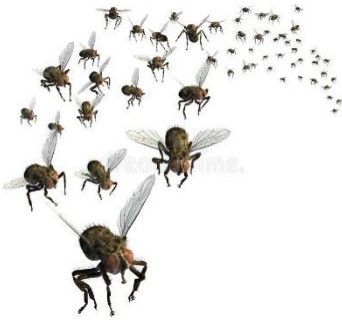


Swat!

From an article by J. Brian Henley published in
The Hamilton Spectator, date unknown



On May 13, 1912, The (Hamilton) Spectator declared war on the house fly.



"With the intention of making Hamilton 'the flyless city,' The Spectator began a public health campaign to stem the spread of disease, particularly typhoid, by the common house fly."

"The fight against the house fly is the greatest public-spirited movement ever known," stated Professor Clifton B. Hodge, professor of Biology at Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts.

The Spectator's Fly-Swatting Contest officially began on Saturday, June 15, 1912. Over \$400 in prizes were offered to those who caught and killed the greatest number of flies from June 15 to July 6, 1912.

The flies, after being caught and killed, were to be taken to the board of health office, then located in Hamilton's city hall on James Street North.



The night before the close of the swatting contest, Aubrey Leckie of 74 William Street broke all the daily records of the contest by delivering no less than 38,900 dead flies to the board of health office.

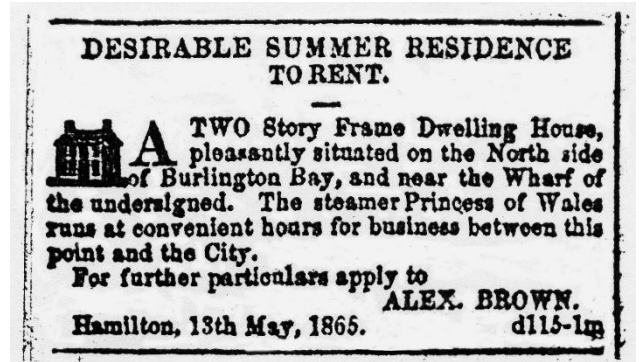
At the close of the contest, The Spectator was lavish in its praise of the 55 "bright, hustling little girls and boys" who entered the fly-killing contest.

Hamilton now has several million less flies than it would have had if this contest had not been inaugurated.

The winner of the \$50 first prize was Fred J. Humphreys of 223 King Street East. He was credited with bringing in 279,850 flies to the board of health offices.

I wonder who had the job of counting those flies?
That person deserves a prize!

Summer House for Rent



Gary Evans, The Prints of Aldershot (North Shore Publishing, 2000), p. 95

Landmark Building When this photograph was taken in 1951, this two-storey dwelling was some distance from its original location. The home of Alexander Brown was moved by the Hamilton Parks Board, which owns the LaSalle Park site, from its original site in the park to a location on the north side of North Shore Boulevard. It was Alexander Brown who promoted Aldershot to the position of one of the leading shipping centres on the Great Lakes. The landmark house was demolished many years ago.



Gary Evans, The Prints of Burlington (North Shore Publishing, 1998), p. 53

News

Remember that survey you completed in June? Thank you for your feedback. Your suggestions were gratefully received. You will hear more about this in upcoming months.



I'm sure everyone heard about our donation to Pearl & Pine Retirement Residence of the painting, They Paved Paradise. The artist, Donna Fratesi (seated at front) and even the Mayor attended. We were invited to their lounge for refreshments after the ceremony.

From the Archives *Joan Downey*

Our volunteers have completed scanning the newspaper articles donated by the Joseph Brant Hospital. The project lasted from October last year until the beginning of July 2026 – 9 months! These articles cover from 1957 to the 2000s.



If you would like to browse a bit of our history, check out the Digital Collection.

On the subject of the Digital Collection – we have thousands of images available for viewing. In the last few months we have begun grouping items together into 'collections' to make selective browsing easier.

There are some new additions to the poster display at Spencer Smith Park along with a new poster, this one honouring Freeman Station.



These small signs on the east end of the display tell the viewer about the Burlington Historical Society. After all – it is our display!

I'm sure you can't read the text here, so, drop down to the park. Read the signs and note the people enjoying a browse.

The digital collection is available through a partnership with Burlington Public Library and is accessible to everyone – member/non-member; Burlington resident or not.

You can access through the library website www.bpl.on.ca or through the Burlington Historical Society website www.burlingtonhistorical.ca. In both cases it is available under the heading 'Resources'. The 'collections' are available on the opening page.

A reminder – the BHS Archive is located in the History Room at Burlington Central Library, 2331 New Street. The History Room is on the 2nd floor. Library staff can lead the way. Volunteers are available on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9 am - 12 pm. Other times are always available by appointment, just email us info@burlingtonhistorical.ca

**Our next meeting will be on Monday, September 14th, 2026
7 pm in the Centennial Room, Burlington Central Library
Tell your friends. Everyone is welcome.**