APRIL 2023 VOLUME 19 ISSUE 04

THE BURLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MINI GAZETTE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the old African proverb states, that It takes the "village" to raise a "child"!

BHS members are our "Village" and since the beginning of this year, we have averaged 30 people at our General Meetings. Our Membership totals 92 and so you can maybe appreciate our "child" concerns.

It takes many BHS hands to plan and execute interesting speakers at each of our 8 General Meetings a year which take place on the **2nd Monday**, **January – May and September – November.** All our General Meetings are held at the BPL – Centennial Hall on the 2nd Monday at 7:00pm.

We have been "missing" YOU! Hopefully now that the weather is warmer, will you consider joining us on April 10th ?

We guarantee a warm welcome, an interesting speaker & topic and even a cup of tea, coffee and maybe a treat!

Jane Ann Newson on behalf of the BHS Executive

MINI GAZETTE
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FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS

MAY 8TH
BURLINGTON 150 CELEBRATION?

INFORMATION CONTAINED ON OUR WEBSITE, NEWSLETTERS AND PUBLICATIONS IS PRINTED IN GOOD FAITH FOR GENERAL PURPOSES.

BHS MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE THE BHS MINI GAZETTE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS AND CAN UNSUBSCRIBE AT ANY TIME.

APRIL PRESENTATION



On Monday April 10th, we are very pleased to welcome back,
Al Norton as our guest speaker.

Mr. Norton is a long-time resident of Burlington,
and will be speaking to us on farming and his Norton Transportation business and how it got started.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Burlington Historical Society Volunteer Organization

Officers (Elected)

President	Jane Ann Newson
1st Vice President	Don Thorpe
2ND Vice President	Nicola Thomson
Secretary	Patricia Taylor
Treasurer	Vacant
Past President	Joan Downey

Directors (Appointed)

Program	Alan Harrington
Bookkeeper	Jane Ann Newson
Archives	Patricia Taylor
	Peggy Armstrong
Webmaster	Wayne Murphy
Membership	Patricia Taylor
Newsletter	Jane Ann Newson
Outreach	All
Event Planner	Patricia Taylor
Publicity	Jennifer Kemp
	Nicola Thomson

Convenors (Appointed)

Greeting Cards	Anne Wingfield
Heritage Burlington	Alan Harrington
50/50 Draw	Don Thorpe

Archive Volunteers

Joan Downey
Jennifer Kemp
Dorothy Kew
Nicola Thomson

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- **Friday July 28th and Saturday July 29th**

  BHS returns for 2 days to the Burlington Centre **HUB** community space with our books, newsletters and the collection of newly created digital signs/posters and of course US!

- **Friday August 1st thru Saturday August 12th**

  Heritage Week begins and keep your eyes open for various activities that will be happening during this time.

- **Saturday August 12th**

  Doors Open date and please mark this on your calendar. More details to follow.

- **Burlington 150**

  Watch for details as to various types of celebrations, one of which includes Fireworks at Spencer Smith Park.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A very warm welcome to our newest members Barbara Porecki, Karen Oliver, Leslie Ferguson and Susanne Suthers.

Reminder – If your **email changes**, please advise us by filling out a **Membership Form** which can be found on the last page of the Gazette and give it to Patricia Taylor who looks after our Membership or mail to address shown on the Membership Form.

Our current 2023 Membership Listing shows 92 members. 19 Members are waiting anxiously to renew their 2023 membership.

BURLINGTON SNAPSHOTS:

From our Villages collection - featuring this month – Port Nelson

by Patricia Taylor and Joan Downey

Port Nelson was a small village on the lakefront around the Guelph Line. It grew into a major wheat shipping port and later a shipping centre for lumber and still later, cordwood. Guelph Line was a direct route from Central Ontario – the area north of the escarpment – for farmers to bring their grain and other products for shipment.

By 1851 Port Nelson had a store, 3 hotels/inns, shoemaker, carpenter, blacksmith, ship builder and grain storehouses. One of the inns was called the Halstead Inn – still standing – now a private residence at 2429 Lakeshore Road.

This house at 2406 First Street was the home and business of the village blacksmith. Built in 1946, it may be the oldest remaining structure in Port Nelson.

Along First Street, the Rev. Thomas Green built his brick house on 100 acres that he obtained in 1840. He had been appointed rector of St. Luke's Anglican Church in Wellington Square and St. John's Church in Hannahsville. The Upper Canada Travelling Mission Fund continued to support him with a stipend of 100 pounds a year. Local support amounted to 19 pounds. The Greenes had to farm at least part of the property. Rev. Greene was also school inspector for Nelson Township.

His wife loved roses and planted many rose bushes around their home. The area became known as Roseland …. as it is today.

There is a story that the Greene's children climbed these trees at Hart & First Streets to report on incoming sips. Trees, like these, provided spars and masts in the building of sailing ships.

The students of Port Nelson attended Fisher's Corner's School – about 1-1/4 miles north of the lake. In 1835 Peter Fisher offered the land and led the fundraising for the required 17 pounds for the construction of a school. Some of the sailors who over wintered in Port Nelson enrolled in the school to learn the 2 R's and to help pass the long winter days. By 1850 Port Nelson had it own school,

The first meeting place for religious services in Port Nelson was constructed by the Wesleyan Methodists – a Chapel on the west side of Guelph Line. Built in 1862 it is now used by the Red Cross.

The Roseland Community was designed in 1925 by developer Hughes Cleaver. The area is known for its beautiful boulevard and its tree canopy. A 1925 brochure describes Roseland Park as an area 'where life is worth living".

Many of the early "movers' and "shakers" of Burlington made their homes in Roseland including another developer W. D. Flatt who was involved in the planning of other Burlington neighbourhood's including Indian Point, Pine Cove and Cedar Springs.

In 1873 the villages of Port Nelson and Wellington Square were incorporated to form the Village of Burlington.

By 1924, when travel by car was becoming more common, the Toronto-Hamilton Highway (Highway No.2/ Lakeshore Road) was being paved. Someone asked "how will people avoid hitting others at the speed they can travel?". Mr. M. C. Smith, a resident of Port Nelson and a future Mayor of the town replied, "paint a white line down the middle".

Special note: For coloured photos of the above-named addresses, please ask for the Port Nelson 3-fold Villages brochure at the next General Meeting

Welcome Spring Walk - by Patricia Taylor



Spring is here! I mean, spring is officially here. I attended 'Bimose Agaming/Walking along the Lake, an Indigenous art walk celebrating the Spring Equinox. The event started with a prayer at the Gazebo in Spencer Smith Park led by Chief White Eagle Stonefish (a woman). Each person got some tobacco to hold in our left hand as we walked along the promenade checking out the artwork. Nine of the electrical boxes in the park have been wrapped in Indigenous works of art. We stopped at the Orange Crosswalk at Nelson and Lakeshore which is, according to the accompanying sign, "a permanent reminder of Burlington's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. Then we went down to the area near the water's edge and each attendee dropped their tobacco into the fire as an offering symbolizing discarding our negative feelings/thoughts.

Joseph Brant Museum was the next stop for a celebration of the large new sculpture called 'Conversations and Stories.' You must see it and read the interpretive story board that goes with it. Fascinating!! Several local Indigenous People, led by Chief LaForme, attended. There was a ceremony inside the museum to thank all those who had contributed to the ultimate production of this work of art. After a few words by the Indigenous sculpture David General, we moved back outside for the ceremonial ribbon cutting.

Back inside again, we had a chance to sample some Indigenous foods – fried bread, corn or 3 Sisters (corn, bean and squash) soup and a strawberry drink. The celebration was closed by the singing of a travelling song.

I'll go back…. But do go and see it for yourself. When the Museum is open (Tuesday to Saturday 10 -4) there is free parking in the lot adjacent to the museum.



The Wanderings of a Newcomer - by Nicole Thomson

Moving to Downtown Burlington just prior to Covid and knowing no one here, there really wasn't anything else to do but walk the streets of my new home city. I would leave my house on Maria Street and wander down Elizabeth Street, passing by the beautiful homes so rich in history.

Number 490, Shanston Hall - purportedly built in the 1840s, was the home of *Andrew Gage*; *Daniel Torrance*; *James Laing*; *Sarah Matilda Aikman*; *Jacob Harmon Fisher*; and in 1888 from Jacob's estate to his widow, *Eliza Jane Fisher*; then from her estate to her son *George Elgin Fisher* -relatives of the Fisher farming family who owned the land which is today The Burlington Centre Mall. Jacob was the brother of Peter Fisher Snr and Great Great Uncle to Peter Fisher Jr.

Number 482, in 1855, was the home of ***Dr. Speers*** who was the Medical Officer of Health and who introduced the concept of sewers in the town. Later it housed a small library before the house was relocated to New Street. The books were paid for by John Waldie, the "Father of Burlington".

Number 478 was built in the 1860s as the Weselyan Methodist Manse. Today it is known as ***The Manse House*** and is home to various companies.

Number 472 Elizabeth Street, built in the 1870s was the home of ***Captain Daniel Henderson*** who was a sea captain and sailed the Mary Jane. Appropriately, today is the home of Painted People Tattoo Company.

Just the first four homes on my stroll down Elizabeth Street! To be continued…..


Shanston Hall, Guest Home, Burlington, Ontario.




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472
TATTOO


BURLINGTON
DOWNTOWN



The Burlington Historical Society

Preserving Burlington's History for Today and Tomorrow

Membership - 2023

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email address: _____

Membership Dues

☐ New Member ☐ Family: $40.00 ☐ Senior: $25.00

☐ Renewal ☐ Adult: $30.00

☐ Yes, as a **new** BHS member I wish to receive the Gazette newsletter and other e-communications and understand I can unsubscribe at any time.

Volunteer

Are you interested in volunteering with the Society? Would you like to help us in preserving the history of our City? Tell us a bit about your talents and interests – info@burlingtonhistorical.ca

Donation

I wish to make a separate donation to the society in the sum of _____
A Tax Receipt will be issued for all donations totalling $25.00 or more
The Burlington Historical Society is a registered charity # 119217693RR0001

Mail completed form and remittance(s) to: The Burlington Historical Society Membership Director PO Box 93164 1450 Headon Road Burlington, Ontario L7M 4A3 Make cheques payable to The Burlington Historical Society	**OR** e-transfer funds to info@burlingtonhistorical.ca If you are a new member using e-transfer, please email the completed form to us at the above email **OR** Leave it at the Membership table at any General Meeting

www.burlingtonhistorical.ca
info@burlingtonhistorical.ca
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