MAY 2023 VOLUME 19 ISSUE 05

THE BURLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MINI GAZETTE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hopefully you are looking forward to summer and sunshine as much as I am!

Summer means being outside and this year, we have many 'history' types of activities for you to enjoy and learn more about!

In our Outreach Activities section, we have provided you with many examples of things to do this summer and fall at your leisure!

But until summer formally arrives, we cordially welcome you to our May 8th General meeting – 7:00PM in the BPL Centennial Hall.

ALL are welcome!



Jane Ann Newson on behalf of the BHS Executive

MINI GAZETTE
MAY CONTENTS

President's Message
May presentations
Outreach Activities
Membership Report
Burlington history snapshots:
Collections – Lowville
History of the Acland House
Wanderings II of a Newcomer
Membership Form

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 11TH

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.

MAY PRESENTATIONS

On Monday May 8th, we are very pleased to have 2 speakers –

- **Chris Mallion-Moore** talking about Post Cards between 2 local teenage girls.

- Our 2nd speaker, unfortunately, is unable to attend on May 8th due to health issues.

  Every effort is being made to find another speaker for our May General meeting.

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	Joan Downey
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
Patricia Taylor
Peggy Armstrong
Josie Hammond

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.

- **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.

- **September 9th**

  150th Anniversary of becoming a City celebrations at the Civic Square.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome back Marlene Howard, Jack Arno, Don and Jane Woods!

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 the address shown on the Membership Form.

Our current 2023 Membership Listing shows 94 members.

BURLINGTON SNAPSHOTS:

From our Villages collection - featuring this month – Lowville

by Patricia Taylor and Joan Downey

Why the name?

Because it was the lowest point on the main road from Guelph to Lake Ontario, probably a trail of the First Nations.

One of the early settlers was James Cleaver. At the age of 13 James took care of the family team of horses at the Battle of Stoney Creek during the War of 1812.

He built a fieldstone flourmill that has been converted into a residence. James was a strong temperance man and as such, his barn was the first in the area to be raised without whiskey being used as an incentive. His grandson, Hughes Cleaver, went on to become Mayor of Burlington and an MPP.

In 1822, the Rev. Daniel Pickett – a saddlebag preacher from the USA – bought 200 acres and later secured property for his son, Thomas, on the Guelph Line. There Thomas built an Octagonal House using a building method called "rubble construction". It was meant to absorb the shock waves of an earthquake and the octagonal shape was thought to promote good health.

Rev. Pickett's grandson, Andrew, built the original General Store. Today it is the Lowville Bistro.

The one room schoolhouse was used from 1888 to 1950. Today it is a community-gathering place in Lowville Park.

If there is a Lowville, it comes as no surprise that there was a Highville. A wooden footbridge over 12 Mile Creek led to a set of wooden stairs up to Highville. These were replaced in 1919 by concrete steps.

In the 1920's on Saturday afternoons, all farm work came to a halt. EVERYONE went to the hardball games held in the pasture field near the Guelph Line. There were 8 teams in the league. The ladies probably provided refreshments, as the account books for lunch items are meager.

Many settlements looked forward to the coming of the railway hoping it would increase business. In the1870's the Credit Valley Rail Line proposed a line through the valley. It would bisect the village. The residents revolted. They let the authorities know how they felt. There is no railway in Lowville.

When Lowville needed a church, Joseph Colling, and some neighbours built a small meeting house on his property. It became known as "Collings Church" – later Lowville Methodist Church. Since no denomination, other than the Church of England, could own land in Canada in the early 1800's Joseph Colling still technically owned the land. When he died in 1863, as per his wishes, his son Thomas, acting as his trustee, donated land at the corner of Britannia Road and Guelph Line for a brick church. An "Ontario vernacular gothic style"

church was erected. It was designated in 2008, as a historically significant building under the Ontario Heritage Act – the first public building in Halton to be so designated. Later when a parsonage was needed, Thomas donated a piece of land between his house and the church with one stipulation – The new building must NOT obstruct his view of the church's front steps from his home.

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

Acland Houses history- by Jennifer Kemp



The 383-385 Pearl Street buildings were the last historic buildings on this section of Pearl Street. An excellent example of a row house with Italianate details. The building is considered a landmark.

Built in 1880 for William Acland – Florist, as a rental income property. It was rented until the death of Acland's son Joseph in 1915.

The 1909 Assessment Rolls list tenants and shows the owner listed as Mrs. Joseph Acland, who lived next door in a house she owned at the corner of Pearl Street and Princess Street (now Lakeshore). One of the tenants, W. H. Finnemore, a miller at his "Rolling & Flour Mill", was hired at 50 cents per day to pump water into the tank of the Village watering truck that kept the dust down on the unpaved streets. He was also the first chairman of the Library Board in 1872.

After Joseph Acland's death, one house was sold to Charles Easton, a conductor and motorman for the Radial Electric Railway, his wife and their 5 children. The house to the north was sold to Mary McAvoy Finnemore the widow of W.H. Finnemore. The Finnemores have been tenants in the house since at least 1903.

The Wanderings of a Newcomer Part II - by Nicola Thomson

Elizabeth Street is full of homes and memories of days gone by and I continued my walk back north along Elizabeth Street to discover some more of the wonderful homes and their stories. Let's start at 421 Elizabeth Street.



421 Elizabeth Street

Originally built in 1850 as a frame cottage by Joseph Stinson it was bricked after John Morrine purchased it in 1888. John's youngest daughter Nellie lived in the house until 1976 when she died at the age of 100. The front door is at the south gable side where there used to be a porch. All windows are arched shaped with arched shutters to match. The home has had many occupants but today is serving as the restaurant Buvette.

423 Elizabeth Street

This house was built in the mid 1800s's by Joseph Redmond was a Land Agent and later a shoemaker. John Bastedo also made his home there from 1855 -1873 whilst John Kentner, owner of a lumber yard on Brant Street occupied the house in 1893. The lacework frill about the eves and other ornaments are gothic revival. The main door has side lights and a three-piece transom with leaded glazing and heavy articulation. Now it is home to The Dickens.

437 Elizabeth Street

437 Elizabeth Street is believed to have been built by Richard Mortimer, a butcher in 1855 and today is the Martini House. It has seen many physical changes over the years.



451 Elizabeth Street - Sea Cadet Hall

This building was built in 1858 as the first Methodist Church in the village. The Methodists moved to larger quarters in 1889 and St. Luke's Anglican Church purchased the property and used it as a Sunday School for 30 years. It was then turned over to the Trustees of the Burlington Great War Veterans Association and later the Canadian Legion, Trustees for the Navy League of Canada. It is a red brick structure of rectangular shape with a high gabled roof, and a Bull's eye window below the pitch. On each side of the front entrance are gothic windows which at one time held stained glass.



Knox Presbyterian Church

Andrew Gage (son of Burlington's founder James Gage) and his wife Martha made the gift of land on which this church was built. The first church was a small frame one built in 1845 but by 1877 a larger church was needed, and the original church was moved back on the lot to serve as a Sunday school and still stands today known as the Bell Tower Room. The stained-glass windows were ordered from Scotland, paid for by John Waldie and shipped in Molasses.



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
www.facebook.com/burlington history