January 2024 Volume 20, Issue 01

The Burlington Historical Society

GAZETTE

Welcome Everyone to 2024



Our speaker for January is **David Vollick**.

Dave is a 50 plus year resident of Burlington. He spent his working career in the pulp and paper industry in the corrugated carton sector. He worked in many areas including testing, sales and technical support. Finishing with 44 years combined service to a variety of companies, Dave also was a technical resource to TAPPI The Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry.

In retirement Dave became involved with the Freeman Station restoration project first as hands on construction and later as a board member. He is a past president of both the Friends of Freeman Station and the Ontario Guild of Town Criers. Dave has been married to his wife Barbara for 50 plus years and they have two grown children.

In Burlington we know Dave as the "Town Crier". His voice calls out loud and clear at most public events.

January is also our **Annual General Meeting**. A new executive will be elected and the year's financial report will be presented. The AGM should take only about 10-15 minutes so there will be plenty of time to hear our speaker.

This month:

NOTE ***Monday, 15 January 2024***
7 pm in Centennial Hall at Central Library

Join us to hear David Vollick



Everyone is welcome!
Tell your friends

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BHS Members will receive the BHS Gazette and other communications and can unsubscribe at any time info@burlingtonhistorical.ca.
Information contained on our website, newsletters and publications Is printed in good faith and for general purposes Editor: Joan Downey

President's Message *Jane Ann Newson*

… And what a year it has been for BHS!

Many thanks to our faithful members and loyal supporters for their BHS donations! We are most grateful.

BHS has also supported other community events such as Burlington 150, Heritage Week and Burlington Festival of Lights and the Lowville North Burlington Cemetery Chartered Transit tour. The Elgin Promenade Square Radial Line Sign was a cost share agreement with the City of Burlington to help offset the cost of the production and installation of this sign.

Our Outreach Team was very busy in January, spending 4 days at the Burlington Centre HUB Community Space and again in July.

On February 14th, BHS was invited back to the Burlington Performing Arts where Frank Penny brought his BIG BAND sound to the stage. BHS were pleased with the number of attendees who stopped by our booth and checked out the framed print of the COUNTRY CLUB aka the Brant Inn.

Our Story Board signs have been well received and they were all displayed at the Lakeshore and Brant intersection on Canada Day and during the Burlington 150 celebrations.

Recovery following COVID, has manifested itself through increased attendance at General Meetings and by the addition of new members (14) and renewals and a renewed interest in all things Burlington History.

Patricia Taylor and Joan Downey names were submitted to the office of the Honorable Karina Gould for consideration for Volunteer Recognition. They both received a lovely certificate to commemorate the occasion.

Thank you sincerely for your continued support and dedication to BHS!

JA



Officers (Elected)		**Directors** (Appointed)		**Convenors** (Appointed)		**Archives Volunteers**
President	Jane Ann Newson	Programs	Alan Harrington	Greeting Cards	Anne Wingfield	Peggy Armstrong
Vice President	Don Thorpe	Bookkeeper	Jane Ann Newson	Heritage Burlington	Alan Harrington	Jennifer Kemp
2nd Vice President	Nicola Thomson	Archives	Joan Downey	Social Media	Jennifer Kemp	Dorothy Kew
Secretary	Pat Taylor	Webmaster	Wayne Murphy	Publicity	Jennifer Kemp	Chris Mallion Moore
Treasurer	VACANT	Membership	Jane Ann Newson		Nicola Thomson	Pat Taylor
			Pat Taylor			Nicola Thomson
Past President	Joan Downey	Newsletter	Joan Downey			
		Outreach	All			
		Event Planner	Pat Taylor			

Membership Report *Pat Taylor*

We came to the end of 2023 with **104** members. That's awesome!

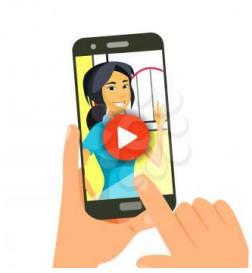


Thank you to our loyal members who have continued to support BHS and to enjoy our speakers and join in festivities. And, welcome to the 14 new members who joined in 2023. We welcome you to the group. 2024 will see more exciting speakers and events.

With the new year comes an opportunity to pay your membership dues. You can pay online with an e-transfer (please don't forget to send us an email so we know who is paying), you can pay by cheque sent to the address on the bottom of the membership form on the back page of this newsletter, or, you can pay in person at the January meeting.

Interac e-Transfer

Social Media Report

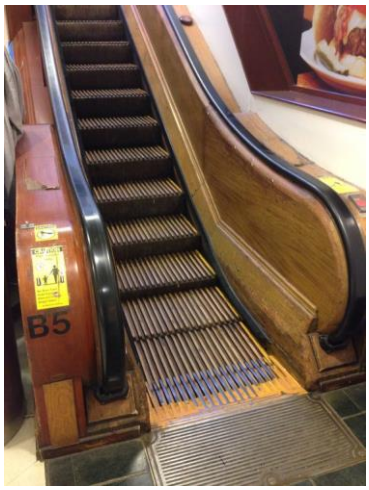


Our social media numbers continue to climb thanks to the great postings by Jennifer Kemp.

If you don't already follow BHS on social media it would be a good time to start so you don't miss out.

We usher in 2024 with some pretty impressive numbers:
Facebook - 1297 followers; Instagram - 447, Twitter - 55

P.S. Jennifer is also a regular contributor to Burlington Today, the online newspaper. If it's about history, chances are Jennifer had input.



Did you know?

Hamilton's first escalator went into operation at Robinson's department store on Nov. 13 1920. "Hamiltonians went up and down without walking for the first time!"

The escalator at Robinson's moved at 70 feet per minute and could carry about 75 people at a time.



Speakers

As is our custom, we had meetings January to May & September to November. Our Guest Speakers were an interesting and diverse group of people with great information to share with us. The following is a summary:

9th January	Margaret Stowe, Author of The Story of Twitchell & Harris and The Ladies on the Grass – Margaret, born in Dundas, is a singer turned author with a strong interest in history. This is her first book.
13th February	Thanh Campbell, Orphan #32 – airlifted to Canada as a child from Vietnam and he talked about his life in Canada. A very thought provoking and inspirational talk.
10th March	Members Don Thorpe & David Craig held a Trivia Night ? ? ? When our scheduled speaker tested positive for Covid 19, these two longtime Aldershot residents stepped up and entertained us.
10th April	Al Norton, a lifelong Burlington resident, spoke to us about his farming family and the beginning of Norton Transportation. Al is also very active with the Friends of Freeman Station.
8th May	Chris Mallion Moore, postcards exchanged between 2 teenage Burlington girls, and Pat Taylor – The Waterfront Sculpture Trail, fall 2022 edition. WOW! A double header! Both of these presenters are volunteers with the BHS Archives.
11th September	Canadian Heritage Seekers on using metal detecting to find treasures from the past. This presentation generated lots of questions. Perhaps others are planning to pursue a new hobby?
16th October	John O'Reilly, City of Burlington Heritage Planner, introduced us to the process of property "designation" and its effect on properties. He also discussed the proposed designation of a number of properties in the city.
13th November	Honourable Karina Gould, Leader of the Government in House of Commons. We were very honoured indeed to have this busy MP drop into our meeting and share with us the workings of her position as Leader of the Government.







Stay tuned for some exciting presentations in 2024

Archives Report *Joan Downey*

These are just a few of the highlights of materials donated to the Archives during 2023:

- Framed art – Brant House 1877, Teen Tour Band ca 1950, Burlington Country Club 1911
- Books – Ontario High School Arithmetic 1917, various advertising booklets 1862-1948
- Documents – deeds & photographs of Burlington properties, a property evaluation of Woodhill, once the oldest home in Burlington, done for insurance purposes
- BCHS yearbooks 1955-2018
- Collections – Bridgeview Community Association; Aylmer Cannery memorabilia



That is only a sample. There were plenty more treasures. I apologize if I didn't include your donation but it is valued just as much as those I mention. Those 'one off' postcards and documents are gems.

Perhaps the crowning glory was when Alan was browsing on EBay and found an LP (remember them?) Stan Kenton, Best of Brant Inn. Maybe we'll have a preview at our January meeting.

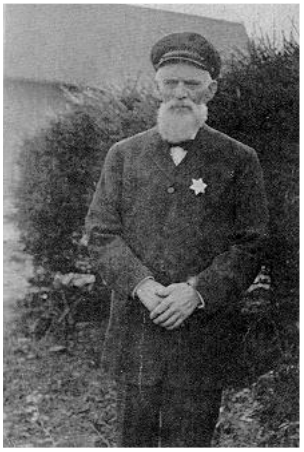
Thank you, all. Keep those bits of the past coming so they can be shared with others.

From our files.....

The following are extracts from the Burlington Gazette at the turn of the century.

March 16, 1899
W. Kerns and Co. have purchased a new computing scale. This ingenious device weighs and tells the value of the article weighed at the same time, doing away with the old pencil and paper method of ascertaining the value of a piece of cheese or anything else.

March 2, 1899
Stone is being placed on portions of Water and Brant Streets.



September 19, 1900
'Some mischievous boys amused themselves last Friday night by placing one of the Electic Light Company's pole across Water Street and filling up some of the newly dug holes with rocks. The parties are known and will have to answer for their misconduct.

October 18, 1899
Mr. W. Wiggins has had the electric light put in his shoe store, the past week, giving it a most improved appearance. Who will be next?

November 22, 1899
Owing to the fact that the insurance companies raised an objection to the Radial Electric power on account of too heavy voltage, Messrs. B.S. Hicks and W.W.Wiggins have discontinued their electric lights.



Burlington Mayors – Part V *by Joan Downey*

Ellis Hughes Cleaver (1892-1980)
Mayor of Burlington 1920

As we return to this series, in the year 1919, the 5th Mayor of our city is M.C. Smith. Yes, that is the same Max Smith who was the first Mayor of the Town of Burlington in 1915 and also previously served as Reeve. If you would like to refresh your memory, look back at the February 2022 issue of the BHS Gazette.

In 1919, he took over for T.W. Peart mid-term when Mr. Peart was unable to complete his time in office and M.C. Smith served for the balance of the year.

Ellis Hughes Cleaver

Again, this name is a familiar. His father, with the same name, also served in public office. The Senior Cleaver served as Reeve in 1898 as well as over the years holding other public positions in the Village. Refer to the September 2020 edition of the BHS Gazette for the article on Ellis Hughes Cleaver, Sr., Burlington Reeve.

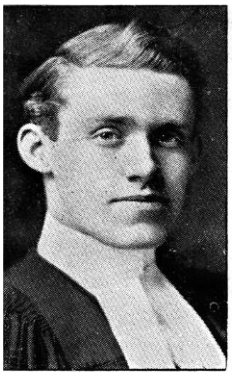
Like his father before him, Hughes became a lawyer and set up a practice serving the community of Burlington.



Hughes & Ariel Golden Wedding Anniversary 1966

Hughes married Ariel Shapland in August of 1916 at the home of the bride's parents on Locust Street. The groomsman was Sgt. Murray Fisher. The couple set up house on Caroline Street where they raised 3 daughters, Elizabeth, Margaret & Ariel Marie. It is interesting to note that the first City crest was designed by Ariel Shapland, who was a young girl at the time.

Hughes joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on April 24th 1918 and served as Sergeant in the First Canadian Tank Battalion. In a newspaper interview he stated "the reason I enlisted in tanks was because with tanks if you got a direct hit you were out. If you came home at all you would have all your limbs." He came back uninjured and reestablished his law practice.





He also jumped right into campaigning for Reeve and Mayor of the Town. Hughes served as Burlington Reeve in 1918-1919 and was elected as Mayor of Burlington in 1920. He was elected over J.J. Hobson with a 129 vote majority. At the age of 29 he was probably considered as "youngster".

After serving as mayor, Hughes went heavily into the construction business. He is responsible for building over 500 homes in town, in sections of Roseland, sections of Aldershot and Roseland Heights and Shoreacres Heights.

The stock market crash in the 1930s hit him hard being heavily committed to his business. He was thrown into bankruptcy and disbarred from practicing law.

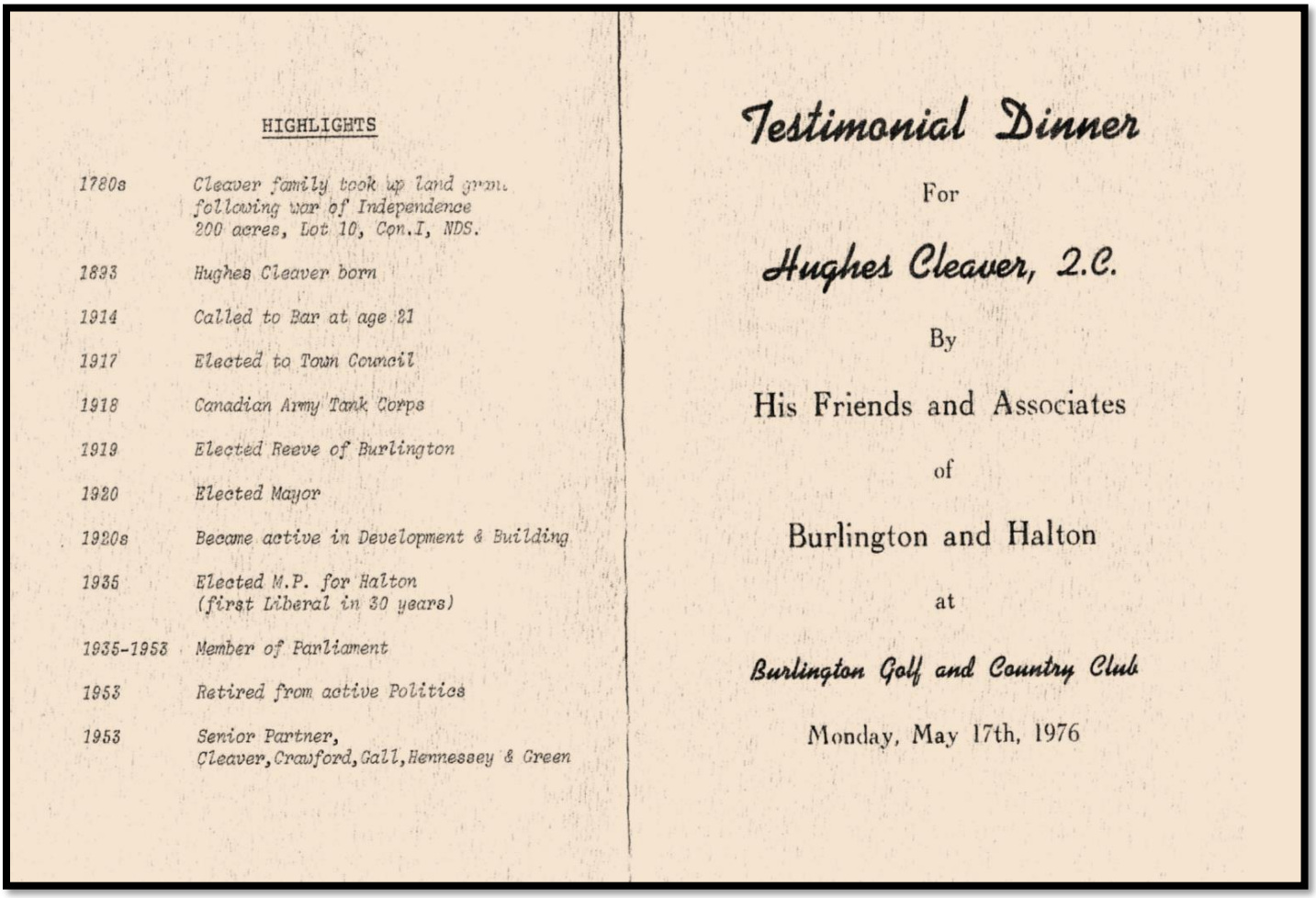
He went on to serve as the Liberal member for Halton County in the House of Commons 1935-1949. He chose not run for re-election in 1953.

"I was still under disbarment when I first ran for the House of Commons. The riding had been Conservative for 46 years before then but I got elected." By a substantial vote Mr. Cleaver began representing Halton in 1935. Because of his disbarment he was unable to serve in the cabinet however, he served as chairman of the banking and commerce committee. He was fully reinstated by the law society in1952.

After the death of his wife, Ariel in1975, Hughes married Beatrice Keddy.

Hughes died at the age of 88 having continued with his law practice until shortly prior to his death. Hughes and Ariel are buried in Greenwwood Cemetery, as are his parents.

Quoted text is from an article by the Hamilton Spectator, June 10, 1976



HIGHLIGHTS

1780s	Cleaver family took up land grant following war of Independence 200 acres, Lot 10, Con.I, NDS.
1893	Hughes Cleaver born
1914	Called to Bar at age 21
1917	Elected to Town Council
1918	Canadian Army Tank Corps
1919	Elected Reeve of Burlington
1920	Elected Mayor
1920s	Became active in Development & Building
1935	Elected M.P. for Halton (first Liberal in 30 years)
1935-1953	Member of Parliament
1953	Retired from active Politics
1953	Senior Partner, Cleaver, Crawford, Gall, Hennessey & Green

Testimonial Dinner

For

Hughes Cleaver, Q.C.

By

His Friends and Associates

of

Burlington and Halton

at

Burlington Golf and Country Club

Monday, May 17th, 1976

Another item from our files…..

September 6, 1899 The Watering Cart was weighed last week with the box full of water and tripped the beam at 3,800 pounds. Verily, I say unto you that cart is a horse killer!

The Burlington Historical Society

Preserving Burlington's History for Today and Tomorrow

Membership - 2024

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____Postal Code:_____

Telephone: _____ Email address: _____

Membership Dues

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

☐ Family $40.00 ☐ Adult: $30.00 ☐ Senior $25.00

☐ 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:	**OR**
The Burlington Historical Society Membership Convenor PO Box 93164 1450 Headon Road Burlington, Ontario L7M 4A3 Make cheques payable to The Burlington Historical Society	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

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