SEPTEMBER 2023 VOLUME 19 ISSUE 06

THE BURLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINI GAZETTE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back Members and Guests!

Have you had a great summer, and did you have an opportunity to participate in the many types of activities having to do with Burlington 150 and Heritage Week celebrations?

September is a busy month and one of the most important things for us on the BHS Executive, is planning for the AGM and Elections in 2024.

But more on this subject is in our October mini Gazette.

BHS recognizes our **many** members who have contributed to Heritage Week 2023! Reference the Outreach section for details.

Jane Ann Newson on behalf of the BHS Executive

MINIGAZETTE

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UPCOMING 2023 GENERAL MEETINGS

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH

MONDAY OCTOBER 16TH

MONDAY NOVEMBER 13TH

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.

SEPTEMBER PRESENTATION

On Monday September 11th, we are pleased to have as our speaker –

- **Dennis McMullen** of the Canadian Heritage Seekers who are doing metal detector work hoping to find buried artifacts of a significant nature – like a coin from the late 1700's found at a battle site from the War of 1812.

  Mr. McMullen will be talking to us about his group who are doing metal detector work.

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/Social Media	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 participated at the **Burlington Centre HUB** community space with the displaying our books, newsletters, videos and the collection of newly created digital signs/posters.

- **Friday August 5st thru Saturday August 12th - Heritage Week 2023!**

  BHS members activity participated in **2 Walking Tours** (Alan Harrington), **Burlington Triva Night** (Don Thorpe and David Craig), **Heritage Driving Tour Release** banner page and actual Tour Guide (Wayne Murphy), **Social Media** exposure (Jennifer Kemp), **Eyes of Memory video** (David Craig), **North Burlington Cemetery Bus Tour** (Helen Callaway)

- **Saturday September 9th**

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome back Doreen & Tom Bochsler and Josie Hammond and new member Molly Van de Kraats.

VERY Happy '97th' Birthday wishes to out to a Past President's KEN DAVY!

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 hand it to Patricia Taylor who looks after our Membership at each General Meeting **or** mail to the address shown on the Membership Form. Our current 2023 Membership has **98** members.

BURLINGTON SNAPSHOTS:

From our Villages collection - featuring this month – Cumminsville

by Patricia Taylor and Joan Downey

Poor Cumminsville – there is little left to indicate the existence of Cedar Springs Road between Dakota and Kilbride. But it is remembered in the subdivision of Bant Hills by this street.

During the lumbering era of the mid-1800s, at the age of 21, Titus Geer Cummins, sometimes Cummings, purchased the land in this area. The village was named for him.

He became a Justice of the Peace and at one time was a grain merchant. When he died in 1893, he was buried in the Union Burying Ground on Plains Road.

Cumminsville was a thriving village. Gristmills, sawmills, a cheese factory, bakeshop, blacksmith shops, cabinet factory, turning and lathing mill, tannery and tailor shop supported the village. It had a hotel, as most villages did, a Presbyterian Church, with an active Bible Society, and 3 meeting halls – Oddfellows Hall, the Orange Hall and a Temperance Hall, which was on the second floor of the general store. The general store also housed the post office. Later in its existence it housed the telegraph office. From a by-law of 1860: "Any person applying for a retail liquor license had to have a "fair character for sobriety and general good conduct". Storekeepers and grocers could apply to sell wine, brandy and spirituous liquors in quantities not less than 1 quart and not to be drunk on the premises.

Inns and Temperance Houses had to be in good state of repair with at least a dining or sitting room and 4 good clean beds in separate apartments over and above those occupied by the family and resident boarders and there had to be a barn and stable well secured for keeping horses, cattle, carriages etc with good stabling for at least 8 horses with both house and the premises well supplied with pure wholesome water. "It shall NOT be lawful for the keeper of any such house to have on the premises any table or device for gambling".

Robert Thompson received a certificate to keep a house of public entertainment in Cumminsville. During some elections, his hotel was also used as a polling division. Since liquor could be served during elections and since elections took place over several days , Thompson's and all such hotels must have been interesting places in which to cast your vote.

The children of Cumminsville would have attended SS #10 near the Village of Dakota (just to the south). Starting in a log structure, this one-storey brick building replaced it in 1862. The school closed in 1951 and was adapted for residential use.

In the early days of education in rural Burlington the teacher probably "boarded around" – stayed with families of his students. But the teacher at SS#10 lived in this house in Cumminsville – 6303 McNiven Road.

The main employer in the area was a Gore Powder Mill in the Village of Dakota. In the fall of 1884, they were producing blasting powder for use by the Canadian Pacific Railway as it expanded westwards. The mill exploded on October 9, 1884 when all but 6 workmen were away at lunch – 4 workers were killed instantly, 1 died later and 1 survived - he landed in the treetops and then fell into the water and escaped death. ……

Special note: For the balance of this story and coloured photos of the above address, please ask for the Cumminsville 3-fold Villages brochure at the next General Meeting

Summer Outreach by Patricia Taylor

This summer we've had several opportunities to promote BHS. We started in late July with 2 days at "The Hub" – a store within the Burlington Centre that not-for-profit groups can use, free of charge. Besides promoting ourselves we took the opportunity to promote Heritage Week and Burlington 150+. Not huge numbers, but hopefully the teacher we spoke with will follow up with us about how we can support her in the curriculum on early local settlement.

For me, that would make all the time spent on this project worthwhile. Many thanks to volunteers Nicola Thompson, Joan Downey, Jennifer Kemp, Alan Harrington, and David Craig.

Early August brought Heritage Week. Besides our colourful posters on the fence at Centennial Square and a display in the showcase at City Hall we provided support for five activities. After the Opening Ceremony at St. Luke's Church, Alan Harrington led a walk from St. Luke's to the Gazebo in Spencer Smith Park. One notable stop was at the Art Gallery to see how many of the 50 attendees could see the 'Naughty Ladies' in the artwork outside the Centre. (Hint: look at the spaces between the 'spindles.').

For Sunday's activity, people were encouraged to go to our website and check out the self-guided driving tour. I heard a couple of people say they did take part in it – and found it very interesting and planned to complete the tour soon.

On holiday Monday, Alan led another walk – this time from the compass in Spencer Smith Park along the Beach Strip to the Lighthouse and Keeper's Cottage stopping at places of interest along the way. The group of 30 accommodated everyone, a few more women than men, young and not so young, newcomers and long-time residents, even one attendee on a motorized scooter. Only 2 people didn't come across the bridge to the Lighthouse – they had another appointment.

Trivia Night on Thursday the dynamic duo of Don and David (Don Thorpe and David Craig from BHS) entertained an audience of just over 100. A display table of the Villages of Burlington brochures – all 12 of them for the first time, set up by Joan and Pat - drew a lot of people to the table. As they were picking up the brochures several were heard to say they hoped the folders might hold the answers to some of the trivia questions.

Saturday morning a brand-new Burlington Transit Bus (only 600 kms on it) sponsored by the BHS, arrived at Lowville Church with the destination signs reading "North Burlington Cemeteries." Helen Callaway of the Kilbride History Group organized the tour – 3 of the 37 attendees were from BHS – Joan, Alan and Pat. Helen distributed our Village brochures on Lowville and Kilbride at the end of the tour.

I don't know why, but I was surprised at the number of people on the bus who were descendants of early settlers. AND several people met relations that they didn't know they had. Lots of chatter and exchanges of contact info.

Here are a few photos on some various events that took place during Heritage Week:



North Burlington Cemetery Bus Tour

Saturday August 12th



So you think you Know Burlington Trivia Night

Thursday August 10th



BHS Poster Boards at the corner of Brant Street and Lakeshore Road



The Burlington Historical Society

Preserving Burlington's History for Today and Tomorrow

Membership

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 totaling $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
Burlington, Ontario L7M 4A3
1450 Headon Road

Make cheques payable to The Burlington Historical Society

E-Transfer

If you are a **new** member using e-transfer, please mail the completed form to us at the mailing address shown on the bottom left-hand side of this form **OR** leave it at the Membership table at any General Meeting. This will ensure that we capture your email and mailing address for our database and the receipt of our newsletter.

www.burlingtonhistorical.ca
info@burlingtonhistorical.ca
www.facebook.com/burlington history