

The Burlington Historical Society  
**GAZETTE**



## Celebrating Black History Month

Our speaker for February is **Shameel Chankar**. You met Shameel last month when he accompanied our January speaker, Chloe Richer. Shameel is presently working with the City of Burlington in Heritage Services.


Shameel graduated from the University of Toronto with a Master of Arts in Geography with research specializations in heritage and cultural planning, transit-oriented development and gentrification.

Prior to his current municipal experience, he has worked in research with the Black Planning Project where he completed research for Black and racialized communities, ensuring diverse voices were documented and planned for.

He has also held positions in parks and recreation, engagement, public space design and implementation collaborating with various other municipalities like the City of Brampton, Caledon, Peel Region, and the City of Toronto during his work with 8 80 Cities, and the Canadian Urban Institute.

Shameel enjoys bringing to life Black and Afro-Caribbean histories and is passionate about looking at heritage from a people centered perspective and beyond façade and architectural design ensuring that this type of Planning remains informed, and provides capacity for stories to be told.



<i>This month:</i>	<i>In this issue:</i>																								
 <p><b>Monday, February 9th, 7 pm</b> Centennial Hall, Central Library</p> <p>Join us to hear <b>Shameel Chankar</b></p> <p><b>Everyone is welcome!</b> <b>Admission is free. Lots of free parking.</b></p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td>President’s Message</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>A Chance to Participate</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>BHS Executive</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>2025 Outreach Report</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>From the Archives</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Burlington Mayors</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Social Media Report</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Membership Report</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>A Look Back</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Thieves Routed</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Archives Report</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Membership Form</td><td>8</td></tr> </table>	President’s Message	2	A Chance to Participate	2	BHS Executive	2	2025 Outreach Report	3	From the Archives	3	Burlington Mayors	4	Social Media Report	5	Membership Report	5	A Look Back	5	Thieves Routed	6	Archives Report	7	Membership Form	8
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# President's Message *Nicola Thomson*

It is an honor to serve as your newly elected president, and I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me. Our society has a proud tradition of preserving, interpreting, and sharing the history of our community, and I am excited to continue that important work alongside all of you.

I would like to thank our outgoing officers for their dedication and leadership. Their efforts have strengthened our organization and ensured that our shared heritage remains accessible for future generations.

I hail originally from England but Canada has been my home for nearly 50 years and Burlington for 8 years during which I have come to love the City and it's rich history.

Right now, with my husband we are exploring Mexico and have been amazed at the depth of history here, of particular

interest was a visit to Teotihuacan Pyramids dating from 800BC. Today we are in San Miguel de Allende, founded in 1542 but the present City is named after Ignacio Allende, a martyr of the Spanish Revolution.

Looking ahead, I hope to encourage greater engagement, fresh ideas, and continued collaboration. Whether your interest lies in research, preservation, or simply a love of local history, there is a place for you here. Together, we can expand our outreach, support meaningful projects, and keep our history vibrant and relevant.

I welcome your thoughts, suggestions, and involvement in the months ahead. Please feel free to reach out, attend our events, and share in the work of the society. I look forward to meeting many of you and working together as we begin this new chapter.



History Museum of San Miguel de Allende  
Photo by Nicola Thomson



## A Chance to Participate

There is a campaign to have Burlington win the 2026 Kraft Hockeyville contest. For those not “up” on Kraft Hockeyville – it is a long standing campaign (20 years) for small towns to get a hockey rink upgrade and an NHL preseason game.

<https://hockeyville.kraftheinz.com/home>

Do you have any photos? Or memorabilia? You would like to share? Please go to the website and sign up. OR, if you would rather, share the info with us and we'll add it to our submission.

Good luck!

Directors (Elected)		Officers (Appointed)		Convenors (Appointed)		Archives Volunteers
President	Nicola Thomson	Programs	Alan Harrington	Greeting Cards	Jennifer Kemp	Peggy Armstrong
Vice President	Chris Gain	Archives	Joan Downey	Social Media	Jennifer Kemp	David Billings
	Carol Rame	Webmaster	Wayne Murphy	Publicity	Jennifer Kemp	Chris Gain
Secretary	Pat Taylor	Membership	Pat Taylor		Nicola Thomson	Jennifer Kemp
Treasurer	Chris Gain	Newsletter	Joan Downey	Image Specialist	David Craig	Brenda Lee Luciw
		Event Planner	Pat Taylor			Gwynneth Richardson
Past President	Don Thorpe	Outreach	All	BHS Representative to Heritage Burlington	Alan Harrington	Pat Taylor
						Nicola Thomson

## Outreach Report

Early in January, Don Thorpe and David Craig were welcomed by residents at the Pearl and Pine Residence. They gave a presentation on The Garden of Canada, which was well received. With them they had an important 'show and tell'. BHS has proposed to donate to this residence the beautiful painting titled 'They Paved Paradise', artist Donna Fratesi.

More about that in a later issue.

In February, Alan has been asked to speak to a Probus Club.

We have also had a request from a local condominium group to present at one of their monthly get togethers.

It's nice to see people are interested in local history.

Stay tuned for our summer plans.

## From the Archives -

Burlington Gazette - Tuesday August 28, 1979

### Early hotels

## HISTORY

Helen Langford



This week's column comes from the booklet entitled "Souvenir Booklet of Burlington the Beautiful". This piece comes from a chapter written by Reverend G. W. Tebbs who in 1927 was rector of St. Luke's Anglican Church. The time period of the column is the late 19th century.

There were three hotels in Wellington Square in those days: the Zimmerman house, a fine handsome three-storey brick veneer building erected at great cost by one Peter M. Zimmerman, and by him rented to Mr. Peter Evans. There was also the "Burlington", kept by Mrs. De Garmo and the Lake View kept by John Wray. The Brant House was in the suburbs of the village, and was one of Mr. Eager's enterprises, built upon historic ground, and actually including in its structure a portion of the old dwelling house of Chief Brant. Brant's house was built of red cedar logs brought by the Indians all the way from the Thousand Isles and are as sound today after 100 years, as on the day they were cut. The Brant House was probably the largest building in the district. These cedar logs may still be seen at the Brant Hospital.

St. Luke's church was about 33 years old, with the first rector, Dr. T. Greene still in charge. He was

also the only school inspector for the district, and was in fact a high school in himself, having coached many of the young men of the neighborhood for their entrance to the university. He, himself, was a brilliant graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. At that time, he lived on what is now known as the Roseland Survey, a name originally given by Mrs. Greene after she had planted a great many rose-bushes round her home, or as some have said from the wealth of wild briar roses she found in the neighborhood on her arrival.

At the time of Confederation, our Burlington people enjoyed their social times very much at home. They would gather at the humble residences of the neighbors, and often after the tallow candles of that day had been extinguished, and an extra pine knot had been heaped on the fire, the evenings were spent in story telling which continued far on into the night. Once a year the "Batchelors' Ball" was held. This was a very gay occasion, and all the people of the village who could possibly avail themselves of the steamer trip to Oaklands, went and either tripped on the fantastic toe or enjoyed themselves looking on.

### Notes:

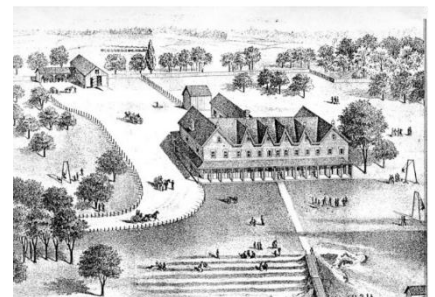
Helen Langford was a Burlington resident and longtime member of BHS. She wrote weekly articles for the Burlington Gazette. In 2001 she published a booklet of articles which is available online

[Langford collection](#)

"Zimmerman House" later became the Queen's Head and today is known as 400 Brant.

The "Burlington" has had a number of incarnations. It became The Raymond Hotel. In more recent times it was Wendel Clark's and today it is the Black Swan.

The Brant House and the Lakeview are both long gone.



Brant House from 1877 Atlas of Halton Conty

# Burlington Mayors – Part X *Joan Downey*

## Lloyd Denham Dingle (19 Mar 1898 – 12 July 1967)

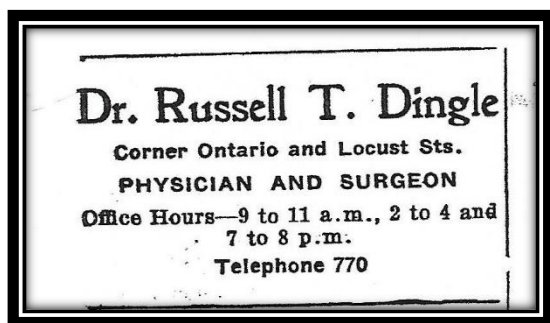
### Burlington Mayor 1931-1932

**Lloyd Denham Dingle** was the youngest son of Richard William Dingle and Emma Paisley.

His father, Richard operated a butcher shop on Brant Street in Burlington until 1935. At least five of his six children obtained a ‘higher education’, both sons and daughters.

Two of his sons went on to be major contributors to life in Burlington.

Lloyd’s brother, **Russell Tweedie Dingle**, graduated with a medical degree from the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario in 1926. Shortly after he opened his own practice in Burlington. Dr. Russell Dingle’s home and practice were for many years at 1457 Ontario Street, just west of Brant Street.



Advertisement from the Burlington Gazette

Dr. Dingle was appointed Medical Officer of Health for Burlington in 1946, following the retirement of Dr. Speers. He was surgeon-lieutenant attached to the Burlington Sea Cadets.

**Lloyd Denham Dingle**, the youngest of the Dingle children, was born in Burlington in 1899. Following his early education in Burlington, Lloyd chose to attend McMaster University in Toronto. (McMaster University moved from Toronto to Hamilton in 1930).

Lloyd graduated from Osgood Hall with an M.A. in 1923. He formed a partnership with a Mr. Schatz, in Toronto, but in January of 1924, was operating a temporary office at the family residence in Burlington on Fridays and Saturdays. In July of that year his business card in the newspaper gives his location as “over” 52 Brant Street.

**Lloyd D. Dingle** was elected 11<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Burlington for the years 1931 and 1932. In both years he was elected by acclamation

At the age of 36, Lloyd married Margaret Vining, Lloyd and “Peg”, as his wife was known, raised 2 children, Denham and Alison.

The following is part of the wedding report in the Burlington Gazette of 3 October 1934 –

*Flame colored dahlias in tall standards and the bridesmaids in gowns of the same color formed the setting for the marriage on Saturday afternoon in Knox College chapel, Toronto, of Margaret McLaren Vining, daughter of Rev and Mrs. Andrew Joseph Vinings to Lloyd*



*Denham Dingle son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard William Dingle of Burlington.*

Lloyd tried his hand in politics again in 1937, when he was chosen as the Conservative Candidate for Halton for the Provincial election. He was, however, defeated by the Liberal Candidate from Oakville.

In the spring of 1949, Lloyd D. Dingle, K.C., was appointed Crown Attorney for Halton County.

He formed a partnership with Paul Charlebois, Q.C. practicing as Dingle Charlebois at 411 Guelph Line.

Lloyd Denham Dingle, Q.C. died in 1967, at the age of 69. His wife, Margaret died in 2004 at the age of 96 years. Both Lloyd and ‘Peg’ are buried in the family plot in Greenwood Cemetery.

Paul Charlebois continued the practice as Dingle Charlebois until he retired in 2019.

## Social Media Report *Jennifer Kemp*

Followers at the end of January

Facebook	1592
Instagram	591
X	69

- Monthly articles published in Burlington Today  
[www.burlingtontoday.com/then and now](http://www.burlingtontoday.com/then-and-now)
- A new article is published every month on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Watch for it

January 2026 - Built by a community, Joseph Brant Hospital celebrates 65 next month



## Membership Report *Pat Taylor*

Our membership for 2026 presently stands at 82 persons. **18 are new members for 2026!**



### A look back –

The first couple married in St. Luke's Anglican Church were **William Dalton** and **Elizabeth Sinclair**.

William was born 12 Nov 1806 in England and died 28 April 1893. Elizabeth was born in Scotland and died 28 Nov 1892. Both are buried in St. Luke's Church cemetery.

According to the family history on file they had 6 children: William, James, John, Edwin, Thomas Elgin and Agnes.



# Thieves routed by bank Janitor and wife

**Burlington Gazette – some time in 1935**

Shortly after 7 o'clock one morning, T.A. Smith, Janitor of the Bank of Commerce, Burlington, and his wife, walked into the bank to clean up. In so doing they surprised two thugs who had entered by a side window with the intention of forcing the first official who arrived to open the safe at the point of an automatic pistol.



T.A. Smith

When Mr. Smith entered the bank from his own adjoining apartment about seven o'clock he found that the rear window on the west side of the bank had been jimmied during the night, but did not think that any one might be still on the premises. He informed his wife of the discovery and Mrs. Smith went back through the door into her apartment to telephone Col Walker. As she took the receiver from the hook, two masked men with black automatic pistols

stepped from the manager's office at the front of the bank and while one covered Mr. Smith, the other walked through the open door into the apartment and took the telephone from his wife, at the same time saying "none of that".

Mrs. Nora Gilbert, who was on the switchboard at the telephone exchange, heard Mrs. Smith scream just as she was about to ask her for the number and as no further sound came from the telephone she sensed something was wrong in the bank and notified Col. Walker and Chief Lee Smith, who both hurried to the scene.

The gunmen were both about five feet eight inches tall and wore white handkerchiefs across their faces. One was dressed in a grey suit and the other wore a brownish suit and a fedora.

The gunmen had planned the robbery carefully but had not figured on the caretaker being in the building. The men backed the couple into their part of the building and then fled through a side door. The pair ran down Water Street and were seen by a number of citizens.

Chief Lee Smith, aided by detectives from the Hamilton police department, was still investigating the case at press time.

Mr. Smith had moved into the bank apartment with his wife and two daughters, Grace and Ruth, on May 16. At that time Mr. Smith had jocularly remarked that they were likely to be

held up some time and his wife scoffed at the idea. Mr. Smith had also contemplated having the window through which the



gunmen entered screened as it is in a narrow lane behind a refreshment booth and difficult so see from the street.

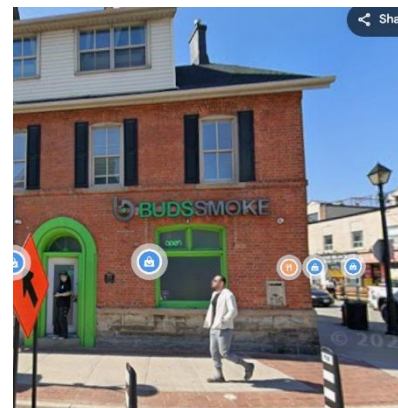
Paul Challen, teller at the bank, stated that he had intended to go to the bank about eight o'clock today to clear up some extra work, and if Mr. Smith had not entered the office to dust, the bandits would have confronted him when he arrived.

Shortly before noon the teller discovered that his revolver, a .38 caliber Iver Johnson, had been removed from his drawer.

Note:

The **Shaver Building** was built in 1881 by James Cushie Bent for the Bank of Hamilton, merged in January 1924 with the Canadian Bank of Commerce. In 1973 the building housed an off-track betting establishment. At one time it was the bus terminal until the John Street terminal was opened in 1987. In 2026 it is home to a cannabis dispensary.

If only walls could talk!

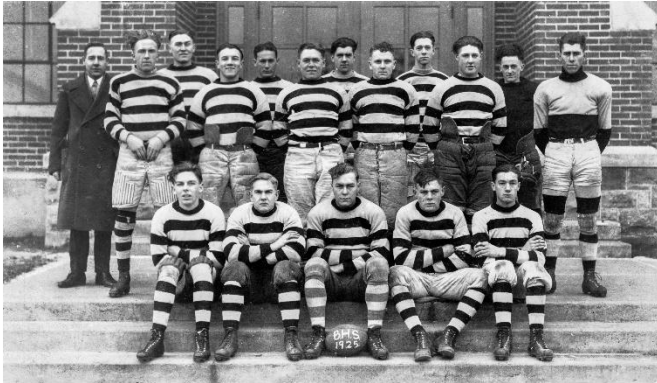


Screenshot from Google Maps

# Archives Report *Joan Downey*

At the January meeting a number of members dropped off donations of interesting items for the Archives. Included were family memorabilia, items collected by the families over many years.

Included in one of the donations was this great photo of a 1925 Rugby team. They are tough looking guys and the striped uniforms add to the image. Unfortunately, we don't know their names. Can anyone help?

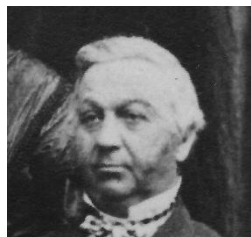


There were also a number of old deeds and documents donated. There hasn't been time yet to completely review the deeds other than to note that they are very early. One is dated 1831, between Jeremiah Young and William Chisholm.

One other document covers the appointment of Thomas Easterbrook as a Postmaster by William, Earl of Lonsdale, Postmaster General,

The position of Postmaster was very important in the early days of Upper Canada. I did some research online in the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) Post Offices and Postmasters Collection, with the following results.

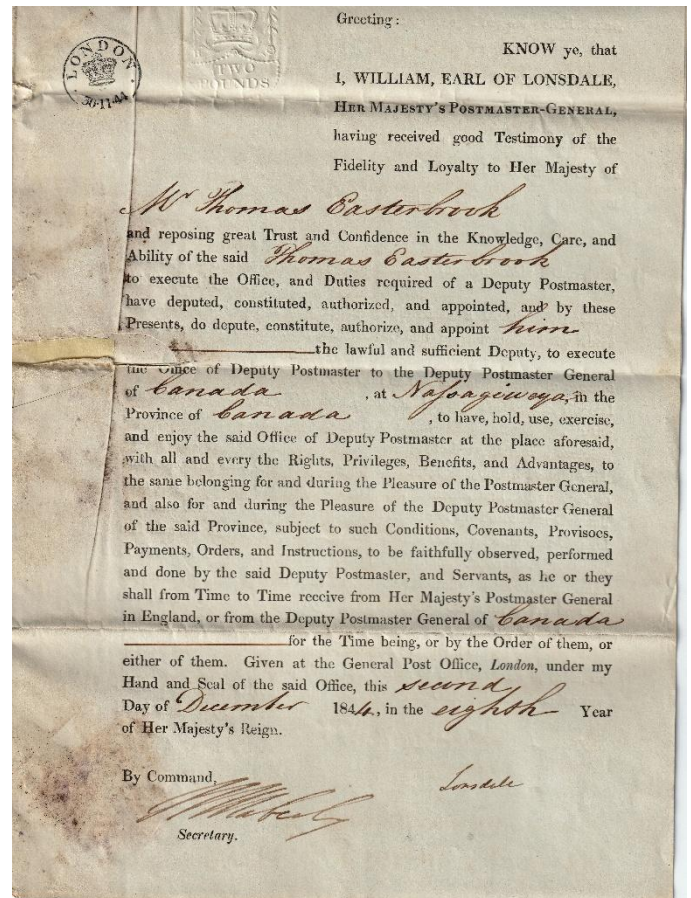
The District of Halton, Nassaggiweya Post Office was established in Feb of 1840 and closed in April 1914. Thomas Easterbrook was the second Postmaster, appointed in 1844. He served until Sept. 1868 when he resigned. However, the Easterbrook family continued the tradition with:



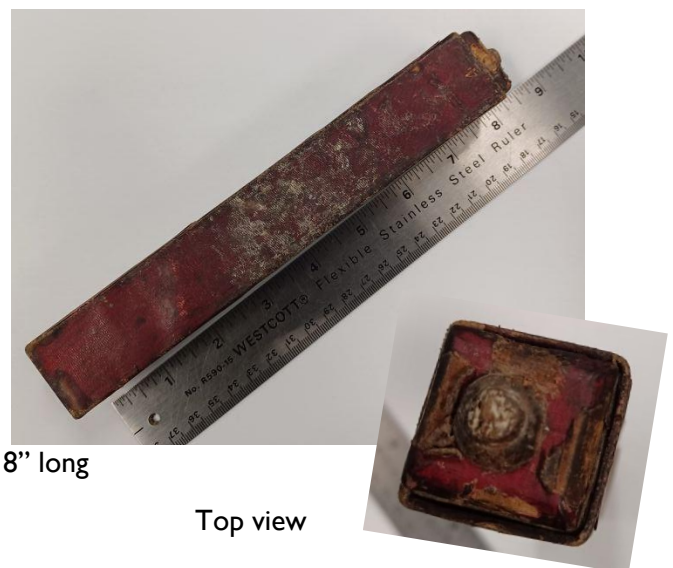
Thomas Easterbrook 1871

- Elias Nov 1868 – Jan 1877
- John Feb 1877 – 1889
- John W Jan 1890 – Aug 1900

In Sep 1900 the position was assumed by Levi Elsley, a position which he held until 1914 when the Post Office was closed.



That same donation included something which we cannot identify. It appears that the centre can be pulled out of the holder but it's stuck and cannot be removed without damaging the item. Any ideas of what it might be? Should we force it apart? The item will be on the Archives table at the 9<sup>th</sup> February meeting for an 'up close' view.



8" long

Top view



**Burlington Historical Society**  
Preserving Burlington's History for Today and Tomorrow

**Membership - 2026**

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](mailto: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 Convenor  
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](mailto:info@burlingtonhistorical.ca)



If you are a new member or there are changes to your contact information, 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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[www.facebook.com/burlingtonhistory](https://www.facebook.com/burlingtonhistory)