

The Burlington Historical Society GAZETTE



British Home Children



John Jefkins' father came to Canada as a British Home Child. Through the assistance of Home Children Canada, John found and visited his UK family in 2015 with the story published in the Toronto Star.

John is a featured speaker for Home Children Canada and shares his family personal story in addition to the history on children immigration to Canada.

Recently retired from executive positions in the electrical, financial and telecommunications sectors, John is currently President of the Board with Haven on the Queensway.

If you want to learn more about this topic, visit this site: www.homechildrencanada.ca

For the Toronto Star article follow this link https://www.thestar.com/news/insight/the-century-long-family-secret-and-a-30-minute-unravelling/article_61436d4b-0d95-588c-bdd5-1cd887acdc33.html

Burlington has a close tie to this story. Our own Spencer Smith also came to Canada as a British Home Child.

He arrived in Canada in 1885 along with 31 other boys from the Shaftsbury Boys Home where he lived from the age of 9. He was 14 years old when he arrived and was sent to work on local farms.

Whereas some of the Home Children had far from ideal experiences, Spencer was lucky to be placed on a farm where he was treated very well. As an adult he went on to own & operate a produce store and to beautify Burlington in his spare time.

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President's Message *Don Thorpe*

Welcome to Fall everyone!

What a great meeting last month and an excellent turnout. Ted Barris sure is an entertaining speaker and his presentations are very thorough and well researched.

As I mentioned last month, we are looking for volunteers to join the executive. We are sure that there are many out there with skills to help BHS. Please show your interest by contacting info@burlingtonhistorical.ca

If you were born in **October** you have a tendency to have a pleasant attitude, treat others with kindness, exercise self-control, and are passionate and loyal people.

October born babies are bold, hard workers and they stay focused on their goals.

October Calendar

If you're someone who enjoys savoring and sipping on vodka, **October 4th** is the perfect day to celebrate your love for it, it's **National Vodka Day!**

World Teachers' Day, also referred to as International Teachers' Day, is observed annually on **October 5th**.

Leif Erikson Day is commemorated every year on **October 9th** to honor Norwegian explorer Leif Erikson, who is credited with bringing the first Nordic European people into Continental America around the year 1000.

Thanksgiving in Canada is celebrated on the second Monday of October every year. This corresponds to **October 14, 2024**.

The roots of Canadian Thanksgiving can be traced back to 1578, forty-three years before the Pilgrims' feast considered to be the basis of American Thanksgiving. A group of English explorers led by a man named Martin Frobisher landed safely in the present-day Canadian territory of Nunavut. Upon their safe arrival, Martin decided to hold an official celebration to express their gratitude. Thus, all of them heartily dined on salt beef, mushy peas and biscuits. This is considered to be the first Canadian Thanksgiving.

United Nations Day is celebrated on **October 24th**, the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Charter, in 1945.

National Pumpkin Day, observed on **October 26th**, is a festive celebration of one of autumn's most cherished symbols. As soon as October rolls in, pumpkins start to take center stage, appearing everywhere - from comforting foods and spiced drinks to charming seasonal decorations.

Halloween is observed globally on **October 31st** and it is a popular celebration loved by people of all ages. It takes place on the day before All Saints' Day and is also known as Hallowe'en, All Hallows' Eve; All Saints' Eve, and Samhain.



Trivia Question: **Who named Burlington Bay in 1792?**

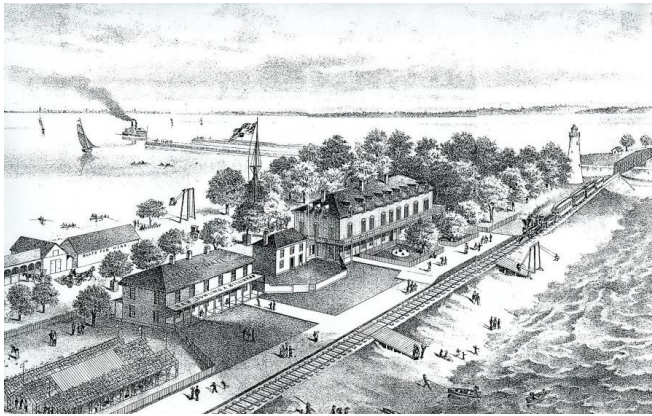
Answer to last month's trivia question: The original Brant Inn burned down in 1925.

Officers (Elected)		Directors (Appointed)		Convenors (Appointed)		Archives Volunteers
President	Don Thorpe	Programs	Alan Harrington	Greeting Cards	Jennifer Kemp	Peggy Armstrong
Vice President	Nicola Thomson	Archives	Joan Downey	Heritage Burlington	Alan Harrington	Jennifer Kemp
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Past President	Jane Ann Newson	Event Planner	Pat Taylor	Image Specialist	David Craig	Pat Taylor
		Outreach	All			Nicola Thomson

The Telephone in Burlington Since 1877 *Peggy Armstrong*

Burlington Gazette, 8 October 1947, p6

A younger, more leisurely Burlington will be recalled by a few of the community's older inhabitants who remember the excitement caused 70 years ago when telephone communication was first established between here and the Ocean House on September 24th, a Monday in 1877.



Ocean House - Image from 1877 Halton Atlas

At that time there were no automobiles, or electric lights or pavements in the entire community, which was formerly known as Wellington Square, and many of the younger bloods among the professional and business men in the district frequently rode to work on horseback.

From all accounts the Ocean House was a fashionable beach resort a short distance from Burlington. On September 24, Mr. Black, a telegraph company official, went to the hotel to close the telegraph office, maintained there during the summer for vacationists, and took with him a primitive telephone which he connected to the telegraph line.

In the meantime, a similar instrument had been set up in the Burlington telegraph office. But their hopes proved centered around the telephones, which were connected by a metallic circuit, two wires, instead of simply one as had been common up to that time.

Through the use of the metallic circuit, Mr. Black and his associates hoped that voice transmission would not be marred by heavy static as invariably happened on the single wire, grounded circuit. But their hopes proved in vain, for the conversation between here and the hotel was interspersed with sounds that resembled the sizzle of frying bacon. Not until years later did telephone engineers find means of eliminating static.

Although the demonstration was considered successful, it was not until 1886 that the first telephone office was established here. T.A. "Tom" LePatourel, a druggist, was appointed Bell Telephone "agent" and the primitive switchboard was located in his store on Brant Street. It was later removed to his new premises on Brant Street.

The Business subscribers, listed that year, were Mr. LePatourel himself, and the general stores of Baxter and Galloway and W. Kerns and Company.

The first residence telephone listed in 1889, was installed in Dr. F. Bates' home on Water Street.



Before 1900, telephone service was furnished from 8 am to 9 pm on weekdays and from 2 pm to 4 pm on Sundays. A petition was received from subscribers requesting 24 hour service. At that time there were 80 subscribers, and it was necessary to secure 20 more to raise the number to 100 before this service could be provided. D.J. LePatourel, brother of Tom LePatourel, sent from Hamilton office, soon secured the necessary additional subscribers.

On June 29, 1925, the Bell Telephone Office was moved to the building formerly occupied by W.C Campbell, situated on Brant Street just a few doors north of Ontario Street. On March 19, 1927, a new type of switchboard was placed in service and henceforth subscribers merely had to lift their receivers to signal the operator. That same year Burlington's 1,000th telephone was installed. Since 1930, the office has been under the direction of a local representative.

Mrs. G. Hilton holds the position. Today, just 70 years since that telephone test was conducted between here and the Ocean Hotel, the local exchange serves nearly 2800 telephones, all of which not only can be interconnected with virtually any other telephone in North America, but also with those of over 70 overseas countries as well.

The Telephone (cont'd)....

Burlington Gazette,

6 September 1905 New Telephone Office - It is worth noting that an office has recently been opened by the Bell Telephone at Appleby and that that village can now be reached by telephone

12 & 19 June 1907

- Telephone service moved upstairs in LePatourel's. Fred Allen is night operator.
- 24 hour service began Monday, June 17th, 1907

June 1949 The new Bell Telephone building at the corner of Brant and Caroline streets was completed. Subscribers were issued new telephone instruments for the "cut over" to the latest type of dial system.

Nelson, a bit of Burlington History - January 1953 - New phone number system effective in Burlington Under the new system all telephone numbers in Burlington contained the prefix "Nelson 4" and four numerals (NE4-4628)

This postcard was recently purchased by a member and donated to the BHS Archives.

It is addressed to Miss Amy Sheppard, Freeman PO, Ontario. Too bad we can't read the postmark.

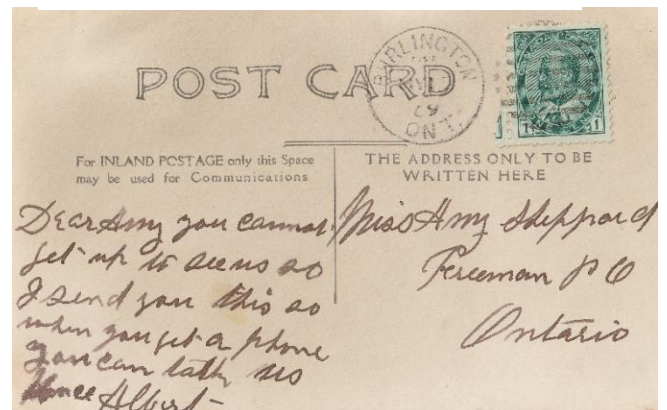
The message: Dear Amy - you cannot get up to see us so I send you this so when you get a phone you can talk to us. Xxx Albert

On the front "call us on Bell Phone No. 82 Ring 4 Burlington Central

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Hemmingway



*Call us on Bell Phone No. 82.
Ring 4 Burlington Central
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Hemmingway*



Social Media Report Jennifer Kemp



Going into October, this is an update on the number of followers who are enjoying our posts

Facebook - 1457 followers
Instagram - 507 followers
X - 62 followers

Burlington Mayors – Part VIII *Joan Downey*

James Smythe Allen (4 Feb 1860 – 28 May 1937)

Burlington Mayor 1925-1928

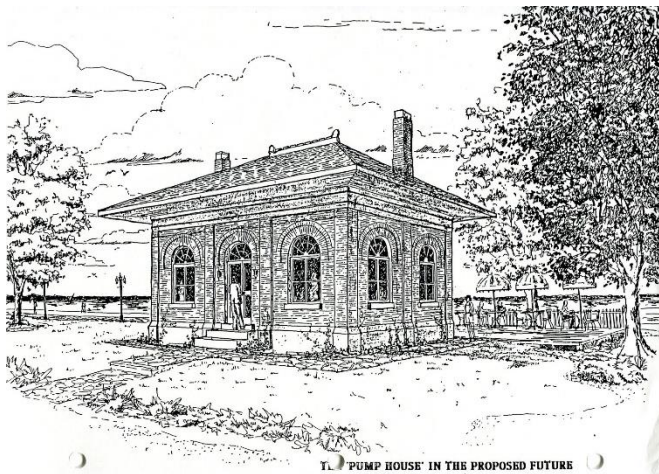
Born in Grey County, Ontario in 1860, James was the son of Joseph and Mary (McCandles) Allen. Sometime prior to the 1881 Census the Allens moved to Burlington with their four sons. James' occupation was Tin Smith. In later years his tinware business manufactured the shades for the first electric lights available for private home owners.

On 4 February 1886, James' 26th birthday, he married Elizabeth Jane "Jennie" Goodall (or Goodale), age 23, of Hamilton

The family lived in Burlington Village, on Locust Street and had 6 children, 2 boys and 4 girls. In 1921 the family is still living on Locust Street. Three of their children are still at home and James' occupation is now listed as "clerk" with an annual income of \$1050. He held this position of Town Clerk for 7 years.

James always took an active part in the affairs of the town. He served on the town council and was elected one of the first members of the water commission when the waterworks was installed in 1910. He was a member, and later chair of the Burlington public school board and secretary treasurer of the Greenwood cemetery company for many years. He was a member of Burlington Lodge No 165 AF & AM and served as secretary for over 30 years. He was also a member of the Macabees and Trinity United Church.

On 28 May 1937, James' life came to a very sad end.



Burlington Gazette, 2 June 1937 Citizens of Burlington were greatly shocked on Friday, last, when the news spread that ex-Mayor James S. Allen had been found in the water at the foot of the embankment on Water Street, 80 feet west of Locust Street. About 11:30 a.m. he called for his mail at the post office and as had been his custom on many occasions, he took a walk along the lake bank on Water Street. As he passed Virtue's garage, he spoke to Arthur Carew, an employee, and proceeded on his way. About fifteen minutes later, two lads, Herbert Crombie, 16, and Ronald Nash, 17 who happened to be walking along the wall below the bank, noticed the body of a man in the water.

Herbert Crombie attempted to raise the body out of the water, while Ronald Nash rushed to the garage for assistance. Albert Waumsley responded to the call for help, and assisted Crombie to pull Mr. Allen out of the water. Mr. Waumsley, Walter England and the two boys then carried the body up to the top of the bank and placed it on the grass.



Chief Smith was immediately notified, who took charge of the remains, and Coroner Dr. W. A. Bodkin was also called, but life was extinct. The body was removed to Williamson's funeral chapel, and Dr. J. H. Stead, of Oakville, Halton county coroner was notified. After learning of the circumstances he ordered an inquest.

There is a path at the top of the bank and apparently Mr. Allen had been walking along it when seized with a dizzy spell, fell, and rolled down the embankment into the water. There was not the slightest appearance of any cave-in or that Mr. Allen had slipped off the Edge of the bank.

Burlington Gazette, 2 June 1937

Verdict of Jury

"We find that Jas. S. Allen came to his death on Friday, May 28th, by drowning, after falling down the bank at the foot of Locust Street, the fall being caused probably by fainting."

R.J.M. Allen, a son of the deceased, told the jury that his father had been in poor health for some time. He was accustomed to taking weak spells in the garden and also in the house. Within the past year he had collapsed in the garden and fell to the ground when walking about.

James Allen (76) and his wife Jennie are buried in Greenwood Cemetery.



This photo is of the embankment at Brown's Wharf, Aldershot. The embankment at the bottom of Locust Street would have been similar.

Membership Report *Pat Taylor*

HEAR YE

OYEZ

Not exactly the quality of Town Crier, David Vollick
(who was our first speaker this year)
but I hope I got your attention just the same.

It is **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME** - I hope you will join the 28 members who are leading the way. Three ways to renew following the instructions on the back page of this Gazette: 1. Mail in a completed membership form along with a cheque: 2. By e-transfer or 3. Give it to me at the meeting on **TUESDAY Oct. 15**
(cash or cheque)

Of course, if you have family members or friends who would like to join, I'll gladly accept their money too.

And please give some serious thought to using your talents or developing new ones along with the leadership of the BHS.



We welcome the following new members to our group:

KIARA GALBREATH

SELENA HERRMANN

VIRGINIA FALCONI

MARSHA PALEY

BILL STEWART

ANN GILLESPIE & STEWART PATCH

From the Archives *Joan Downey*

Shamrock makes Breakthrough – First lounge license in Burlington

Burlington Gazette, 14 Jan 1970 (part item)

"We made the breakthrough!" is the proud boast of Shamrock Restaurant and Tavern co-owner Bill Bolus. His establishment is the first in Burlington to gain a lounge license and for the first time, Burlingtonians will be able to order a Moscow Mule or a Pink Lady without the formality of ordering a meal. The Shamrock, on Plains Road near the Botanical Gardens was the first licensed establishment in town to benefit from the December plebiscite which approved cocktail lounges by an overwhelming margin. It was the third such vote in ten years.



Bill Bolus and his brother George, well known for his appearances as first violinist with the Hamilton Symphony Orchestra, have seen many changes in their twenty-year business partnership. Originally operators of the Clans Coffee Shop, they took over the Shamrock when it was purely a restaurant, converted it to a drive-in restaurant, and are now turning full-circle, operating the Shamrock as a fully licensed restaurant famous for its barbecued spareribs, a drive-in and now a cocktail lounge. The cocktail lounge is set apart from the dining tables, in a corner of the rustic chalet style room at the east end of the restaurant. The brothers plan extensive changes in the restaurant following granting of the new license.

Everything But The Squeal

Every part of the hog was turned to good use. Lard (the soft fat from the pigs) was especially useful for lighting (candles) and soap making.

Recipe for making simple soap.

Melt two kilograms of fat in one litre of soft (rain) water. Set aside. When cool, sprinkle in one small can of lye crystals. Make sure you don't touch the lye. (It burns.) Stir until cool, as the lye will reheat the tallow. Then stir occasionally until the mixture is thick. Pour into a wooden or cardboard box lined with a cloth. Score with a knife. Next day, or when completely cold, cut into bars.

Taken from "Pioneer Times" ref. material 2023.18



www.palinssoap.com



The Burlington Historical Society

Preserving Burlington's History for Today and Tomorrow

Membership - 2025

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:

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



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

www.burlingtonhistorical.ca
info@burlingtonhistorical.ca
www.facebook.com/burlingtonhistory