

The Burlington Historical Society GAZETTE



Our January speaker is **Sarah Farr**. Sarah grew up in East Anglia, UK, and moved to Australia in her twenties. While living in Sydney, NSW, she worked for News Corp. in the advertising department. She became fascinated by the hustle and bustle of the newspaper world, took an in-house journalism course offered by her employer, and realized her love of storytelling.

After leaving Australia and moving to Hamilton in 2005, Sarah became avidly engaged in the city's history -- in particular, the story of Evelyn Dick. Not satisfied with the story told in previously published works, she set off on a mission to fill in the blanks and discover the lesser-known tales of Mrs. Evelyn Dick. You may be surprised by what she's uncovered. Sarah runs the Facebook page *The Evelyn Dick Files* and is currently working on a book about our infamous femme fatale.



A cold case murder mystery – how exciting!

<i>This month:</i>		<i>In this issue:</i>	
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President's Message *Don Thorpe*



I hope that everyone had a joyous and healthy holiday season.

A New Year's resolution is a tradition, most common in the Western World but also found in the Eastern World, in which a person resolves to continue good practices, change an undesired trait or behavior, accomplish a personal goal, or otherwise improve their behaviour at the beginning of a calendar year.

Have you made your resolutions??

December born are either a Sagittarius or a Capricorn. Those born through December 21, are a Sagittarius and known to be funny, generous, and love to travel. Those born on or after December 22, are a Capricorn. This sign is known to be responsible, ambitious, and sensitive.

January born are generally talkative and like experimenting with new things. They will keep you entertained, and it is difficult to get bored when they are around. They are a kid at heart and only turn mature when the situation demands. Plus, they are quite adventurous and introduce you to similar stuff as well.

January Calendar

New Year's Day, January 1, has been a federal holiday in since 1870. Schools and most businesses are not open. It is normally a day to clean up after the night's festivities.

Epiphany, or the Feast of Epiphany, most commonly known as Three Kings' Day, happens twelve days after Christmas, on **January 6th**.

Orthodox Christmas, January 7th, also celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the son of God. This holiday differs from Christmas Day as it places less emphasis on traditions such as Santa Claus, Christmas presents, and the decorating of a Christmas tree. Instead, it focuses on religious customs, liturgies, and traditional rituals such as midnight mass and the nativity of Christ.

National Bagel Day observed on **January 15** celebrates the favorite round, chewy and versatile bread that has become a staple across the world.

With the delicious scent of just-popped kernels filling the air, we happily celebrate **National Popcorn Day** on **January 19th** every year.

National Spouses Day is celebrated on **January 26**. While similar to Valentine's Day, this holiday is mainly dedicated to married couples and lifelong partners. It is an opportunity for couples to spoil and show their appreciation for each other even after being together for years.

On **January 27th**, the world commemorates **International Holocaust Remembrance Day**. This is a United Nations observance that honors and remembers the tragedy of the Holocaust and the millions of people who lost their lives at the hands of the Nazi government.

On **January 30** every year, we observe **National Croissant Day**. It is also my birthday.

Trivia Question: **Who was Miss Martha Craig? (hint: 1902)**

Answer to November's trivia question: Murray Fisher was 89 when he wrote Farewell to the Garden of Canada just prior to his birthday. He died later that year and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

A very young Murray Fisher



2024 Outreach Report

BHS holds meetings from January to May and September to November each year. There is an interesting speaker engaged for each of these meetings and all are welcome, both members and non-members. On those same months the BHS Gazette is issued to members only.

The following is a summary of additional outreach events:

January 10 Don Thorpe was the speaker at St. Luke's Speakers Lunch at St. Luke's Parish Hall

March 25 BHS members met with group at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church to present them with a trunk originally owned by Gilbert Bastedo who donated the land for their original church. The trunk had been donated to BHS but lacking space we found a much more appropriate home for it. It is displayed prominently in the church sanctuary.



March 27 The Appleby Walkers Club joined Alan Harrington on a walk through LaSalle Park
Photo Jennifer Kemp

June 10 Nicola Thomson went to Hearthstone by the Lake where she entertained a group of residents with a talk about the Estaminet Restaurant (aka Emma's Back Porch). Many remembered good times there.

June 22 Cemetery Care Project at the Union Burying Ground, Job's Lane, Burlington. With thanks to the generosity of the late Bryce Lee and the City's Neighbourhood Matching Program, BHS launched a program to repair and clean up many of the gravestones in this old cemetery. June 22 was a work day for our members. The project continued into the fall. In the spring of 2025, BHS and the City will install a sign acknowledging the work that was done.



Mayor Marianne Mead-Ward praised the project

Photos by Grace Workman



The Davis brothers hard at work

July – mid August BHS Displays

- display at City Hall (glass case in front of building)
- 22 large heritage posters on display along Lakeshore Road at Spencer Smith Park

July The Burlington Historical Society donated to the Juno Beach Centre's Flag Sponsorship Program and in July we received our flag with thanks and a certificate that it had flown over Juno Beach, France on December 9-17, 2023. We display it proudly.



Outreach (cont'd)

Heritage Week Aug 3-10

- August 3 Guided Walk along the Beach Strip to the Lighthouse – guide Alan Harrington
- August 5 Guided Walk at LaSalle Park – guide Alan Harrington
- August 8 Trivia Night at Burlington Performing Arts Centre with Don Thorpe & David Craig
- August 9 Heritage Fair at Burlington Public Library – Pat Taylor & Joan Downey manned an information table
- August 10 Guided tour of Cedar Springs Country Club by related group – The Kilbride History Group
- September 8 Alan Harrington led the Apeldoorn Delegation from the Netherlands on a tour of Historic Downtown Burlington
- September 14 Alan Harrington manned the Heritage Table at the City's event "Food for Feedback"
- October A new book was launched – Farewell to the Garden of Canada by Murray Fisher.
- October 2 Alan led the Ubuntu Women's Group on a tour of Greenwood Cemetery
- November 11 BHS supported the Canadian Legion by the purchase and laying of a wreath at the Cenotaph in honour of Remembrance Day 2024
- December 4 David Craig & Don Thorpe gave a presentation on the History of Aldershot to the Aldershot Senior's Group
- November 29th – January 9th, 2025 - BHS was again this year a "friend" of the Festival of Lights at Spencer Smith Park



Trivia Night was well attended. There's Don in the background in the red shirt.

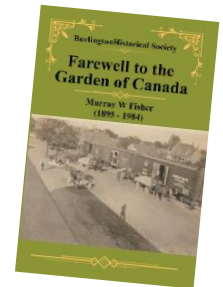


Photo Pat Taylor

December - In City Hall there is a gallery space which needed some photos. They contacted BHS and member David Craig came to the rescue with his extensive collection. The photos are now hung in that gallery for the enjoyment of all visitors. Drop by sometime and check it out. The gallery is on the lower level of the foyer. The stairs down are opposite the elevator. There is a new "bridge" across this space and you can look down to the lower level and see the pictures.

Photo David Craig

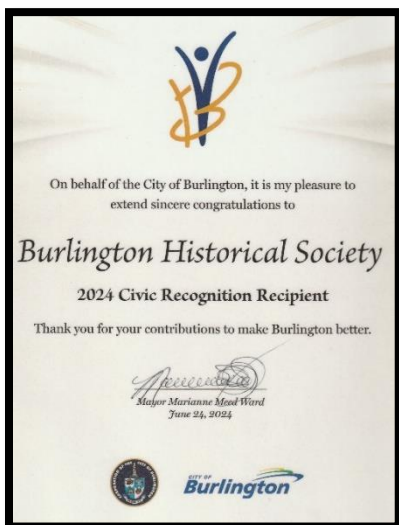


2024
A very busy year for BHS

2024 Speakers

January	David Vollick, Burlington's award winning Town Crier entertained us with stories of his time in this role and of attending competitions. Did you know the costumes he wears were hand sewn by his wife?	
February	Keda Edwards Pierre, former member of Toronto police service & socialpreneur was a very interesting speaker for Black History Month	
March	Trevor Parkins-Sciberras came with his Then & Now photographs of Hamilton and area. As a volunteer with the Halton County Radial Railway, he provided lots of photos of the radial railway. Thanks to Trevor's social media postings, this was one of our best attended meeting of 2024.	
April	Dave Bartlett – The history of Eaton's Department Store – lots of interest here. A couple of our members were former employees and everyone had shopped at Eaton's.	
May	Nikki Wesley – Local Photo Journalism – most of us have seen Nikki around town for years at every event. Many have even been part of photo she was taking.	
September	Ted Barris launched his 22 nd book The Battle of Britain and as usual, entertained us with the story of preparing this book. We were honoured to have him appear with us a few days before the official launch.	
October	John Jefkins told us the story of the British Home Children and locating the story of his father's journey to Canada. Very thought provoking.	
November	Alan Harrington told us of his recent trips to Europe tracing the steps of his ancestors in WWI and WWII. Alan is turning into quite the globe trotter!	

2024 Recognition



April - The 2024 Karina Gould Volunteer Appreciation Awards ceremony honoured Peggy Armstrong for her many years of volunteering with the Burlington Historical Society. Peggy is definitely our "go to person".

June - Mayor Marianne Mead Ward issued a proclamation in honour of our 125th Anniversary – BHS was originally founded in 1899, becoming affiliated with OHS in 1960.

July - BHS was honoured to receive a Civic Recognition Award for 'contributions to make Burlington better'.



Photo Pat Taylor

A Journey Across Generations: The Tea Set That Is Traveling Through Time

David Craig

In October 1953, the Eleveld family left their home in Groningen, Netherlands, embarking on a new life across the Atlantic. Their journey was long and challenging, arriving on the ship **Suiderkreuz** and settling in Burlington, Ontario. Housing was hard to come by, and the family initially lived in a converted farm building on Guelph Line, where they faced cold nights without heat and endured life without indoor plumbing.

By early March 1954, a new chapter began as the Elevelds moved to Maple Avenue. Here, they found work and modest but warm accommodation on the Thorpe Market Garden Farm, a place that at last offered indoor plumbing. This house may have been simple, but it was a world of difference from their first home in Canada.



The Elevelds lived here when they first arrived in Canada



The white house in the background is the Thorpe family home

The youngest of the Eleveld children, Ina, was a joyful and imaginative child who adored her dolls. She would lovingly dress them in handmade clothes and spend hours caring for them, taking them for strolls in her doll-sized baby buggy. For her birthday that year, Mrs. Thorpe—the family's employer—gave Ina a precious gift: a child's porcelain tea set. Thrilled by the idea of hosting tea parties for her dolls, Ina treasured this set, carefully using it and always returning it to its original box after each playtime.

In September 1955, as Ina prepared to start kindergarten, Mrs. Thorpe accompanied Mrs. Eleveld to John A. Lockhart School to register both her son, Don, and Ina. The teacher commented that "Ina" was an unusual name and might be difficult to pronounce. Mrs. Thorpe suggested the name "Ingrid," and from that day forward, Ina was known as Ingrid—a name she would carry throughout her life.



The Elevelds' time at the Thorpe farm lasted until October 1956. Mr. Eleveld soon found a position as a custodian with the Halton District School Board and operated a successful cleaning business on the side. The family purchased a home on Seneca Avenue, and Mr. Eleveld went on to own several businesses, as well as managing the post office in the Milton Mall.

Ingrid grew up in Burlington, attending Lakeshore Public School and Central High School, where she excelled academically and received scholarships. Inspired by her own schooling, she became an elementary teacher with the Halton District School Board, teaching in schools across the area, including Fairfield and King Road in Aldershot. Throughout her life, Ingrid kept her cherished porcelain tea set on display in her china cabinet.

Ingrid's life intersected with Don Thorpe's many times. Both became teachers for the Halton Board, even teaching at the same school for a period. Don's wife, Janet, was also a colleague, and Don taught Ingrid's two sons. Recently, Ingrid had a heartfelt idea: she decided to return the tea set to Don and Janet so they could use it with their two granddaughters. Though Mrs. Thorpe is no longer alive, her great-granddaughters now have a tangible reminder of her kindness—a legacy passed down through a delicate porcelain tea set that continues to spark joy and connection.

David Craig, a childhood friend of Don's who also knew Ingrid, recognized that this was a story worth sharing—a story of family, resilience, friendship, and a simple gift that carried love across generations.



Ed. Note – photos courtesy David Craig. Both David and Don Thorpe are longtime BHS members. JRD

Membership Report *Pat Taylor*

For 2024 we had a total membership of 71 persons; 49 Seniors; 9 Families (18 persons) and 4 Adults. And for 2025 we are more than half way to everyone renewing.

Just a reminder – to vote on matters at the AGM at our January meeting, you must be a member in good standing - i.e. –membership fee paid for 2025.

Anyone paying before or at the meeting in January will be considered “in good standing.”

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Meeting Attendance 2024

Total attendance for programs presented in 2024 was 377.

The largest turnout was in September for Ted Barris as he launched his next book – The Battle of Britain, Canadian Airmen In Their Finest Hour.



Archives Report *Joan Downey*

There were some interesting donations to the BHS Archives during the year. Thank you to each of the donors for thinking of us as a home for your valuable memories. We are always grateful to those who help add to our collections.

Before his death, longtime member Ken Davy put aside a large collection of books for donation to our group. Many of the books were added to our shelves. Those which were not associated with Burlington were offered to our members. I'm happy to report that they all found a good home.

Other interesting donations were a watercolour of 278 Hart Avenue; a scrapbook of 1967 memories; a scrapbook of memories of R.A Nicholson Company, a local nursery supply company. When time permits, I will do some research to find if R.A. is related to A. S. Nicholson of A.S. Nicholson Lumber.

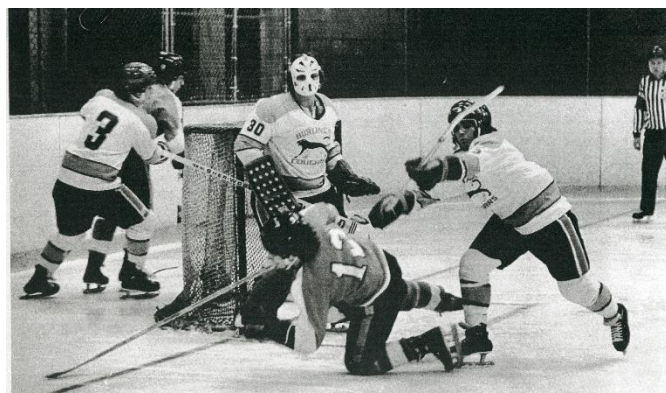
Also donated was a large collection of photos and memorabilia of the Cougars & Mohawks hockey teams – unfortunately the players are not identified. One donor dropped off a Munro tabletop hockey game! I know our purpose is to collect photos and documents but some things are just too good to turn down.

There were also a few donations of family documents, deeds, etc. Perhaps the most intriguing item was a collection of 4 photos identified as the “KKK in Burlington” dated 14 August 1926 – another one needing research!

We are always grateful to receive donations for the Archives. We have very few documents or photos from the 1950s, 60s & 70s. The next time you are going through old items, think of the BHS Archives. People really like to see photos of past times that they can recall. And, remember, you don't have to give your treasures to us. You can merely lend them. We'll scan and give them back to you but they can become part of our collection of the history of Burlington.

The Burlington Historical Society, in partnership with Burlington Public Library continues to add to the digital collection. We have been adding more of our photos and upgrading some of the documents which were already available. We now have more than 6000 images available online for download. Don't forget to use “ “ around search terms.

<https://digitalarchive.bpl.on.ca/browse-by-repository/burlington-historical-society>



Social Media Report *Jennifer Kemp*



We ended 2024 with the following followers on Social Media. The numbers continue to grow, those in parentheses are 2023 figures.

Facebook	1467	(1297)
Instagram	522	(447)
X	60	(55)

Regardless of your feelings about Social Media these platforms are an important method for us to reach out to the public. As the saying goes “all publicity is good publicity”.

In addition to our exposure on Social Media platforms, a number of Remember This? articles were published by Burlington Today. Have a look: <https://www.burlingtontoday.com/columns/remember-this>

It's all about getting our name out there. Tell your friends about us.

An 1826 Memorial Stone for a Pioneer of Lowville

Daryl Coulson

In the mid-1970's, my grandfather Mervyn Coulson (1909-1998) was giving me a guided tour of the farm where he was born and raised. On the south side of Lowville, on the west side of the Guelph Line, is a red-brick house built about 1872. As a heritage house, it is known today as 'The Thomas Colling House', named after my grandfather Coulson's great-grandfather. The house and associated farm land, part lot 6 Con 3, Nelson N.S., entered into the Coulson family in 1892 via Thomas' daughter Frances Melvina, wife of John Coulson. In one of the ravines behind the house there is a secluded knoll within a ravine, a place having been well protected from the plough over time. It was here, on top of a protected knoll, that a memorial stone was pointed out to me. My grandfather said it had been there since long before the time of his youth. A closer inspection showed that the date of death was 1826, well before the 1861 establishment of the nearby Lowville cemetery.

Fast forward to 1997, my great-aunt Irma Coulson was having a family gathering at her residence, the 'The Thomas Colling House' on the 125th anniversary of the Colling-Coulson family farm house. I took a break from the social gathering to walk back to see if I could find the old memorial stone, and to take a photo of it. I was surprised to learn that no one else in the family was aware of its existence. It took some searching in the underbrush but I finally found it laying at the toe of the steep knoll slope, rather than at its former location on the summit. It reads,

"To / The Memory / of /
ISAAC LANDFEAR WALLACE / Fourth Son of /
Abraham & Mary Wallace / Born November 30th 1807 /
Died May 8th 1826".



Photo D. Coulson

It was Abraham Wallace that purchased the full 200 acres of Lot 6 Con 3 Nelson N.S. in February 1826 from Robert Grant, the holder of the Patent dated June 1821. The death of Abraham's son Isaac in May 1826 suggests the Wallace family was present that spring, shortly after their acquisition of the land. Was 18-yr old Isaac's death the result of an accident during forest clearing, or an illness? The answer appears lost in time. The Wallace family appears to have moved from the area following the last of their local land parcel sales in 1849.

The site of the knoll is now part of Conservation Halton lands, thus affording some long-term protection to the apparent burial site of an early pioneer of Lowville.

Ed note – I have a neighbour named Daryl Coulson so I emailed the author to ask if it was him. This is not my neighbour. The author Daryl grew up in Lowville and now lives near Pembroke where he pursues his interest in family history and local history. Watch for more from Daryl.

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
Secretary	Pat Taylor	Webmaster	Wayne Murphy	Social Media	Jennifer Kemp	Dorothy Kew
Treasurer	Joan Downey	Membership	Pat Taylor	Publicity	Jennifer Kemp	Chris Mallion Moore
		Newsletter	Joan Downey		Nicola Thomson	Gwynneth Richardson
Past President	Jane Ann Newson	Event Planner	Pat Taylor	Image Specialist	David Craig	Pat Taylor
		Outreach	All	BHS Representative to Heritage Burlington	Alan Harrington	Nicola Thomson

2025 Plans

We can't leave a productive year like 2024 and not have plans for the upcoming year.

Union Burying Ground Project

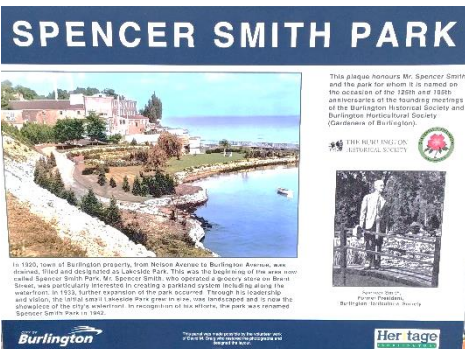
The City of Burlington is making plans to start working on repair of the brick wall. It's a big project so don't expect to see it completed quickly. In the interim, we are considering planning another day of cleaning of gravestones. This will give the group who worked on the stones in June an opportunity to see the completed phase I of the project.



Alan Ernest giving a demo Photo Pat Taylor

Also, we are designing a sign to install in front of the gate on Plains Road. The sign will acknowledge the generosity of former BHS member Bryce Lee and the work done by The Burlington Historical Society members. Stay tuned for more information.

Spencer Smith Park Sign



You saw the sign at one of our meetings. Negotiations are in process with the City to have it installed in the park before the summer of 2025.

Articles about Burlington History

Our files are full of short articles on people and articles of historical Burlington. But this information needs to be available for easy access to anyone with an interest in the stories.

With easy access in mind, we are looking into printing some of these articles. It would be a limited issue, perhaps only digital.

At this time the idea is in the early planning stages but stay tuned for more information.

Possible titles:

Indian Point

The Valley Inn

various families of early Burlington



The Valley Inn

Plaque or Sign for Hidden Valley Park

Hidden away in the park is this little stone building. People always ask "what do you think it was for?" It was a worker's cottage build by the National Fireproofing Company, NATCO. We think it needs to be identified so we plan to develop a sign which will explain a little about the long forgotten company and their employees.



Heritage Week 2025

BHS always plans a number of activities for Heritage Week, from guided walks to historical presentations. 2025 will be no exception – we'll be there.

Videos

Have you had a look at our YouTube Channel ? You are missing out if you haven't.

<https://www.youtube.com/@theburlingtonhistoricalsoc3633>

Bookmark that link to return to it for updates.

Sneak preview at a New Video!

Photos Nicola Thomson

There is an exciting new video in the works about a family who made great contributions to the history of Burlington.

The Easterbrooks

Mabel Easterbrook established a tea room in Aldershot in 1926 which by the 1930s had evolved into the now famous restaurant and home of the foot long hot dog.

Our roving reporter, Nicola Thomson and videographer Paul Wright of Shooter4Hire Photography got together with Ray Easterbrook the current owner operator of Easterbrooks Restaurant to talk about the restaurant, the family and the history of the area.



That's Ray in front of the restaurant and Nicola & Ray smiling back at us



Paul all set up and ready to go.

Paul has a Facebook page -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.paulwrightimages/>

Stay tuned and early in the new year there should be a video to add to our collection.



An interior shot of the restaurant

CHCH TV station has expressed interest in the project and have asked Nicola to come up with a ½ hour video for them to air!

BHS Makes the Big Time!!

And – icing on the cake – Ray has agreed to be our speaker sometime in 2025.

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If you would like to volunteer to join in with any of the projects we would be happy for the assistance. Ideas are also gratefully accepted.



## 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](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

[www.burlingtonhistorical.ca](http://www.burlingtonhistorical.ca)  
[info@burlingtonhistorical.ca](mailto:info@burlingtonhistorical.ca)  
[www.facebook.com/burlingtonhistory](https://www.facebook.com/burlingtonhistory)