

The Burlington Historical Society  
**GAZETTE**

**Sherry Saevil**, our January speaker is a Cree women from Treaty 6 with a degree in Native Studies and Criminology from the University of Saskatchewan. She developed her passion for Indigenous issues through personal experience and professional life. Sherry’s mother and all of her Aunts and Uncles were survivors of the Residential School system. She comes from a family of ten children who were all part of the “Sixties Scoop.” Sherry is the first generation to raise her children without government interference.

Sherry now works with the Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) as the Indigenous Education Advisor. She is a passionate advocate for Indigenous issues and regularly speaks about several key subjects including Residential Schools, Treaties and social issues facing Indigenous people.

Sherry continues to support a variety of educational initiatives at the HCDSB by providing professional development to all staff, introducing Indigenous elders, artists, performers and Traditional Knowledge Keepers to schools while encouraging teachers to embed Indigenous ways of knowing into the curriculum.



Photo courtesy HCDSB

**Join us to hear the real story about the Residential Schools**

Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018, at 7 pm  
 Burlington Public Library, Central Branch  
 Lots of parking and coffee and goodies



**February Meeting**

Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7 pm  
 Our topic will coincide with Black History Month with speaker Dennis Scott  
**We look forward to seeing you then!**

**In this issue –**

- President’s Report 2
- Outreach Report 3
- The Hume Theatre 4
- Freeman Update 5
- Heritage Burlington 5
- From the Archives 6
- Mystery Photo 7
- Did you know? 7
- BHS Executive 7
- Membership & Donations 8

Information contained on our website, newsletters and publications is printed in good faith and for general purposes.

## President's Report *Jane Ann Newson*



As we say goodbye to 2017, we are reminded of the many things that happened during this past year!

The negative happenings that changed the world and history as we have known it, have left some of us feeling stunned, shocked and maybe even shaking our heads.

We are hopefully comforted with some positive happenings and some of those happenings occurred right here at The Burlington Historical Society.

A review of the past year can be seen by re-reading our Gazette newsletters with special attention given to our **Outreach, Freeman Station, From the Archives** and **Heritage Burlington Update** and **special** reports. By taking another look at these 2017 milestones, we realize that great strides have taken place within our Society and with the preservation of our history. For this we are truly grateful.

Moving into 2018, we look forward to a positive beginning with the hopeful continuation of our Burlington Beginnings effort and obtaining additional speaking and other opportunities in order to continue promoting BHS.

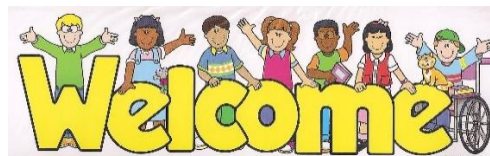
I look forward to your support and inputs to these types of positive actions in 2018. I remind you of our **Call for Nominations Notice** that was sent out at the first of December and **Elections** in January. It is not too late to become involved.

As I leave the President's position and take up the Past President's role, I hope to continue playing a meaningful and active role within our Society.

Many thanks for your encouragement, kind words, personal efforts and your friendships during my 2 year term as President.

I wish you and yours a very Happy New Year .

Historically speaking - JA



New members since October are:

David A. Kemp

Jennifer Kemp

Chris Mallion-Moore



## Burlington's Beginnings

The last of our 6 Burlington Senior Centre sessions was held on Thursday November 23rd. Our presenters for this series were **Patricia Taylor, Joan Downey** and **Chris Mallion-Moore**. A Program Satisfaction Survey was distributed to those in attendance and some of the results received to date follow:

- 9 Strongly agreed with the overall quality of the program
- 9 Would recommend this program to family/friends
- 6 Felt that the program contributed to their health, happiness, wellbeing or personal development

Suggestions and comments received:

- Very interesting program
- Well presented
- Presenters were very knowledgeable
- Historical Society well represented
- A must for every Burlington resident
- Program was well prepared, well presented, informative, enjoyable
- Excellent presenters

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As previously mentioned, we were given the opportunity of speaking at the **Historical Lighting Society of Canada** meeting on November 3rd at the Holiday Inn Burlington. **Patricia Taylor** was our presenter along with **Joan Downey** as our Technical Consultant. It was well received by their members and guests. We received a generous token of their appreciation which, for us, was our very first speaking honourarium!

**Joan Downey** our volunteer Archivist and I met with the Vice Principle of **Lester B. Pearson High School** on November 29th. As you are aware, this school will be closing at the end of June 2018 along with the Robert Bateman High School. The purpose of this meeting was to determine if BHS would be interested in perhaps digitally capturing and preserving photographs and other printed materials currently displayed in Lester B. Pearson. Subsequent to our meeting with their Vice Principal, a separate subcommittee meeting will be held on December 14th and our comments and suggestions will be presented at that time. We hope to lay 'claim' to some of this important High School history material.

Looking forward into 2018, we already have a speaking engagement scheduled for May 14th for the **Burlington Retired Teachers of Ontario Group**.

A **2018 Outreach Plan** will also be developed with inputs from our Executive and the Outreach Core team. This plan will help guide us with BHS Outreach activities in the new year.

# The Hume Theatre

by Gary Evans: excerpts from Vanished Burlington

The Crystal Theatre was located on Brant, just opposite Ontario Street, a rather small building for a theatre, but back then, Burlington was only a community of about 2,500 people. Not a great base, but then again, the motion picture business was still very much in its infancy.

(Rex) Hume had owned the Crystal for only six years when disaster struck. In the early hours of the morning of June 20, 1930, a policeman making his rounds discovered the fire and while the buildings on either side of the theatre were saved, the Crystal was so badly damaged, that the building had to be rebuilt.

But Rex Hume was not to be deterred by the fire. Within days he was telling a reporter from the Burlington Gazette that he planned to build a new theatre in Burlington, not on the old site, but down the street and around the corner on what was then known as Water Street.

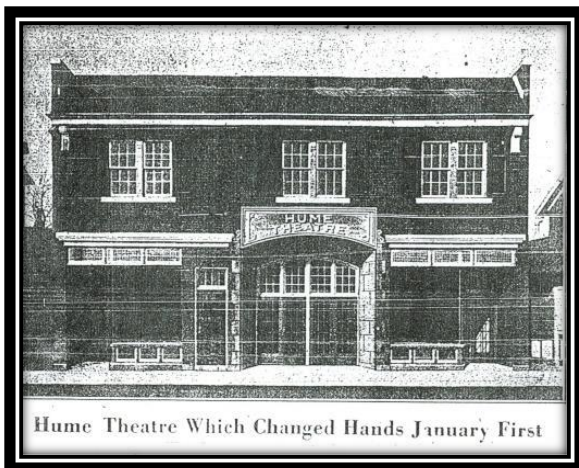
Construction of the new theatre started almost immediately, and local residents as well as motorists along the Toronto Highway watched in eager anticipation as the building started to take shape.

The Gazette offered its readers details about not only the acoustics and colour scheme, but also noted that "the seats are the last word in comfort and beauty. Individual opera chairs with cushioned seats and shaped back give the luxurious ease that the modern theatre-goer demands."

Although small, with about 495 seats when it opened, Rex Hume was able to book many of the best pictures, eliminating as he said, the need "for citizens to pay extra money to go to the show in the city."

Rex Hume maintained ownership of the theatre until 1944, but for a number of years there- after continued to serve as manager. About three years later the name was changed to the Roxy, before yet another name change in the mid 1950s to the Odeon, this after the Odeon Theatre group took over control of what was still then the only movie theatre in town.

While the Hume-Roxy-Odeon was the only game in town for many decades, competition was on the horizon in the 1960s with the Burlington Mall theatres opening in 1969, followed by a succession of other movie houses. When Odeon opened the Showcase Cinemas on Harvester Road in 1981, it spelled the end of Burlington's old movie house, which was later converted to retail use."



Photos Archives BHS



## Freeman Station Update *Alan Harrington*

There is SO much work going on at Freeman.

1) the concrete was poured and levelled in the basement. Then a thick protective and decorative sealer was applied. It takes 28 days to cure. 40 tons of concrete (20 cubic yards) were spread 4" thick over 60 tons of crushed stone.



2) then a crew hooked up the Station to the Region's fresh water pipes and sewer. This was MAJOR trench work as the underground pipes are not easily accessible.

3) Insulation was stuffed to the rafters so that when the HVAC system is installed it will be easier to keep the Station at a nice temperature.

4) The carpenters have begun installing the hardwood floor on the main level.



This wood is special because it was cut from local Burlington trees 50 years ago and has been stored awaiting a suitable use. All this year our carpenters have cut and planed the wood into useable floor planks.



It will be installed in the same manner as was done 100 years ago.

I asked if a professional florist is installing the hardwood - but was advised "no" - apparently that's not what florists do. Who knew?

**Editor's Note:** Alan has been awarded a Burlington 150 Award. Organized by Burlington MPP Eleanor McMahon, the awards honour "150 residents who embody the qualities and values that make our province great and who had dedicated their time and talent towards community service in Burlington."

**Congratulations, Alan!**

## Heritage Burlington Update

Heritage Burlington (HB) has been pleased to participate in developing the City of Burlington Official Plan. Committee members received a draft copy of the Heritage section of the plan and a workshop was organized to conduct an item-by-item review. There was much lively discussion and input was consolidated to be sent to city staff.

As part of its detailed input, HB emphasized the importance of preserving heritage resources, recognizing that they include both publicly and privately owned resources. There was also a continued emphasis on a "carrot not stick" approach to designation. At the same time, comments addressed the issue of preservation costs. HB suggested "a toolkit of financial and non-financial options that would permit designation where necessary" without penalizing owners. Comments also addressed the need for respectful processes for archeological excavations.

Heritage Burlington appreciated the detailed response to comments from city staff and look forward to the completed Official Plan.



**A reminder to renew your BHS Membership for 2018  
if  
you haven't done so already!**

**Thank You**

## **From the Archives** *Joan Downey*

One of the group attending our Burlington Beginnings classes, Brian Thorpe, is a member of the Thorpe family who owned many farms in the Maple Avenue area. Those farms are gone now, replaced by Mapleview Mall and newer homes and condos.

Brian generously shared with us some of his cherished family photos and memories. He is also working on recording the memories he has of the families who lived and farmed in the Maple Avenue area. Thank you, Brian. We value the memories of long time residents to preserve the stories of the past.

### **From the Burlington Gazette, March 1915**

Chief Tufgar commenced on Monday to enforce the Hawkers' and Peddlars' by-law. An organ grinder made his appearance on the street on Monday, and the chief demanded a fee for the push-cart and peddling music. The organ grinder objected and made a hasty retreat out of town.

In April it is recorded Chief Tufgar collected \$30 in fees from transient traders. Quite a lucrative by-law, it seems!

**ORCHIDS, 2011** text & photos by Pat Taylor  
Artist: Alex Pentek

Have you ever travelled eastbound on Upper Middle near Appleby Line? Have you seen the orchids at the railway bridge? And thought "What a waste of money?" At least, that is what I thought – "Orchids!!!!!! What do they have to do with Burlington?" Then one day, I crossed the road to read the plaque.



Orchids celebrate the natural history of Burlington through the diversity and delicacy of these wild orchids, Dragon's Mouth, Three Bird Orchid and Pink Ladies Slipper, all of which are native to the Burlington area.

With extensive and delicate root systems that have a symbiotic relationship with certain types of fungus in the soil, these orchids blur the boundary between plant, fungus and soil symbolizing a deep and hidden connection with the earth.

I changed my mind. What a GREAT choice for a public art installation.

# Mystery Photo *Joan Downey*

## January Mystery Photo



Maybe this one is a little easier to identify. It's not hidden.

Photo by Pat Taylor

## November Mystery Photo



This one stumped all but 1 of our members. Jennifer Kemp knew it is a sculpture beside the Art Gallery of Burlington.

Maybe this photo helps? But there's more to this than you notice at first glance. Check out the full story here -

<http://burlingtonhistorical.ca/mystery-photos/>

Photos by Alan Harrington



## Did you know? Lowville Winter Games is now Love My Hood: Winter Edition

Instead of the annual Lowville Winter Games, watch for a [Love My Hood: Winter Edition](#) pop-up Neighbourhood Rink party at your local outdoor rink.

The City is planning to host a number of pop-up events at local neighbourhood rinks throughout the winter. There will be up to 18 smaller neighbourhood events in lieu of the Lowville Winter Games.



**So, gather the family and enjoy Burlington in the Winter.**

## Burlington Historical Society Executive

Officers (Elected)	Directors (Appointed)	Convenors (Appointed)
President Jane Ann Newson 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President Ed Keenleyside 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President Elizabeth Baldwin Secretary Pat Taylor Treasurer Barry Saunders Past President Alan Harrington	Programs Tom Bochsler Archives Joan Downey Webmaster Wayne Murphy Membership Jane Ann Newson Outreach Jane Ann Newson Newsletter Joan Downey	Greeting Cards Anne Wingfield Telephone Committee Elizabeth Baldwin Heritage Burlington rep Rick Wilson Torey Hunt Patricia Taylor 50/50 Draw

BHS Members will receive the BHS Gazette and other communications and can unsubscribe at any time [info@burlingtonhistorical.ca](mailto:info@burlingtonhistorical.ca)



# The Burlington Historical Society

Preserving Burlington's History for Today and Tomorrow

## Membership - 2018

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Dues (check all categories that apply)

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

**Join our volunteer team** – please circle your interest(s)

RESEARCH - 50/50 DRAW - COFFEE - BYTES OF BURLINGTON - ARCHIVES - NEWSLETTER – OUTREACH -  
MEMBERSHIP - SPECIAL PROJECTS – GENERAL MEETING GREETERS – EXECUTIVE – DIRECTOR -  
TELEPHONE COMMITTEE

## 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

**OR**

-  
Leave it at the Membership table at any General Meeting

Make cheques payable to The Burlington Historical Society

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