

The Burlington Historical Society

GAZETTE

Our speaker for March is BHS member **Mike McDonnell**.

Mike was born and raised in Burlington but has lived in Norfolk County most of his life. He has lived in Waterford since 2007.

His interest in the America Civil War goes back to the age of 10 or 11 when he read an article in National Geographic magazine about the Battle of Gettysburg. Mike was hooked. He still has that same magazine.



The presentation *Fighting for the Cause: Canadians in the American Civil War* provides an overview of why Canadians became involved in that war. The war experiences of several people are examined, illustrating various ways in which Canadians were involved. Some of those people will be familiar to students of the war. Although others are more obscure, the battles in which they participated are legendary.

In addition to being a member of the executive of BHS, Mike is a member of the Waterford and Townsend Historical Society, the Toronto Civil War Round Table and The Friends of Gettysburg, a group dedicated to preserving the battlefield. He has done volunteer work with the National Park Service in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Join us to hear Mike McDonnell

Monday, 12th March 2018, at 7 pm
Centennial Hall, Burlington Public Library,
Central Branch



Bring a friend for coffee, cookies and conversation



April speaker and topic - TBA

9th April 2018 at 7 pm
Centennial Hall, Burlington Public
Library, Central Branch

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President's Two Cents Worth *Ed Keenleyside*

Q. How many Canadians does it take to change a light bulb?

A. None, we don't change light bulbs. We accept them the way they are.

With March just around the corner, spring can't be far off. I'm sure I'm not the only one who will welcome warmer weather and no snow.

I would like to take a moment to ask for your help. Each month we try to have dynamic and interesting speakers – after all that is why we asked our own Mike McDonnell to be our orator on March 12th. With the wide and varied backgrounds of our members I am sure that you know of individuals who might be persuaded to make a presentation at one of our regular meetings. Why not approach your friends and ask if they would like an opportunity to be an upcoming speaker? If you know of someone, please pass on their name and contact info to Alan Harrington or Tom Bochsler in person or by email to info@burlingtonhistorical.ca.

Starting in about 2014 there have been a variety of military anniversaries related to events of WWI or WW2. This trend will continue this Nov. 11, 2018 when we mark the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended WWI. Next year will be the 100th anniversary of the ill-fated Versailles Treaty. Then there will probably be no significant anniversaries until 2022. On April 10, 1922 Canada's Governor General came to Burlington and unveiled our WWI Cenotaph. In September of that same year, Burlington District High School became the first high school in Burlington. That school ushered in a new emphasis on the importance of education beyond grade 8. In spite of the significance of that new school, a second high school – Nelson – wasn't opened until 1957, but that seemed to open the flood-gates for seven more high schools to open from 1962 to 2014.

If you have any ideas about how Burlington might celebrate 2022 please write them down and pass them on to me. I am in the very early stages of trying to drum up support for some type of recognition for the centennial of the Cenotaph and Burlington Central High School in 2022.



I look forward and welcome any information about Burlington's history that you would like to share. Ed

Outreach Report *Jane Ann Newson*



On a very snowy and cold wintery Saturday, **February 10th**, two of our intrepid BHS Members **Alan Harrington** and **Torey Hunt** conducted a **Historic Downtown Burlington Tour** at 10:00am. Twenty-five folks braved the -4 C elements and to all accounts, enjoyed learning about a few of our Burlington historical hot spots.



The tour started off from the Tourism Office on Locus Street and then proceeded along Ontario Street making stops at the Braithwaite house, St. Luke's Anglican Church, Saint-Philippe Church on Locust and ended up at Knox Presbyterian Church on Elizabeth for hot

chocolate and more history about how the Church has grown from 1845 when Martha and Andrew Gage donated the land. Particular attention was paid to the stained glass windows which were a gift from John Waldie and were manufactured in Scotland and shipped to Canada in barrels of molasses .



Photos Alan Harrington / Torey Hunt

Thank you **Alan** and **Torey** for taking the time to share your Burlington history knowledge of our downtown area as part of February Heritage Month.

On Saturday **February 17th** in the Centennial Room at the central library, BHS held a Brant Inn Day with two **Brant Inn documentary sessions**. A total of 40 interested people attended and enjoyed the showing of our Brant Inn video and the colourful display of our Brant Inn memorabilia along with our "Brant Inn" snacks! Many thanks to **Joan Downey** and **Patricia Taylor** for arranging these two classes and acting as our BHS spokespersons for the day!



We hope that you had the opportunity of attending some of the many other February Heritage Month activities listed on the calendar especially produced by the Heritage Committee. **Joan Downey** is our BHS representative on this committee. JA

Photo Pat Taylor

Freeman Station Update *Alan Harrington*

Freeman Station is having a Fundraising Drive to enable final stages of restoration.

Everyone watching home renovation shows know it's those last few pieces where the money goes. Our normal fundraising will pay for our hard wood flooring, heating & cooling, washrooms, and emergency exits; but bringing basic water service to the Station turned out to be a more complicated and costly challenge than anticipated. In January 2018, the city acknowledged this additional expense and have agreed to aid us by matching dollar-for-dollar up to the first \$50,000 raised in 2018.

The Friends of Freeman Station are a not-for-profit charity and all donations go to the refurbishment of the Station.

Here's one way our readers can help. For a \$100 donation, the donor will receive a \$100 charitable tax receipt and certificate, their name will be added to the permanent Whinstone Wall, and the Station is granted a matching \$100 from the City. Details @ www.freemanstation.ca



Friends of Freeman Station and the Burlington Public Library held a Reading Railway event at Central Library in early February. The attendance for the event was 200+. Here a young railway fan enjoys playing with Thomas the Tank.

Photo courtesy Alan Harrington

A very warm welcome to our newest member

Niky Melichar



Did you know??

It took 18 months to remove pins, clips and staples (260 kg of metal) as well as adhesive to get 640,000 files of the Canadian Expeditionary Force ready for digitization. That's 500 pounds of metal. What did they do with it? They gave the pins to artist Sarah Hatton and she made art - charts of the stars as they were on the final days of several major WW I battles. Click here to see the article

http://sarahhattonartist.com/portfolio_page/vimy/



The Burlington Gazette – Burlington’s Newspaper (1899 - 1986)

In these pages we often reprint articles and photos from The Burlington Gazette. This newspaper is a priceless source of historical information on Burlington.

The original newspapers are gone, probably destroyed when they were microfilmed. For years, the one existing copy of the microfilm existed at Central Library. In 1996, concerned about preserving this valuable resource, BHS arranged to have a duplicate microfilm copy made. That copy was donated to the Mills Memorial Library of McMaster University. The original microfilm is still at Central Library. For protection against loss, the films are kept in a locked cabinet with restricted access. But, when unlocked, what wonderful stories they tell!



Elgin Alexander Harris, 1876-1975

Elgin Harris, editor from 1899 until 1956 was born in Caledonia in 1876. In 1899, at the age of 23, he purchased the equipment and subscriber list of a failed newspaper for \$1500 and The Burlington Gazette was in publication. For almost 60 years, he saw and reported on life in the growing village and later, town of Burlington.

From the Harris family bible

Elgin A. Harris born in Caledonia in the
County of Halton and March 6th 1876

Elgin married Alexandrina Mortimer in 1901 and they had 2 children - George Richard Harris (1903-1978) and, Marjorie Alexandrina Harris (1906-1988). In 1905 a house was built for the family at 513 Locust Street. Today that house still stands and is the location of A Different Drummer Books.

From the Harris family bible

Elgin A. Harris to Alexandrina N. Mortimer
Burlington:
April 17th, 1901, County of Halton

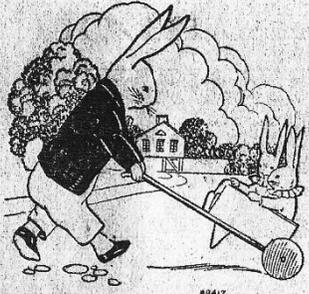
In addition to running the newspaper, Elgin was very active in community life. He was a Burlington Reeve in 1901 & 1922 and mayor in 1923 & 1924. He was also a Warden of Halton County, a member of the Water Commission and the School Board.

When Elgin retired, his son, George took over as Editor of the Burlington Gazette for a short time. Following in his father's footsteps, George was also very active in the community. An article in the Burlington Gazette, ca 1930 states that George was elected Reeve that year. A total of 710 votes were recorded which was "one of the largest votes in recent years". George served as the 14th mayor of Burlington from 1936 – 1939. According to an article in the Burlington Gazette dated March 1966, George was a Justice of the Peace at that time,



GEORGE HARRIS

In 1980, Elgin's daughter, Marjorie spoke at a BHS meeting and shared some historical anecdotes from early newspaper articles. She was in the process of writing a book based on her father's records. Unfortunately, she never finished it. However, the unfinished manuscript was donated to the Burlington Historical Society Archives and in the next few months excerpts from the manuscript will be shared in these pages.

Easter is Coming
and with it a whole load of our friendly greetings and good wishes. If you would have the Eastertide joy all the year round, try patronizing us for expert

SHOE REPAIRING
and see what unusual efforts we make to please you.

Quick Shoe Repair
J. H. WALMSLEY
Shoemaker with H. M. Force in France

The following article appeared in the March 2nd, 1899 edition of the newspaper:

“Our “hero” of the watering cart had a very narrow escape from electrocution one day last week. Harry unfortunately touched one of the bare parts of the conductor in the switch box and for a while things were lively on the corner. A prettier piece of highland dancing could not be imaged.”

It isn't just the articles which we find interesting – the advertising opens a window on a different time.

12 April 1922

27 Aug 1930

The Betty Beauty Shoppe



SPECIAL PERMANENTS LIMITED NUMBER
REG. \$10.00 FOR
\$7.50
REG. \$7.50 FOR
\$5.00

Phone for Appointment
Marcelling Finger Waving
MRS. M. BUSBY
93 Water St. E. Telephone 316

The Burlington Gazette ceased publication in 1986 – just 3 years short of a century of reporting Burlington happenings.

From the Membership Table *Jane Ann Newson*



Please note that you can **renew** or **join** The Burlington Historical Society personally at any of our General Meetings **or** by completing a Membership Form which can be found on the back page of our Gazette newsletter and mailing it along with your cheque to our address shown on the bottom left of this form.

Membership services are available before and after each General Meeting. Membership questions will be answered promptly either at a General Meeting or by emailing info@burlingtonhistorical.ca and entering MEMBERSHIP in the subject line.

Mystery Photo *Joan Downey*

March Mystery Photo

No – it's not a grave marker for the Waldie family.



Photo by Alan Harrington

February Mystery Photo

Anne Wingfield knew that this mural is on the south façade of Fairhome Interiors at 468 Brant Street. The artist is Tom Sachade.



Photo by Pat Taylor

Burlington Historical Society Executive

Officers (Elected)	Directors (Appointed)	Convenors (Appointed)
President Ed Keenleyside 1 st Vice President Vacant 2 nd Vice President Mike McDonnell Secretary Pat Taylor Treasurer Alan Harrington Past President Jane Ann Newson	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

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



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 Renewal

Adult: \$30.00 Family: \$40.00 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

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

www.burlingtonhistorical.ca

info@burlingtonhistorical.ca

www.facebook.com/burlington.history