

The Burlington Historical Society  
**GAZETTE**



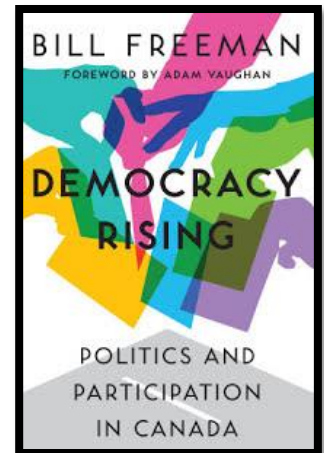
**Bill Freeman**, our April speaker, is a writer of nineteen books on different aspects of Canadian life. He writes about political and urban issues and is well known as an author of historical fiction for young people. His book *Shantymen of Cache Lake*, won the Canada Council Award for Juvenile Literature. He was the script-writer for the popular *Mighty Machines*; television series for children. Two of his recent books won awards from Heritage Toronto.

Bill holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from McMaster University, and is a past chair of the Writers' Union of Canada. He lives on Toronto Island.

His two recent non-fiction books, *The New Urban Agenda: the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area*, and *Democracy Rising: Politics and Participation in Canada*, were published by Dundurn Press.

Bill's talk on April 9th will focus on strengthening our democracy in Canada through citizen participation.

Many of his books, are available at A Different Drummer in Burlington. The bookstore will have a book table at the talk.



**Join us to hear Bill Freeman**

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018, at 7 pm  
 Burlington Public Library, Central Branch

**Bring a friend for coffee, cookies and conversation. We'll see you there!**

**Coming next month**

BHS member **Ron Danielsen – The Freeman Station Chronicles**

14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7 pm  
 Burlington Public Library, Central Branch

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## President's Five Cents Worth *Ed Keenleyside*

Social media does have a downside. Awhile ago I went to my doctor, asking if he could help me with my addiction to Twitter. My doctor replied, "Sorry, I don't follow you."

On a more serious note... I was asked recently about a small empty church on Cedar Springs Rd. called Bethel Chapel. I am sure that BHS members know this church and its history, but just in case someone is on my level of understanding, I checked out this remote part of our local history and I was surprised by what I learned.



Bethel Chapel was built in 1853 by the Canadian Wesleyan Methodist New Connexion Church. Only one service a year is held in this beautiful church. In recent years it seems all too common to hear of churches being sold, demolished, repurposed, or just lying dormant. In spite of the apparent inactivity of this church, it has not been allowed to deteriorate. In fact, it looks as active as it was when it was built. Even the cemetery is still receiving burials. What keeps this church in such good shape?

The exact description of its location is "Lot 5, Concession 1, New Survey, Nelson Township." This small corner of land was sold by John Prudham for the tidy sum of 3 £ 15 shillings. During the summer of 1853, William Bousfield provided the lumber for a simple frames structure so that Methodists in the area would have a place to worship. But services were curtailed in 1874, when the Wesleyan Methodists groups joined together to form the Methodist Church of Canada. It was decided to close Bethel Chapel in favour of churches closer to Lowville and Carlisle.

Bethel Chapel was all but forgotten for the next 60 years. By about 1935 Charles Prudham, grandson of John, along with others in the area decided to preserve the chapel. It was cleaned up, painted and a fence installed around the cemetery, all under the supervision of the newly elected Board of Trustees, made up of Charles Prudham, Elmer Foster, A. J. Harris, George Coverdale and William Vollick – some of you may know Bill Vollick as one of many Friends of Freeman Station and David Vollick, Burlington's Town Cryer – both are distant relations of the Vollicks buried in the Bethel Chapel cemetery.

Ed

## Outreach Report *Jane Ann Newson*

Our Outreach Goals are:

- to increase community visibility
- to share our knowledge / resources with our community
- to enhance the membership experience
- to serve as another source of revenue



All these objectives will be included as we complete our 2018 Outreach Plan and move forward.



In April, we hope to resume the outstanding Pearl and Pine Oral History interviews with the residents who indicated an interest in assisting **Tom Bochsler** and **Jack Segært** with this important 'capturing the past' project.

Our next Outreach activity will be held on **May 8th**. We have been asked to speak to the Burlington Branch of the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario on the topic of Burlington Agriculture. **Joan Downey** and **Patricia Taylor** will be our presenters and BHS representatives at this function.



Many thanks go out to the members of the Outreach Team for their willingness to serve in this regard!

JA

## Membership Table *Jane Ann Newson*



A gentle reminder : 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](mailto:info@burlingtonhistorical.ca) and entering MEMBERSHIP in the subject line.

I cordially invite you bring along a friend to our April 9th General Meeting where they will receive a warm welcome.

Please note: The Membership Table will not be available for the May General Meeting.

## Freeman Station Update *Alan Harrington*



Studs and drywall for the basement walls are currently being installed by a group of students from MM Robinson High School in Burlington. This hands-on project under school supervision provides an excellent opportunity for the youth to acquire useful trade skills.

Our fundraising campaign is well under way. Since Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, over \$20,000 has been donated – and, as agreed in council, what is raised will be matched one-to-one by the city.

It's easy to donate. Just go to the website [www.freemanstation.ca](http://www.freemanstation.ca). Go to the Donors page and follow the prompts. Or, put a cheque in the mail to: Friends of Freeman Station, PO Box 91536, Roseland Plaza, Burlington, On L7R 4L6



Photo Alan Harrington

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## From the file of Miss Applegarth – reminiscences from the year 1806

Submitted by Russ Woodley

Miss Applegarth was the daughter of John Applegarth, miller at Bullocks Corners, then called Grindstone Creek. Miss Applegarth was well acquainted with the Brant Family and recalls a visit of the Brant girls to the mill. The following is an account of their visit to the mill.

“The Brant girls approached the mill on horseback leading a horse with a bag of wheat thrown across the horse’s back; remained at the mill until the flour was manufactured from it and the bag of flour was laid across the horse’s back and the ladies returned the way they came. The distance was about two or three miles, but there was no road at the time. Betsy wore short skirts, always, and a hat, never a bonnet, because she said a bonnet was not becoming to her. She was always very friendly.”



Photo of “Old Mill, Aldershot” ca 1905 BHS Archives

At a recent meeting, Heritage Burlington (HB) examined heritage implications of a developer's application to amend the City's Official Plan and Zoning By-law to allow a 24-storey building on the block bounded by Brant St., James St., John St. and the City parking lot.

This site has two properties currently listed on the Burlington Register: Kelly's Bake Shop facing Brant St. and Albert L. Schmid, Jeweller, Watch & Clockmaker facing John St. The developers have proposed incorporating the facades of both businesses at street level of the new development. With respect to both buildings, they state, "Preservation of the buildings' significant attributes in the new development represents a reasonable retention of an historical component of downtown Burlington which will enrich the context of the community."

While HB appreciates this willingness to retain registered properties, the committee asked some probing questions. How would the old buildings be given significance in the new design and avoid being overwhelmed? Is the proposed placement of the two buildings the most appropriate or could a better choice be made? Would design of the new commercial space at street level be in harmony with the buildings being preserved? Could the registered properties be part of a re-designed southern perimeter, facing the planned public square? How would this development fit with a comprehensive vision for heritage in Burlington's downtown?

HB will submit comments to the Burlington planner in charge of the file. The lively discussion also prompted HB to establish a sub-committee to articulate HB's vision of the downtown landscape and criteria for development within the downtown area.

**Editor's note:** 401 Brant Street was built in 1872 for Absalom Bell Cline. Over the years it has housed a confectionary, a jeweller and from the 1980s – Tumblehome. Today it is home to Kelly's Bake Shop.



Albert L. Schmid Jewellers is at 444 John Street which may have been built circa 1916 for Edward Dickenson. In 1923 it was in use as an ice house for Dickenson's dairy and ice-cream parlour.

The buildings are attached at the back.

## **Burlington Gazette, 10 July 1929**

### **The Old Age Pension Requirements**



The requirements and many of the points in connection the the Old Age Pension scheme, which are now announced are very enlightening. In brief, the pension is granted only to British subjects over seventy years of age, who have resided in Canada for twenty years, and in Ontario for five years and are in receipt of an income of less than \$365 a year. The maximum pension is \$240 yearly, which shall be subject to reduction by the amount of the income of the pensioner in excess of \$125 a year.

Where a man and wife can both qualify, each is entitled to a pension. There are numerous other provisions which directly affect the application for a pension. For instance, under the Ontario Parents Maintenance Act, a son or daughter having sufficient means is bound to provide maintenance of a dependent parent. The Old Age Pension Act will not relieve a son or daughter of this obligation.

Where a pensioner is the owner of an interest in a dwelling house in which he resided, and the Old Age Pensions Commission of Ontario accepts a transfer to it of such interest, the pension is not subject to any reduction in respect thereof, but the Commission, on the death of a pensioner or upon his ceasing to occupy such dwelling may sell such interest and retain out of the proceeds the amount of all payments made to the pensioner in excess of the amount he would have received if such interest had not been transferred to the Commission. Numerous other requirements are added which make the Act very broad in its scope and strict in its application.

## **Burlington Gazette, 17 July 1929**

The Old Age Pension Board of Halton County met at the court house the other day for organization. W.H. Morden, Reeve of Trafalgar, was elected chairman, and Reeve Blain of Milton, secretary. The board is now in a position to receive and consider applications. Pensions will begin November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1929.

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**The Archives** has received a number of donations of photos and documents in the past few months. Among the donations is a group of 380 (that's right – 380) postcards, sent by family and friends to the Fisher family at Shady Cottage in Burlington. When we have a chance to sort and index them, the collection will be shared at a General Meeting. Thank you to all our donors for your generosity!

# Mystery Photo *Joan Downey*

## April Mystery Photo



Photo by Pat Taylor

Waves? In Burlington? Anyone know what and where this is?

## March Mystery Photo

We had 3 members who knew what this is: Mike McDonnell, Jennifer Kemp and Bryce Lee.

This is indeed a Whistle Post, located on the southeast corner of Brock and Elgin Streets.

When the train reached this point they would have to sound the whistle (two long, one short, one long – the last being held as the train crossed Lakeshore Road.



Photo Alan Harrington

To read more information supplied by Bryce Lee, click <http://burlingtonhistorical.ca/mystery-photos/> and follow the links.

## Heritage Happenings in March

**Museums of Burlington: A Toast to History Speaker Series** presents **Dorothy Kew**, local historian (and a BHS Member).

Topic: Building and Preserving Your Family Tree - at Ireland House Museum, April 12, 2018, 6:30 – 8 pm

Click here to purchase your ticket: <https://speaker-series-april-12.brownpapertickets.com/>

## Burlington Historical Society Executive

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

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

[www.burlingtonhistorical.ca](http://www.burlingtonhistorical.ca)

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

[www.facebook.com/burlington.history](https://www.facebook.com/burlington.history)