

The Burlington Historical Society
GAZETTE

BHS member, **Ron Danielsen**, president of Friends of Freeman Station is our guest speaker for May. Ron was born in Hamilton and grew up in Burlington at his parent’s agricultural business, Davidson Nurseries in the Maple Avenue market gardening area. He graduated from Burlington High School and from McMaster University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering, and a Master’s Degree in Structural Engineering.



Ron will share with us the “Railway Heritage of Burlington, and Freeman Station”, focusing on the history of railways in Burlington, their influence on the town, with emphasis on Freeman Station, its relocation and restoration.

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AND, we are having another **Love My Hood** celebration to kick off the summer season! Don’t miss it – there might be cake! Railways + cake – now that’s a combination hard to beat.

Join **Ron Danielsen** and us on
 Monday, May 14th, 2018 at 7 pm
 Burlington Public Library, Central Branch



Summer! Enjoy!

NOTE: There are no meetings
 in June, July & August

We look forward to seeing you in September -
 Monday, Sept. 17, 2018, 7 pm
 Burlington Public Library, Central Branch

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President's Five Cents Worth *Ed Keenleyside*

This month's message is a bit different. Instead of starting with a bit of humour and continuing with a tid-bit of history, I would like to make an appeal on behalf of a historical researcher in Holland. We all are quite aware that Apledoorn, Holland is one of three twin cities that Burlington collaborates with - the other two being Itabashi, Japan and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, USA.

Apledoorn is the only one of the three cities that has a military tie with Burlington. It was during Operation Market Garden near the end of WW2, that men from Burlington helped to liberate that beleaguered country and save many thousands from starvation or slaughter at the hands of a desperate enemy. Canadian infantry fought their way through the Falais Gap to open the port of Antwerp, Belgium, before continuing into Holland. One of those soldiers was Jack Howarth. Luckily he survived, and despite his injuries he returned to Burlington to marry and raise a family. He also was an active member of the Burlington Legion and later became its President. But this message is not about him.

Colin Homer (Tim) Smith, was born in Burlington and was an energetic student at Burlington's first high school - Burlington District High School, now known as Burlington Central. He was also an active member of St. Luke's Anglican Church. He graduated when WW2 was just beginning and seized an opportunity to join Canada's relatively new Air Force and trained as a pilot. He excelled at his chosen profession and was selected to fly a solo fighter aircraft. It was during one of his many sorties that he was shot down over Holland.



Photo – Runnymede Memorial, UK

Kees Stoutjesdijk, a Dutch WW2 researcher is trying to put together Tim's story and he needs our help to locate any descendants of Tim's family. Tim's parents are buried in St. Luke's Cemetery, and Tim is remembered on that tombstone as well, even though he is not buried there. Dorothy Kew, a BHS member, and a researcher for the St. Luke's newsletter is trying to help and has reached out to us in hopes of tracking down a Smith relative. If you can help in any way please let me know and I will pass on your information.

My email address is eekeenleyside@gmail.com

Thank you, Ed

Outreach Report *Jane Ann Newson*

We are looking for additional volunteers to join our Outreach Team!
Are you able to help us?



Once again 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

It is very important that we continue to 'reach out' to our community and share who we are and what we do. This is the basis of our Constitution.

If you can spare an Outreach meeting a month and have good ideas on how to accomplish our goals, may I invite you to contact me at: info@burlingtonhistorical.ca and enter **OUTREACH** in your Subject Line.

I will respond quickly and am available to answer any questions you may have re this important volunteer effort within our Society. I would also be pleased to talk with you at any of our General Meetings.

Thank you, Jane Ann Newson, Outreach Chair

Membership Table *Jane Ann Newson*



Please note: The Membership Table services will **not** be available at the **May 14th** 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
Membership services are available before and after each of our General Meetings.

Enjoying the summer



BHS Archives

SADDLEBAG PREACHERS

Adapted from an article by Philip Thatcher by Pat Taylor

All life was a great adventure in Halton County 200 years ago. It was rough. It was tough. It was rugged. It was dirty. It was dangerous. It was deadly. But it was the only life for that gallant band of saddlebag preachers who were constantly on the move in remote regions of Upper Canada such as, yes, Oakville, Burlington and Milton. As Methodism spread to Upper Canada, there were two distinct organizations backing the preachers, the Wesleyan Methodists from Britain and the Episcopal Methodists from the United States. Each organization had its own network of preachers and territories.

Homesteaders, who were carving a settlement out of the wilderness in the 1800s, worked hard and had little to show for it. But at least they had a roof over their heads. Saddlebag preachers has less: a horse, a saddle, a Bible, the clothes on their backs and whatever else they could fit into those small saddlebags. They had no home. Not even a rented room. They depended for their very existence on the generosity of others, who had little to offer at the best of times.



Not only did they bring an air of security to pioneers who despaired of ever overcoming nature, but they brought encouragement and hope with the message that they gave to the settlers. In their devotion, many died or never fully recovered from the punishment their bodies took on the circuit.

Circuit riders were young – they had to be to stand the rigors of their calling – and many preachers also had trades, which could come in useful as they travelled around. Training as a blacksmith or saddler was useful for the rider’s own travelling and a skill at carpentry could leave a lasting impression on communities where a preacher was given the opportunity to lend a hand in need. No one was more welcome than the preacher who not only gave the settler religious consolation, but the latest news from the outside world.

Describing the life of a typical saddlebag preacher, Dr. Anson Green, one of the pioneer riders wrote: “I had no place which I called home; and yet I found a home wherever night overtook me. My saddle was my study, my saddlebags my wardrobe, and my Bible and hymn book my select library.” To explain the comment about his saddle being his study, Green would, like other preachers read his bible and prepare his sermons while riding from one appointment to another. There was no other time available. At

one time, there were 27 “appointments” for each preacher to cover every four weeks in their assigned area.

The Rev. William Case, first saddlebag preacher to ride the Ancaster Circuit, which included Oakville and Burlington, gives this graphic account of his adventures in crossing the 12 Mile Creek, now known as Bronte Creek (on the trail that became Dundas Street).



“At length I came to the high banks of the 12 mile creek (sic), which with great difficulty passed. Being very steep and slippery, for some time I could not get my horse to go down, sometimes on his feet and sometimes on his belly, for 50 feet at length we landed at the bottom, with some hurt in one of his legs. Then passing along the valley came to a creek where attempting to cross mired down, but I jumped from him and made my escape, when after some struggle was followed by my horse. Here Satan strove hard against me, tempting me to impatience and call in question why God should require such fatigues. But on commending my care to God on my knees I found relief.



Now, how to rise the hill I hardly knew, for the clay was so slippery my horse could not stand in many places. (This hill was more than 150 feet high.) Neither could I myself, only by (grabbing hold of) the trees and bushes. However after great toil we ascended. Sometimes all his feet would slide from under him and only find safety by landing against a tree. Then trembling would again attempt to recover and again would fall, but patient and faithful he continued his exertion till we gained the top of the hill. Then through a muddy way through a snow storm passed on several miles till at length I came to my appointment, wet and weary.”

Another preacher, Mr. Summersides wrote in 1832: “The last 13 days I have preached 16 times, led 2 classes, ridden 50 miles and walked 70. The cold has been very severe. At nights everything around us has been frozen, and the white rime and frost have lain very thick upon the beds in the morning.”

No matter how bad the weather, preachers frequently chose the outdoors as their (night’s) resting place rather than face the night-long attacks by fleas, bed bugs and a myriad of other insects. In the harsh winters, the bed bugs ate well.

The Rev. Franklin Metcalfe and the Rev. Samuel Belton were the circuit preachers when the first meeting of the Nelson circuit of the Wesleyan Methodists was held in the Nelson Chapel on Dundas Street. Eventually more chapels were built and slowly the Saddlebag Preacher disappeared.



Photo BHS Archives



Recognizing Heritage in Downtown Burlington

At its recent meeting, Heritage Burlington (HB) asked its Design Vision Task Force to examine downtown Burlington, an area corresponding to what has been called the Downtown Mobility Hub. The purpose of this analysis is to identify buildings and small areas that have heritage character and need to be considered for special attention as the city undertakes significant redevelopment.

The city's heritage planner provided a map of the downtown, colour-coded to identify different classes of buildings. Using this tool, HB can readily focus not only on buildings on the Register, but also on other structures identified as worthy on earlier inventories.

Committee discussion raised many relevant issues. For example, the term 'blockscape' emerged as a term for a small area with attractive character worth valuing. Members also noted that provincial requirements for density might conflict with retention of downtown heritage features; thus it would be important to identify these features before rather than after development proposals were in the advanced stages.

Heritage Burlington has a sense of urgency about this work. There are no second chances if heritage is not protected.

NOTE: *Freeman Station Update* will return

From the Archives *Joan Downey*

From the Burlington Gazette, 17 April 1912

Mr. Ed. Dickenson has installed an up-to-date hygiene soda water fountain and counter, which will enable him to cater to his patrons better than ever



the coming season. Besides the handsome fountain, the various compartments consist of five ice cream cans, twelve syrup lifts for the different flavors, six fruit bowls, two cooling systems for ice drinks and cracked ice, automatic tumbler washer and bins for dishes. The counter is marble with marble base and oak front. He has put in new tables and chairs. The new outfit adds much to the appearance of the interior of the store.

Mystery Photo *Joan Downey*

May Mystery Photo

Now, what and where is that?

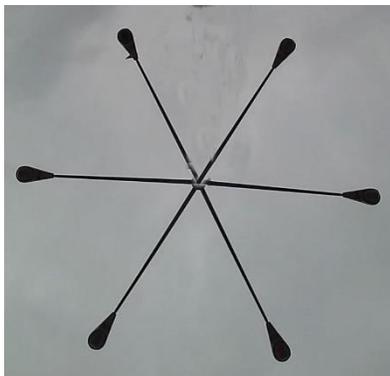


Photo by Alan Harrington

April Mystery Photo

That's right – it's the crosswalk at Lakeshore and Maple and also at Lakeshore and Nelson.

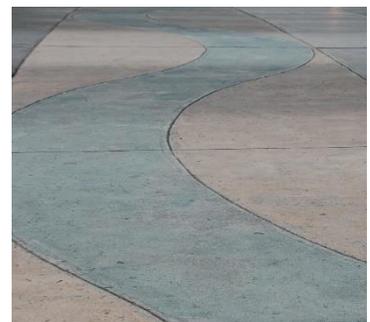


Photo by Pat Taylor

Well, that one was **too** easy. There were a number of correct answers including some from readers who haven't responded previously. Thank you all for participating.

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 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

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