

The Burlington Historical Society  
**GAZETTE**

Our April speaker is BHS Member – **Dorothy Kew**.

Dorothy is a semi-retired librarian with an interest in local history and genealogy. A member of the Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society she serves on the Council as Cemetery Coordinator and is also on the Cemetery Board of St. Luke’s Anglican Church. She also writes articles of historical and genealogical interest for *KINections*, the newsletter of the Halton-Peel Branch, and for St. Luke’s Church newsletter.



BHS Archives

Dorothy will take us on **A Walk Through Time: St. Luke’s Churchyard** - a visual tour through the graveyard of St. Luke’s Anglican Church, the oldest church in Burlington, where many well-known and not so well-known residents of Burlington now lie, with commentary on their lives and their connections to the town and city.

Join us to hear **Dorothy Kew**  
 Monday, **April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019** at 7 pm, Centennial Room,  
 Burlington Public Library, Central Branch  
**Bring your friends!**



Our May speaker will be **Barbara Teatero**, Director  
 of Museums of Burlington  
**May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019** at 7 pm, Centennial Room  
 Burlington Public Library, Central Branch

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## President's Report *Joan Downey*

I have not had a long history with BHS. In May 2013, I came to a talk called "Sitting Pretty" recounting the history of the toilet. That sounded like fun! During the meeting, Alan stood at the podium and asked if anyone would volunteer to be a "Digital Archivist". What's that, I wondered? It sounded to me like someone was needed to scan photos and I had just finished scanning my family photos so I considered myself qualified.

Little did I know that putting up my hand on that night would lead to me being appointed Volunteer Archivist. The appointment led me back to school (which I hated the first time around) to learn how to be an archivist. But, this time around I loved it

Since then, with considerable help from Peggy Armstrong & Pat Taylor, I have attempted to bring the Archives out of "the room" and to share some of our holdings with monthly displays at the general meetings and with the articles in the Gazette.

As your president I will do my best to carry on with the example set by my predecessors. Thank you all for your support.



The 2019 BHS Executive - L to R: Alan Harrington, Treasurer, Joan Downey, President, Jane Ann Newson, Past President and Patricia Taylor, Secretary.

That's Joseph Brant pointing at Alan. We take him everywhere with us.

And, as usual, busy at the computer, our Webmaster & Technical Director, Wayne Murphy

Photos courtesy of Tom Bochsler



## Outreach Report – Joan Downey

For this month maybe OUTREACH needs to be renamed **PROMOTION**. The future of BHS depends on getting more people interested in our group. The digital world presents many options for promoting the Burlington Historical Society. With that in mind we have updated and/or joined up for the following:

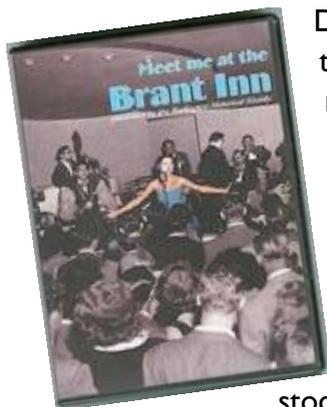


- Inside Halton – The BHS will post monthly meetings on the events calendar, available at <https://www.insidehalton.com/halton-events/>  
There is also a weekly email option for those subscribed.
- MeetUp – we have joined this social media site which on their website states - *Join a local group to meet people, try something new, or do more of what you love.* <https://www.meetup.com/Burlington-Historical-Society-Meetup/>
- The Ancestor Hunt – our name and a link to the digital collection have been (or soon will be) added to the list of places to search for photographs of family and places. <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/>
- Canada Helps – This site connects donors directly to a charity permitting direct donations and providing tax receipts. For this service they connect a small fee from the donation. <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-burlington-historical-society/>
- BHS is already on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/burlingtonhistory/>
- And, Twitter <https://twitter.com/BurlONHistory> (but we've never tweeted).
- Our monthly meeting is included in the Snapd Burlington calendar. <https://burlington.snapd.com/calendar>
- We are listed on the Halton Community Services Database, <http://search.hipinfo.info/>



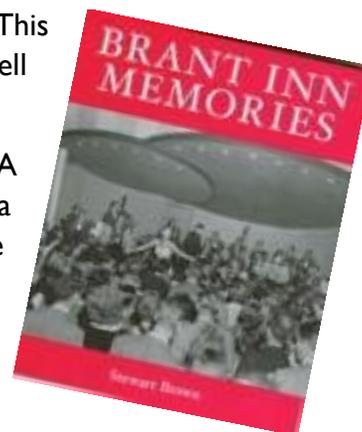
Do you have any other ideas? Send suggestions and/or ideas to [info@burlingtonhistorical.ca](mailto:info@burlingtonhistorical.ca).

We are looking for a volunteer Publicity Director to join the team and commit to spending a little time each week and/or month to maintain these outlets.



During March we again visited The Williamsburg. This time our Garden of Canada presentation was well received.

On March 19<sup>th</sup> at BPAC, Frank Penny presented A Musical Journey – Remember the Brant Inn. It was a marvellous night. Lots of memories. We were there – in the lobby, selling our Brant Inn book and DVD. Thanks to the evening's patrons, we are now sold out of the book Brant Inn Memories and stock of the DVD Meet Me at the Brant Inn is very low..



## The Flag by Russ Woodley

The light cruiser quietly slipped her berth heading south, her 8000 tons slicing through a moderate swell at 18 knots. A moderate swell does not necessarily give you movement, be assured, the ship does move around.

Being a young sailor, on his first ship and trip, I was at my station on leaving harbour on the open bridge directly behind the skipper. The Captain, a master mariner of many years' service, had worked his way through the ranks starting as a boy seaman.



I could not see past him as he slouched in his chair his steely blue eyes marked with time, having endured the war. Turning suddenly, he riveted me with eyes that could cut through steel “signalman what is the routine for the Jack when leaving harbour”? “The Jack is struck, Sir when the lines are clear and the ship is underway.” “Then why is it still flying? Get down to the fo’c’sle and get it down now.”

Being young with little experience, I was terrified as I left my post and smartly negotiated a multitude of stairs and ladders leading to the ship’s bow, standing by a gun turret, staring at the bow with the flagstaff extending some 15 feet straight up in the air, the bow rising and falling, plowing through relentless swells.

The ship heaves through churning sea at 18 knots with a fine spray cascading over the bow. There was a feeling of terror as I contemplated a disaster, being slight and standing only 5’4” and light as a feather. The prospect of being hurled over the side was not good, nor was the wrath of the captain if I did not complete my duty.

Setting my legs to the ships’ movement, I approached the bow. This should be easy I thought. All I have to do is release the line and pull the flag down. Looking closer I realized to my horror the flag had been lashed to the mast with the cleat far above my head.

Moving up to the base of the tripod that held the mast in place, looking down, the bow crashed through the sea covering me with a fine mist that dripped off my eyebrows, stinging my eyes. I start to undo the line the flag is attached to, at the same time checking the lashing, noticing it straining trying to hold the flag in place, not allowing it to billow out. Climbing the tripod, using my legs on the guardrail, was difficult as the ship continued on its carnival ride. The tripod was fitted with a small ten-inch platform that would be my only footing to undo the line. This was extremely dangerous if you fell overboard into the maelstrom below.

Placing my feet on the guardrail, I pulled myself up to the 10-inch support plate, my boots hanging over the side of the plate. The salt spray made the plate slippery and dangerous. Standing upright, I hugged the slim mast, looking down at the water rushing by, the ship crashing through the churning swells growing in size.

A fleeting thought tells me to jump off the ship. It seemed to be the easy thing to do. The sheer terror of the situation makes me want to get it over with. But, the thought of propellers chewing me up banishes that thought from my mind. The mast seems to tower about me as I clamp it between my legs. Looking back over my shoulder, the Captain is now sitting upright in the chair staring down at me, no mercy, just finish the job. Turning to the lashing, the salt spray bites my face causing loss of sight, making it difficult to work the line. My nails start to crack and break as the salt spray soaks my hands, washing away the small trickle of blood around the damaged nails.

Finally, I pull the line loose. The Jack flag billows out in the wind almost pulling me off the platform. The line is pulled loose as I grasp it, lowering myself to the deck as the ship bounces me against the guardrail. The ship rises and falls. Balancing is difficult. As I struggle to undo the clips freeing the flag, the thought of losing the clips would result in having to climb the mast again. I managed to join the ends securing the line to the cleat.

The swells were getting larger, which resulted in more spray. The salt water again pressed into every pore of my body, burning my eyes and momentarily blinding me. I wrapped the flag in a roll, strode off the forward deck, handing the flag to the deck petty officer, then making my way to the bridge again, placing myself behind the Captain.

Not a word was said, nor was there any exchange of glances, only absolute silence. I stood behind the captain, soaked through and cold. The Captain turned his head slightly. "Go below and change signalman." "Aye, Sir" as I left the bridge.

**Editor's Note:** BHS member Russ Woodley was awarded Second Prize for this story in the Short Story Contest, sponsored by the Poetry Institute of Canada. Congratulations, Russ!

## From the Archives *Joan Downey*

### **The Burlington Gazette, May 1917**

Two auto owners were fined \$1.00 and costs by Magistrate Barr on Monday morning for not having the tail light burning on their buzz wagons after dark. All auto owners should tke the hint and look after their tail lights at night.



### **The Burlington Gazette, March 1915**

Subject: Vehicle Licence Plates

*Chief Tufgar received a communication from the Provincial authorities on Monday, stating that the time for purchasing 1915 numbers terminated on January 31<sup>st</sup>, and that all persons using 1914 numbers after that date were liable to prosecution. Constable Tufgar has asked the Gazette to warn all automobile owners that if they drive their cars with old numbers after this notice, he will be obliged to do his duty and issue summonses against all offenders.*

Typical police constable of 1900 - internet image



## Freeman Station Update *Alan Harrington*

**On May 4 2019 at 12 noon** - the Freeman Station Signal Mast will be lifted by crane and mounted in place.

When the Station was moved in 2005 the pole was removed from its footing and stored on site for 14 years. Now, with a new coat of paint, it is ready to be installed in front on the platform. The plan calls for a giant crane to lift the mast up and over the Station into place. The wire cables that light the lamps will be connected and four nuts will be screwed on the bolts. After the pole is made vertical and locked down - the signal lights will be activated.

A dedication ceremony will take place in recognition of railway workers who died at the station in the 1890's. **All BHS members are invited to attend** that day at noon to witness the crane in action, and visit inside after.

Note: for safety reasons there will be no parking on site all day and no access for viewers before 11:30 am.



Photos by Alan Harrington



That's where it's going

## Membership Table *Pat Taylor*

Thanks to everyone who has renewed their Membership – we’ve cracked the 100 mark!!! OK, it’s just by one. But, with our ‘Honorary ‘ and ‘Life Members’ the total is 109.

So, if you haven’t renewed yet for this year you can do so on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the General Meeting or mail your membership to the address on the membership form.

I’m going to set a goal - 119 in 2019 but I need your help to reach it



## Heritage Happenings



### Burlington’s Best Award Celebration

Wednesday May 8, 2019 at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre  
Burlington Performing Arts Centre

Tickets - \$35/person - Available April 1st at Service Burlington, City Hall  
For more information, call 905 335-7600 x7481

#### Award Categories:

Citizen of the Year  
Environmental Award  
Heritage Award

Junior Citizen of the Year  
Arts Person of the Year  
Accessibility Award

Senior Citizen of the Year  
Community Service Award  
(PS - Nominations are now closed)



### Sp’egg’tacular Easter Event

Ireland House Museum, 2168 Guelph Line, Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 11 am to 3 pm.

## Burlington Historical Society Executive

Officers (Elected)	Directors (Appointed)	Convenors (Appointed)
President            Joan Downey 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President    Vacant Secretary             Pat Taylor Treasurer             Alan Harrington  Past President       Jane Ann Newson	Programs            Alan Harrington Archives              Joan Downey Webmaster            Wayne Murphy Membership          Pat Taylor Newsletter            Joan Downey Outreach              Joan Downey	Greeting Cards       Anne Wingfield Telephone Committee Elizabeth Baldwin Heritage Burlington   Rick Wilson 50/50 Draw            Dohn Nagy / Jack Arno



# The Burlington Historical Society

Preserving Burlington's History for Today and Tomorrow

## Membership - 2019

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)