

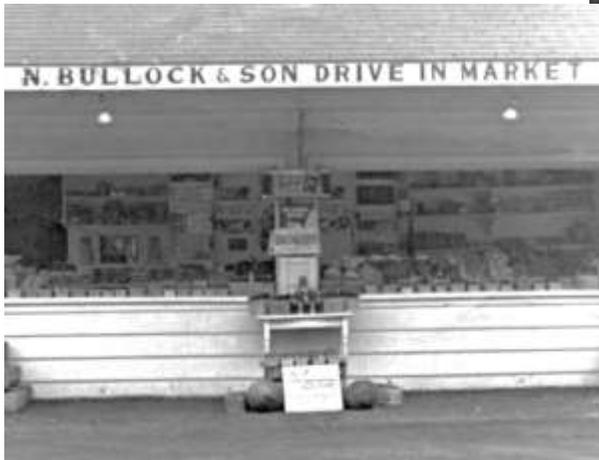
The Burlington Historical Society

# GAZETTE

## Summer Edition

It was a long time coming this year but finally we have warm weather. Time to tend to the tomatoes like Theo Bullock Sr. is doing in this photo from our archives.

After small beginnings as a farm worker, Nora Bullock eventually bought her own farm, on Plains Road East expanding it to 34 acres. Her children worked the farm with her with Theo taking over in 1954 when Nora Died. Theo sold the business to his two sons Reg and Henry in 1958



Nora Bullock's highway market. The shelves are laden with boxes and baskets of produce from her farm. Large melons sit on the ground in front of the building. A sign in the middle announces "OUTDOOR TOMATOES",.

We **hope** our next gathering will be held on  
 September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7 pm Burlington Public  
 Library, Central Branch, New  
 Street



Enjoy the summer!

**We'll be in touch when we  
have news**

### *In this issue -*

President's Report..... 2  
 Programs..... 2  
 Clovelly Summer Cottages.....3  
 The Beaches at Burlington Bay ...4-6  
 BHS Executive..... 7  
 Contact us..... 7  
 BHS Membership form..... 8

## President's Report – Joan Downey

This is a very difficult time for many people. Families are not able to meet and it is difficult for many to have family members separated especially if they are ill. However, these extreme measures have kept the pandemic from reaching the predicted levels. Life is starting to return to normal.

You will note that this edition of the Gazette is a different format from the usual. With all the closures, there is no Outreach, Membership, Heritage Happenings or Freeman Station news to pass on.

The articles have come from information I have at home or from our digital collection with one exception: The Beaches at Burlington Bay. I would like to thank member Earl Chapman for kindly submitting this article which gives an 1827 view of the Burlington canal.

As mentioned previously, the Archives in the Burlington Public Library are off limits. However, emails continue to be received asking for our help. All that can be done is to respond that we will deal with the query when we can access the files – maybe in the beginning of July.

In February, the executive developed a table of proposed projects and decided on 2 or 3 which were viable topics to showcase our society. Well, they too have been at a standstill. But – we have plans to get these moving as soon as we can.



I look forward to meeting again soon. In the meantime, keep washing your hands and wear that mask.

## Programs – Alan Harrington

Watching the recent news regarding the unrest in the USA started me thinking and then something I read recently highlighted that in schools in Canada:

- ✗ We never learned about Black slavery
- ✗ We never learned about Indigenous Residential Schools
- ✗ We never learned about Japanese Internment Camps

Yet the BHS \*HAS\* presented all three topics recently, AND from people who have direct experience with those events.

- ✓ Black Slavery – Representatives from Halton Black History Awareness Society – Feb. 2018, Dennis Scott; Feb. 2019, Rob Green; Feb. 2020, Colina Phillips
- ✓ Indigenous Residential Schools – January 2018, Sherry Saevil, a Cree woman from Treaty 6 who discussed family experience
- ✓ Japanese Internment Camps – April 2017, Jennifer Maruno, educator, author of “When the Cherry Blossoms Fell”

Editor's note: Our program committee continues to bring quality speakers to our gatherings. Once we are able to meet again, we look forward to finding out what they have in store for us.

# Clovelly Summer Cottages

from *The Garden of Canada*, author Martha Craig, 1902



Clovelly Cottages are most charmingly situated, on the lake front, one and a half miles east of the Village of Burlington, and within an hour by electric car of the City of Hamilton, and within two hours sail of Toronto, steamers making four trips each way daily.

The cottages contain one large sitting room, one double bedroom, three single bedrooms, kitchen and wide verandas. The furniture consists of complete new bedroom sets, tables, chairs, veranda chairs, couches, kitchen utensils, stoves, large dinner set, etc.

The bathing is excellent on sandy beach and flat rock cove. There is also good sailing or rowing

boats, with landing stage, etc., and there is good fishing

Ice can be arranged for, and fresh milk, eggs and vegetables are supplied, the latter free of cost, and there is a plentiful supply of fresh fruit at market prices. Stable accommodation can be provided for those wishing to keep a carriage.

The situation is within easy distance of the celebrated Brant House, Burlington, either by boat or road, where much gaiety goes on during the season – music, dancing, parties, etc.

This is a famous fruit district, and very interesting. In fact, one cannot easily find a more romantic or charming spot to pass a holiday.

The cottages are rented by the season, or a reduction will be made to those taking two or three cottages, and everything will be done to make the time pleasant for visitors.

For terms and further particulars apply to J.J. Barker, Burlington.



Editor's note: Clovelly Cottages were said to have been located east of Walkers Line, perhaps near the present Inglewood Drive.

## **“an object well worthy of attention”: The Beaches at Burlington Bay, 1827**

*Submitted by member Earl Chapman*

In the summer of 1827, a retired Royal Navy captain, Basil Hall, visited the United States and Canada with his new wife and child, and over the course of one year, they travelled “nearly nine thousand miles by land and water.” Captain Hall’s experiences were recorded in *Travels in North America, in the Years 1827 and 1828*, published in three volumes, both in Edinburgh and London in 1829. According to Captain Hall, his “chief object” in visiting America at that time “was to see things with my own eyes, in order to ascertain ... how far the sentiments prevalent in England with respect to that country were correct or otherwise.” The following account, copied verbatim from volume I, details their arrival at “The Beaches” on Burlington Bay, which he considered “an object well worthy of attention...” He left Niagara Falls on 16 July 1827, reaching “The Beaches” on the following day:

*“On... 17th of July, we visited an object well worthy of attention, – a natural dam, or breakwater, which lies ... across the mouth of Burlington Bay, at the extreme western end of Lake Ontario. This very singular embankment is six miles long, nearly straight, and rises about 12 or 15 feet above the level of the lake. It varies from 40 to 100 yards in width, is formed entirely of sand, and covered with oaks. This grand pier, or spit, or key, is called The Beach, and is altogether the most extraordinary thing of the kind I ever saw. Within it lies a large harbour, five or six miles across, and carrying 15 fathoms water in the middle.*

*The barrier has, I conceive, been thrown up by the waves of Lake Ontario during the hard, easterly gales, at which times, I am told, the water is raised many feet higher at the western end of the lake, and proportionably lowered at the eastern extremity. I know by experience, that when it blows hard, a short, high sea gets up in a moment, on these lakes, very unpleasant for ships. Heretofore Burlington Bay has been locked up by this great natural boom; but a canal has lately been cut through it nearly at the centre, the sides of which are formed of a number of cribs or wooden frames, loaded with stones and sunk to the bottom, by which the wearing away of the sand by the flux and reflux of the water, which is at times very rapid, is prevented, and the passage kept open.<sup>i</sup> The entrance is still further secured from injury by two piers, formed in like manner of leaded cribs; one of these piers is 900 feet long, the other 800. The utility of this spirited work has already begun to be felt and acknowledged in the surrounding country; and the whole scene furnishes not a bad specimen of the scale in which natural objects are found in the new world.*

*In the course of the next day, we made an acquaintance with the chief of an Indian tribe. But our friend, if he will permit us to call him so, was anything but what the imagination paints to itself of such a character. In his speech, dress, manners, and conduct, as well as in his opinions, and also in his tastes and habits, he is quite an Englishman. He is the owner of a landed property which he lives upon and cultivates: but how far he keeps up any relations with the tribe to which he belongs by birth, I do not exactly know. I should conceive, however, that a person so circumstanced, who has travelled in England and other countries, and who certainly has capacity enough to profit by what he has observed, might be the means of doing much good to a race of whom it is impossible to think without a melancholy, because almost a hopeless interest.<sup>ii</sup>*

*For want of a better conveyance, we were obliged to travel in a vehicle dignified by the name of a wagon, but which in fact was neither more nor less than a good, honest, rattling, open cart; for though we enjoyed the honour and glory of four wheels, the elasticity of the supporting wooden bars of a convenient enough seat in the middle, was a sorry substitute for springs.<sup>iii</sup>*

*Just at sunset, when we were half-way between two stages, one of the axletrees gave way, and down we came on our broadside. A dwelling was near at hand, but upon trying the doors, they were found all locked, and no symptoms of life were to be seen or heard except dogs, pigs, and cows. The driver was at a loss, till I advised him to set off with his horse in quest of another cart or wagon; – and there we were left, in the middle of a Canadian forest, at nightfall, surrounded by swamps sonorous with innumerable bull-frogs, and by an atmosphere clogged with noxious vapours, and clouded with mosquitoes.*

*We had been quizzing the four-wheeled travelling wagon a little while before, and complaining of the roughness of the wooden springs; but we were right glad, after an hour's delay, to find ourselves once again in motion, though in a still less magnificent conveyance – literally a common two-wheeled farm cart, with nothing but a bunch of straw to break the violence of the jolts, which sent the rattling sound of our equipage, in dreary echoes, far into the unexplored recesses of those dismal swamps.*

*Next morning at six o'clock, we left our night's quarters, which we did not reach till ten the evening before, and breakfasted at a neat clean sort of country inn. The morning was cool and clear; and though the sun shone out, it was not disagreeable, being merely bright enough to give lustre and cheerfulness to the landscape. When people are in good spirits, everything appears to smile.*

*On our way to York, the capital of Upper Canada, on the northern shore of Lake Ontario, we made a turn off the road, to visit a village recently erected on the banks of the river Credit, and inhabited by the tribe of Mississaguas...<sup>iv</sup>*

Captain Hall's story about "The Beaches" at Burlington Bay must end at this point, but his detailed discussions about the "tribe of Mississaguas," and its tribulations, are worth being pursued by readers interested in the history of the area.

Transcribed and annotated by Earl John Chapman  
April 2020

## Endnotes:

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<sup>i</sup> Before the Burlington Canal was built, a shallow, natural passage connected Lake Ontario to Hamilton Bay, but this outlet filled with silt and was good only for use by small boats at high water. While officially opened on 1 July 1826, the Burlington Canal was not completed until 1832 – although, it seems to have been open to shipping as early as 1827. In 1826, the cut was much narrower and a small wooden swing bridge was erected by Nathan Goodall. When the canal was later enlarged, the swing bridge was taken down and wood scows were used to ferry people, animals, and goods across the canal – for a fee. Unfortunately, Captain Hill does not mention either this moveable bridge, or a ferry scow.

<sup>ii</sup> Possibly John Brant (1794-1832), the son of Joseph Brant *Thayendanega* (1742-1807), a Mohawk chieftain, and his third wife, Catharine, the daughter of an Oneida chief. Like his father, John was considered to be "quite an Englishman" and both had travelled to England. About 1802, using a land grant obtained for his services to the British crown, Joseph built a "mansion" at the north end of *The Beach*, a short distance from what was to become the townsite of Wellington Square

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(today's City of Burlington). Based on a Romney portrait, Joseph was “not as typically Indian in appearance,” and perhaps his son, John, shared this trait.

iii Before setting off on his journey to Burlington Bay, Captain Hall was told about the poor condition of the so-called roads: “As all accounts agreed in stating the roads to be very bad, and as our intention was to be absent only a couple of days, we accepted the offer of some kind friends in the neighbourhood of the Falls to take charge of our child; – and it was well we did so, as the results will show.”

iv The Old Credit Mission, founded in 1826, was situated on the hill above the western bank of the Credit River – where the Mississauga Golf and Country Club is now located. The village marked the Credit Mississaugas' transition from hunting and gathering to agriculture and commerce. Despite their prosperity and self-sufficiency, the Mississaugas proved unable to secure clear title to the village lands from the colonial or British governments. In the spring of 1847, they abandoned their fields and comfortable homes – two decades of work – to start over on a corner of the Six Nations Reserve on the Grand River.



# Freeman Station Update



Freeman station remains closed until further notice.



Photo by Alan Harrington

## Burlington Historical Society Executive

Officers (Elected)		Directors (Appointed)		Convenors (Appointed)		Archive Volunteers
President	Joan Downey	Programs	Alan Harrington	Greeting Cards	Anne Wingfield	Peggy Armstrong
Vice President	Vacant	Archives	Joan Downey	Phone Committee	Elizabeth Baldwin	Josie Hammond
Secretary	Dobriila Kinn	Webmaster	Wayne Murphy	Heritage Burlington	Rick Wilson	Jennifer Kemp
Treasurer	Vacant	Membership	Pat Taylor	50/50 Draw	Alan Harrington	Dorothy Kew
Past President	Jane Ann Newson	Newsletter	Joan Downey	Publicity	Frank Armstrong	Dobriila Kinn
		Outreach	Joan Downey		Jennifer Kemp	Chris Mallion Moore
						Donna Ryan
						Pat Taylor
						Russ Woodley

**Contact us:**

[www.burlingtonhistorical.ca](http://www.burlingtonhistorical.ca)  
[info@burlingtonhistorical.ca](mailto:info@burlingtonhistorical.ca)  
[www.facebook.com/burlington history](https://www.facebook.com/burlingtonhistory)



# The Burlington Historical Society

Preserving Burlington's History for Today and Tomorrow

## Membership - 2020

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, ON L7M 4A3

**OR**

Leave it at the Membership table at any General Meeting.

Make cheques payable to The Burlington Historical Society.