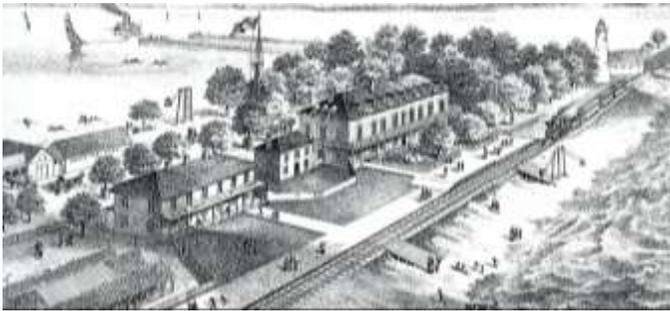


The Burlington Historical Society
GAZETTE

Summer Edition

In the last issue we talked about some of our wonderful parks. One area not mentioned was the Beach Strip which has been a popular area for picnics and enjoying the summer since early times.

With the coming of the railway in 1876, people from Hamilton and Toronto would come by rail or ship to enjoy a break from the summer heat of the city. There were special excursions and moonlight cruises in the 1870s



Ocean House, 1877 Halton County Atlas

There were many entertainment spots. One popular hotel was the Ocean House which included a dance hall, a music salon and a bowling alley.

Hamilton families had cottages on the beach. One of those families was the Boniface family.



Ca 1915 Boniface family in front of their cottage on the beach. Boniface Album, Norton Collection, BHS Archives

In the summers of the 1950s the place to be was the Beach Strip.



Beach strip ca 1956 BHS Archives

Families flocked to the shore. And when lazing in the sun lost its glow there was always the Canal Amusement Park.

Of course, a day at the beach had to include a hot dog and cold drink at the Angus Inn.



The Angus Inn, demolished 1970's – Prints Along the Beach, Northshore Publishing

Burlington Beach Strip, originally called Long Beach is rich in history.

President's Message *Joan Downey*

Well, I've just been to the beach! And it didn't cost me a cent – no air fare; no expensive hotel room. But a beautiful expanse of sand and sky.

After completing the article on the front page I decided my Monday morning walk should be on the Burlington Beach Strip. And what a beautiful walk it was. Early Monday morning I saw very few people and the only sounds were birds singing and water lapping on the sand until I got near the west end when there was a faint drone from the highway.



Standing there you can imagine that you are standing in the exact spot where our early settlers stood. Maybe Joseph Brant stood where my feet are right now!

This friendly fellow was enjoying the morning.



I have seen posts about the deplorable mess on the beach after a weekend. Well, crews must have worked all night to clean it up. There was no garbage anywhere. Even the family washroom (yes it was open at 7 am) was pristine.

The cottages are all gone but in 2021 the Beach Strip is still a place for families to enjoy.

On the way home I got caught in a downpour. But, hey, that's what nature's all about!



Photos Joan Downey

Welcome to our newest member

*Linda Saunders from
Edmonton Alberta!*



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The Klondike *by Pat Taylor*

The May presentation by Robin McLachlan brought back fond memories – memories of my trip to Dawson City in 1984. I followed in the footsteps of Robin's countrymen, arriving in Skagway by boat – but I didn't have to hike over the Chilkoot Pass – I travelled by bus through the White Pass. Visited Bennett Lake and Whitehorse on the way north. Wondered how the boats, constructed by hopeful miners, made it through the Five Finger Rapids.



The road into Dawson City

In the first year of the gold rush, 1897, the population of the trading post of Dawson increased by some 5,000 people. At the height of the gold rush in 1898-9 the population was estimated to be between 20,000 and 30,000. Must have been quite the scene – hastily constructed log buildings and canvas tents everywhere.

I loved Dawson City – saw Pierre Berton's home (at that time a private residence), heard 'Robert Service' quoting his poetry in front of his cabin, visited Jack London's cabin, visited Diamond Tooth Gerties, the only legal gambling establishment (at that time) in Canada and wanted to kick-up my heels with the dance-hall girls doing the cancan. The museum in the Commissioner's Residence was fascinating. Since I had a certificate in museum management, but little practical experience, I thought this might be a great place to start. But, according to the museum director, so did a lot of other people. I never did apply.

And yes, I did go up to the cemetery at the top of the hill known as "The Dome."



The cemetery at the top of "The Dome"

The most fun? To get out to Bonanza Creek and pan for gold!!! I found some.

Enough to put into a charm on a necklace. How much? I don't know, but wishful thinking, maybe a 1/16th of an ounce – more likely 1/32nd of an ounce.



In 1900, gold was found in Nome Alaska and the rush was on to another bonanza. Mining by large companies continued for a few more years. There are some who believe somewhere in the hills and valleys around Dawson there is the 'Mother Lode' still waiting to be unearthed. More Hidden Treasure.

Recently, while searching for treasure, miners dug up what they believe are 2 nearly complete mammoth skeletons near Dawson City.

And yes, there are still placer miners around Dawson City and other areas of the Yukon.

All photos by Pat Taylor from her 1984 Yukon album

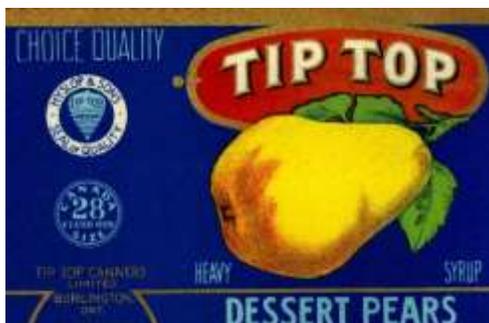
That's the Way it Was *by George Kush*

May marks the start of asparagus season in southern Ontario & for a kid growing up at Freeman (now Burlington) in the 1950's it also meant the beginning of harvest at Tip Top Cannery, then located on Plains Road. It also meant that my father, P. Geo. Kush, Tip Top's receiver and production manager would be working 24/7 until that first crop was exhausted & in the tins.



BHS Archives

Trucks of every size & variety from all over the Niagara region would arrive at all hours with their heavy loads of asparagus. Each loaded vehicle had to be weighed on the scale adjacent to the front office, where their empty weights were all pre-recorded, under contract agreements. The weights of the vehicles were then deducted & the producers received tickets showing the weights of their loads. At the end of the season, the load tickets were submitted by the growers for payment. It was a time consuming but necessary process, and my father was often embroiled in arguments over the accuracy of the weights. After a long day he wasn't always in the best of humor. Even today I well recall seeing as many as 30 trucks lined up, bumper to bumper, in Tip Top's alleyway waiting to be weighed & unloaded.



BHS Archives

And when
not at

school I'd sell cold sodas from Chunka's Grocery Store & Meat Market on Plains Road to the thirsty waiting drivers. A Coke was 5 cents & I harvested the empties for their 2 cent deposit. An entrepreneur at age 8!



Stock photo

Yep, for Freeman folk, "Asparagus Season" was the start of each summer. - "That's the way it was." - George Kush @ Trail's End Studio, Monarch, AB (Formerly of Freeman)

Fire destroyed Tip Top Cannery in 1962.

Editor's note:

This article was received from the Facebook page of Josephine Kush as a comment to one of our posts. However, it was written by George Kush. Why didn't he use his own FB page? See the following explanation:

"If I haven't mentioned this before, my wife has reminded me to mention that she is not the author or contributor. Due to the fact that my name is "George Kush" which is the name of a very potent strain of marijuana, I'm prohibited from acquiring my own Facebook page, unless I go to the expense of providing legal proof that I'm a real person and not a plant, which is something I don't intend to do. I'm quite satisfied in knowing that I live, breathe and can walk circles around most identified plants". G.K.



Outreach Report *Joan Downey*

BHS is hosting another historic downtown walk! Alan will be your guide on August 6th. 6:15 – 7:30. Wear your walking shoes and meet at the Tourism Office at 414 Locust Street. The event is free but to control the number of participants and comply with COVID restrictions you must obtain a ticket.



<https://burlington.snapd.com/ticketed-events>

See you there.

If you enjoy the downtown Burlington tours, how would you like a tour of Burlington's North country?



On August 8th, the Kilbride History Group are offering guided tours of historic Kilbride. Tours will begin every 20 minutes starting at 2 pm. For

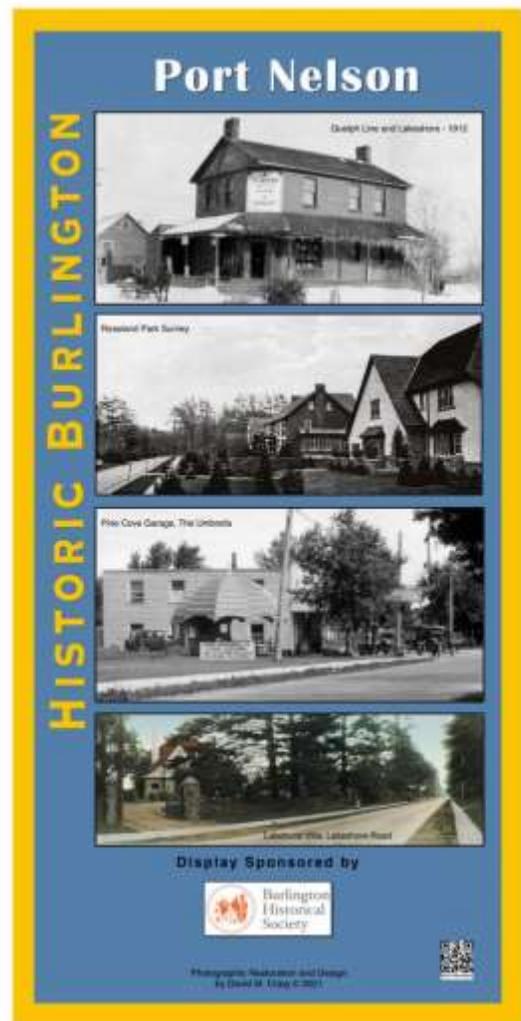
information and to register your spot please go to www.kilbridehistory.com and click on Events. Registration is required.

Parking is available at Kilbride School, Ella Foote Hall and on Jane Street. Please register for your spot

The Kilbride History Group was formed by a number of area residents interested in preserving the history of the villages of Kilbride, Lowville, Cumminsville, Willbrook, Mount Nemo and others.



In conjunction with David Craig of History Pix, we have been working on some posters of Burlington history. The intent is to produce weather resistant posters perhaps on aluminum, to be posted around town. The aim is to have them hung before Heritage Week in August. This is a “sneak preview” of one of the posters.



Upcoming Zoom Webinar

On Monday, 9 August 2021 at 7 pm join Chris Mallion Moore to hear about Spencer Smith, The Man and The Park.

A link to the event will be emailed closer to the date.

Freeman Station Update *Alan Harrington*



CN caboose # 78188

The caboose and boxcar purchased at an auction in Brighton have arrived. Volunteers are busy scraping + painting + filling + sealing. While work won't be 100% complete the car will be "presentable" by Sept 2021. It is hoped that the station will be open to the public by then.



Boxcar – Canadian Pacific # 404109.

While waiting for word that the station can reopen FOFS will be participating in a Virtual Doors Open along with Museums of Burlington so watch for announcements.



Photos:
Alan Harrington

A recent update of This Day in Railway History included comments from the previously mentioned George Kush regarding the addition of railway cars at Freeman Station:

What's still needed is a cattle car. Every Sunday morning walking through the Freeman station on my way to & from church I'd pass by those cattle cars. They were always parked on the siding next to the old Freeman House (Tinning's Grocery Store in my day) & where stock could be watched & watered by the yard crew. Also, a reefer. I think that's the right term for cold storage cars. They were used to ship various fruits & vegetables. And not to forget, a tanker. My god, there were always a dozen or two tankers parked in the yard servicing Niagara Brand Chemicals. As kids we used to play submarine (U-boat) on them. The railed tops we used as conning towers. I don't know what kind of chemicals were involved but the cars were covered in the residue. One time I got home & found the legs of my jeans burned through & I had to throw them away.



Photo: Products Tank Line of Canada Procor Limited.

Safety regs. were few & far between in those days, but I guess they never figured kids would play on the cars. One hardly ever saw box-cars parked in the Freeman station yard; it was always, tankers, reefers & cattle cars. Once I recall a number of flatcars loaded with WW2 aircraft. They were there for several months & the planes were raised on inclined angles, without wings (they were on separate cars). We used to climb into the cockpits & play war. The yard was also used as a holding ground for steam locomotives waiting to be sent to Hamilton where they were subsequently scrapped for their steel, etc. Sometimes there'd be a half-dozen in the yard.

GK

Archives Report *Joan Downey*

This month saw us receive a large donation from former Burlington resident Mary Williamson. Mary is the daughter of the late John Dudley Williamson and Mary Curtis Peterkin. Her aunt was Emily Williamson, the first female lawyer in this area.

As you may recall, over the years Mary has donated many photographs and documents to the Archives.

She is hoping we can put this donation to work in continuing to digitize our collections.

We also received another donation with a promise that the person has “lots of things for us as soon as they are organized.” Something to look forward to.

As I write this Ontario has just entered stage 2 of the reopening program following a very long pandemic shut down. I hope that we will then be able to have some access to the Archives which have been off limits in Central Library since March 13, 2020.

I have collected a bulging file folder of notes which require follow up when we can get into the files. For anyone waiting for information – please be patient for a little while longer.



Emily Williamson, ca 1895
BHS Archives, Williamson Collection



Enjoy the summer – it never lasts long enough

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



Burlington Historical Society

Preserving Burlington's History for Today and Tomorrow

Membership - 2021

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email address: _____

Membership Dues

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

Are you interested in volunteering with the Society? Would you like to help us in preserving the history of our City? Tell us a bit about your talents and interests – info@burlingtonhistorical.ca

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

Make cheques payable to The Burlington Historical Society

OR

e-transfer funds to
info@burlingtonhistorical.ca



If you are a new member using e-transfer, please email the completed form to us at the above email

OR

Leave it at the Membership table at any General Meeting

www.burlingtonhistorical.ca

info@burlingtonhistorical.ca

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