

The Burlington Historical Society
GAZETTE

Hills Video – 60 Years in Burlington



Photo – Hills Video

The Hill family started in television retail in 1948. Our speaker, **Rob Hill**, joined the family business in 1981, after working in local television and for a national network. His leadership has seen the Video and Film Production businesses grow from a division that his father, Fred Hill, started in the late 1960s to the present day high-tech production facility. More than that though, Rob is part of a team that will provide you with some of the best creativity, quality, and affordability that you can imagine in a production today!

This quote is from their webpage:

“We Love What We Do”

A far cry from your Dad’s 8 mm movie camera.

<i>This month:</i>	<i>In this issue:</i>
<p>Join us to hear Rob Hill from Hill’s Video on 14 March 2022 At 7 pm Via ZOOM</p> <p>Pour a coffee and invite your friends to join us Zoom Link to follow</p> 	<p>President’s Message 2 A Memory 2 Membership Report 3 Did You Know? 3 Bio-Origin 4 Guests cleaned up nicely 4 Archives Report 5,6 Book Review 6 Aldershot Train Station 7 Membership Form 8</p>

President's Message *Joan Downey*



Round about the end of February winter becomes really tiresome. But.....things are looking up. The many COVID closures are starting to be backed off and by summer we just MIGHT be back to normal. I hope we will be meeting in person in September in Centennial Hall in Central Library.

You'll be the first to know!

Between now and then your executive are working on developing programs to attract new members from the community. I am always shocked when someone says "I didn't know your society existed." We are also working on a program to trigger your memories of growing up in Burlington and to then permit us to easily capture and share those stories. Watch for news!



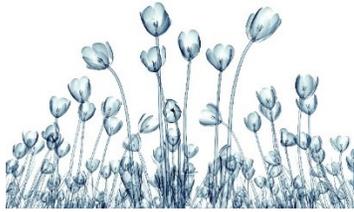
A memory from George Kush



Right now we're all about winter and winter weather, but we do live in Canada. This image proves that we can experience a snowfall just about any time of the year. This photograph was taken by my mother Vivian Kush from the foot of our family driveway on Plains Road @ Freeman May 9, 1947. That's right "May" of 1947. Just to the left, under a thick blanket of wet snow is the original Joseph Freeman homestead, which was demolished in 1963 to make way for the automobile dealership, J. Holland Motors; to the

right is The Clans Restaurant & Coffee Shop. The Clans, which was built in 1938-39 to service travelers on the new Queen Elizabeth Highway, was removed in the mid-1970's. My aunt Nellie's family farm was just past it, on the north-east corner of Brant & Plains Road. Our home address until 1958 was Queen Elizabeth Way. - George Kush @ Trail's End Studio, Fort Macleod, AB. Note the large horse barn & carriage house (centre, behind evergreen tree). My father & Fred Palmer were hired to demolish it in 1957. 😊

Membership *Jane Ann Newson*



A warm welcome to our newest member – **Elaine Evenson!**

This brings our BHS Membership up to 103 Members!

If you haven't yet renewed your Membership for 2022, please use the Membership Form on the back of your Gazette and mail it along with your

remittance to the address shown on the bottom left of this Membership Form.

Your remittance can also be done via E-Transfer to info@burlingtonhistorical.ca

Your Membership provides you a monthly copy of the BHS GAZETTE Newsletter AND a Membership Card and provides access to our Zoom General Meetings each month during COVID.

With fingers crossed, we sincerely hope that we will be able to meet again in person at BPL in the Centennial Room very soon!

Did you know?



The earliest known crokinole board is thought to have been created in Ontario in 1876 when woodworker Eckhardt Wettlaufer made one as a birthday gift for his son?

This photo, courtesy of Archives of Ontario, shows two women playing a game of crokinole circa 1890s. An annual World Crokinole Championship is held in Tavistock, Ontario.



Do you remember the Christmas your family got a board? There was much excitement in the whole family.

Editor's youngest daughter getting ready to score ca 1978.

Bio-Origin – Pat Taylor

At the January general meeting our speaker James Fisher talked about a company he was involved with called "Bio-Origins." I didn't quite understand it all, but it did sound like 'cutting edge technology' – and something that was GREAT for the environment. I needed to find out more.

A Google search brought up the following information.

James Fisher has been a key leader in the biomass production and marketing sectors in Ontario for over 12 years. He is on the Board of Directors of Bio-Origins, a company that produces packaging materials from biomass.

But what is biomass?

Wikipedia states: "Biomass is a plant or animal material used as fuel to produce electricity or heat. Examples are wood, energy crops and waste from forests, yards or farms." Energy crops include agricultural residues.

That sure didn't sound like what James was describing.

Another click of the keyboard and I found a short video of biomass as a pulp. Eureka!!! – the pulp could be pressed or moulded into different shapes. Besides using agricultural residue, crops, such as Miscanthus and Switchgrass can be grown specifically for biomass use. The end products are a sustainable alternative to plastic and Styrofoam. Post use, they are 100% biodegradable and compostable.

Examples for packaging include: containers for mushrooms, strawberries and other berries; cartons for eggs; and trays for peppers, apples, cucumbers and corn. Even for large apple trays to separate apples in shipping cartons.



Way to go James and Bio-Origins!!!

Guests cleaned up nicely at the Brant Inn – Alan Harrington

The original Ivory Bar soap was developed in 1879 by Harley Procter. It was developed with pure & purposeful ingredients.

It was meant to be a staple in the home and mild enough to be used for the whole family.

Ivory was pure. 99.44% pure to be exact. And if you dropped your bar into the waterfront - no problem it floats!



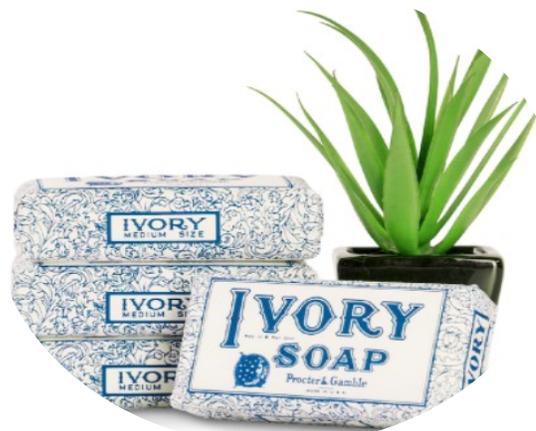
Photo – Alan Harrington



The Brant Inn played Jazz and Big Band



- so if you wanted Opera - you'd need to settle for soap opera.



Archives Report *Joan Downey*

We had contact this month from the daughter of George Douglas Johnson.

George was born on Martha Street in Burlington on April 23, 1920. He was the youngest and only child born in Canada to John and Sarah Johnson who had emigrated to Burlington from England. George served in the Royal Canadian Navy during WWII. He was one of only 69 survivors of the HMCS Ottawa that was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-Boat in the North Atlantic on September 14, 1942.



George Johnson, ca 1945 at the Cenotaph in Spencer Smith Park

After the war, he continued his career as a plumber which he started prior to the war, working at Robert Broom Plumbing and then Allison and Britt Plumbing until his retirement in 1985.



Robt. Broom Plumbing, ca 1946

Editor's note: I'm pretty sure this is the beginning of Broom's HVAC now located on Fairview.

He was also active in Boy Scouts and was the leader of a Rover Crew whose annual project was to fix up discarded and donated toys, to be refurbished and given out to needy children at Christmas. This project began in 1952 and continued to about 1968. The Children's Aid Society has not yet been formed, but the names of families needing help was forwarded to my dad and his crew. Baskets were made up for each family. A few days before Christmas the Rovers and their girlfriends along with our family and friends would have a wrapping party. Then on Christmas Eve, the Scouts and Cubs, along with their fathers would pick up and deliver the wrapped gifts to the needy families.



1st Company Burlington Boy Scouts on parade with scoutmaster George Johnson, 1950 BHS Archives

George Johnson was chosen as Burlington's Citizen of the year in 1963 for his contribution to the Christmas Toy Campaign.

My fondest memories are of the Christmas Campaign. I was only two years old when it began, so I grew up thinking that was what you do at Christmas.

My dad passed in 2006 at the age of 86.
.....Sharon Johnson Janushewski

Thank you Sharon for sharing these great memories of your Dad.

Sharon also included 2 great photos from 1923 of a **Burlington Bakery** delivery truck.



I was curious so I looked the bakery up in Vernon's Directory at Central Library.

In 1959 (first issue on file) the bakery was located at 433 Brant and operated by F. Keller. This address was across from City Hall. The building is no longer there.



By 1965 there were 3 bakeries on Brant Street: Burlington Bakery along with Waumsley's Bakery at 369 Brant and Woman's Bakery at 587 Brant.

In 1975 Burlington Bakery had disappeared from the Directories. But according to the 1980 edition, Woman's Bakery opened a branch in Burlington Mall. Eventually the Brant Street address closed.

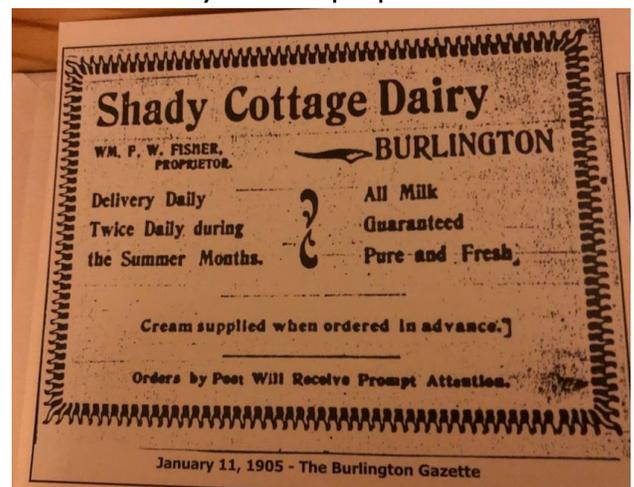


Book Review – Pat Taylor

We recently received a self-published book entitled “Burlington Ontario Dairies of the Past, including Waterdown.” What a great record of Russell Hunsberger's hobby for all of us to enjoy. There is information on fourteen (14) dairies. I particularly enjoyed the poem on a bottle from Avonsyde Farm:

All milk bottles are born to roam
But Avonsyde Farm is this bottle's home.
Please do not let it get homesick

This is one of the photos from the book. Note the name of the dairy and the proprietor.



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Aldershot Train Station

We talk a lot about Freeman Station but there was another station just down the line in what is now Burlington. Reprinted from the Toronto Railway Historical Association history pages

Aldershot Station was built by the Great Western Railway in 1854 as the first stop on their way east from Bayview Junction (Hamilton, at the Burlington border) to Toronto. The first station was a simplistic wooden structure consisting of basic amenities; a waiting room, freight room and station master's office. Initially this station was called Waterdown after nearby Waterdown Road, though it was quite far south from the community of Waterdown. A few decades later in 1882, the Great Western was merged into the Grand Trunk Railway.



Aldershot Station 1899 - BHS Archives, Ross Taylor Collection

The former GWR line through Aldershot, by this point called the Great Western Division of the Grand Trunk, was a major thoroughfare for rail traffic. In addition to many commuter trains between Toronto and Hamilton, plenty of international trains between Toronto and the United States could be seen there. You'll find that this remains the case in the present day. In 1897, the Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo Railway gained trackage rights to Toronto Union Station via the Grand Trunk, though its trains never stopped at Aldershot along the way. The Grand Trunk replaced the original station in the early 1900's.

Not long afterwards in 1912, Canadian Pacific constructed a station at the village of Waterdown and the Grand Trunk station was renamed to Aldershot to differentiate. Just over a decade later in 1923, the Grand Trunk was merged into Canadian National.



Postcard dated 1910, BHS Archives

After a decline in passenger ridership after the 1950's, the station was closed to passengers in 1978 and it was demolished soon afterwards during the 1980's. Thankfully, its demolition is primarily what led to the preservation of the former Grand Trunk station at nearby Burlington (Freeman Station). The Aldershot GO Station opened nearby in 1992, and its currently served by GO Transit, VIA Rail and Amtrak.

The stretch of railway through Aldershot and nearby Bayview Junction is one of the busiest in Canada.



Photo courtesy David Craig



The Burlington Historical Society
Preserving Burlington's History for Today and Tomorrow

Membership - 2022

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 Director
PO Box 93164
1450 Headon Road
Burlington, Ontario L7M 4A3

Make cheques payable to The Burlington Historical Society

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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

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