

The Burlington Historical Society GAZETTE



Heritage Week 2025

Along with garden tomatoes and other fresh produce, August brings Heritage Week!



As a prelude, the Burlington Historical Society posters have been on display at Spencer Smith Park since early July. This year there is an added bonus – a Spencer Smith Park sign. I'm sure visitors, and some residents, would like to know where the name of the park came from. This photo shows a few of the workers who installed the signs.

The Heritage Week opening ceremony will be at 10 am, Saturday, August 7th at the Art Gallery of Burlington. After the ceremony, join member Alan Harrington for a guided walking tour - 'Railway and Historic Houses'.

When you get back from the walk consider taking a trip to Burlington Centre. BHS will be sharing an empty store front in the mall with the Fine Arts Association and The Lighthouse Preservation Group. Find us in the corridor from Shoppers to the food court.'

On Monday, August 4th at 10 am, join Alan Harrington, this time for the Greenwood Cemetery tour.

Wednesday, August 6th, 7pm brings the 2025 Edition of 'So You Think You Know Burlington?' trivia night at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre. All new questions! Join members Don Thorpe and David Craig for some fun. This is a very popular annual event.



On Friday, August 8th at 12 pm drop in to the Burlington Public Library and join us and other local organizations for a Heritage Fair.

Let's not forget our sister organization – the Kilbride History Group – on Saturday, August 9th at 9:30 am they are hosting a 'talk and walk' in Kilbride. Get some fresh air and enjoy walking through this historic village.

See you at Heritage Week!

The Burlington Lions Club is 100 years old!



**BURLINGTON
LIONS CLUB
EST. 1925**



SERVING THE BURLINGTON COMMUNITY FOR 100 YEARS!!!

The club was established with 20 members on April 27, 1925. They purchased the property on Pearl Street in 1929 and started hosting a carnival the following year to raise money for the community. During the war years (1939-45) they took over fundraising for the Red Cross and operated a community skating rink.



One of a pair of statues at the entrance to Lions Park

By the 1950s membership had grown to 100. They opened a baseball diamond and founded the Burlington Lions Optimist Minor Hockey Association (BLOMHA). Also in the 1950s the club sponsored the formation of the Burlington Lioness Club which operated for 44 years and they sponsored the Nelson and Aldershot Lions clubs.

Since its founding, the Burlington Lions Club has donated to many community causes, including: Nelson Park Pool; Mountainside & Skyway arenas, Burlington Senior Centre, Appleby Ice Rink, Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital.

You have the Lions Club to thank for the beautiful Lady of the Lake fountain in Spencer Smith Park.



The **Burlington Farmers Market** was established in 1959 and continues every summer to this day, three days a week in the parking lot at Burlington Centre. Fresh food – locally grown or made.



Then, in 1990 they started the **Classic Car Cruise Nights**.

2020 saw the sale of part of the Lions Park property to the City of Burlington. But, never fear, the Burlington Lions Club continues to serve the community. In 2025, the club has taken over responsibility for a favourite holiday display – the Festival of Lights.



Congratulations to the Burlington Lions Club on your Centennial!



Summer *Helen Langford on behalf of the Burlington Historical Society*

Burlington Gazette, Tuesday June 20 1978

Everyone has vivid memories of their summers. These are some of mine.

Home was a lovely brick farm house shaded by tall maples that lined Maple Ave. I was the fourth generation. Summer was very busy and everyone helped from grandparents to children. As babies we swung in a canvas swing suspended from a beam in the barn while the tomatoes were packed.

Helen in 1937



As we grew older, we learned to swim in a very rare pool at Davidson's Nurseries on Lockhart Road. Often on hot evenings my parents took us to the beach at the first tower – just west of the Brant Inn. Still later we all swam off the revetment wall built to protect the shoreline between Maple Ave. and Brant Street. Some of my friends were lifeguards hired by the town and others anchored boats in the harbour behind the wall.



The big treat was to have 5 cents for an ice cream cone at the Brant Inn. Some Saturdays we drove with Dad to the bank waiting in the car and hoping Spencer Smith might pass on his way to work in "his" park at the foot of Brant. He often gave us a penny or a nickel to spend at Miss Mullin's store.

During the war, farm labor was scarce. If we were recommended we stopped school towards the end of April with the promise to work 13 weeks on a farm. The hourly rate was 27½ cents per hour. A large home called Oak Bank on the lake opposite the Safeway store was used as a farm camp. Luckily Burlington had a boy's camp and high school boys came from all over Ontario. It made life for a teenage girl in Burlington very exciting!



Oakbank – now standing at 135 Crestwood Court

I feel sorry for local teenagers now – there is no place like the Pier, Wonder Grove or the Brant Inn. The deck of the Brant Inn was so romantic, dancing to Mort Kenney under the stars or sitting on the railway tracks or in the Tancock canoe listening to big name bands.



Maplehurst School teachers & students, ca 1920

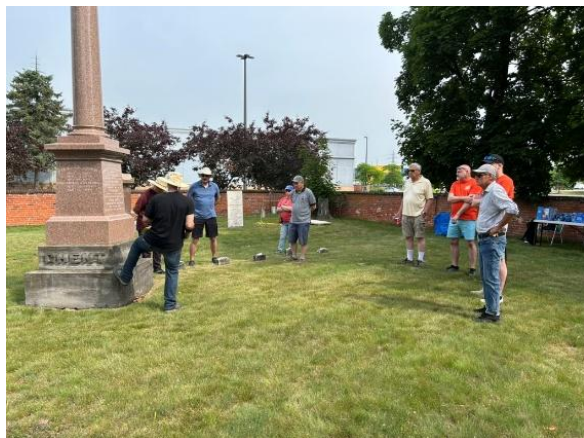
Summer days: time away from the one room school at the head of Maple Avenue; kick the can games on the barn hill with all the Barnes, Carpenter and Watson kids; learning to ride a two-wheel bike with the help of my handsome cousin, George; eating cookies fresh from Aunt Blanche's oven; evening car rides to check the progress of neighboring farmers even as far away as Cumberland Avenue. – Lovely Summers!

Editor's Note: Helen was born in 1928, the daughter of Janet Marshall and Martin Lindley. The family home on Maple Avenue is long gone. Helen received a degree in nursing in 1952. That same year she married William Walton Langford. The couple raised five children. Helen was an active member of the Burlington Historical Society. In addition to articles for the Burlington Gazette, Helen authored a number of books.

BHS June Activities

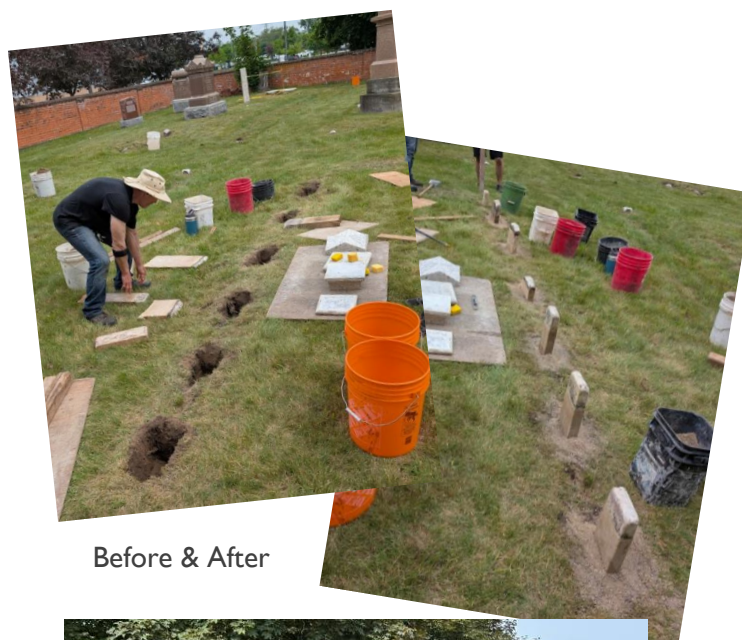
Cemetery Care Project, phase 2

(June 21st at the Union Burying Ground)



An expert gives some instruction

In addition to supplies, The Home Depot provided some helpers!



Before & After



St. John's Anglican Church, Dundas Street



Also on 21st June, BHS attended a Strawberry Social at the church in celebration of their 190th anniversary as a congregation..

Visitors were most interested in the original deed for the land dated 1809 from the Crown to David Reilly. The property changed hands a number of times and was broken up into smaller lots.

Then, on 4 Dec 1838, there is an entry in the land records: 'Thomas Atkinson to Bishop of Quebec – $\frac{3}{4}$ Acre (part of front, Church of England'. The present church was built on that land.



**Our next meeting will be on September 8th, 2025.
7 pm in the Centennial Room at Burlington Central Library
Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome**