

The Burlington Historical Society
GAZETTE

A Walk through Vimy Ridge and Juno Beach: Past and Present

General Rick Hillier, former Chief of Defence Staff of the Canadian Forces has stated, "It should be every Canadian's goal in life to make a pilgrimage to Vimy Ridge and Juno Beach in France."



For every person who participated in or was connected to someone in WWI and WWII, there is a story.

Linda Ploen, a member of BHS, will speak of her experience visiting these two national memorial sites. She will include anecdotes, observations and personal stories of some of our veterans. This will be a wonderful lead in to Remembrance Day 2018.

Photos by Linda Ploen

Join us to hear Linda Ploen
 Monday, **October 15th, 2018** at 7 pm
 Burlington Public Library, Central Branch

We look forward to seeing you in November -
 Monday, Nov. 12, 2018, 7 pm
 Burlington Public Library, Central Branch

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President's Report *Jane Ann Newson*



As the month of October reveals itself in beauty and bounty, my thoughts are focused on the past – Thanksgiving Dinners at home; colourful displays of chrysanthemums, special times with family and friends! And let's not forget the warm Mincemeat and pumpkin pies, fresh apples right off the tree and my personal favourite –my Aunt's butter tarts.

Why all this nostalgia?

One of my reasons for recalling the past is to remember fondly our Society's dedicated early members who have gone before and who made our Society what it is today – active in our community and dedicated keepers of Burlington's archives. Some of those who I personally recall were: Dr and Jean Galloway, Les Armstrong, Jane Irwin, Florence Meares and Vickie Gudgeon to name a very few.

The Society today is because of the commitment of these early members and their tireless work in preserving our Burlington heritage through photos and family histories and by capturing past events that make up our heritage.

Fast forward to October 2018. This legacy has been left to us to nurture and the need to continue with this important work.

As indicated at our September 10th General Meeting, the Society is going through a change and we find ourselves in a situation where 'few hands are doing all the work'.

Won't you reconsider helping us to protect and carry on with the work of our forefathers? They had a vision and a mission. That mission and vision is very real and present today albeit in a very different world, BUT we need more hands (YOUR hands) to make this work lighter!

The Burlington Historical Society depends on YOU - our Members.



BHS Members will receive the BHS Gazette and other communications and can unsubscribe at any time info@burlingtonhistorical.ca

Information contained on our website, newsletters and publications is printed in good faith and for general purposes

A STORY FOR CIVIC ELECTION TIME

Submitted by Pat Taylor

In June 1902 a discussion was held about employing an expert to find out the probable cost of a system of waterworks for Burlington Village.

There was much discussion, both pro and con, by everyone and by 1907 an offer was accepted by Council for complete plans, specifications and costs of a waterworks system. Council decided to submit a By-law to the people in the next civic election.

The story of the voting has given many an older resident a chuckle.

Stiff opposition came from some of the older, more conservative residents who felt that the sum needed for the waterworks was a tremendous amount for a small Village to raise. These OPPONENTS knew that only property owners could vote on the By-law. Accordingly, they went to the registry office in Milton and carefully checked the titles of all those whom they knew would vote in favour of the waterworks. The names of those who were NOT eligible to vote were put on a list and given to the Returning Officer.

M.C. Smith, a future mayor of Burlington, found out about the list and figured it had to be gotten rid of somehow. He and his friends enlisted the help of Bill Brush. Brush was a colourful character who ran the Queens Hotel (now the Queen's Head) and who owned fast horses that he raced at Fall Fairs.

One day, not long before the waterworks vote, he caused a sensation in town by riding his horse along the cobblestones coming down Brant Street. When he reached the beginning of the built-up area, he stood up in the gig and drove full tilt down Brant Street, cracking the whip and standing all the way till he reached the Lakeshore. The storekeepers all rushed out when they heard the commotion and everyone wondered what made Bill Brush "act so crazy."

Mac Smith and his men remembered this and coaxed Bill to "go wild" again. He repeated his fast ride down Brant Street on Election Day. When everyone at the polling station rushed to the window to see him go by, the voters list of ineligible voters somehow got passed out the window and disappeared. No one could swear as to what names were on the list, so the By-law passed by 42 votes. "And that's how Burlington got its waterworks" say those who remembered the incident!



A Rare Group Photo

The occasion was the opening of the new Civic Building, on 11 January 1965. Present in the photo are: Russ Leather, Mayor from 1946-47 (back to camera); Harold Adkins the last Reeve (forerunner to mayor); Norm Craig, Mayor 1948-50; Lloyd Dingle, Mayor 1931-32; Owen Mullin, Mayor 1962-65 (and sitting mayor at the time); John Lockhart, Mayor 1957-61; Gordon Blair, Mayor 1940-45; Hughes Cleaver, Mayor 1920; and, seated with feet on the desk – Elgin Harris, Mayor 1923-24 (also the editor of the Burlington Gazette). As the oldest mayor present, Elgin Harris is wearing the chain of office.



BHS Archives

From the Burlington Gazette, 29 July 1931 (don't try this in 2018!)

In the third drive against Blackbirds on Burlington Avenue on Thursday and Saturday nights last, by Chief Smith and his firing squad, over 400 blackbirds were shot.

Every year these birds become a nuisance in the vicinity, and the police have been called upon to take this means of driving them away.

At the meeting of the council on Monday night, it was decided to discontinue shooting the birds, and the trees will be trimmed, and if this does not dispose of the trouble the trees will be cut down.

Freeman Station Update

Alan Harrington



There's been a Big Push at the Station recently as we prepare for Burlington Doors Open on Saturday, September 29, 2018.

About 1,000 visitors are expected on the Big Day, eager to witness the progress made since their last visit. And they will not be disappointed.

Treatments to the exterior will be the first eye-catching moment for visitors - including several vintage railway backdrops set up for photos & selfies.

Next stop is our finished basement and the first sight of this brand new space for most viewers. The crew will be preparing right up until the Open House setting up a model railway of Burlington in the 1920's.

Afterwards, guests can test the new upstairs hardwood floorboards while inspecting the various railway artifacts on display.



Photo by Alan Harrington

Outreach Report *Jane Ann Newson*

BHS were invited back to **Williamsburg Retirement Residence** on **September 11th**. A presentation on the Brant Inn was given by Joan Downey with Patricia Taylor as her very capable support person. This third session to all accounts, was a huge favourite and fond memories were relived from years ago.



Burlington Beginnings course at the Burlington Senior Centre started up again for the second year on September 13th. We have 24 people registered with 2 people on a wait list. This is proving to be a very popular program offering.



A little piece of trivia.....

In 1900 the entire municipal election cost. \$20.13.
A total of 390 Burlingtonians voted.

Membership Table *Jane Ann Newson*



Just a gentle reminder to those who have not yet paid their 2018 membership fees as they are now due.

With each renewal or new membership, a BHS Membership Card will be made out to you to serve as a reminder.

Again, **IF** you are not receiving a BHS General Meeting telephone reminder each month, please let me know. Many thanks to Elizabeth and her Telephone Committee for looking after this important aspect of our work!

If you have **moved OR changed** your telephone number **OR** email address, please advise so we can update our Membership Listing.

Thank you

Mystery Photo *Joan Downey*

October 2018



Photo Pat Taylor

Rather odd looking isn't it?

But it is of some historical significance to this area.

September 2018

The only person who guessed was tricked into thinking they were looking at water. This is the same piece from the front.

Still don't have it?

It is an art piece called "Portal" on Brant Street, directly across from the Queen's Head in front of the newly revamped parking.

It does look quite different in daylight.

Photo Alan Harrington

<http://burlingtonhistorical.ca/mystery-photos/>



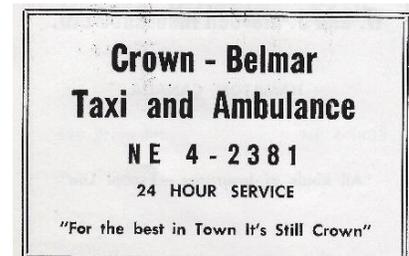
SEPTEMBER NOTES



Photo Tom Bochsler

After September's presentation, Don Crossley presented the BHS with a copy of a local newspaper dated 10 September 1959 – 59 years, to the day, prior to his presentation to BHS.

Remember Don talking about Crown Cab? This ad was found in a recently donated Burlington High School yearbook, Via Trita, dated 1959.



Burlington Historical Society Executive

Officers (Elected)		Directors (Appointed)		Convenors (Appointed)	
President (acting)	Jane Ann Newson	Programs	Alan Harrington	Greeting Cards	Anne Wingfield
1 st Vice President	Vacant	Archives	Joan Downey	Telephone Committee	Elizabeth Baldwin
2 nd Vice President	Vacant	Webmaster	Wayne Murphy	Heritage Burlington	Rick Wilson
Secretary	Pat Taylor	Membership	Jane Ann Newson	50/50 Draw	Torey Hunt
Treasurer	Alan Harrington	Newsletter	Joan Downey		Pat Taylor
Past President	Jane Ann Newson				



The Burlington Historical Society

Preserving Burlington's History for Today and Tomorrow

Membership - 2018

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

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