

The Burlington Historical Society
GAZETTE

Living in the Village of Freeman 50s & 60s



Tip Top Cannery – Watercolour by George Kush

Over the past few months we have been fortunate to have been able to share articles by George Kush.

In a recent email he wrote “my sister Eleanor & I are most probably the only people alive today who actually worked at Tip Top (Cannery). And, in my case, Freeman Station in the 1960s.”

George’s sister, Eleanor Kush still lives in Burlington. George, however, has lived for some years in Monarch, Alberta where he owns Trail’s End Studio, but he still fondly remembers life in Freeman Village.

As you can see from the above watercolour, George is an accomplished artist. If you would like to see more of George’s art, click here <https://www.georgekush.ca/artists-wanderings/>

George also has a keen interest in history. He is a past-president of the Lethbridge Chapter, Historical Society of Alberta and was the 125 Committee Historian for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (1996-1999).

Please join us for a first hand account of life in Freeman.

<i>This month:</i>	<i>In this issue:</i>
<p>Join us on 11th April 2022</p> <p>GEORGE KUSH</p> <p>At 7 pm Via ZOOM</p> <p>Invite your friends to join us for an entertaining evening</p> <p>Zoom Link to follow</p>	<p>President’s Message 2</p> <p>Around Town 2</p> <p>Aylmer Canning Company 3</p> <p>Membership Report 4</p> <p>1938 envelope 4</p> <p>Archives Report 5,6</p> <p>Tree of Good Fortune 7</p> <p>Membership Form 8</p>

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 Editor: Joan Downey

President's Message *Joan Downey*

Welcome to Spring and things are finally looking up. The masks are off (or on, your choice). We are starting to see people out and about. My COVID great grandchildren are finally able to play with other kids.

We were contacted this week to do a presentation for a lunch group at the Salvation Army on Prospect Street. Our mission is to 'preserve and share Burlington's past for the enjoyment and education of the community.' This is our first chance to do that since the original pandemic lockdown in March of 2020.



It still has to be confirmed, but our September meeting should be our first "in person" meeting since the lockdown. I think that calls for a celebration, don't you?

Around Town – Photos by Pat Taylor



Aylmer Brand (Burlington Canning Co.) Story and photos by George Kush

Here's an Aylmer Brand Tomato Catsup bottle, circa 1930. Sorry it's not a better pic but we did it on the fly without a nice clear background. It's back in the cabinet now. I'm always afraid of dropping things and then they're lost. 😊



Believe it or not – they started out by producing “TIGER BRAND CATSUP”. Later it was under the Aylmer label.

I forgot to mention that catsup originated in China and the far East. That's why the Tiger was considered an appropriate brand name for catsup. In my great-grandparent's day, tomatoes were not a popular food in North America; they were looked upon as an exotic fruit. Salads were also

thought of a weird. 😊 “What can I say?” Tip Top Cannery and food processing was a daily table talk when I was growing up in Burlington. I'm a relic of the past. 😊



A Tiger Brand Tomato Catsup bottle, circa 1906-1910

A closer look at the Tiger Brand Tomato Catsup label, Burlington Canning Company, Circa 1906-1910. Please enjoy, George



Membership *Jane Ann Newson*

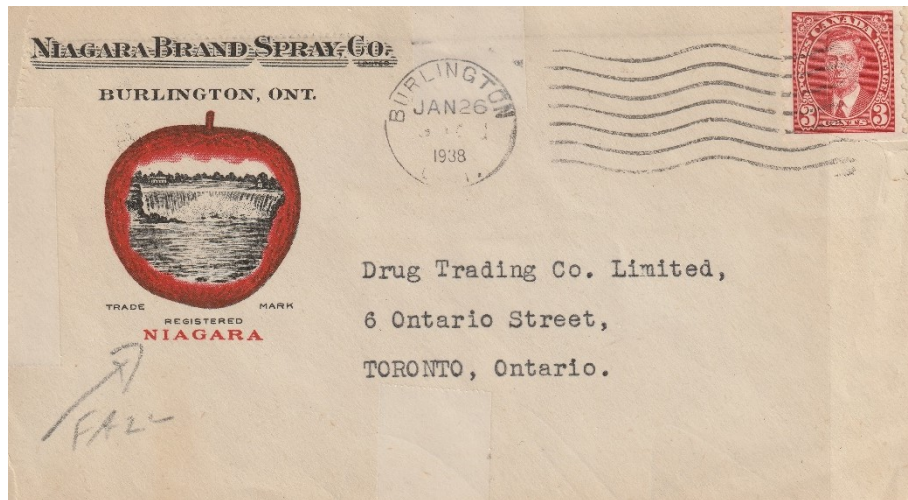


We are pleased to announce that 49 members have renewed their BHS Memberships for 2022. This number includes the 4 NEW members to date.

However, our 'official' Membership Count is 103. This means that 54 members have yet to renew for 2022!

If you haven't yet renewed this year and wish to do so, please complete the Membership Form on the back page of your APRIL Gazette and mail it along with your remittance to the address shown on the bottom left of the form. Alternatively, email the form to us and e-transfer your membership dues.

Happy Spring and may the sun shine on all of us!



This envelope was recently acquired for the Archives. It is postmarked Burlington, Jan 26, 1938. It carries a logo of the Niagara Brand Spray Co., Niagara Falls enclosed by an apple. The company was founded by our first mayor, Maxwell C. Smith and was located in the Village of Freeman. In the 1930s, Mr. Smith sold his interest in the company and it became Niagara Brand Chemicals, a division of FMC Machinery.

Officers (Elected)		Directors (Appointed)		Convenors (Appointed)		Archives Volunteers	
President	Joan Downey	Programs	Alan Harrington	Greeting Cards	Anne Wingfield	Peggy Armstrong	
Vice President	VACANT	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	Jane Ann Newson	Publicity	Jennifer Kemp	Dorothy Kew	
Past President	Jane Ann Newson		Pat Taylor	50/50 Draw	Vacant	Dobрила Kinn	
		Newsletter	Joan Downey			Chris Mallion Moore	
		Outreach	Vacant			Donna Ryan	
		Event Planner	Pat Taylor			Pat Taylor	

Florence Eleanor Meares (11 November 1913 - 10 November 2011)

March 8 2022 was International Women's Day. Well, I missed it by a month but this Burlington woman's accomplishments are certainly worth celebrating.



BHS was lucky indeed to have Florence Meares as a very active member for many years. She served as BHS president in 1987 & 88. Many of her personal records were donated to our archives to be shared with others.

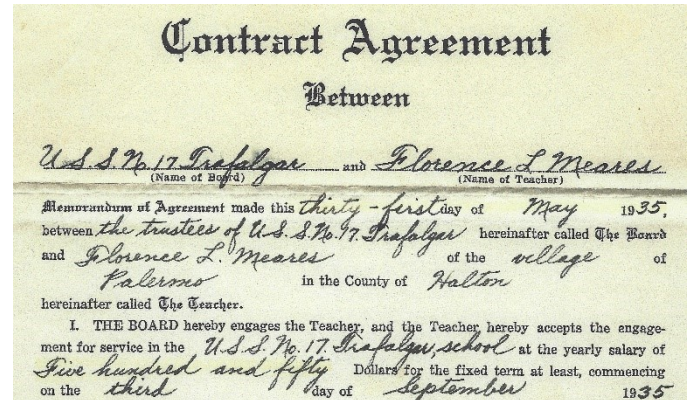
Florence at the opening of Kilbride PS, November 1960

Florence was born on a farm in Bronte and when she was very young the family moved to a dairy farm in Palermo. When she was old enough she attended the Palermo 2 room school house across from the old Palermo Cemetery on Dundas Street. (ed note: the schoolhouse has been restored and is now home to the Trafalgar Township Historical Society). She continued on with a high school education at Oakville High School. Many children did not get that opportunity in those times. From there she went on to Hamilton Normal School for her teacher training.



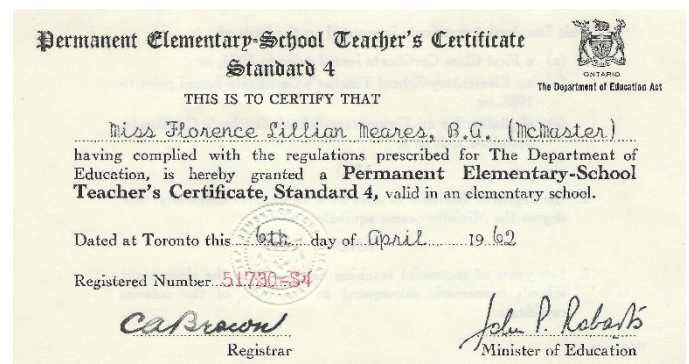
Ash School, S.S. #17 – photographed c 1956

She began teaching in 1934 at S.S. No. 17, the Ash School, located on Tremaine Road in what is now north Oakville. Her salary for that first job was \$400 per annum. When it was discovered that her salary should have been \$500 it was raised for the following year.



In 1942 Florence was the teacher at Fisher's Corners School. There is a photo of her with her class in the October 2020 BHS Gazette. Florence went on to become one of the first female vice-principals in the area in 1947 at Glenwood School, Guelph Line & Queensway. Speaking of that time she said "when the Glenwood principal moved on, a young man was brought in (as principal). I was somewhat disappointed..."

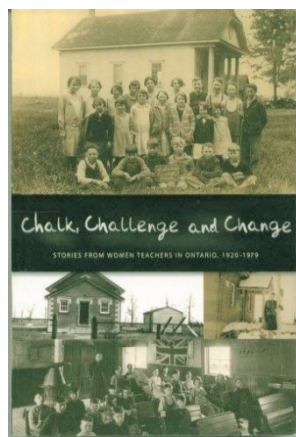
It took a number of years but finally her chance came about. She was the first woman principal appointed by the new Burlington Board of Education when she joined the newly opened Kilbride PS in 1960. From there she held the position of principal at Lakeshore P.S. and Elizabeth Gardens.



Florence continued to upgrade her skills throughout her career. In the 1940s she went to summer school at Queen's University to get her permanent teaching certificate – a requirement which was not in place when she started teaching. In the 1950s she attended McMaster and received a degree from them and in 1966 she received her Masters of Education degree from the University of Toronto.

She often stated “there are some teachers who give the same lesson every year in the same way. I always try to given the pupils some variety.”

Florence Meares spent a lifetime devoted to education and it went beyond the classroom. She served a 6-year term as a Public School Board trustee and was a member of the Elementary Teachers' Federation provincial executive committee.



In 2007, former Burlington resident Gillian Hewitt launched a book “Chalk, Challenge and Change – Stories from Women School Teachers in Ontario, 1920-1979.” Florence and Herma Bailey, another former Burlington Elementary school teacher contributed many stories.

Florence received a number of honours over the years. In 1987 Florence was honoured by being named Burlington's Citizen of the Year and in 1999, the International Year of the Older Person award for Burlington South. She won an Ontario Residential Care Association Award for her work at Christopher Terrace and the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Award. Then, a lasting tribute, Florence Meares Elementary School opened on Berwick Drive in Millcroft in 2002 – a fitting tribute to a lifelong educator.



Photo: HDSB

Florence Eleanor Meares died on November 10th, 2011. She was 97.

She is buried in St. Luke's Anglican Cemetery in Palermo, alongside her parents, Robert & Lillian.



Grade 7, 1956 Glenwood Public School – Miss Florence Meares far right (do you see your younger self?) 6

Roly Bird “Tree of Good Fortune” replanted at City Hall

Originally posted on www.burlington.ca, 14 Oct 2021

Good fortune will continue to bloom within downtown Burlington with the planting of a new “Tree of Good Fortune” at City Hall in the greenspace at Brant and Ontario Street, now known as Veteran Square. The new Horse Chestnut tree has been planted in the same spot as the original tree and is marked by the original plaque.

About the Tree of Good Fortune

The City of Burlington’s first Tree of Good Fortune was planted from a Horse Chestnut tree seedling from Burlington resident Dr. Wilbur Weaver many years ago. In 1992, the Tree of Good Fortune was dedicated to former Mayor of Burlington Roly Bird (1978-1991), in honour of the faith and ambition he instilled in the recipients of the tree’s fruit.

During Mayor Bird’s term of office, he gathered the horse chestnuts from the tree in the fall and presented them throughout the year to citizens of the city, visitors to Burlington and political dignitaries.

When Mayor Bird honoured someone with a souvenir chestnut, he offered the following words of wisdom:

“This is the fruit of THE TREE OF GOOD FORTUNE. If you accept this fruit and believe, have faith and work very hard in life, you will achieve all of the goals and objectives you set for yourself, and everything that you aspire to will come to pass. You must, however, continue to hold on to the fruit of THE TREE OF GOOD FORTUNE, to have belief, great faith, and especially work hard, and the fruit of THE TREE OF GOOD FORTUNE will greatly assist you as you move through this life.”

Sadly, the original tree had to be removed for public safety in early 2020 due to age, rot and damage from a 2018 windstorm.

Residents are welcome to visit the new Tree of Good fortune.

Editor’s note: Roly Bird served as the mayor of Burlington from 1979 – 1991 – twelve years. That’s a long time for anyone to remain in public office – a sign of his popularity.



During the 2019 trip of the Official Burlington Delegation to the City of Itabashi, Japan to commemorate the 30th anniversary of our twinning relationship, our present mayor, Marianne Meed Ward presented a horse chestnut from our Tree of Good Fortune to Itabashi Mayor Sakakmoto.



Photo:
www.burlington.ca



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

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

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