

The Burlington Historical Society  
**GAZETTE**

Historical stories of Burlington and area



**Margaret Stowe**, our guest speaker for January, is a musician and recording artist. As a guitarist she has performed all over Canada and Europe with a

host of notable artists. In recent years she has taken to historical writing, research and genealogy and is in the process of publishing several historical books on various subjects, available on Amazon print-on-demand, a great way to buy a book.

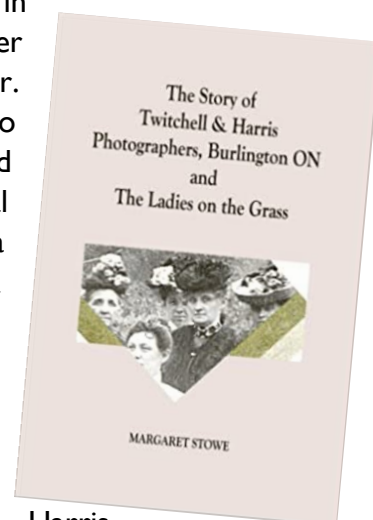
We are lucky indeed to have Margaret visit with us.

Margaret was born in Dundas, graduated from McMaster and lives in Toronto. Her grandfather was Dr. Jaffrey who discovered and used both an experimental vaccine and a convalescent plasma serum in Hamilton during the 1918 pandemic.

<http://drjaffrey.ca/>

Her recent book Twitchell & Harris Photographers, Burlington ON and The Ladies on the Grass is currently available on Amazon.

[www.margaretstowe.com](http://www.margaretstowe.com)



<i>This month:</i>	<i>In this issue:</i>
<p><b>Monday, 9 January 2023</b>                      7 pm in Centennial Hall at Central Library</p> <p>Join us to hear <b>Margaret Stowe</b></p> <p><b>Everyone is welcome!</b></p>	<p>President's Message 2</p> <p>BHS Executive 2</p> <p>Outreach Report 2022 3&amp;4</p> <p>Happy 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday 5</p> <p>Upcoming Events 5</p> <p>A Cholera Belt 6</p> <p>A Visit to Ottawa 7</p> <p>Membership Report 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](mailto: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*



## **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** We are just

starting a new year and it's going to be a great year for The Burlington Historical Society!

This edition of the Gazette will include updates for our members on the various efforts and accomplishments of the society during 2022.

Then, to complete the AGM requirements, early in the New Year, our Nominating Chair, Jane Ann Newson, will forward a proposed slate of officers for 2023. At the same time, Jane Ann, as our Bookkeeper, will email our financial report for 2022.



Due to a health issue, and with great regret, I am forced to resign from my position as President of the Society. I have enjoyed my time in this position, interacting with members and other like-minded groups in preserving the history of our City.

I wish to thank you for the support which you have given to me and I trust you will continue to support the Officers, Directors and volunteers as work goes on.

Again, we ask 2 things of you as members in good standing of The Burlington Historical Society:

- ✓ by return email, advise your acceptance of the financial statement for 2022
- ✓ by return email, advise your acceptance of the proposed officers for 2023

**NOTE:** for those who do not have email – please phone (905)336-2375 and leave a message. Please, include your name.

In previous years we have had excellent response to this request and were well over our required quorum of 10 to carry a vote.

The financial report and proposed slate of officers will also be presented at the meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

<b>Officers (Elected)</b>	<b>Directors (Appointed)</b>	<b>Convenors (Appointed)</b>	<b>Archives Volunteers</b>
President     Joan Downey Vice President   VACANT Secretary (acting) Pat Taylor Treasurer       VACANT  Past President   Jane Ann Newson	Programs     Alan Harrington Bookkeeper    Jane Ann Newson Archives       Joan Downey Webmaster     Wayne Murphy Membership   Jane Ann Newson Pat Taylor Newsletter    Joan Downey Outreach      Vacant Event Planner  Pat Taylor	Greeting Cards   Anne Wingfield Heritage Burlington Alan Harrington Publicity         Jennifer Kemp Nicola Thomson  50/50 Draw       Vacant	Peggy Armstrong Josie Hammond Jennifer Kemp Dorothy Kew Chris Mallion Moore Pat Taylor Nicola Thomson

## Community Events

BHS has sponsored a number of 2 x 4 posters with Historic Burlington themes. These posters were on display at a number of community events during the year of 2022.



August - Heritage Week 2022, the posters were on display along the fence at Spencer Smith Park

October - Harvest Hoopla, East Plains United Church

November - Veteran Square, Remembrance Day 2022

In addition to the displays of posters depicting earlier times in the Burlington area, we sponsored the following events:

Remembrance Day 2022 – BHS laid a wreath at the Burlington Cenotaph

Festival of Lights 2022 – BHS was again a sponsor of this amazing light display

## Projects

**The Fisher Farm Plaque** – it was brought to our attention by a family member that there had been a plaque in memory of the Fisher family, owners of the land where Burlington Centre now stands, which had mysteriously disappeared. We did solve the mystery. A developer, owner of a portion of the land, had removed the plaque and destroyed the cairn which was made of fieldstone from the foundation of the family home. The Fishers are an important part of Burlington history having owned and farmed that land from 1821 until 1967 when it was sold for Burlington development.

The Burlington Historical Society commissioned a new plaque which was mounted on the wall just inside the main entrance to the Mall. A fitting tribute to the Fisher Family. Family members attended the unveiling in 2022.

**The Sherwood Farm Model** – in the early summer of 2022 we were gifted with a scale model of this farm, lovingly created by a grandson of the original owner. We do not have space to display artifacts so a suitable home was required. The ideal space was found – Appleby United Church. The Sherwood family were members of that church. The farm and the church were expropriated around the same time, early 70s, and a new church was built on Spruce Avenue. This year that congregation celebrates their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the model will serve as a centrepiece for the celebrations.



## Speakers Meetings

January 10	James Fisher, 200 Years of Farming in Burlington
February 14	Naomie Seh, The Bigger Picture, President of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), University of Waterloo Chapter
March 14	Rob Hill, President of Hills Video – 60 Years in Burlington
April 11	George Kush, Living in the Village of Freeman 50s & 60s
May 9	Stewart Patch, The Burlington Canal Lighthouse
September 12	John McDonald, Halton County Courthouse & Jail <b>*first in-person meeting since March of 2020*</b>
October 17	Ted Barris, launching his new book The Battle of the Atlantic, Gauntlet to Victory
November 14	Sarah of Burlington Taxi – Beyond the Ride, 53 Years serving the Burlington Public

## Social Media

The number of followers on our social media sites continues to climb. At the end of 2022 we have 1159 followers on Facebook and 333 Instagram followers. We have found that the most “likes” come from posts about Burlington life in the 50s & 60s, so stay tuned for more.



# Happy 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Burlington

In 1873, the village of Wellington Square became the Village of Burlington. An article in the Canadian Champion, dated 20 September 1873, reads as follows:

The village long known as Wellington Square was on Tuesday incorporated by the County Council under the name Burlington, and is now a full blown village. The old name was found inconvenient to the inhabitants on account of a large percentage of their letters being missent to Wellington. The posal authorities will probably soon adopt the new name which all must allow the new name to be prettier and more appropriate than the old one.

The date of the Tuesday, prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> September issue of the Canadian Champion?

**16 September 1873!**



## Upcoming 2023 Events

BHS at “The Hub” – Burlington Centre has an area called “The Hub” which they have set aside for use by non-profit organizations to promote their activities. Our group will be in “The Hub” from January 5-8<sup>th</sup>, 11 am to 4 pm daily. Drop by and say hello.

BHS at the Brant Inn - the popular show “The Legendary Brant Inn” is returning to the Burlington Performing Arts Centre on Valentine’s Day 2023. BHS will have a table there to display memorabilia and sell our book and DVD. The show starts at 7:30. Get your tickets! Note that the photos used in the backdrop were all supplied by BHS.

Do you know of any upcoming community event of historical interest where BHS could join in the festivities? Email contact information to [info@burlingotnhistorical.ca](mailto:info@burlingotnhistorical.ca).

# A Cholera Belt *Pat Taylor*

While catching up on some papers in my 'in box' I came across a reference to the above - a cholera belt. I was reading an article from the Niagara Falls Museums about Elizabeth Lundy, affectionately known as "The Grandmother of the Canadian Army." Many women volunteered to knit, sew and to provide "comfort packages" to be sent to the Front. The women would make pillows, sheets, socks, scarves, wristlets, balaclavas and cholera belts. I understood the first six objects in the list, but 'What Was a Cholera Belt?' How did cholera affect people that they would need a belt?

I'll deal with these 2 questions in reverse order.

## How Did Cholera Affect People?

Cholera causes a large amount of fluid to be lost through diarrhea and vomiting in a short period of time. This can lead to dehydration and electrolyte imbalance. This, in turn, can lead to a life threatening and life-taking event.

Cholera has been around for a very, very long time. Early writings from India and Greece – in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries BC – describe isolated cases of a cholera-like illness. There have been seven cholera epidemics. (There's the tie-in with today's events.) I won't go into all of them.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> cholera epidemic began around 1820 and spread from India along trade and military routes eventually making it to England in 1831. In 1832 cholera was in America. There were 1,000 deaths in Quebec in June of 1832. It would die out in one area, only to re-emerge in another. There were isolation sheds set up near the docks where immigrants showing signs of the disease were isolated. In Lower Canada (Quebec) in 1832, there was an expression – "avoir une peur bleue" (to be scared blue) in reference to the blue hue left on the corpses of victims. Our area – The Head-of-the-Lake, did not escape this dreaded disease. Some cholera victims are buried in the Hamilton Cemetery.

And on the Burlington side of the McQuesten High Level Bridge, near the Royal Botanical Gardens, is a field with a large boulder in it. The plaque on the boulder reads:

GUARD THIS RESTING PLACE  
OF THESE UNKNOWN  
SOLDIERS, IMMIGRANTS  
AND CITIZENS  
WAR OF 1812-1814  
SHIP FEVER 1847 – 1848  
CHOLERA 1852 – 1855

The germ causing cholera, *vibrio cholerae*, was identified in Italy in 1854 and later in India in 1883. (News didn't travel very fast then.) This germ theory became favoured over the miasma (bad air) theory as the cause of cholera. Cholera is still around today in areas where people do not, or cannot follow, safe food and water precautions and personal hygiene measures.

## So, what was a cholera belt?

A cholera belt was a wide waistband of flannel or knitted wool, often red in colour, about 6 feet long and 6 inches wide, worn around the stomach to protect the person from the cold and damp as it was thought that a cold abdomen would lead to cholera or other stomach ailments. ([nationalarchive.gov.uk](http://nationalarchive.gov.uk)). It was standard army issue. Even as late as WWI cholera belts were provided to the soldiers – thanks to Elizabeth Lundy and the thousands of women like her who supported the war effort.



Photo – war diary of the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion, CEF

## A Visit to Ottawa *Alan Harrington*

Recently, I took a weekend trip to Ottawa to view the sites.

It's -4 but I think it's -4 in Ottawa all year round (!)

Also thought it's cool that Burlington's own Joe Brant is right here in the middle of town.



The building on the left is the Chateau Laurier. The president of Grand Trunk Railway was rushing from England for the opening and took the FASTEST ship in 1912 but alas didn't make it. He chose the Titanic and drowned at sea.

The building on the right is the restored Grand Trunk Railway Station. The trains don't run there anymore so the station was repurposed. It is the temporary home of Canada's Senate.

Ottawa is a great place to visit. One commemoration that really impressed me was the group of statues to honour the suffragettes - far eastern end of the grounds in front of the Parliament Buildings.

Looks like they're having a good time.

So much history here.



Editor's note-

There he is – in the National Gallery, pointing us in the right direction for our meeting.

Photos – Alan Harrington

## Membership Report *Jane Ann Newson*

As we begin 2023, we wish you much happiness and good health in this new beginning.

Some facts and figures concerning our Membership:

### Total 2022 Membership –

- 83 which includes 13 NEW members
- 35 Members Renewed for 2023
- 48 Members not yet renewed for 2023

I look forward to seeing your smiling faces throughout 2023 starting with January 9<sup>th</sup>.

On behalf of our BHS Board of Directors, I thank you for your continued support and your enthusiasm for all things history – especially Burlington History!





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

**Membership - 2023**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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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