

A Tale of One City

Once upon a time, in a bygone century, there was a train station destined for extinction.

Citizens, who valued its historical significance, dismantled it for storing until they could find a home for it. They called themselves a Historical Society.

When they learned that many heritage buildings were designated for demolition they came to the City to express their views and plead for a democratic process.

Observers scoffed, "Why do you waste your time on dying dwellings that stand in the way of modern development?"

"It is the people's right to know what City and Developers discuss and decide," replied the Society. Other citizens joined the Society.

Then one day the Society received the gift of the oldest map of the City.

"What good fortune," cried the City. "We are from the government and we are here to help you. Let us house it for you!"

"We have been entrusted with its care," replied the Society. "But we need sponsors to fund its restoration so everyone will appreciate our historical treasure."

The Society pointed out a clock in the City, which was majestic though neglected. The clock faces were painted on the outside, dials were illuminated and the inside workings were started. The rediscovery of this forgotten treasure renewed the City's pride in its heritage.

The Media applauded the Society's efforts to symbolize the passing of time on the dawn of a new century, by winding the old clock.

And the Citizens asked, "Will the Society and City be partners in making history? Will the Developers value our heritage as they do their moneymaking schemes? Will we live happily ever after in our City? Will it be a far, far, better place?"

And the rest ... is history,

Buffy

**"We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future."
George Bernard Shaw**

Buffy's Corner

The official newsletter of the Brampton Historical Society
Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History

Volume 2, No. 1

February 2000

Buffy's Corners, the original name of Brampton, was the site of the respectable tavern owned by William Buffy, considered to be the father of Brampton. His pioneering spirit (pun intended) lives on in the name of our journal. History "buffs" are invited into The Corner to share their stories and comments.

In This Issue:

Rock 'Round Our Clock
BHS Unveils New Executive
Take a Stand
Buffy's Corner Heralds New Publisher

Buffy's Corner Staff

Editor..... Dorothy Willis
Assistant Editor..... Angie Duchesne
Production Manager..... Gerry Clarkson
Photographer..... Heather Gunter

Brampton Historical Society Executive

President..... Heather Gunter
Past President..... Paul Hunt
Vice President..... Michael Avis
Treasurer..... Gerry Clarkson
Recording Secretary..... Angie Duchesne
Corresponding Secretary..... Peter Murphy
Legal Counsel..... Colin Campbell

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Brampton Hysterical Society Joke-of-the-Month

Denise Mahoney gave her talk on "Cemetery Management". People were just dying to get there. Marianne Galliford gave a tour of the Churchville cemetery, located in the dead centre of Churchville.

Buffy's Corner, published 4 times per year, is free to BHS members (see back page for membership details)

All Aboard!!!!

New members: welcome to the BHS!

Dean Atkinson	Jeanette Atkinson
Dorothy Ayliffe	Barbara Fendley Taylor
Mike Filey	Cormack Flynn
Leslie Holwerda-Flynn	Francis Kurzreiter
Darwin Pappin	Diane Pappin
Robert Rutledge	Stephanie Rutledge
John Seaman	Sandra Seaman
Dorothy Shellard	Russ Tupper
Joyce Wright	

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Welcome to the Brampton Historical Society 2000. I am honoured to have been elected President following last year's incumbent, Michael Seaman. A big thank you, Michael, for leading us to the new millennium. We have come a long way and accomplished a great deal. We move on in a new century with a reassigned executive and new members joining present members. Also, we are now affiliated with Friends of Bovaird.

We look forward to an exciting line-up of programmes in 2000. We are fortunate to have arranged for Heart Lake Presbyterian Church, as our regular meeting place and the third Thursday of each month, as our meeting date. There will be walking tours in May and October but we will have a break from programmed events during the summer.

We are proud of our accomplishments to date. We are presently pursuing the preservation of The 1857 Map, which was donated to the BHS by Mr. Christopher Sexton. The BHS is the catalyst behind the map restoration and maintenance of the Dominion Building clock. Many people have been involved in the ongoing map and clock initiatives, and other projects. I would especially like to thank the Peel Heritage Complex staff for their support of our map initiative.

It is gratifying to see all the BHS members who give their time and effort to make our meetings successful, and make the citizens of Brampton aware of our rich historical background. We are like a wagon wheel; when all the spokes are working together, the wheel turns smoothly.

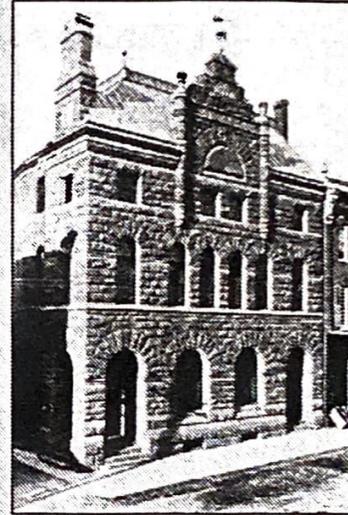
I look forward to an interesting year and encourage you all to attend meetings and volunteer on your committee of choice. Together, let's Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History!

Sincerely,

Heather Gunter

Rock 'Round Our Clock

Michael Avis - Vice Pres. & Chair, Architecture Committee



*The Dominion Building bc. (before the clock and tower)
Photo Courtesy of Peel Archives*

All Brampton should have been proud to see the Dominion Building Clock Cupola featured on the front page of the Guardian in their millennium day issue, January 1st 2000.

Through the efforts of the Brampton Historical Society plus assistance from Councillor Susan DiMarco, the Dominion Building [1889] with its freshly painted clock cupola and now operational clock, can, once again, assume its rightful position as a Brampton Heritage landmark, a focal point of downtown and a source of civic pride.

Mr. Hoa-Le, the new owner of the building that is home to O' Malley's pub must be congratulated: without his interest and cooperation, the project would not have been possible.

A new year and new millennium are upon us, and while we look to the future with optimism, it's comforting to glance up at an important piece of our historic past and appreciate the fact that after so many years, it is still very capable of majestically marking the passage of time.

[Being out of operation for so many years, it still requires some tender loving care and 'fine' tuning! Ed.]

BHS Committee Chairs

Advocacy Paul Hunt	Newsletter Dorothy Willis
Architecture Michael Avis	Outreach Open
Financial..... Gerry Clarkson	Programme ... Michael Seaman
Fundraising . Open	Publicity..... Angela Duchesne
Membership . Denyse Churchill	Research Dorothy Willis
Archivist Open	Legal Counsel Colin Campbell

BHS HAPPENINGS: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE



The Churchville General Store (built circa 1840) is now a private residence.

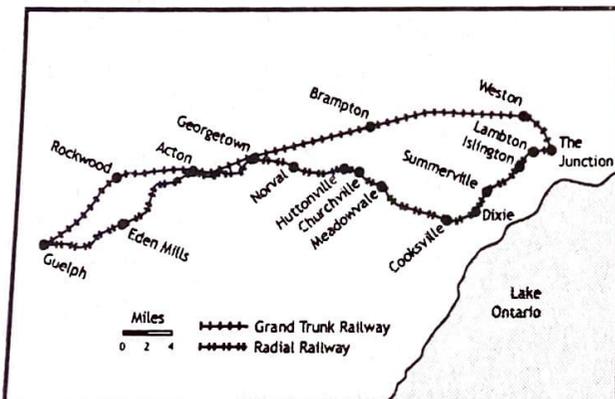
Photo courtesy of the Bob Crouch Collection

On Saturday, October 23rd - Our first ever walking tour was a stomping success! Marianne Galliford welcomed about fifty people at the Churchville Cemetery and a tour of Churchville by BHS member Bob Crouch followed. Churchville is Brampton's only designated Heritage Conservation District.

The sleepy village dates back to 1815 when United Empire Loyalist, Amaziah Church settled here and built a lumber and brushwood dam to generate power from the Credit River for mills. A highlight of the tour was the remains of the Radial Railway which carried passengers from Toronto to Guelph between 1917 and 1931, many of whom visited their cottages in Churchville and Eldorado Park, while others came to Saturday night dances at the pavilions.

Unsubstantiated reports say even Santa Claus chose the Radial over Rudolf! Refreshments, pumpkin raffles and a lively Fire Hall chat concluded a step-back-in-time morning.

Thanks, Bob, for a great day and your donation of early Churchville pictures for our BHS displays!



The Radial Railway connected some of Southern Ontario's towns

Map Courtesy of Trillium Graphics and Information Design

On Thursday November 4th - Well-known, popular historian Mike Filey of the Toronto Sun's "The Way We Were", entertained with slides, stories and active audience participation, highlighting early Toronto. Mike humanized History humorously on our first BHS Anniversary.



Filey's autographs were much in demand. Write on, Mike!!!

Photo courtesy of the Heather Gunter Collection

On Thursday November 25th - Barbara Fendley Taylor's presentation, "Flowertown Memories", a bouquet of artifacts and anecdotes, blossomed with rosy reminders of our flourishing greenhouse days.



A Great Arrangement! BHS President Heather Gunter with Barb Fendley Taylor.

Photo courtesy of the BHS Collection

Florist Barb, a fifth generation Fendley, is the last of the original Brampton floral entrepreneurs. Of interest were her 1889 business ledger recording pay and purchases that showed evidence of bartering, and her tale of buried greenhouse frames and glass. The remnants were unearthed during condo excavations but, since environmentalists halted the development project, the once-bountiful area remains vacant. Barb transported us from the early days of selling violets and tea from a wagon, to the present-day business of importing flowers to sell from Ontario and places around the world.

The BHS Annual General Meeting included the Elections for 2000. Although the entire membership of BHS was canvassed for volunteers to stand for election, recruits were scarce. Many of the new executive were either acclaimed or recycled. While past experience is beneficial, we encourage new people to join our ranks, especially on committees.

Affiliation with the Friends of Bovaird means expansion for our cause - the more, the merrier! History Buffs: Lots of fun work awaits at the BHS!



Friends of Bovaird President Michael Avis, BHS President Heather Gunter sign the agreement of affiliation. Photo courtesy of the BHS Archives.

Brampton Historical Society Executive - Year 2000

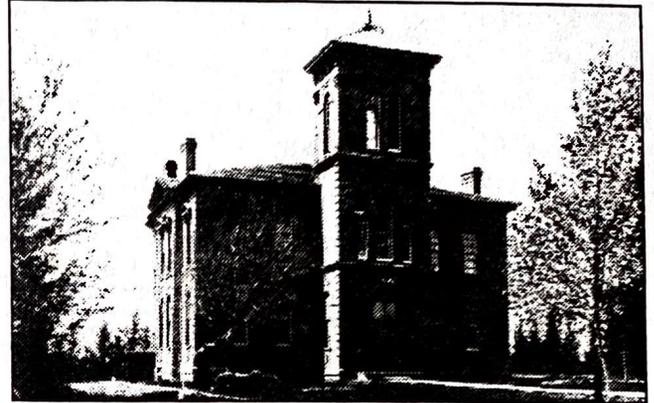
- President Heather Gunter
- Vice President Michael Avis
- Past President* Paul Hunt
- Treasurer Gerry Clarkson
- Recording Secretary Angie Duchesne
- Corresponding Secretary Peter Murphy
- Legal Counsel Colin Campbell

*Past President Paul Hunt remains and replaces Michael Seaman who has moved to Aurora."



The A-Team: BHS Executive (l to r) Paul Hunt, Michael Avis, Gerry Clarkson, Heather Gunter, and Peter Murphy. Photo Courtesy of the BHS Collection

WHERE IN THE WORLD? No one identified our mystery building - the first Brampton High School on Church Street East. It was destroyed by fire in 1917. When it was *In The World*, many of us were not, so were unable to identify the building. Sorry, no more tricky extinct edifices. Besides, with so many extinct buildings (although not by fire) out there, choosing one would be a difficult task.



On January 20, 2000 - Denise Mahoney, Heritage Co-ordinator from the City of Mississauga, presented "Managing Historic Cemeteries" at our new meeting site, Heart Lake Presbyterian Church. Denise stumbled quite literally into cemetery management when she became interested in disintegrating, "sugar-decayed" grave stones. Her concern led her to establish a computer-based research and record depository for decedents and families. Denise's entertaining, informative stories from ghosts to unusual facts were enjoyed by her audience, whose expressions were neither stony nor grave (pun intended). Many participated with their own cryptic tales, adding warmly to the informality of the evening.

Ontario is one of three provinces with a Cemetery Act. Scattering ashes on land or water is illegal, folks! And did you know there is a cemetery sitting between two Toronto Airport runways? Our past will not stay buried!

On February 10, 2000 - Ron Brown presented "Ghost Towns of Ontario." Our favorite, "Old Ontario Ghostbuster", rewarded about sixty fans, who battled snow and freezing rain, with new tales about old towns. Ghost Towns are the forlorn, former mining boom towns and military bases etc. that whisper of history, and exist even in "our own backyard". (Grahamsville, Campbell's Cross, Mount Charles, etc.) Story-swapping, book-buying, raffle draws and refreshments concluded a great evening.

On February 20, 2000 - Heritage Day at Peel Heritage Complex Museum. A good time was had by all.

On March 16, 2000 - Lorne Smith - "The Odyssey of the Berczy Settlers"

SCUTTLEBUT FROM THE CORNER

Joan Petri Rungay, Editor in Chief and Publisher of Century Home, writes:

Thank you for all the information you sent. It was great to read about my old town, the floods and the Avro Arrow cancellation. In the history and heritage field, there is always lots to keep one busy. Buffy's Corner is an excellent newsletter that was fun to read.

Richard MacFarlane, Author of *The JDM Newspaper Story, A Biography of J. Douglas MacFarlane* writes: Here are some anecdotes about Russ Cooper that I thought could be used in your Buffy's Corner.

Jim Burrell of the Peel Gazette who described Russell Cooper as "the Telegram's ace photographer", wrote: "When the SS Noronic perished in a flaming grave in Toronto Harbor in 1949, The Toronto Telegram devoted exactly one complete half-page of its front sheet to an all-explanatory view by Russell Cooper. The youngster then and there, as far as you were concerned, had arrived. Depthfully deplorable was the cause of the picture, but you could not repress a feeling of congratulations for Cooper. Another phase of Cooper's achievement-strewn pathway was the time he, alone and unarmed, persuaded a dangerous criminal, barricaded in a deserted house, to surrender! And you have to have courage for that!... The Brampton specialist in photography has broad vistas before him." *From the Peel Gazette, August 2, 1951*

Richard's father, Douglas MacFarlane, once called Russ, "Russell, with a lot of muscle" and the following anecdote shows an interesting side to their relationship.

Russell Cooper was one of the first Ontario citizens to have a car phone. One day in the 1950's, he was driving some pictures in from Brampton. At the Telegram, Harvey Currell was speaking to Cooper by phone when MacFarlane rushed out of his office to ask Currell where Cooper was. Currell said he was talking to him on the telephone. Before he could explain, JDM grabbed the receiver and roared, "Russ, this is Doug. Stop talking on the phone and get those pictures in here!" To which Cooper replied, "Gee, Doug, I'm doing seventy in rush hour traffic on the Lakeshore [Road] with one hand." It was one of the few times anyone had ever seen MacFarlane speechless.

[The JDM Newspaper Story will be released in May, 2000. Richard MacFarlane will be a presenter at BHS, early 2001. Ed.]

"BHS membership renewals are the latest trend. Be in fashion, get yours today!

Buffy

Ruby Engler, Medicine Hat, AB. writes:

Would any of your readers be able to help me? I am seeking information about my grandfather, William James Dickson and also about the job of steam engineer. Here is a copy of a photograph of men, possibly holding steam engineer certificates, taken by W.F. Naylor in 1898.



Slide-rule Squad: Do you recognise these engineers?

Photo Courtesy of the Ruby Engler Collection

My grandfather is probably the man on the left but who are the others? He lived in Brampton with his sister and her husband, Ann Jane and John Troughton around 1896. He was a steam engineer at a gravel pit and worked in Erin and also Exshaw, AB but was listed as a carpenter before that. How did a person become a steam engineer?

[Preliminary investigation shows a Troughton, listed in the Lynch Directory (1873-4) but the name was Stafford Troughton, a cabinet maker. Interestingly, Brampton's first mayor, John Haggert, who began the thriving Haggert Foundry was a steam engineer. He emigrated from Scotland, in 1839, to New York where he apprenticed to learn steam engineering.

Please send clues to Buffy's Corner. Genealogist/Historians: any ideas? Ed.]

Buffy's Engineering Factoids

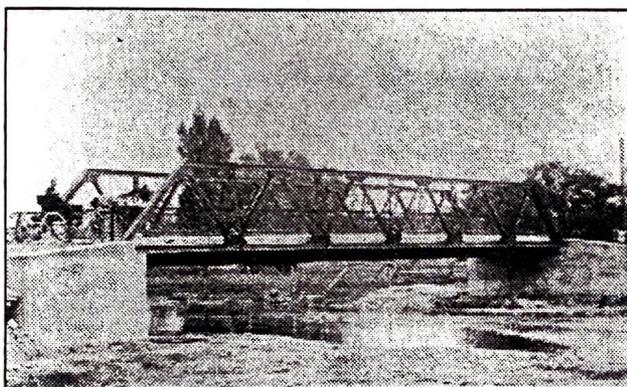
- ❑ Engineering is regulated by Provincial bodies that ensure that engineering activities serve and protect the public interest. In Ontario that group is known as Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO)
- ❑ Engineers are registered after acquiring practical work experience, usually following formal education.
- ❑ Ontario's Engineers are in the midst of voting on the creation of a member-advocacy body to serve the interests of the engineers. The proposed arrangement would be similar to that of the doctors, where the College of Physicians and Surgeons is the regulatory body and the Ontario Medical Association does the advocacy.

TAKE A STAND

By Robert Crouch, Friend of Churchville

The Churchville Village Residents' Association is embroiled in its most difficult fight to date. Notwithstanding the Official Plan designation of the northeast corner of Mississauga Road and Steeles Avenue as a prestigious office node, one half of the Brampton councillors voted in favour of a warehouse half the size of Skydome and a forty-four acre parking lot for 800 transport trucks and trailers between the historic villages of Huttonville and Churchville overlooking the Credit River. This proposal flies in the face of planning integrity. Villagers look forward to any support they might receive for protection of the valley.

[the case will be reviewed by the Ontario Municipal Board]



Churchville's steel truss bridge - it is not known whether the bridge was designed for a load of 800 transport trucks. Photo courtesy of the Bob Crouch Collection

CHURCHVILLE 1815-2000

by BUFFY

History repeats itself in Churchville, with its David and Goliath struggle for survival in a harsh and civilized(?) world. The 1815 settlement, with an excellent location near the Credit River, saw early growth and prosperity with its saw and grist mills. However, in 1855 the Grand Trunk Railroad decided to bypass it in favor of its rival, Brampton. When Brampton became a County Town in 1867, many residents relocated there. In 1875, fire destroyed much of Churchville. Anticipation for renewed commerce revived in 1917 with the Canadian Electric Line that was cancelled in 1931. The early 1900 floods and 1954 Hurricane Hazel were devastating. The 1959 Avro Arrow cancellation meant unemployment and relocation for half the residents. One comprehends the whims of natural disasters but not whimsical political decisions. Let us take a stand and show our support for Brampton's only Heritage District.

"Heritage is whatever we choose it to be."
Simon Jenkins

Peel Heritage Complex

By Sharon Larade

Heritage Week! On Heritage Day (Sunday February 20) we launched our new logo, our new donor wall and the Whitney Community gallery. Visitors had a sneak preview of the 1857 Plan of the Town of Brampton, a rare and unique map that has been causing a stir throughout the local historical community.

In the Art Gallery of Peel, a new exhibition "Art History 101", presents the work of 20th century Canadian artists in the context of national and international art movements. This show will give the viewer the historical background needed to interpret contemporary art and features a diverse array of work by prominent Canadian artists. The exhibition continues until March 19.

Art and History March Break Classes for kids are offered from March 13 - March 17. Making friends, creating art, learning about history and experiencing new things are great ways for kids to spend March Break. In Art History 101 students will discuss artists and their works from different time periods and create their own 21st century version using similar techniques and styles. Back in Time will allow students to step back to the 19th century and explore different crafts and pastimes.

Call (905) 791-4055 x2150 to register.



*Bovaird House gets a facelift, thanks to the tireless efforts of Ken Pepper, Michael Avis, and Gerry Clarkson
Photo courtesy of the Heather Gunter Collection*

I applaud the tireless efforts of the BHS; in the short time since BHS has been created, you have all accomplished so much on behalf of the city. I will miss your enthusiasm and support. Please join me on Wednesday, February 23rd from 2 to 4 p.m. for a reception at the Heritage Complex as I prepare for my new duties as Chief Archivist at the United Church of Canada and Victoria University Archives.

AROUND THE HORN

What's Happening?

Halton-Peel Branch

Ontario Genealogical Society

"Researching English Parish Registers Properly"

J. Brian Gilchrist

Chinguacousy Branch Library, Brampton

February 27th, 2 p.m.

Bovaird House

563 Bovaird Drive, Brampton



Heritage Open House

February 26th and 27th

Summerfest Open House

June 10th and 11th

Big Sisters "Garden Tour"

Sunday, June 11th, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Streetsville Historical Society

"Britannia School House" by Eva Ardiel

Old Streetsville Village Hall

Corner of Queen Street and Barry Street

Thursday April 6th, 8 p.m.

Esquesing Historical Society

"Judgement Night"

Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown

March 8th, 7:30 p.m.

An opportunity to share family treasures, antiques and curios with experienced auctioneer, Ward Brownridge.

Map-maker, Map-maker, Restore Me a Map ...

Map fever has hit the BHS and it promises to put us "on the map" as trustees of the earliest existing map of Brampton (1857). The cartographically-inclined continue their quest to coordinate the restoration of The Map.

We are presently researching and consulting with archivists and cartographers in order to be able to authentically restore and reproduce it. This one-of-a-kind project will require extensive funding. The Map initiative graphically portrays our BHS goal: Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History.

DOMINION CLOCK TIME LINE

- 1889 Dominion Building erected in Brampton
- c.1914 Clock tower addition makes it highest building in Brampton.
- c.1973 Clock bell removed to Gage Park in Brampton.
- 1985 Councillor Fred Kee resigns his clock-winding duties and Mac Jarvie replaces him.
- 1999 Michael Avis resurrects the idea of starting up the clock again; clockmeister Fred "Father Time" Kee advised that it only needed winding.

New Years Eve 1999 - Winding done but the clock stops after five days due to over-winding.

2000 After the stuck cables are freed up and re-lubricated, clockmeister Mac Jarvie marks the cable to indicate the appropriate winding amount.

2000 Clock story appears in the BHS newsletter documenting the tribulations of getting the clock running again, for future generations.

The Light at the End of the Tunnel

By Paul Hunt - Chair, Advocacy Committee

No, it's not a train coming the other way! The City of Brampton has passed a demolition bylaw, which should help in the preservation of our historic buildings.

The way it works is that a developer cannot apply for a demolition permit until he has approval of his development plan for the property.

Naturally, a bylaw is only as strong as the enforcement of it by the powers that be. The reason there are so many lawyers at work is because laws can be interpreted in many ways. Let's hope that our city fathers will make sure this bylaw will be applied properly and wisely for the preservation of our historical past. Apparently the first test of their mettle is "in the works" with the two properties on Main Street South.

We hope the memory of the demolition of the historic McKillop Home on Main Street North will serve as a reminder of Murphy's Law. Who wants or needs another depraved parking lot?

**Meetings every third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Heart Lake Presbyterian Church, Brampton**

BUFFY'S CORNER HERALDS NEW PUBLISHER

We announce with appreciation and pleasure that the first edition of Buffy's Corner, 2000, is printed free of charge for BHS by Peel Graphics, 10 John Street, Brampton. Maybe the best things in life ARE free!

How fitting that a historical newsletter is published in a historical building, near the historical "Four Corners"! Peel Graphics dwells in the original home of the Peel Gazette, the Liberal newspaper, started by Dr. R.J. Hiscox, Ed Furness, J.O. Adams and W.J. Foster in 1933. It was a serious rival to the Conservator, which was sold in 1953 to Thomson Publications, who later purchased the subscription list of the Peel Gazette and eliminated the newspaper competition in Brampton.

Ed Furness continued his printing business with his brother, George, at the John Street site. About ten years ago the business was sold to Sam Cook and his son Andrew, who renamed it Peel Graphics.

In their kind offer to publish Buffy's Corner, Sam and Andrew have made it possible, once again, for a newspaper to "hit the streets" from 10 John Street.

Thank you from BHS!

Peel Graphics Inc.

Andrew Cook

Tel: (905) 451 - 1880
Cell: (416) 460 - 5129
Fax: (905) 455 - 9099

General Printers Since 1933

10 John Street, Brampton, Ontario L6W 1Y9

BHS Revisited

Just in from Port Rowan, James Townsend returned from his new digs to visit his Friends at Bovaird.



*The gang's all here! Michael Avis, James Townsend, Michael Seaman, and BHS President Heather Gunter.
Photo courtesy of the BHS Collection*

Foreshadowing

Huttonville host with the most ...



Author and Historian Fred Kee leads a tour of Huttonville, coming up this autumn.

Photo courtesy of the Heather Gunter Collection

Events for 2000

March 16th

Lorne Smith

The Odyssey of the Berczy Settlers

April 20th

Richard Feltoe

Service of Upper Canada Militia 1813 - 1815

May 18th

George Duncan

Early 19th Century Architecture of Ontario

Saturday May 27th

Kathy Gastle

A Walking Tour of Norval Village

September 21st

Dr. Terry Angle

Prisons and Reformatories of Upper Canada

October 19th

Bob Post, George "Potsy" Burrows, Bill Burrell and Bill Bettridge

Brampton Remembers - Stories From Our Second World War Veterans

October TBA

Fred Kee

A Walking Tour of Huttonville Village

November 16th

Martin Yates

The Craft of Watchmaking

November 16th

BHS

Annual General Meeting

BHS HISTORY MAKERS

Al Ferri, former City Councillor, recently passed away and will be greatly missed. He was a "pick-your-own" pioneer in the area, having introduced this concept with his apples and berries. He lived and farmed in Huttonville since 1933.

Michael Seaman received a well-merited award from the City of Brampton on January 31, 2000. Once a year the Ontario Heritage Foundation presents the Community Recognition Award to a citizen in each Ontario community who has volunteered in "Heritage". Michael, first BHS President, is a passionate expert on Brampton's history, people and events. With his background in heritage endeavors, he provided the BHS with a solid foundation during its first year. He and his wife **Tricia (née Carlos)** have moved to Aurora so while we say congratulations to Michael on his award, we must also say good-bye. Before departing, Michael set up the BHS programmes for 2000, demonstrating his dedication to heritage, the history of Brampton and the BHS.

Friends of Bovaird became affiliates of the BHS when a working agreement was signed in December, 1999. We look forward to a mutually rewarding relationship!

Dorothy Duncan, Executive Director of Ontario Historical Society informed the BHS that we are now registered as a non-profit organisation by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and have an Ontario Corporation Number.

Sharon Larade (currently Collections Manager and Regional Archivist of the Peel Heritage Complex) will be Chief Archivist at the United Church of Canada and Victoria University Archives. Congratulations, Sharon, and thank you for always cheerfully pointing us in the right direction!

Tricia Seaman, Programme Chair and **Susan Barnes**, Outreach Chair have resigned. Their creative ideas helped launch our programmes and initiatives when we were forming as a group. Founding members, active in the early Liaison Committee, they both contributed their time and energy with determination and humour. We will miss them. Thank you both from BHS.

PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR NEWSLETTER

GIVE BUFFY'S CORNER TO A FRIEND TO READ!!

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! **Peter Murphy**, BHS Corresponding Secretary, is the new Town Crier for Brampton and will be involved in activities and events that require tradition and ceremony throughout our city.



*Peter Murphy putting in a good day's work!
Photo courtesy of the Peter Murphy Collection.*

Town Criers colourfully promote towns by drawing attention to special events and guests. Ontario has more Town Criers than the USA and holds competitions for them. Peter replaces BHS member **Bob Crawford**, Brampton's first Town Crier, who performed his duties for about four years. Bob says, "The new City Hall is a wonderful place to cry with the good acoustics." We hope to see Peter, a dashing historical figure, at City events there.

Bringing Up the Rear

By Angie Duchesne

What are we here for?

That is, what are we at the BHS here for?

It started off with a train station. Most of the original BHS members signed on with an interest in "doing something" to save it.

We got some new members along the way, and lost some of the old guard. And we put together a good program of speakers and events. And even the occasional success out of the blue: things like the rehabilitation of the Dominion Clock Tower.

Along the way, we had our occasional visits to City Hall to lobby, cajole or "keep an eye on the store".

The tearing down of the old Capitol Theatre was one of our first "causes". Our protests seemed to go unheeded, but it at least put the issue on the table and got some publicity for it. And it put the BHS "on The Map", as it were.

The plan at the time was to build a \$7-million theatre complex to replace the existing theatre. They even had consultants come out and we were treated to a "dog and pony show" on how the \$7-million dollar plan was the best thing since sliced bread.

Then later on, the City was pursuing a \$20-million dollar plan for the downtown renovation.

Hmmm, I wonder what was wrong with the \$7-million dollar plan; they seemed to like it during the dog and pony show.

Maybe it was missing the idea of re-routing the river back into downtown.

We at the BHS advocate restoration as much as anyone, and we applaud any effort by the City in this regard, but bringing back the floods is pushing it a little. I guess Brampton will be offering to host rowing events in the event that Toronto gets the Olympics. Maybe swimming, too. But I could never figure out how they run singles synchronised swimming events.

Anyway, what brings me to the point of this is something that happened at one of the BHS meetings that I missed (and I have been missing far too many due to work). There was a negative reaction to the idea that we had for a story on the issue of an 800-truck distribution facility near the City-designated Heritage District of Churchville.

The idea was to run a picture of a stately Churchville edifice juxtaposed with a huge, grimy, salt-infested transport truck. Others thought the idea was too "political" and we ended up deciding to not run it.

This made me think of an old 1996 Toronto Life article that I kept: it recalled the struggle to save the Old City Hall there. It turns out that it was saved from the wrecking ball because some people did decide to get political, to rock the boat a little.

If that hadn't happened, there would have been an even bigger greenhouse instead of a stately building.

All of that for a department store chain that didn't even survive the turn of the century.

Thanks for letting me share.

[Bringing Up the Rear is a feature that we run whenever we are in desperate need of filler material for the back page of the newsletter. Ed.]



Application for membership in the BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone Number : _____

Additional Household Members: _____

Signature: _____

I enclose a Household Membership fee of \$20 for a full year or \$10 for a half year

I wish to enclose an additional donation to the Society of \$ _____

Please mail cheque or money order to:
Brampton Historical Society
c/o Denyse Churchill, 85 Wellington St. East
Brampton, ON L6W 1Y6