

Oakville Historical  
Society  
since 1953



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# Historical Society News

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[www.oakvillehistory.org](http://www.oakvillehistory.org)

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## Bursary Awarded



Cadet Corps Commanding Officer Captain P. Ingalls, Society  
President George Chisholm, MWO Douglas Chang

## Speakers

### 21st November, Ray Peacock

Ray Peacock will be talking about "The Journeys of the Polar Explorers: Shackleton, Scott, Amundsen and Franklin." The endurance of all these men provides the background for Ray's presentation on the first successful crossing of the Arctic through the North West Passage.

Speakers Nights are held at St. John's Church, at the corner of Dunn and Randall Streets at 7:30 pm. Enter from Randall. All welcome, donations accepted and refreshments served.

## Ghosts Wanted

Leaders are need for our ever-popular Ghost Walks which take place on October evenings. If you can tell a story about Oakville's history while leading a group of children and adults please consider lending a hand to OHS. We will help you with a costume, persona and script.

**Correction:** June 2019 page 3. In our photo of Evelyn Bullied the highchair was incorrectly identified as belonging to the Duncan family. It was given to Ev by the James Wesley Hill family.



Oakville Historical Society  
since 1953

**HISTORICAL TOURS**

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## Ghost Walks

16th - 30th October 2019  
OHS Offices, 110 King St.  
Book and pay on line at  
[www.oakvillehistory.org](http://www.oakvillehistory.org)

## Doors Open Oakville

10 am - 4 pm, 28th September 2019  
OHS Offices, Thomas House, Munn's  
United Church and more.  
<https://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/>

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# A note from the Society *President*

By George Chisholm

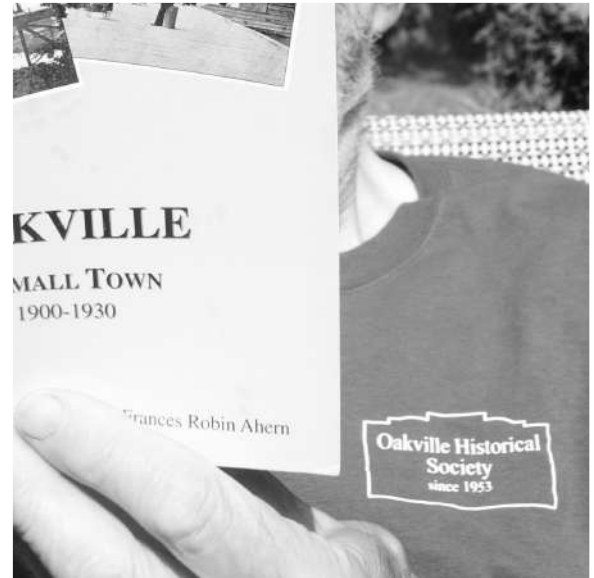
This past summer has been as busy as usual for your Society. We're very fortunate in that there's a great number of new volunteers joining us and many are young ones. Carol Gall recruited and trained high school students to help out with children's activities at the Thomas House—a new venture. Josh Floyd, a student at Sheridan College, found our YouTube walk on Navy Street and came in to say that he would like to help us make the soundtrack better. He's been hard at work on it over the past couple of months. Ian Greer, a student at McGill University has been helping our two summer students with digitizing the collection. To help make our volunteers more recognizable and to advertise the Society, we're providing our volunteers with Society T shirts.

This summer we've replaced 4 of the 7 verandah posts at the Thomas House—a job we started over a year ago. We've also done some work on the fountain so that the pump doesn't plug quite so easily. The office washroom floor has also been tiled which makes it much easier to clean and we're getting some quotations on refinishing some of the pine floors.

Our plaque business is booming. In 2018 we installed or delivered 32 plaques. So far this year we're up to 13 with another 19 in the works. That includes 3 that aren't in Oakville. Visitors see our plaque either on a building or online, can't get one where they live and ask us to do one for them.

A few weeks ago Mark Verlinden presented us with some good news and bad news. The bad news was that Past Perfect, the company that hosts our online collections, was raising our rates. The good news was the reason—we now have over 10,000 files available through our website.

Prep work has started on the Coach House. As I write, an archaeological survey is going on. It will be interesting to see what they find.



OHS has provided Volunteers T shirts to better identify to the public, the historically knowledgeable.

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## *OHS Bursary*

By Captain P. Ingalls, Commanding Officer,  
1188 Lorne Scots Oakville Army Cadet Corps

The Oakville Historical Society (OHS) Board was very pleased and proud to award its very first bursary (\$500) to a deserving member of the Lorne Scots Oakville Army Cadet Corps. This year's award was presented to Douglas Chang in honour of former Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett, a former cadet. Each year a different volunteer will be honoured.

Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps MWO Douglas Chang joined the 1188 Lorne Scots Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps in 2013. He excelled in the cadet program, and participated in the band, the drill team, and the marksmanship team. He has been recognized with a number of cadet awards, including Most Outstanding Bandsman (2016 and 2017); a Bronze Medal (2017) and a Gold Medal (2019) at Zone Championship competitions as a member of the unit marksmanship team; the Constable Tristan Kettles Memorial Award for Excellence in Leadership in 2018; and, in 2019, the Royal Canadian Legion Medal of Excellence. MWO Chang has also participated in many community activities, such as the Oakville and Bronte Remembrance Day Parades, the Oakville and Burlington Santa Claus parades, Lions Club events, and much more. MWO Chang is also a member of the Lorne Scots Regimental Pipes and Drums, travelling in 2018 with the P&D to England for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fusiliers, during which he performed with the band for many important public figures, including the Lord Mayor of London and His Royal Highness, Prince Edward, the Duke of Kent.

MWO Chang credits the cadet program with helping him develop self-confidence, self-discipline, time management and leadership, as well as with the opportunity to make lifelong friends.

MWO Chang finished his cadet career as a cadet Company Sergeant Major in the unit. In September, he will be commencing his studies in nanotechnology engineering at the University of Waterloo. We wish him all the best in the future.

## *Colborne Street 1900* *Lakeshore Road 2019*



In the above c1900 photo of Colborne Street (now Lakeshore Road) looking east, we can identify No. 145 on the left by the three dormer windows. No. 136 is on the far right. Colborne was paved the first time in 1915. Lakeshore, bottom, in 2019 is not paved but will be in the near future.



## 2019 Spirit Award



The Town of Oakville's 2019 winner of the Community Spirit, Heritage and History Award, sponsored by Genworth Financial Canada, was awarded to Marianne Hawthorne (above). With her great organizational skills and engaging personality, Marianne has headed up the OHS Events Committee for the past 25 years. Whether the Oakville Historical Society Mayor's Picnic, the annual potluck dinner for the AGM, yard sale or Christmas party, Marianne and her team spring into action. Planning the annual Mayor's Picnic takes place over the course of a year and includes musical performances, involvement from Police and Fire departments, Scottish Country Dancers and other entertainers. Marianne and her crew of two, Donna Starkey and Carroll Castle, perform small miracles every year. The Annual Yard Sale Fundraiser is another major undertaking. Marianne is an enthusiastic, dedicated and long-time supporter of heritage in Oakville, and is a long-time member of the Oakville Historical Society and former President of the Friends of the Society. Her tireless efforts, enthusiasm and energy is incredible!

## Summer Students



Josh Floyd, left, is heading into his last year of a Bachelor Degree of Film and Television at Sheridan College. With his education in audio production, he is using his knowledge to improve the OHS Historic Walk of Navy Street. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXK-PIY21u4&t=87s>)

Ian Greer, right, is studying at McGill University, double majoring in political science and urban planning. At OHS he is scanning historical documents into the digital archive.

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# A note from BHS *President*

By Tom Appleton

It has been a busy summer season for the Bronte Historical Society (BHS) and Sovereign House. With a very wet spring and early summer weather, a precursor for ideal growing conditions, the Bronte Horticultural Society has developed a beautiful floral display on the grounds of Sovereign House. The plants and flowers are in the 19th-century style including many period varieties. So, thanks go to the Bronte Horticultural Society for their wonderful and creative contribution to Sovereign House.

Artist-in-residence Carol Sanders organized the Art of the Bluffs show with popular exhibits by Bronte artists throughout the summer season, with many seeing respectable art sales as a result. These shows certainly pull in the foot traffic throughout the season.

Our student volunteer, Gillian Lockhart, has been very successful in her hosting duties with BHS while earning volunteerism credits towards her degree. Thank you, Gillian, for demonstrating the skills and flair to bring a fresh outlook to our Sovereign House activities this summer. We wish success as you graduate and move forward in your career.

In late June the family of Walter Allan held a well-attended celebration of Walter's life at Sovereign House. The very warm and inviting event was organized by Walter's family, making good use of the facility. With a capacity for up to 45 people, Sovereign House is perfectly suited to the needs of small groups seeking a quiet and relaxed atmosphere in a heritage environment. Please contact John Leard to share your needs for this year and next.

The Bronte Historical Society was fortunate to receive a grant from Canada Summer Jobs that allowed us to hire a student for the summer. The purpose of the grant is to modernize the BHS website and improve the overall user experience. The Government of Canada created Canada Summer Jobs, which is an initiative of the Youth Employment Strategy, to help young people between the ages of 15 and 30, particularly those facing barriers to employment, gain the skills, work experience and abilities they need to transition successfully into the labour market.

Disha Yadev, a local Bronte resident, is working towards a degree in design integration at Sheridan College. Her intention is to work in healthcare design after she graduates and create online experiences for people with diverse needs. She wanted to work within the community by taking the lead on the BHS website revitalization project. In addition to redesigning the BHS website, As a User Experience (UX) Designer, Disha focuses on enhancing user interaction with different technologies and interfaces across various platforms. Disha also hosted visitors to the Sovereign House, and she made the most of that experience to learn from visitors and members what they would like to see on our website. Our website will benefit from her expertise and experience. We expect to launch the new website sometime this fall.

One of the challenges we gave to Disha was to design an attractive and user-friendly website that our volunteers could easily maintain as she moves on in her education and career. Are you interested in learning more about online and social media marketing and communications?



Volunteer Gillian Lockhart

There are many opportunities for BHS members and for local students looking to satisfy their volunteer hour requirements for graduation. You can expand your web and social media skills, or just learn something new. Contact the BHS to learn more about how you can get involved.

Sovereign House is participating in Doors Open Ontario on Saturday, 28th September. Residents and visitors are invited to discover first-hand Ontario's hidden heritage treasures. Our doors will be open from 10 am to 4 pm.

Finally, our traditional celebration of Trafalgar Day is coming up in late October. Lord Nelson is well known in Bronte as the village was created in 1834 when the Battle of Trafalgar emerged as a particularly defining period in the history of the ascendancy of the British Empire. Join us on 21st October as we close the season with a salute to Lord Nelson.

## *Art Show*

by Mary Jean Mailloux

In 2015 I participated with two other artists in an art show and sale at Sovereign House. This beautiful location lent itself perfectly to the work of the three painters. For a small rental fee and 15% of our sales, the gallery space was ours for two weeks. We were left to decide how we wanted to use the space to its best advantage. All the material necessary for hanging our framed and ready-to-display paintings was provided. Manning the gallery on the three afternoons was a pleasure, giving us a chance to meet the public and to promote our work. Moreover, it was an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with the Bronte Historical Society, which I knew very little about.

Two years later I shared the Gallery with another artist. On both occasions we were permitted to hold a Gallery opening where visitors were treated to refreshments. Sharing the space meant sharing the responsibilities making it easier to come and go. Over the years since my first exposition at Sovereign House, besides promoting my own art, I've had the pleasure of participating in group shows, where I met and networked with other artists.



Charming Sovereign House Gallery, at left

# Memorial Plaque

By George Chisholm

Late in 2018, Mr. Neil Burrell, born and raised in Oakville, dropped off three Memorial Plaques which list all the Oakville Basket Company employees who served during the Second War. The plaques were in very poor shape having been stored in his father's dirt-floor garage for several years. The wood plaques, made by +100-year-old London, Ont. company Strath-Craft, were made of red oak with lead-alloy plates nailed on and there was a box of blank plates included. Many of the nails had failed, the wood had separated at the glue joints, the bottom edges were rotted, and they had fairly large mounting holes drilled in them. I hoped I would be able to shorten the plaques, re-glue them, reproduce the decorative edge and refinish them. I was unable to find a suitable cutter so created new plaques from quarter-sawn red oak. I used a Roman Ogee cutter on the edges, stained with two coats of Minwax Puritan Pine stain and finished with three coats of Minwax Wipe On Poly.

I cleaned up the plates with green cleaner and gave them a coat of Minwax Antique Oil. There were nail holes for 75 name plates but we now have only 71 plates. In the top corners of the main plaque there were 2 decorative pieces of which only one exists so I left it off. The plates were refastened with 1/2" x #14 brass escutcheon pins. All pins were started with drilled holes. Two of the plates are silver colour to indicate that the man was killed—there are no women listed. One other death was missed.

I have been in contact with Strath-Craft to see if they have records going back that far and they have nothing older than 10 years.

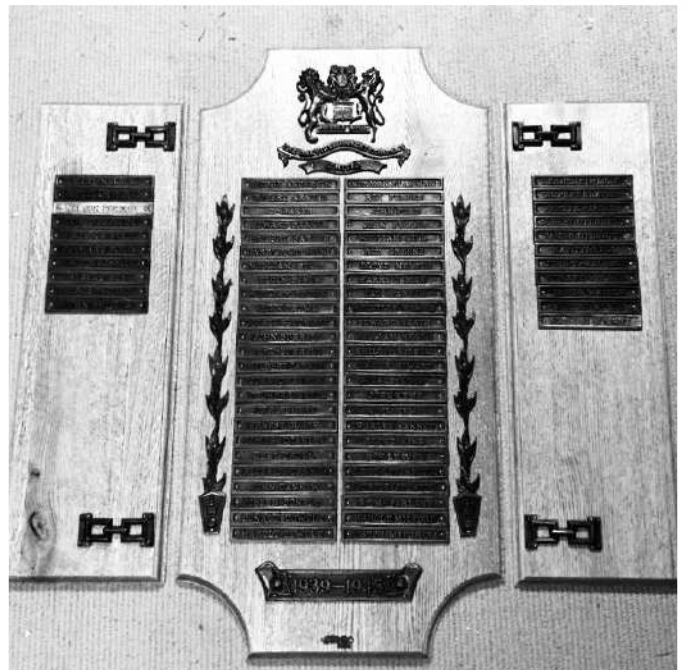
It was decided to create a binder with a page for each name so that information on each man could be recorded and information posted on the Society Facebook page and website. We hope that the missing four names will turn up. There may be more. We'll update the pages as information comes in and have replacement plates made.

These plaques are a very important piece of Oakville history and are now hanging at the office. The Basket Factory was the largest employer in Town at the time.

If you can help us with missing names, information and/or photos, please email us at [information@oakvillehistory.org](mailto:information@oakvillehistory.org).



Plaques when found



Plaques restored



# Membership

By Andrea Stewart

We currently have 199 paid members and 49 members who have not yet renewed. If you think you may have forgotten to renew, please call one of us in memberships: Andrea Stewart, Marie Descent or Susan Bowen.

We are pleased to welcome eight new members since our June newsletter:

Dr. Brad Campbell, Mrs. Emily Cates,  
 Ms. Alexandra Flye, Ms. Joanne Gillespie,  
 Ms. Gillian Anne Hill, Mrs. Shirley Harrison,  
 Mrs. Michelle White and Mr. Derek Macrae

Thank you for your support.



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# Doors Open

By Andrea Stewart

Oakville Doors Open will take place Saturday, 28th September, 10 am to 4 pm.

There are nine Oakville sites listed on the Doors Open Halton website including The Thomas House and our offices at The Cottages. If you would like to volunteer to help out at either of these sites, please contact Janet Godber or Andrea Stewart at the office.

There is one new site this year, Munn's United Church which is celebrating the 175th anniversary of the building of the original Munn's Methodist Church. The land for the church was donated by Daniel Munn, a loyalist settler from Connecticut who owned a farm at Sixth Line and Dundas, Munn's Corners.

We hope you will enjoy visiting this and the other sites which you will find listed on the Doors Open Ontario website under Doors Open Halton.



Munn's United Church

# OHS on Social Media

By Steve Bysouth

The OHS has had a social media presence since about 2014 but at the annual general meeting in March 2019 our chair, George, said it was slow progress gaining an increased social media following. Hearing that, I thought to myself, perhaps I can help with that and took on a personal challenge to raise the OHS following, specifically on Facebook. In March 2019 the Facebook (FB) site @OakvilleHistoricalSociety had a following of about 700 people and the OHS Instagram site had less than 10 followers.

I read once, that you are never really serious about achieving a goal unless you state it out loud and publicly. So I announced in an email to the OHS membership that I was setting a target of getting the FB site following numbers up to 1,000 by end of 2019. Having gone from 0-700 in about 2 years, I had no idea if that was realistic, but it seemed like a good stretch goal to aim for.

So I started looking through the on-line archives on the OHS webpage for items I thought might be of interest to people. Today the on-line OHS archives have about 10,000 items in them so there is a lot to choose from. I started posting simple items (picture and a description) almost daily in the beginning. It was easy enough to copy and paste the items from the archive to Facebook and it only took a few minutes in most cases.

I noticed almost right away that people “liked” what was being posted and often commented. A few people “shared” the posts with other Facebook sites who had many more followers than the OHS Facebook site. Word was beginning to spread that the OHS Facebook site was posting interesting stuff more frequently.

As time has gone on many of the Facebook posts have evolved, some have become more detailed with added research materials, some have been announcements of upcoming events (Mayors

Picnic, Yard Sale, Speakers nights etc), some have asked the OHS FB followers for information to help us with projects we might be working on and some have been able to show ‘that was then and this is now’ pictures.

It has only been about 6 months since I started the regular Facebook postings and in that time I have learned a great deal about Oakville’s past and about the OHS Facebook community of over 1,200 followers that we have today.

I think of the Facebook posts as learning about

Oakville’s past in

“bite-sized chunks.”

It only takes a

minute or two to

read and you might

learn something

interesting or it might

bring back a memory

for some of you. My

favourite part of

posting on Facebook

is the positive

comments and

feedback the posts

generate, especially

posts that trigger

fond memories for

people.

Jeff Moore has been

doing the same thing

on Instagram

(#oldoakville) during the same timeframe and

today has over 470 followers (he started at

zero). We also have a Ghost Walk Facebook

page @oakvilleghostwalk, but that is much

smaller, as expected, as it is mainly used to

help promote the annual Ghost Walk October

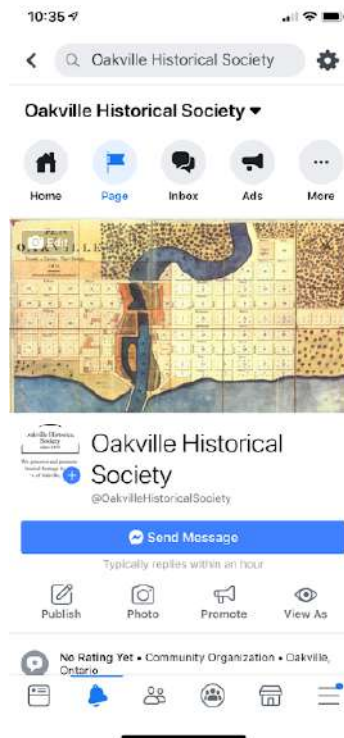
event.

We will continue to use and increase our social

media presence over time and who knows,

maybe the OHS sites will be the most followed

in Oakville one day.



# Thomas House

By Mary Davidson

The Thomas House visitors this year to the 11th August totalled 3,370, despite there being very changeable weather patterns during the summer. Our intrepid interpreters have noted the days as “cloudy, humid, windy” all the way through to “hot, sunny, breezy” and even “a few rainstorms” turning our gardens and paths into a little lake! However, they all assure me that they love being there and our visitors make for an interesting afternoon. If you have not already volunteered, I urge you to give it a try.

We were very fortunate this year to have summer students volunteering on the porch in an effort to encourage the younger visitors at making various crafts aimed at showing them how our pioneers lived and how children amused themselves—that is when they were not out in the fields helping with crops and animals and gathering vegetables from gardens. These crafts were devised under the guidance of Carol Gall, our new Project Manager for Children’s Activities. Thank you to Carol and all of our students for their time and dedication.



Daniel Dickson, above left, began volunteering at OHS in 2015 with Ghost Walks and Mayors Picnic and this year spent hours on the Thomas House porch showing young visitors how to have fun using simple materials. Joining him is Matthew Dickson at right, who enjoys using his art skills.



Mark Verlinden, at left, makes sure the new post at the Thomas House is vertical.

Lois Munz, right, greets children from the Erchless Museum Camp on the 16th of July. As a volunteer interpreter, Lois looked at the comparison/difference they see between yesterday and their homes today.



# The *way* things were...



## Do you know?

What this structure is?

Where it is located?

*Look for the answer in our next issue!*



From June 2019 The *way* things were...

Ferrah's Bakery founded by Scottish immigrants in 1854 was at 174 Lakeshore Rd. E. (photo) from 1868-1934. The display case at left is now in our OHS offices.

### Archive Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 to 4:30 pm  
Third Sunday of the month 12:30 to 4:00 pm

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