

Recipient of the 2013 Heritage Person of the Year:

Les Armstrong

Les' community service to Burlington covers many decades and diverse activities. But Les was perhaps best known as a leader and champion of Burlington's heritage. As a longstanding executive member of the Burlington Historical Society, Les has helped to maintain interest and membership of the Society and was the publisher of the monthly Gazette newsletter. Other duties included managing the Society's website and responding to all incoming inquiries. In 2011, Les became instrumental in organizing The Friends of Freeman Station and was the organization's first president. He remained on the board until he passed away in 2014. Les played a key role in helping to save Freeman Station and was not afraid to champion Burlington's heritage. Burlington truly is a better place because of Les and his efforts to preserve Burlington's history for today and tomorrow.

Nominees for the 2013 Community Service Award:

John Ives

John has been the organizer behind the Pearson Junior Badminton Club for 25 years now. The Club is a non-profit organization, which engages youth aged 8 to 18 and offers Burlington families a lower cost alternative sport. John is highly regarded as a great coach who mentors youth about topics ranging from badminton, family life and bullying. He supports the Club by scheduling gym hours, designing drills for the kids, purchasing prizes and awards for tournaments, and sometimes even covering costs of enrolment for children whose parents just simply can't afford the membership. John leads by example and takes great interest in the successes and failures of these children both on and off the court. As a result of John's influence, many young boys and girls from the Club have become national level badminton players.

Tomy Bewick

Tomy Bewick is a hard-working family man who breathes poetry and performs death-defying acts of vulnerability. Having competed as a slam poet since 2005 and featured throughout Canada and the USA (and placed amongst the best in his city and country), Tomy is constantly seeking to grow as a poet, performer and person. Tomy promotes self-esteem and awareness in his work and is constantly striving for a better world for his children and yours. He is the founder, host and organizer of the Burlington Slam Project; a competition where writing meets performance and the audience judges its winner. Tomy hopes to engage local writers—whether they are young or young at heart—and encourages performance and artistic expression.

Friday Night Community Team

The Friday Night Community is a team of at least 30 amazing volunteers who organize and prepare Friday night community dinners at Wellington Square United Church. Each week, over 200 guests come to share friendship, prayer and support while enjoying a nutritious dinner at Wellington Square United Church. The team, which is led by volunteer team leader Lisa Lunski, makes incredible contributions to the community. During holidays, the team embraces all community members and provides open arms to those who are socially isolated by poverty and/or disability. The Friday Night Community provides healthy meals, festive decorations, and even stockings at Christmas so that these individuals have something to give to their children and/or grandchildren. The Friday Night Community Team truly does welcome all, operating solely on donations from private citizens, the faith community, Refresh Foods and Partnership West.

Les Armstrong

Les' community service to Burlington covers many decades and diverse activities. Active in Aldershot Village, Les was a member of the Plains Road Vision Committee who played an instrumental role in helping to redevelop the Plains Road Corridor and make it more people-friendly. Les also played a strong role as a volunteer on the Waterfront Committee. He thought that the Lakeshore's waterfront should be available to all residents for their enjoyment. But Les was perhaps best known as a leader and champion of Burlington's heritage. As a longstanding executive member of the Burlington Historical Society, Les has helped to maintain interest and membership of the Society and was the publisher of the monthly Gazette newsletter. Other duties included managing the Society's website and responding to all incoming inquiries. In 2011, Les became instrumental in organizing The Friends of Freeman Station and was the organization's first president. He remained on the board until he passed away in 2014. Les played a key role in helping to save Freeman Station and was not afraid to champion Burlington's heritage. Burlington truly is a better place because of Les and his efforts to preserve Burlington's history for today and tomorrow.

Gordon Cameron

Gordon has been a volunteer member of Burlington Student Theatre for over 30 years since graduating as a student. He has also been the president of the Student Theatre Active Representatives Board for the past 10 years. The Burlington Student Theatre is a community group that promotes confidence, skill building, leadership and social conscience through performing arts training. With open arms, Gordon has taken on all jobs including facilitating volunteer activities for youth and selling Christmas trees with the Optimist Club each December. Gordon appreciates every volunteer that touches the

Burlington Student Theatre and truly understands the meaning of selfless giving to benefit others. Gordon demonstrates consistency, altruism and ethics in all that he does.

Trent Schwartz

Trent Schwartz, also known as Mr. Burlington, sparked the imagination of an entire city when he and his family decided that they would embark on 100 local adventures in 2013. Trent tirelessly promoted Burlington by helping to get the word out to everyone about all the fantastic events and activities in our city, including: Bronte Creek Provincial Park to promote the Maple Syrup Festival, Homestead Christmas, ghost walks, summer programs and winter recreation activities. Trent has been a Burlington ambassador who continues to encourage and inspire locals and tourists alike to experience the great things that our city has to offer while promoting Burlington's sense of community.

Beth Hudson

Beth Hudson is a selfless and remarkable woman whose passion and dedication to single moms in the Halton community has led to the development of INCITE, a single moms support group organization. As mentor, creator, advocate and the Executive Director, Beth provides a safe space each week for women to share their stories and laugh, learn new life skills and explore personal development work. INCITE provides a refuge for single moms to find hope, strength and love in the adversities of life. Beth operates from a place of deep compassion and empathy for these women, strengthening the Burlington community as a whole.

[Nominees for the 2013 Environmental Award:](#)

Ken Woodruff

Ken takes an active and positive role in supporting and championing environmental initiatives in Burlington. As Board President of BurlingtonGreen from 2008 to 2013, Ken led the Board in new strategic directions and advanced the association's advocacy work by establishing key partnerships within the community. Ken worked hard to support and grown BurlingtonGreen's many initiatives within the city including the Eco Film Festival, Earth Day Clean Up-Green-Up, community gardens, the award-winning youth network and more. During this time, Ken also represented BurlingtonGreen as an active member of various volunteer coalition groups, including: Stop the Escarpment Highway, Rural Burlington Greenbelt Association and the Trumpeter Swan Coalition. Ken makes environmental advocacy a top priority and consistently acts with integrity, tenacity and urgency.

Paul Toffoletti

Paul is a dedicated environmental protection advocate who has been a volunteer with the Bruce Trail Conservancy since 1996 and member of the Burlington Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) since 2008. As a board member of the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club, Paul has spent a significant amount of time monitoring this ecologically significant parcel of land to ensure that Burlington's natural heritage features continue to be protected. As vice-chair of the SDC, Paul helped raise the committee's profile through the organization of various speaker series in Burlington on issues including climate change, local food and environmentally friendly gardening. He was also instrumental in leading the review of development applications and routinely delegated to council on environmental matters. Paul has played an active role on the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan Stakeholders Review Committee and continues to serve on the Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark Management Committee. Other environmental initiatives that Paul has supported include the Earth Day Hamilton-Burlington Eco Festival and various nature walk events. Paul's dedication and enthusiasm for the environment has raised awareness and inspired others in Burlington to reduce their carbon footprint.

[Nominees for the 2013 Arts Person of the Year:](#)

Selina Jane Eckersall

Selina is the heart and soul behind *No Vacancy*, a community-based arts initiative committed to hosting contemporary art installations with interesting and thought-provoking themes in non-typical and vacant spaces throughout the City of Burlington. As the founder and creative director of No Vacancy, Selina is a self-starter who curates both small and large multi-artist events annually featuring the work of local area artists throughout the year. Dream State, for example, was a highly successful multi-artist installation event that gave Burlington's local art scene a big boost. It featured the work of ten artists and raised both money and awareness for The Halton Women's Centre. On September 19, 2014, Selina will transform beautiful Village Square into "Cirque at Village Square." Selina is an entrepreneurial collaborator whose goal is to support and encourage a thriving contemporary art scene that extends beyond the gallery walls and into the hearts and minds of the city's residents, artists, and businesses.

Christopher Giroux

Christopher Giroux is a filmmaker who promotes Burlington at local, national and international levels. As the founder of Red and White Productions, Christopher has worked on a variety of creative projects including the film *Antisocial* as an Associate Producer, which saw its world premiere at the Fantasia International Film Festival in Montreal. He has also been the camera operator for Prime Minister Stephen Harper,

The United Nations, Tom Hanks, Ben Affleck, John Legend and Oprah Winfrey, to name a few. In addition, Christopher is the cofounder of the Tottering Biped Film Festival, a Burlington festival that aims to support local and Canadian work by providing emerging artists with the opportunity to showcase their short films. With a passion to help the next generation of filmmakers and artists, Christopher has inspired countless Burlington youth while providing them with hands-on filmmaking opportunities through internships and employment.

Tomy Bewick

Tomy Bewick is a hard-working family man who breathes poetry and performs death-defying acts of vulnerability. Having competed as a slam poet since 2005 and featured throughout Canada and the USA (and placed amongst the best in his city and country), Tomy is constantly seeking to grow as a poet, performer and person. Tomy promotes self-esteem and awareness in his work and is constantly striving for a better world for his children and yours. He is the founder, host and organizer of the Burlington Slam Project; a competition where writing meets performance and the audience judges its winner. Tomy hopes to engage local writers—whether they are young or young at heart—and encourages performance and artistic expression.

Jonathon Filipovic

Jonathan is a Burlington writer, producer and sound editor of film. He is also an English literature professor at Sheridan College in Oakville. In 2013, Jonathan worked on three short films: *Promise*, *Redemption* and *Sisterz*. These films were all shot in and around Burlington; independently financed; and have been featured and/or awarded in numerous festivals including the Silver Wave, Indie Spirit and Tottering Biped film festivals. Jonathon has inspired generations of aspiring filmmakers and continues to showcase new and emerging Burlington artists in his productions while providing them with job opportunities.

[Nominees for the 2013 Junior Citizen of the Year:](#)

Chad Buisman

Chad has been volunteering with the Friday Night Community Dinner at Wellington Square United Church since its inception. Chad helps to feed over 200 men, women and children each and every week with varying social, physical, social and emotional needs by supporting the dinners with set-up, food preparation and clean-up. Chad also organizes crafts for young children and shares his gift of music by playing musical instruments for the enjoyment of guests. Chad is also a volunteer with the church's weekly children's ministry program, Ryerson Camp and the City Kidz Foundation in

Hamilton. Chad is a young role model who has spent more than 1000 hours serving the Burlington community with a genuine humility that is beyond his years.

Connor Withers

Connor Withers is an 8-year old Burlington boy who builds birdhouses using reclaimed wood with his dad Tim Withers to raise funds for the Joseph Brant Hospital Foundation. In June 2013, Connor made his first donation of \$200 to the hospital. The Birdhouse Foundation was established in October 2013 and with the help of Robert Bateman High School, local businesses, and a Facebook page, Connor's fundraising initiative has soared. Connor has made birdhouses for iconic brands including Coca Cola, Walk Off the Earth and the Toronto Maple Leafs and has raised \$12,500 to date, with a goal of \$25,000. When asked why Connor decided to build birdhouses and donate proceeds to the Foundation, Connor will tell you that it's because he was born here, it's the right thing to do and that it makes him feel good.

Curtis Kelly

Curtis is a young leader who has accumulated over 1000 hours of community service over the course of his high school journey. Curtis' volunteer commitments have included: children's and coaching programs at the YMCA, Special Olympics Halton, Joseph Brant Hospital, St. Paul the Apostle Church, and the City of Burlington's swim program. Curtis is a student of Robert Bateman High School's distinguished International Baccalaureate programme and has maintained an average of 95% from Grade 10 to Grade 12. Most recently, Curtis has been awarded the 2014 Student of Excellence Award at his school where he is also a member of its student council executive team, REACH team, Rotary leadership club, French and sports clubs. Curtis is regarded as a very well-rounded young man who sets very high standards for himself and helps promote the fundamental values of tolerance, generosity and citizenship.

Connor Fraser

Connor Fraser is a charming young man who has helped hundreds of people by volunteering with the Compassion Society of Halton. Connor has assisted with sorting clothing, assisting clients with finding items, setting up, cleaning, distributing food, stocking shelves and even building a bookshelf for the charity. With more than 250 community service hours to date, organizations that have benefitted from Connor's giving include: BurlingtonGreen, Aldershot High School Food Drive, East Plains Church Christmas Dinner, Burlington Christian Academy, Chilly Half Marathon and the Junior League. Connor has been able to attain an overall average of 94% in school and still finds time to make Burlington a better place by helping the less fortunate and inspiring others to do the same.

Justin McNerney

Justin is a grade eleven student and athlete at Notre Dame High School whose leadership touches many people in the North Burlington area. Justin is best known for the role he plays as a volunteer with the North BurLINKton community group. Justin has supported community development since the group's inception by helping to organize March Break Chill Zone programming, the North BurLINKton Dinner Night Out event and entertain elementary school aged children with crafts and games. Justin is also a founding member of the group's youth leadership initiative, which focuses on providing active neighbourhood opportunities for North Burlington teens. Justin is a role model and inspiration to so many youth in the neighbourhood and his service truly embodies North BurLINKton community group's vision to create safe, fun and supportive spaces for youth.

Gabriella Paniccia

Gabriella (Gaby) is actively involved in her school and Burlington community. Gaby is a student senator with Halton District School Board, student council member, a house league soccer coach, blood donor promoter and volunteer tutor with the Start2Finish program at Tecumseh Public School which aims to raise literacy rates among students by providing after school reading activities. As a member of the Nelson High School Interact Club, Gaby has also been the leader of the "Bethany Initiative". The Bethany Residence in Burlington is home to 129 individuals who have been diagnosed with bipolar, schizophrenia, or manic disorders. Gaby's outreach efforts helped to ensure that residents at Bethany had gifts to open on Christmas morning. Gaby truly exemplifies Rotary's motto of "service above self" and continues to do everything to make sure that residents at Bethany are included in the community all throughout the year.

[Nominees for the 2013 Senior Person of the Year:](#)

Michael Hourigan

Michael has been serving the Burlington community throughout his entire adult life. Michael is a founding member of the Burlington Age-Friendly Seniors Council and past member of the Mayor's Senior Advisory Committee, Burlington Crime Prevention Committee and Civic Engagement Charter task force. Michael continues his advocacy on senior issues and encourages other citizens to develop ideas that strengthen the City of Burlington. Michael's dedication to service for all residents within Burlington serves as a shining example of a truly great citizen.

Maggie Wheeler

Maggie is a cancer survivor who tirelessly serves the Burlington community. She collects non-perishable items for food banks and crochets hats, blankets and prayer shawls for cancer patients, women in crisis and disabled persons. When Maggie travels to Mexico in winter months, she donates suitcases of school supplies and volunteers with her husband to support local food banks, schools and seniors' homes. Within Burlington, Maggie is also a volunteer with the Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, and Sew on Fire Ministries in Burlington. Maggie truly is a selfless, charitable person whose heart touches all she meets, with never a thought for herself.

Arnold Koopman

Arnold is a humble and extremely hardworking man who has been a member of the City of Burlington's Mundialization Committee and chair of its Apeldoorn sub-committee since 2009. Arnold has been directly involved in various exchanges with Apeldoorn, a twin city to Burlington, and has spent countless hours ensuring that Burlington and Apeldoorn citizens alike were well looked after during their respective visits. Offering warm hospitality at all times, Arnold has been responsible for organizing Apeldoorn citizens' visits as well as chairing Dutch games' events, the Canada/Netherlands Friendship Day, elementary art exchanges with the Netherlands and even leading a Tulip Symposium in conjunction with the Royal Botanical Gardens. Arnold's efforts have been instrumental in supporting the city's twinning relationship with Apeldoorn of the Netherlands.

Thelma McGillivray

Thelma is a writer, public speaker and advocate. Thelma's work on women's health, housing and mental health issues has touched the lives of women, seniors and families. Recognized as an advisory on ageing at the International Council of Women, Thelma is well-versed in senior's and women's issues and routinely collaborates with local, provincial, national and international advocacy organizations. Thelma is currently the Co-founder of the Older Women's Network, Vice-President of the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario, past Vice-President of the National Council of Women of Canada and Board Member of Elizabeth Fry Society, just to name a few. Thelma's writings have been published in newspapers including the Burlington Post, Toronto Star and National Post and her work continues to shape government policies at all levels.

Nominees for the 2013 Citizen of the Year:

Bev Jacobs

Bev has helped strengthen Burlington for more than three decades. She has dedicated countless hours during her extensive community service career: active church member, Save the Waterfront Committee member, Team Captain for the CIBC Run for the Cure fundraiser, weekly Carpenter Hospice volunteer, Neighbourhood Watch Block Captain, Jurvanski Cancer Centre volunteer, and Breast Cancer Support Services Party in Pink volunteer, just to name a few. Bev's ability to take on, balance, and excel in so many diverse roles within the community with relentless enthusiasm and passion is beyond incredible.

Judy Gerdes

Judy Gerdes is a Burlington resident who with the assistance of police officers helped save the life of a person in distress. Judy's dialogue was instrumental in supporting this individual and her experience as a mental health support person should be credited. Though Judy placed herself at risk of experiencing emotional and psychological discomfort and trauma, Judy's performance was heroic. As a result, Judy has been recognized with an award from Halton Regional Police Service.

Denise Davy

Denise is known to Burlington for her efforts as a tireless advocate for improved pedestrian rail line safety. As the direct result of Denise's determination, a collection of agencies along with the City of Burlington created an unprecedented working group and together agreed and took steps to construct indestructible fences at strategic locations along commuter railroad tracks in Burlington. This is the first time in Canada that such accomplishment has been achieved and other municipalities are now looking to follow the steps of Burlington. Denise brought this issue to the forefront of Canadian authorities and her work will go on to save many lives.

Jean Longfield

Jean has positively impacted the lives of thousands of people through her "Gift of Giving Back" program. Beginning in 2007, the annual food drive program has now collected more than 770,000 pounds of food with a collective value of more than \$1,890,000 to help the less fortunate in Burlington and surrounding communities. Organizations who have also benefitted from Jean's service include the Salvation Army Food Bank, Carpenter House, Partnership West, McMaster University, and Halton Women's Place. As a parent representative and team manager with Burlington Eagles Hockey Club,

Jean has inspired and engaged thousands of minor hockey players, students and parents to work together and give back to the community.

Beth Hudson

Beth Hudson is a selfless and remarkable woman whose passion and dedication to single moms in the Halton community has led to the development of INCITE, a single moms support group organization. As mentor, creator, advocate and the Executive Director, Beth provides a safe space each week for women to share their stories and laugh, learn new life skills and explore personal development work. INCITE provides a refuge for single moms to find hope, strength and love in the adversities of life. Beth operates from a place of deep compassion and empathy for these women, strengthening the Burlington community as a whole.