



# Society Newsletter

## Port Hope Native Travelled the World by Sea, Land & Air and Provided Transportation for Thousands

### Executive Council

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Secretary*  
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*Vice President*  
Cal Morgan

*Treasurer*  
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*Larry Ashby  
Tim Austin  
Rod Parrott*

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**Preserving the past for  
future generations**

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We're on the Internet

**Printer**

**Paper Works**

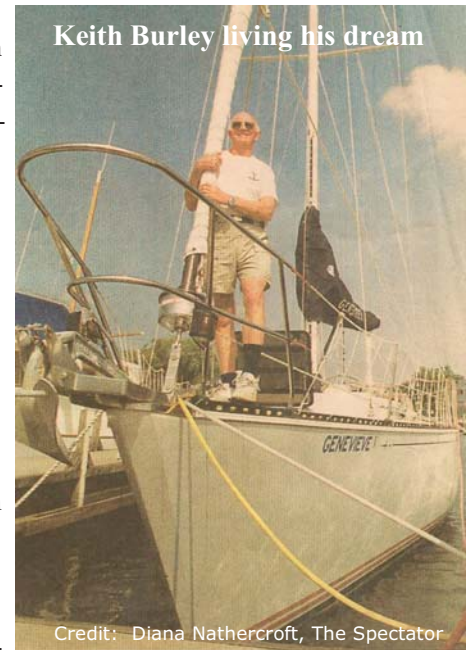
Port Hope, Ontario

The second youngest in a family of three boys and three girls, Keith Burley was born in Port Hope in 1923 and raised in Newtonville where his father operated a garage. After finishing Public School in Newtonville, he attended Port Hope High School but had to leave in his second year to help his dad at the garage when his two brothers joined the Army. He later took a Tool and Die course in Oshawa and after graduating went to work for General Electric in Peterborough.

While working on 3.7 Anti Aircraft guns making forty-two cents an hour many of his friends began enlisting in the Canadian Air Force. When his best friend joined, Keith decided to follow him, but when it was discovered his colour vision was below standard they looked to his background experience and sent him to Aero Engine and posted him to Manning Pool in Toronto. After two more postings and graduating second in his class he was sent to Prince Edward Island and worked on #10 B and Gs. While on leave in Cobourg prior to heading east he met Genevieve Boswell, a student at CCI who later became his wife. While in P.E.I. he worked on and flew in Tiger Moths, Fairy Battles, Anson, Harvard, Norseman, Boling Broke and Spitfires. He remained in P.E.I. until the war's end in Europe. Then he was posted to Mountainview where he volunteered for Pacific Duty and a posting to Greenwood, but the war ended and he was discharged and returned home and joined the Oshawa Flying Club.

By now Burley was interested in furthering his education, obtain his High School Diploma and prepare to attend Queens University in Kingston. But he had a change of heart and stayed with the family business which consisted of garage work, snow ploughing, tow truck, two school buses and a 200 acre farm. By the early 1950's they had grown to a fleet of seven school buses.

— Cont'd on page 3



Keith Burley living his dream

Credit: Diana Nathercroft, The Spectator



# Interim President's report



PHDHS [former EDHS] is pleased to have the support of the following business members

**F**irst of all let me say I am glad to be home from Florida and enjoying the beautiful Spring weather.

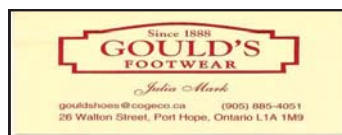
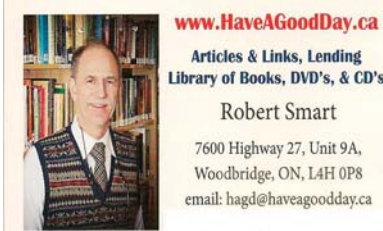
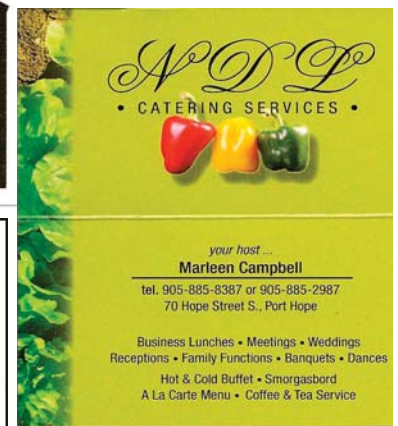
The first thing on the Society's agenda is our Annual Heritage Fair, May 1st which is being held at the Lion's Centre, Thomas Street, Port Hope from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be **displays, exhibitors** and **vendors** as listed on the posters displayed throughout the community. I would like to encourage everyone to come out and enjoy this event and invite others as well. We need your continued support.

A friendly reminder to all our members, the AGM [Annual General Meeting], which includes a "Show and Tell" is fast approaching on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 7 p.m. It will be held at the GRCA Meeting Room, Highway #28, Port Hope. We hope to have your support. As members your attendance at this yearly meeting is important to the Society; and visitors are welcome.

Then, there is the Huge Fundraiser Yard Sale, the annual event held at Dorothy's House Museum in Garden Hill. It is scheduled this year for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 24, 25, 26, 2016. All proceeds go toward the Museum's upkeep. There is constant need for repair to the aging building. If anyone has items to donate to the sale, it would be very much appreciated. Also, anyone who would like to volunteer and help at anytime, please contact me at 905-885-2981.

Please make note of other events listed on the back page. Hope to see you at these events!

Joan Ashby Parrott  
Interim President & Secretary



## Burley story continued from page 1

His brother Harold took over the garage and Keith and his brother Ron took care of the busses. Keith said these were very busy times. In 1948 they operated bus service between Kendal, Garden Hill and Port Hope, as well as a franchise to operate bus service for the town of Port Hope. In 1956 he became sole owner of Burley Bus Lines and purchased Garton Coach Service in 1960 with its routes out of Cobourg.

On April 4, 1953 Keith married the love of his life, Genevieve, and moved to Cobourg where she taught school at the Air Force School [ACM Breadner] in Trenton and schools in Cobourg following their marriage. With slower times he got a job with AVRO overhauling jet engines. His brother Ron had a chance to work for the Department of Highways and subsequently transferred his interests to Keith who took over the bus company and moved it to Cobourg. By 1967 the Burley Bus Company had grown to 130 vehicles and made 700 trips to Expo in Montreal. In addition they had a good and successful tour business doing trips to Florida, California and other parts of North America.

The school bus operation expanded to 8500 students a day with divisions in Cobourg, Port Hope, Bowmanville and Peterborough. The company also extended its service to Guelph/Kitchener area with charter, tour and some school bus lines as well. In the early 1960's and experiencing much success, Keith suffered a very unfortunate accident. During a blinding snowstorm in 1960 he stopped to help his brother Harold on Highway #2 near Morrish and was hit by a large transport, and then run over by a Cadillac. After 13 operations and in a cast from neck to toes at East General Hospital and four months of physical therapy he was able to return to work.

In 1969 Keith transferred the Port Hope town service to Don Deremo, and in 1970 sold the Cobourg area business to Charterways and moved the family to Waterloo to operate the Guelph/Kitchener business. Now running a smaller company he had more time to spend on the water, enjoying one of his favourite pastimes, sailing the world's oceans in his 44-foot yacht, the *Genevieve*, named after his wife, who kept him afloat through sickness and health and was his anchor in times of storm and calm. In 1977 the business in Guelph was expanding but in response to an offer from Charterways he sold the business but continued to drive for them until 2002. His driving record stands at over 3 million miles and he holds a trophy for 50 years of safe driving year after year.

In 1983 with other yacht owners Keith and Genevieve sailed the *Genevieve 4* from Hamilton to Newfoundland to celebrate the Sir Humphrey Gilbert Sail. He was awarded the trophy for "best Skipper." In 1990 they purchased a new 44-foot yacht, the *Genevieve 5*. All of his five boats over the years were registered as *Genevieve*, named after his wife and soulmate. In 1991 they set sail again for Newfoundland and after spending some time cruising around the Island they put the boat in dry dock for the winter. The next year in June they sailed out from Conception Bay and crossed the Atlantic, and reaching the Azores they spent several "enjoyable days in Horta. On July 3rd they set sail for San Miguel, from there to Lisbon and later Cadiz, then on to Gibraltar. They toured the Mediterranean for three months and on October 7th returned to Gibraltar, Madeira and on to the Canary Islands. On November 29th with one hundred and eleven boats they left Los Palmas and after 18 days at sea they arrived in Rodney Bay, St. Lucia. From there they toured the Caribbean and came very near to South America. They travelled to English Harbour, Antigua and from there to Bermuda, New York and the Erie Canal, Lake Ontario and back to Hamilton.

The longest stretch the couple spent at sea was 18 days. Mrs. Burley, age 65 then, baked bread and cooked full course meals while Keith did most of the steering through one of their favourite parts of the world. The Burley's dream was to sail around the world so they took their yacht to the C & C Factory at Niagara to have her outfitted for a round the world trip in 1995. It never happened! The factory burned down and with it the *Genevieve 5*. Keith wrote in his journal "it was the end of our dream."

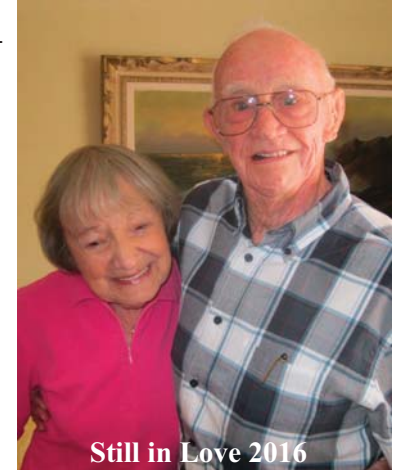
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Marriage, April 4, 1953



After 11 days at sea they reach the Azores (1991)



Still in Love 2016

## The Burleys move to Canton

In May 2002 Keith and his wife moved to Canton after 32 years living in Waterloo and happy to be close to their family and friends. This year April 2016 they are celebrating 63 years together with a “lovely family of five children and 13 grandchildren.” Keith says, “Geneieve and I have been truly blessed.”

**Editor’s note:** Keith Burley owned almost every type of intercity bus that was built during his business career and was involved in the entire spectrum of bus operation: school, charter, intercity, transit and suburban. We have barely touched on his reach and footprint for this newsletter. His life deserves and requires a published biography. If I was younger I would take on the challenge. The PHDHS thanks him for the opportunity to view his files and enable us to publish these few words. — Cal Morgan

## Local History Quiz — By Tim Austin



- 1)The southern half of the township was once covered by a lake created when the St. Lawrence outlet to Lake Ontario was blocked by an ice glacier. What was the name given to this lake?
- 2)What was the purpose of the Ontario Tree Planting Act?
- 3)What year was the Ganaraska Conservation Authority incorporated (1940, 1943 or 1946)?
- 4)By what other names was Dale Corners known?

5)Where was Dog Town (Hastingsville) located?

## Answers to Quiz

- 1) The name was Lake Iroquois; as the ice glacier melted Lake Iroquois receded into Lake Ontario.
- 2) It was enacted to help replace trees that were cut down to create farms. The residents were paid twenty-five cents for each tree planted within six feet of the highways in the township and were still living three years after being planted.
- 3) The year was 1946.
- 4) The names were Gifford Corners, Blecher Corners and Marysville.
- 5) The area of Marsh Road and Toronto Road (Hwy 2).

## Events Calendar 2015

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Public meetings will be scheduled on basis of opportunity and when needed. Such meetings will be held at the Ganaraska Conservation Authority Meeting Room, 2216 Hwy 28 North, Port Hope, ON

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### Heritage Fair

Sunday, May 1, 2016

### AGM [Annual General Meeting]

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

### Fri, Sat. Sun, June 24, 25, 26

Fundraiser 3-day Giant Yard Sale

### Dorothy’s House Museum 2016

Summer Hours to be announced in a later issue of the Newsletter.

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## Contact Information

PHDHS

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Port Hope, ON  
L1A 3V9

Web: [www.porthopehistorical.ca](http://www.porthopehistorical.ca)

Joan Ashby Parrott Interim President  
905-885-2981; Cell: 1-905-922-6439.

Note: If no response please leave message at 905-797-2291

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## Membership Rates

Single \$15.00

Couple \$25.00

Business \$40.00

Lifetime \$75.00

PHDHS is a charitable organization and can issue Tax Receipts for donations of \$10.00 or larger.

**If you have a story or story ideas, please contact Cal Morgan at [cmorgan@eagle.ca](mailto:cmorgan@eagle.ca)**

His political fate will likely be the fate of political Canada. — Kenneth McNaught, commenting on Pierre E. Trudeau in *Nationalism in Canada*, 1996, p.70.