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attracted the settlement that began many communities, including Lowville. The sub-theme of “Lowville” illustrates how the Lowville community developed its unique characteristics. The village centre was carved from the farms of T.E. Pickett, Joseph Featherstone, and James Cleaver. The rise of the village is linked to water power as it is located along Twelve Mile Creek. The village featured a sawmill (owned by John Readhead) and a grist mill (owned by James Cleaver). The individual properties then illustrate life in the community. For instance, the parsonage was the site of much activity. It was not just the minister’s home, but an extension of the church itself. Upon Reverend Kelley’s arrival, he erected a volleyball court on the lawn of the parsonage. He used electric lights typically used for garden parties to light the area. The minister’s thoughtfulness enabled his young followers to play after finishing their farm work and dinner. In *One Hundred Years: Lowville United Church 1872-1972*, he remarks, “By the time they washed and changed their clothes and got over to the manse it was after eight o’clock. However, they played so vigorously, you would think they had been resting all day. They were so engrossed in the game, we had to turn off the lights at midnight to get them to go home” (1972: 30).

As with the story of Lowville and the parsonage, the narratives focus on the stories of the places, people, and events. The idea was to bring a place to life through its stories and engage readers. The tragedy of places that have been wiped from maps was shown through the community Dakota that was destroyed by a gun powder factory explosion in 1884. Stories have been recorded describing how the blast could be heard all the way from Owen Sound to St. Catharines, and how people in Hamilton saw the mushroom cloud of smoke and felt the earth shake.

The stories also tell quirky facts, such as how a train leaving the Freeman Station was often called “The Fruit Train” because the refrigerated cars carried fruit that the farmers loaded themselves. Generally, the fruit cars were bound for ports to ship the bounty of “The Garden of Canada” worldwide. Some cars headed to Toronto, where fruit picked that morning could be on people’s tables the same day.

The stories also tell of intrigue. In 1908, for example, it was proposed that construction of a waterworks (including a pump house) would cost \$50,500, so a town-wide vote was called. Property owners were asked to decide if they

were willing to bear the brunt of the payment. Those opposed compiled a list the people eligible to vote (only those who owned property). On the day of the vote, Bill Bush – who ran the Queen’s Head Inn – was reportedly convinced by Reeve Maxwell Smith to create a spectacle. He raced down Brant Street on his horse. Those voting hurried to the windows of the polling station to witness the tomfoolery. It is rumoured that the official voting list was lost during the chaos and the motion passed.

### The Website

By successfully introducing the “stories” idea to Burlington, Heritage Burlington is bringing the history of Burlington to life for a broad range of residents and visitors alike. All of the stories will be shared on the new Heritage Burlington website through an official launch in February 2015 during Heritage Week. Visitors to the site will be able to search through the layers of history to learn more about Burlington.

By creating an awareness and appreciation of Burlington’s past, Heritage Burlington is able to demonstrate, engage, and educate their community on the diversity and uniqueness of Burlington’s heritage and its impact on the quality of life and lifestyles in the city. MW

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