

It is my great pleasure to accept the Burlington Best Heritage Award on behalf of the Friends of Freeman Station. This award is a fitting tribute to the many volunteers who have put their hearts, souls and labour into restoring Burlington's historic 1906 Grand Trunk Railway station, known as Freeman Station.

Thank you to the Burlington Historical Society and its President Ed Keenleyside for nominating Friends of Freeman Station for this prestigious award. We are honoured that the Burlington Historical Society chose to nominate us.

Friends of Freeman Station is a volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation of Freeman Station, and to its repurposing as a meeting place and educational centre depicting the history of the railways in this area and their influence on Burlington. Once the restoration is complete, the station and its exhibits will depict the profound influence the railways had on the development of this great city. It will also provide an iconic meeting place for small groups.

Over the past seven years since the project began, we have received wonderful support from the City, and from generous donors, many of whom are local business people and citizens. To date, over \$700,000 has been donated to the project, and over 7,000 hours of volunteer labour has been contributed by our committed team of volunteers.

At the present time Friends of Freeman Station is on a fundraising drive, aided by matching funds, from the City to make a final push toward having the station ready for use within the next year. If any of you wish to donate, for a limited time your donation will be doubled.

Our website provides the details on how to contribute.

Friends of Freeman station, and our hard working volunteers, will treasure this Best of Burlington Heritage Award. Again, thank you very much.