



Peterborough Historical Society

385th Bulletin

March 2012



Honourary President T.H.B. Symons

Past Honourary President Catharine Parr



PHS Meeting,

**Tuesday March 20, 2012
at 7:30 pm**

Peterborough Public Library

Lower Level Auditorium

Aylmer Street, Peterborough

***The Great Debate "Public versus
Private Hydro"***

**by J. Kerry (D. Willcock) and A.
Beck (D. Carter-Edwards)**

In an effort to maintain the high quality of our monthly lecture series and to keep the program fresh and interesting, the March meeting will feature something different: a public debate over the hotly contested question of public versus private control of hydro electricity which was the subject of a municipal referendum in Peterborough in 1913. Portraying two historical characters who figured prominently in the debate, Don Willcock as John G.G. Kerry and Dennis Carter-Edwards as Adam Beck, the “father” of Ontario Hydro will argue the pros and cons of this controversial topic. The issue of who best provides key municipal services – the public or the private sector – is still a hotly debated topic, which just goes to underscore how history repeats itself and shapes the issues of our present age. Don and Dennis are practiced debaters and the evening promises to be entertaining as well as informative. We are planning to rehold the referendum to see if opinions have changed since that key vote back in 1913. So come prepared to listen and vote! The meeting takes place in the Peterborough Public Library auditorium on Tuesday March 20 at 7:30 pm.

..... from the President

My first year as President of the Peterborough Historical Society has been a rewarding and challenging experience. It has been a pleasure to work with the members of the Board, our staff and the many volunteers who contribute to the planning and delivery of the wide range of programs that the PHS offers over the course of the year. Whether it is the period luncheons at Hutchison House, the production of the annual Occasional Paper, adjudicating the Award Programs, presenting the monthly lectures or a myriad of other projects, I am convinced that the PHS is truly one of the most active historical societies in the province. The challenge in sustaining these programs along with the maintenance of Hutchison House Living History Museum has also been an interesting experience. Apart from meeting the monthly expenses to sustain our operations, the Society needs to look to the long term upkeep of an old house – historic for sure - but nevertheless a 175 year old structure that requires constant attention. The Society thus seems to be in a perpetual fund raising mode. However, in looking back over the efforts of past Boards, they have met the challenge and I am sure with the talent and dedication of the new Board voted in at our AGM and the support of our members and volunteers, we can do the same.

Dennis Carter-Edwards, President

PHS Annual Heritage Awards

The deadline for submissions for the annual Peterborough Historical Society Heritage Awards closed on 5 March. Thanks to those who have submitted nominations. We had an excellent response to the Award program and the nominations have been given to the panel of judges, consisting of Dr. Art Turner, Graham Hart and Louis Taylor. It is important to recognize the dedicated work of our community for the commemoration of our collective heritage – whether it be in written word, material culture conservation or generous financial support. The presentation of the awards will be held on Wednesday 18 April 2012 at 7:30 at the Empress Gardens, Charlotte Street. Good luck to all the nominees.

Peterborough Historical Society: Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM, held Tuesday 21 February at the Princess Gardens was another successful undertaking for the Peterborough Historical Society. Some 55 members and guests enjoyed an excellent meal, courtesy of the staff at Princess Gardens, a short business meeting and an illustrated slide presentation by architect Ken Trevelyan. Mr. Trevelyan's lecture on the rehabilitation of Market Hall was an enlightening overview of the extensive restoration work carried out on this Peterborough landmark. Each phase of the project brought key questions regarding restoration, reconstruction or introduction of new materials for better performance, operation and maintenance of the building. Ken Trevelyan's lecture provided insight into how these issues were resolved and implemented in the project. As well Kathryn McLeod gave a brief presentation on the Ontario Premiers' Gravesite program of Ontario Heritage Trust.

The AGM is an important event in the calendar of PHS activities. It provides an opportunity for the Board to present to the members a synopsis of the past year's work, highlight our financial position and enjoy a pleasant social evening in the comfortable setting of Princess Gardens. It is also an important fundraiser for the Society and we appreciate the continued support of our members. The winner of the 50/50 draw, Gail Corbett, generously donated her share of the winnings to the maintenance of Hutchison House. Thanks also to Elwood Jones who was the successful bidder on the silent auction of the Peterborough blanket. We were honoured to have our "Honourary President," Tom Symons and his wife Christine present, despite a busy schedule that evening. To everyone who helped make AGM 2011 such a success, my sincere thanks.



2012 PHS Board of Directors

Top row: Michael Eamon, Don Willcock, Dennis Carter-Edwards, Suresh Kandaswamy

Bottom Row: Peter Darling, Barbara McIntosh, Linda Lumsden, Tom Symons, Mary Lavery, Kathryn McLeod, Susan Jewell

Absent: Terry Hawkins

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS

The year 2012 marks the 175th anniversary of the construction of Hutchison House. Built originally in 1837 by the citizens of Peterborough to deter Dr. Hutchison from moving his medical practice to Toronto, the house was bequeathed to the PHS in 1969. Since then, the Society has undertaken a major restoration project and has developed programs that reflect the lifestyle of the Hutchison family. As well, Hutchison House interprets the story of Sir Sandford Fleming the illustrious cousin of Dr. Hutchison's who lived with the family for a period of time. Through its active living history programs, period meals, workshops and special events, the Hutchison House Living History Museum makes a significant contribution to the cultural life and tourism offered in Peterborough. In recognition of this important milestone, the Society in partnership with the staff and volunteers of the Museum will be featuring special events and celebrations over the course of the year. The goal remains to preserve an historic structure, raise awareness of the life and times of its occupants and contribute to the cultural life of the community.



volunteers. Only 500 tickets will be sold at \$20.00 per ticket which can be purchased at Hutchison House or the PHS office at 270 Brock Street.

Peterborough Historical Society Notice

In recognition of the 175th anniversary of Hutchison House, PHS gratefully acknowledges the donation of "A Winter Afternoon, Brock Street, 2011" an oil painting by noted Peterborough artist, Peer Christensen. Peer has captured a unique perspective of the House and its streetscape that would grace any setting. The painting is being raffled as a major fund raiser to aid in the upkeep of this historic structure. Hutchison House is in need of major renovations to the roof as well as ongoing support for the varied programs offered by the staff and

Biography of Peer Christensen

Born in Copenhagen, Peer Christensen moved to Canada in 1959 and has resided in Peterborough since 1985. His style of layering opaque and transparent oil paint gives a unique, luminous quality to his landscapes and buildings. A strong supporter of the arts and culture in Peterborough, Peer has captured many local historic structures and viewscapes in his distinctive style. His recent work "A Winter Afternoon, Brock Street 2011" provides a striking image of Hutchison House looking west up Brock Street towards St. Andrew's United Church. Peer readily agreed to provide the painting when approached by the Society, to support of the ongoing work of the PHS and Hutchison House.

Hutchison House Report

Another month has come and gone here at Hutchison House as staff and volunteers have remained hard at work. The amazing Baker clan of Cavan returned again for their annual Family Day scrubbing of the Keeping Room floor. Once again the floor looks fabulous! Thank you so very much Ann, Walter, Jamie, Cory, John, Keith, Ashley, Lily, Brianne, and Mason.

Staff would like to welcome new co-op student Heather Seguin to Hutchison House. Heather is a student with the Travel and Tourism program through Sir Sandford Fleming College. Heather is interested working at historic sites in the future and has been a delightful and enthusiastic addition to the museum crew. She will be helping out at the museum until May.

It is that time of year when parents and grandparents alike search frantically for things to do to occupy children during their March Break. Hutchison House offers four different half day programs that run from 9:30 am till noon Tuesday March 13th until Friday March 16th. Cost per program is \$15 per child per program and pre-registration is required. This year children will have the opportunity to make their own pioneer style toys, such as thaumatraupes, woodchoppers and whirlygigs; create their own First Nations scroll and learn how to tell a story through pictures; learn a fun way to marbleize paper and scrapbook their own greeting cards; as well as make their own "leaping" leprechaun. Programs are designed for ages 6-12. For more information on programs or to register your child please contact the museum office at 705-743-9710.

Regrettably this February, long time volunteer Betty Hinton stepped down from the Hutchison House Museum Garden Committee. Betty was a member of the Garden Committee for over 30 years, and acted as Committee chair and co-chair for many of those years. While staff and volunteers will miss having Betty out in the gardens, we are glad she will still be hanging around the museum in other capacities. Barbara McIntosh has kindly agreed to step into Betty's shoes as chair of the Garden Committee.

Erin Panepinto and Gale Fewings



The Cavan Gang

Hutchison House to Participate in Province-wide Promotion

Beginning this summer, the museum will be adding guided tours of the gardens to its Scottish tea and house tour program. Ours will be one of several museums and heritage sites throughout the province to promote its heritage gardens as tourism attractions.

This is a collaborative initiative of Parkwood National Historic Site, the National Historic Sites Alliance of Ontario and the newly formed Ontario Garden Tourism Coalition. Participants include large formal garden sites like Rideau Hall and smaller house museum gardens like ours.

The first phase will be a collective advertisement in the May issue of Attractions Ontario for distribution throughout the province. Other marketing strategies will be developed.

The Hutchison House gardens are unique in that they contain plants and shrubs that were available in communities like Peterborough up to the 1860s. Participating in this marketing initiative is an opportunity to reach a larger audience and attract more visitors to our museum.

However, it also creates a significant challenge for us. Due to the construction of the accessible ramp and an unusually hot, dry summer last year, all of the gardens need major work this spring. We will also need to recruit and train guides to interpret the gardens throughout the summer.

Beginning in April, we will be endeavouring to attract high school students to help with the heavy jobs, including spring clean-up and preparing the gardens for planting. We will also be enlisting the help of local Master Gardeners to provide on-site training for our new volunteers.

Barbara McIntosh

Garden Committee Meeting - March 20th

The first *Tea and Talk* meeting of the Gardening Committee will be on Tuesday, March 20th at 2 p.m. in the Harvey Connal Room. The agenda will include a review of the action plan for getting the gardens ready for tourists this summer. Since several members have expressed an interest in learning more about gardening, there will also be a discussion of potential topics for future *Tea and Talk* sessions. Current members and anyone who is interested in helping with the gardens is encouraged to come.

Peterborough Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society March meeting Tuesday March 27, 2012

Neal Ferris, President of OAS on "Late Borderlands in Southwestern Ontario" and the "Sustainable Archaeological Centre"
at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Peterborough, Ontario
Admission is free and all are welcome.

AGM February 21, 2012



Dinner at Princess Gardens



Catherine Dibbon signs copy of her occasional paper "The Rev. Vincent Clementi"



Guest speaker Ken Trevelyan presented with gift

Peterborough Historical Society
 270 Brock Street
 Peterborough Ontario K9H 2P9
 Phone: 705-740-2600
 Email:
info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca

Hutchison House Museum
 Owned & operated by the
 Peterborough Historical Society
 270 Brock Street
 Peterborough Ontario K9H 2P9
 Phone 705-743-9710
 email: info@hutchisonhouse.ca

A reminder for those who have not yet renewed their membership, please forward your annual dues and continue receiving the Bulletin and supporting the work of the Peterborough Historical Society. With the increased cost of postage, please consider receiving the newsletter by email.

Individual Membership	\$35.00 per year
Family Membership	\$45.00 per year
Lifetime Membership	\$500.00

Benefits of Membership: Official Tax Receipt, free admission to Hutchison House, monthly Bulletin and annual Occasional Paper.

Mark Your Calendars

PHS General Meetings

Tuesday March 19, 2012 The Great Debate
 Speakers; Dennis Carter-Edwards and Don Willcock

Tuesday, April 17, 2012 Panel discussion on War of 1812

Hutchison House Museum

The Heritage Luncheons

Wednesday April 4, 2012

Wednesday May 2, 2012

Wednesday June 6, 2012

Children's March Break Programs

Tuesday March 13th until Friday March 16th from 9:30am till noon. Cost per program is \$15 per child per program and pre-registration is required.

The Bulletin

Editor	Linda Lumsden
Publisher	Marilyn MacNaughton
Photographers	Doug Lavery, Erin Panepinto et al

Bulletin submissions for the April issue due by Wednesday, March 21, 2012.

We welcome articles of historical interest.

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[**www.hutchisonhouse**](http://www.hutchisonhouse)

[**www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca**](http://www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca)

Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets for Hutchison House painting