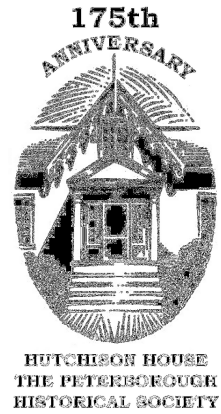




Peterborough Historical Society
38th Bulletin
April 2012



Honourary President T.H.B. Symons

Past Honourary President Catharine Parr Traill

PHS Meeting,

**Tuesday April 17, at 7:30 pm
Peterborough Public Library
Aylmer Street, Peterborough**

**The War Of 1812: A Panel Discussion on
Researching & Writing about the War and the Conflict's Impact on our History
Panelists: Enid Mallory, Michael Eamon and Bob Garcia**

In keeping with the renewed interest in the upcoming bicentennial of the War of 1812, the PHS will feature a panel discussion on the War by three distinguished authors, Enid Mallory, Michael Eamon and Bob Garcia. Enid, a long standing member of the Society, has written about Captain Fitzgibbon



and the Green Tigers, a guerrilla group that carried out lightning raids against the American invaders on the Niagara peninsula. Enid will share her experiences researching the story of Captain Fitz and her thoughts on the commemoration of the War. Michael Eamon, a Director on the Board of the PHS, is a former Interpretive Specialist at Fort Wellington and Archivist at the National Archives. Michael is preparing an exhibition on the War of 1812 for the Canadian War Museum. He will share his experiences researching and designing the exhibit. Bob Garcia is a research historian for the Ontario Service Centre of Parks Canada and a specialist on the War. Bob has been

involved in developing special displays and programs for the military sites in Ontario and across the country. A former Interpretive Specialist and re-enactor at Fort Malden, Bob will offer his insights into the conflict and discuss his work in developing a national program to mark the Bicentennial. The panel will be moderated by Dennis Carter-Edwards, a former military historian with Parks Canada before moving to Peterborough. It promises to be an interesting and informative evening about this important event in our history.

... from the President

The current issue of *Heritage – The Magazine of the Heritage Canada Foundation*, features a lengthy article on the heritage of Power Generation. The article makes reference to the significant role hydro-electricity played in the development of Ontario and the wonderful surviving buildings, equipment and associated artefacts associated with the industry. The magnificent Beaux-Arts style Toronto Power Generating Station (1906) located just above Niagara Falls was declared a national historic site in 1983. There are other important hydro assets described in the article which led me to reflect on the important hydro related heritage resources we have in Peterborough. The generating station at Trent University, formerly owned by Canadian General Electric is a striking building containing, or at least did until this past winter, some early CGE equipment. In upgrading the efficiency of the plant, some of the historic machinery was removed and efforts to have it conserved and displayed proved unsuccessful. While many will recognize the value of preserving our historic buildings, engineering works that have outlived their usefulness are too often demolished without a thought to their heritage value. Our dams, railway bridges and other examples of municipal infrastructure reflect the skill, materials and engineering know how of a past age. We need to be mindful of retaining a representative example of this part of our past. A good first step would be a detailed inventory of all such features with a description of date, engineer, and subsequent history for each object. The Society would support such an undertaking to ensure our engineering history is suitably commemorated.

Dennis Carter-Edwards

The Great Debate: Public versus Private Hydro

The monthly lecture for members and friends of the Society featured a different program for the March meeting. Two prominent historical figures, J.G.G. Kerry (represented by Don Willcock) and



Sir Adam Beck (represented by Dennis Carter-Edwards) debated the pros and cons of the municipal by-law of 1913 with Michael Eamon as the impartial moderator. This enabling by-law provided for the city to switch to the Hydro-Electric Power Commission for its electricity. Beck, as chairman of the HEPC went toe to toe with J. Kerry, the president of the Electrical Power Company which owned some twenty generating plants and distribution networks from Trenton through to Fenelon Falls. The question of who

best provides a key municipal service – the private sector or a publicly controlled utility sparked a lively debate. At the end of the meeting the audience was asked for a show of hands to indicate which side they supported. Surprisingly, the vote in 1913 was overwhelmingly in favour of HEPC but in

2012 not so convincing. Nearly a third of the audience preferred the private sector, which was quite a surprise.

One of the rules of the debate was that information presented could not post date the referendum date of January 1913. However, if the story had been told to its conclusion - the numerous legal battles, provincial legislation and compensation claims that the city went through to establish public control - there might have been a different result. Professor Elwood Jones raised an important point when he suggested there was indeed a third option between private enterprise and public ownership. From his own research on the Waterworks in Toronto, he suggested that regulation of a municipal utility operated by a private firm was also possible. He also pointed out that the city had prospered under the hydro network developed by Kerry's companies, including the establishment of many manufacturing firms, not the least being the Canadian General Electric. Judging from the questions and response, the audience enjoyed the program. If you have a controversial topic from our region's past that you think might make for another stimulating Great Debate, please pass along your suggestions to the Society. I am sure the two "protagonists" would be willing to jump into the ring once again.

Dennis Carter-Edwards

Exciting Discovery related to Peterborough Lift Lock.

While doing research to prepare for the debate, I came across an interesting article related to the Trent Canal. The article appeared in the 16 April 1912 issue of The Peterborough Evening Review and is worth quoting at length.

"Yesterday a visitor at the immigration office of this city informed the Review that just before leaving England he saw moving pictures of boats passing through the local lift lock in a picture hall in London. The pictures are those taken by the Canadian Pacific Railway who . . . took over two thousand feet of films of the lift lock and canal. . . The moving pictures are especially important inasmuch as they were taken by the Rinemacolor process which shows the objects in their natural color."

The production of some 2,000 feet of coloured film of the Peterborough Lift Lock from 1911 is indeed a startling discovery. More important, does this film still exist and if so, where may copies be found? According to the article, the film was a promotional idea of the CPR which was shown across Canada, the United States and Britain. What a treasure it would be if copies could be located. I am on the hunt and will keep readers updated on progress in tracking it down.

Dennis Carter-Edwards



Official launch of the Hutchison House Painting Raffle

Peer Christensen was on hand for the official unveiling of his stunning oil painting of “A Winter Afternoon, Brock Street, 2011” at the March meeting. The painting is being raffled as a fund raising activity for the upkeep of Hutchison House Living History Museum. As has been described in previous Bulletins, Hutchison House will celebrate its 175th anniversary this year and it is incumbent on the Society in partnership with the community to preserve this historic building. Tickets are \$20 each and only 500 will be sold, so the more you buy the better your chances of winning! They can be purchased by calling Hutchison House at 705-743-9710 or at the Peterborough Historical Society office at 740-2600. PHS thanks Peer for his very generous support of the Museum. We are fortunate to have such a gifted artist who is also an ardent supporter of the arts, culture and heritage in our community.

Dennis Carter-Edwards



Official unveiling at the PHS meeting
on March 20, 2012

Purchase of the first raffle ticket by
President Dennis Carter-Edwards sold by
Don Willcock with Peer Christensen
looking on.



Hutchison House Report

The old saying “March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers” seems a little backwards this year. The spring flowers are popping up all over town and the Hutchison House gardens are no exception. It makes one wonder what April and May 2012 will bring.

Spring cleaning and gardening are about to get into full swing at the museum. Volunteers are always welcome to get involved, so if you are suffering from spring fever and want to get out of your house, we'd love to see you at ours. There is always lots to be done.

In recent weeks we had a visit from Gord and Julie Beech of Whitby. Julie is a descendant of one of the Cumberland Settlers who sailed from Cumberland, England in 1818 and settled in Smith Township. The Beechs are conducting research on the Jon Stephenson family as well as the Walton and Lee families who were part of the extended family.

They were pleased to learn that all 3 families were patients of Dr. Hutchison. We supplied them with images from the doctor's birth register along with transcripts from his ledgers. Genealogists are fortunate that there are so many fabulous resources in our community to assist with their family histories. In fact, I know I'm 'preaching to the converted' when I state that Peterborough is a great place for all local historical research.

The doctor's records do offer a great deal of information for researchers. In preparing for this report I decided to consult the ledger entries for March and April 1830 in an attempt to determine how busy the doctor may have been during this season. It would seem that in March 1830 (the year the family moved to Peterborough) there were only 4 days when he was not out making house calls. April might have also been a time he spent collecting on accounts because along with entries for visits there were a significant number of entries pertaining to payments from subscribers.

In April 1845, Sandford Fleming and his brother David were making the round of goodbyes back home before setting sail for a new life in Upper Canada. Their ship, the *Brilliant*, sailed from the Glasgow harbour on April 24, 1845.

I would highly recommend reading Fleming's interesting and detailed account of the voyage. *Sir Sandford Fleming ~ His Early Diaries 1845-1853* edited by Jean Murray Cole is well worth acquiring. The transcripts of the diaries provide the reader with a valuable glimpse of history through Fleming's own interpretation.

Meanwhile, Hutchison House Museum staff and volunteers are looking forward to sharing the history of the house through our celebration of the 175th Anniversary of the building. On Sunday, June 3, 2012 we will host an Open House from 1-3 pm. Further details will be included in upcoming issues of the PHS Bulletin.

Gale Fewings

Event of Interest:

A number of Hutchison House volunteers, as private vendors, are renting the Keeping Room and Harvey Connal Room at Hutchison House on Saturday April 28, 2012, 1-4 pm for a sale of their antiques and fine collectibles. This sale will be of interest to anyone wishing to acquire such items from a varied selection of privately owned treasures.

Your help in publicizing this event would be appreciated by the vendors.

Carol Koeslag

Peterborough Historical Society

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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

From the Bulletin Committee

The Bulletin Committee continues to work on the format for the monthly newsletter. We are adding additional content more pictures and items of interest. The Bulletin is an important link with our membership and we are striving to make it informative and compelling. We are always interested in comments or suggestions for the Bulletin as well as articles of historic interest. If you have a piece you would like to submit, please forward to our email address.

We are encouraging members to receive their Bulletin electronically. You get the images in colour and you save us the ever increasing cost of mailing. Almost half of the members now get their Bulletin electronically. Join the growing ranks of email readers! Thank you.

A REMINDER . . .

If you have not yet picked up your copy of the Occasional Paper No.32, please drop by the office and pick up your copy and save us the mailing cost.

Mark your calendar for 20 June for the PHS annual outing. Stay tuned for further details.

Mark Your Calendars**PHS General Meetings**

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

Hutchison House Museum**The Heritage Luncheons**

Wednesday May 2, 2012

Wednesday June 6, 2012

Spring Plant Sale

Saturday May 12 – 9 to 12

Looking for donations of tools, garden ornaments and gardening books.

The Bulletin

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

***Bulletin* submissions for the May issue due by Wednesday, April 18, 2012.**

We welcome articles of historical interest.

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WEBSITES:

www.hutchisonhouse.ca

www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca

Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets for Peer Christensen's painting "A Winter Afternoon, Brock Street, 2011" Tickets are \$20 each and only 500 will be available for sale. Hurry and get yours.

