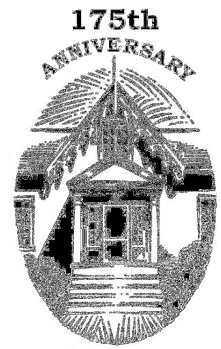




Peterborough Historical Society

39th Bulletin

November 2012



Honorary President T.H.B. Symons

Past Honorary President Catharine Parr Traill

**PHS Meeting,
Tuesday November 20, at 7:30 pm
Peterborough Public Library
Aylmer Street, Peterborough**

**For King, Country – And Czar: James Garvey, Hugh Nolan,
and the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force, 1918
Presented by Don Willcock**

Armistice Day, 11 November 1918, is generally considered to be the end of World War I. In December 1918 however, when troops in Europe were preparing to return home to families and peace – two Lakefield soldiers, Private James Garvey and Private Hugh Nolan, along with nearly 4,000 other young Canadian men boarded ships in Victoria, B.C., bound for Russian Siberia. Why were these men sent to fight an overseas civil war in a time of supposed peace, and what happened when they arrived at their destination?

Using original material and images, local historian Don Willcock will explore the story of the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force. Don has researched the individual service records of Garvey and Nolan as well as their unit war diaries. He will take his audience in the footsteps of these two men and their CSEF comrades to Vladivostok and back. This is an extraordinary but little-known or mostly forgotten part of Canada's history that deserves more acknowledgement.



Canadian gunners & Russian drivers,
February 1919
photo credit - LAC



Canadian Siberian Expeditionary
Force (CSEF) on truck May 1919
photo credit - LAC

... from the President

The presentation by Kathryn McLeod at our October meeting on the Ontario Premiers' Gravesite program managed by the Ontario Heritage Trust was a timely reminder of the many ways there are to commemorate our heritage. Derived in part from the federal program to mark the gravesites of former prime ministers and the initiative of former MPP Jim Brownell, it is intended to honour the service of the many premiers who have served the citizens of Ontario and to promote a greater awareness of the challenges they faced and their accomplishments. Cemeteries are indeed a rich source of history as our own Little Lake Cemetery so clearly demonstrates. The tombstones located throughout the grounds are tangible reminders of the men, women and indeed children whose lives formed the very fabric of our community. The various designs of monuments over the decades speak to the every changing philosophy of remembering the deceased from the elaborate tombstones of weeping angels (so typical of the Victorian era) to the modern minimalist granite stones. Even the grounds are a reflection of the original landscape design of the founders of the cemetery who desired to provide an appropriate setting. As Elwood Jones has so eloquently noted in his recent history of Little Lake Cemetery, "cemeteries are central to the understanding of our collective histories." The Plaque Committee of the PHS reflects a similar approach with the various informative plaques they have erected throughout the city to highlight persons, places and events that have shaped the history of Peterborough. The Committee is looking at ways to put the growing inventory of markers on line and develop suitable material for use as educational resources in our schools. Be sure and look for the plaques as you wander the streets and paths of the city.

Dennis Carter-Edwards

Remember When

In the October Newsletter, the Bulletin Committee introduced a new feature, "Remember When". The short article was based on a taped oral interview with Shirley Moncrief recounting some of her experiences living and raising a family in Peterborough. The intent is to continue interviewing our senior residents using a standard set of questions but allowing sufficient scope to explore specific topics in more depth. The idea of conducting taped interviews is not new. Some of our members will recall the "Opportunity for Youth" projects of the 1960s or the "New Horizons" projects for seniors that often focused on interviewing older residents. There are some taped interviews held at the various archives in Peterborough related to such projects or in other cases, initiatives by individuals. The quality of the information contained and the quality of the actual taped interview needs to be checked to see if they are still usable sources. Some interviews that were conducted with reel to reel tape recorders or the small audio cassettes may now, in our digital age, be difficult to listen to. Transcripts may or may not exist for this material. The interviews being conducted for the "Remember When" column will be done on an Olympus Digital Voice Recorder that can be downloaded to a computer and use voice recognition software to produce a "rough" transcript that will be verified by comparison with the actual interview. There is a substantial body of literature as well as numerous societies dedicated to the "art" of conducting oral history. My own experience from both reading about and conducting taped oral interviews during my 35 year career as an historian with Parks Canada has taught me three key lessons. First and most important is to make sure the equipment is functioning properly. I learned this hard way after conducting a hour long interview with none of the conversation being recorded! Secondly, the interview is a three person activity: the interviewer, the interviewee and the person at some future date who will be listening to the tape. It is important to keep in mind the kind of questions that third person will be seeking answers to from the interview. Finally, the more precise the question asked, the better the information. Simply asking someone "what was it like in the

old days” won’t elicit much information. But if the question is phrased properly with specific details mentioned, the response will be more informative and thus a better record of the experiences of the individual. To insure that the Peterborough Historical Society retains full use of this material, each person interviewed will be asked to sign a release form giving full rights to the PHS to use the material in their programs.

Dennis Carter-Edwards

Commemorating the Gravesites of Ontario’s Premiers

The second monthly meeting of the Peterborough Historical Society’s 2012-2013 season featured a lively and informative presentation by Kathryn McLeod who spoke about the Premiers’ Gravesite Program. From the Honorable John Sandfield Macdonald to the Honorable Frank Miller, Kathryn traced the stories of 18 former Ontario premiers.

Kathryn first talked about the origins of the program and its objectives in commemorating Ontario’s past. She then shared several of her fascinating first-hand experiences while working on this program for the Ontario Heritage Trust.

In more than one case, for example, the final resting place of some of our greatest premiers was not as final as had been originally believed! Only after lots of hard work, historical research and genealogical inquiry were some of these mysteries solved. There was never a dull moment for Kathryn as she was brought into constant contact with cemetery administrators, local politicians and historians as well as the remaining relatives and friends of the province’s premiers.

More than a history project, Kathryn remarked that the Gravesites Program was also an exercise in community building. It brought together different groups of Ontarians for a common goal: to remember the life and achievements of some of the province’s greatest political leaders.

Each gravesite is marked with a bronze plaque bearing the name of the premier, term of office and the provincial coat of arms. In most cases, this plaque was mounted on a black granite plinth and accompanied by a new flagpole flying the provincial flag.

In conclusion, Kathryn urged us all to visit the premieres’ gravesites. One near and dear site for the Trent graduate is that of Lesley Frost who was the first chancellor of the University. One of the final images that she showed was that of Professor Tom Symons, Chair of the Ontario Heritage Trust, and a young relative of Premier Frost. The two raised the provincial flag together over the premier’s gravesite and in so doing, Kathryn observed, illustrated the value that this project has in connecting

future generations of Ontarians with their rich heritage.

Many of the premieres’ gravesites, however, are not as easy to visit, so members are encouraged to visit them virtually at:

<http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/Programs/Commemoration/Premiers--Gravesites-Program.aspx>

Michael Eamon, Program Committee Chair



Michael Eamon thanking speaker Kathryn McLeod with Dennis Carter-Edwards at the October meeting

Hutchison House Report

By the time members of the Society receive this newsletter we will already have entered the month of November, a month that is often characterized as dark and gloomy, with gusty winds and frosty nights.

In the Gaelic culture the end of October marked the end of the harvest season and November 1st was often recognized as the Celtic New Year. The ancient pagans would take stock of supplies and slaughter livestock for winter stores. The Gaels believed that on All Hallows Eve (Halloween) October 31st the division between the world of the living and dead was blurred so spirits of the dead and inhabitants of the underworld were able to walk freely on earth. It was believed necessary to dress as a spirit or other worldly creature when venturing outdoors to blend in.

Halloween originated as *Oiche Shamhna* or *Samhain Night* (pronounced "sow-ain"). Pre-Christian Celts celebrated an autumn festival Samhain "End of Summer" with large communal bonfires. In Celtic times the spirits were believed to be those of loved ones and were generally not scary, however, as time went on, this time became more scary and superstitious. Samhain traditions didn't end in most of Scotland until 1924. Halloween marked the going down of the sun on the "light half of the year" and the beginning of the winter season or dark half. At no point in Celtic or early Christian beliefs was Samhain connected with the devil or devil worship.

Pope Gregory IV standardized All Saints Day on November 1 in 835AD. It began at sunset so it coincided with Samhain. In 1000 AD the church declared November 3rd All Souls Day, a day to honor the dead. It was celebrated in a similar manner to Samhain with bonfires, parades and costumes. The three days together are called *Hallowmas*.

Each year we strive to share some of the traditions of the seasons with the younger generation. Our "Haunted Halloween for Kids" at the end of the October always promises to be a popular event. All of the staff and

volunteers look forward to seeing the children in their costumes and sometimes we even take the opportunity to teach them something along the way.

Please mark your calendars for our annual Volunteers' Festive Sale on Saturday, November 24th from 10:00 am. until noon. We are taking orders for fresh greenery wreaths until November 16th. The wreaths sell for \$15 and choices include pine, cedar, or a mix of the two. Last month we also included in the Bulletin, an order form for Empire cheese. The deadline for cheese orders is also November 16th. If you didn't receive an order form and you are interested in purchasing cheese, please call the museum office and we'll be happy to fill out your order over the phone. Cheese and wreaths will be available for pick up at our sale at the end of November.

The Festive Sale is a very important fundraiser for the museum and donations are gratefully accepted. We are asking for baked goods such as Christmas cookies, shortbreads, cakes, pies, as well as candy, jams, jellies and preserves. We would also appreciate other gift-worthy items for our "attic treasures" portion of the sale. Please consider making a donation of some kind to help the volunteers make the day a success!

Cheers, Gale Fewings



Historic Site Plaques

The Plaque Committee of the Peterborough Historical Society has been busy researching, writing and arranging installation with the city's Public Works Department, of our distinctive markers that highlight various persons, places and events of historical significance to the community. The most recent plaques touch on places such as "Goose Pond" which many older residents will remember and the Wenonah Cabins (located at the Riverside Park) which for a short interval were used to house the students from Trent University. The Committee is interested in suggestions for future plaques. There is also an opportunity for individuals to sponsor plaques for the cost of manufacturing the signs. For further details, contact the chair of the Plaque Committee Terry Hawkins via the PHS website or by calling the office at 705-740-2600.

HISTORIC SITE

2 installed plaques

The Rogers Raceway

North and south of the Hunter Street Bridge, R. D. Rogers, whose fine stone grist mill had been built in 1848, constructed a raceway that carried the river water from Douro Street to Engleburn. This allowed water power to be controlled for the generation of power that serviced an Ashburnham industrial park mostly north of Elizabeth Street, now Hunter Street East. From the 1870s to the 1900s major tenants included Mowry Agricultural Works; two other foundries; Anson Sperry's rake factory; Wand's Planing Mill; Craigie & Stephenson's woodworking; Lindsay Seldon Furniture Company (later the Dossett Manufacturing Company); Calcutt's Brewery; Calcutt's flax mill; and three woollen mills. In 1882, George C. Rogers introduced the first local rolling mill at the grist mill, later known as the Otonabee Mills.

In Memory of Ralph and Dorothy Mackie
by Dennis Carter-Edwards

Erected by the
**PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



HISTORIC SITE

Jackson Park

In 1893 the Nicholls Park Trust purchased this park from the Dixon family who had operated a logging and milling business near this site. In the 1830s, a nearby quarry provided stone for the County Court House, Hutchison House and St John's Church. The Park was the keystone for a system of parks, including Nicholls Oval and Inverlea Park, to provide the area with "urban lungs" and recreation. The park was named for B. Jackson a nephew of philanthropist Charlotte Jane Jackson Nicholls. In the early 1900s the street railway that served it offered its riders free park recreational activities such as skating, tobogganing, band concerts, a merry-go-round, and outdoor motion pictures. Jackson Creek, flowing from the Cavan Swamp to downtown Peterborough, dominates this park's 49 hectares of natural woods, waters, roadways and trails, and a unique pogoda Bridge.

In memory of Bertram Douglas Boyce
by Susan Fairs and Amy Gagne.

Erected by the
**PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**





Stewart Hamilton presented a cheque for \$3,500.00 to the Peterborough Historical Society on behalf of the Doors Open Committee of the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (PACAC) in support of the ongoing maintenance of Hutchison House. This very generous donation will assist in the installation of our new period roof and other necessary repairs to the house. Work on the new roof will begin in early November, depending on the weather and should be finished within a couple of weeks. Our thanks to all those who have contributed to this very important project as we finish up our 175th anniversary of the original construction of Hutchison House.

Mark Your Calendars

PHS General Meetings

Tuesday, November 20, 2012 *Don Willcock* will talk about the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force

Hutchison House Museum

Heritage Luncheons: Wednesday November 7, 2012

Wednesday December 5, 2012

Volunteers' Festive Sale Saturday November 24, 2012 10:00 am to noon.

Deadline for ordering wreaths or cheese Friday November 16, 2012. .

Memberships: If you haven't done so, please renew your PHS memberships. Individual \$35.00, Family \$45.00, Student \$15.00. Please consider having the Bulletin emailed.

Bulletin submissions for the December issue due by Wednesday, November 21, 2012. We welcome articles of historical interest.

The Bulletin

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Bulletin (ISSN 1484-5983)

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