



Peterborough Historical Society

395th Bulletin

March 2013



HUTCHISON HOUSE
35 Years of
Living History

Honorary President T.H.B. Symons

Past Honorary President Catharine Parr Traill

**PHS Annual General Meeting,
Tuesday 19 March 2013
Peterborough Public Library**

Lower Level Auditorium

“Where Do Writers Find Their Ideas”

Presented by Rae Fleming

R.B. (Rae) Fleming is a well-known biographer, historian, editor and lecturer. He has written and edited many books on a variety of topics including a biography of Sir William MacKenzie, *The Railway King of Canada*, a picture book about Canadians who came out to see King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, *The Royal Tour in 1939*, and *General Stores of Canada, Merchants & Memoirs*. His latest book is *Peter Gzowski, A Biography*, an acclaimed portrait of one of Canada's greatest broadcast journalists.

He lives in the village of Argyle north of Lindsay, and has published two local histories: *Eldon Connections* and *Argyle, A Pioneer Village*. He has also contributed to the Canadian Encyclopedia and to the Dictionary of Canadian Biography, as well as countless articles and reviews in academic journals.

For the past 30 years, Fleming has traveled across Canada and the UK for readings and speaking engagements.

Where does Fleming find the inspiration to write about such a wide variety of topics? His presentation will explore how he gets his ideas and develops his narratives.

Copies of his books will be available for sale at the meeting.



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada



from the President

As your new president, I feel very privileged to have this opportunity to contribute to the long and colourful history of the Peterborough Historical Society. These are challenging times as we struggle to stretch the budget but certainly not any more challenging than in the past.

Take 1969 – when Jeanette Connal Brown, the last owner of Hutchison House, was killed in a car accident and the house was bequeathed to PHS in her will. The President at the time, Jean Cole, and the rest of the Board had no idea this was going to happen and they were faced with deciding how to handle this unexpected development.

The decision was made to embark on a major fundraising campaign and then restore the house as a living history museum. Her Honour Pauline McGibbon, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, officially opened the restored Hutchison House on May 24, 1978.

This year, we are celebrating the museum's 35th Anniversary. As part of the festivities, we will be gathering for a daylong strategic planning workshop on April 13th. All PHS members and museum volunteers are invited to participate. Throughout the day, we will be identifying the current challenges of operating a not-for-profit organization. We will also be exploring options for working together to ensure that we have the resources to continue to promote local heritage preservation.

I urge everyone to participate in this important workshop. Letters of invitation with all the details will be mailed out shortly.

Barb McIntosh

New Board Member

Janet Bradley recently joined the PHS Board as Secretary. She has served on the Board of the YWCA for six years and is a long-time member of Amnesty International and the Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan. Janet was raised in Peterborough and is a graduate of Trent University. She has worked in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and London, England. Since 1990, she has been employed at Fleming College, her current role as Financial Aid Advisor assisting students with OSAP and bursaries. Janet is also a volunteer on the Hutchison House Gardening Committee.



Newly elected Board Members for 2013 are (left to right) Don Willcock, Susan Jewell, Linda Lumsden, Dennis-Carter Edwards (Past President), Barb McIntosh (President) Peter Darling (Treasurer) and Janet Bradley (Secretary).

Peterborough Historical Society Annual Heritage Awards – Deadline for Nominations 8 March 2013

As a means of encouraging programs and activities that promote local heritage preservation, PHS sponsors an Annual Heritage Awards Program. The deadline for nominations is March 8th. Nomination forms are available at the PHS office or may be downloaded from the awards section of the website.

This year's awards ceremony will take place on Wednesday, April 17th at 7:30 pm in the Keeping Room of Hutchison House Museum.

Options for Giving to PHS

A bequest to the Peterborough Historical Society in your will is the simplest way to arrange a planned gift. By including a bequest in your will you can feel the satisfaction of knowing that you will be helping the society in future and ensure tax benefits for your estate.

You can also take steps now to provide support to the Society over the long-term, while enjoying immediate tax benefits.

Gifts of Cash

Bequests of cash are always welcomed. They can be given unconditionally to meet the greatest immediate needs of the organization or to a specific fund or program.

Gifts of Securities

Publicly traded securities include stocks, bonds and mutual funds containing stocks listed on approved stock exchanges make excellent charitable gifts. By donating your gift prior to your death, you can reduce the size of your estate and thereby reduce probate costs. You will receive a tax receipt for the full fair market value of the donated securities.

“A Decade of Action” Reflections on the Heritage Preservation Office

Erik Hanson, the Heritage Resources Coordinator for the City of Peterborough, gave an informative and engaging presentation as the keynote speaker at the Society’s 2012 AGM. Looking back over the ten years the Heritage Preservation Office has been in operation, Erik highlighted some of the key achievements, including the restoration of Market Hall, the introduction of a tax relief scheme for designated heritage buildings and a reinvigorated Heritage Advisory Committee providing advice to City Council on heritage matters. However, the biggest change that Erik noted was the change in culture and values with respect to the commemoration of the community’s built heritage. Rather than a piece meal approach to saving a building here or restoring an architectural feature there, the city is moving towards a more holistic approach that looks at the broader cultural landscape and the various elements that give that landscape value, as opposed to simply looking at individual structures. He also noted that his office is looking at ways to recycle building materials from historic structures that are to be demolished. This would reduce the amount of building materials going into landfill and at the same time, find new homes and new uses for valuable material. Outgoing Director Michael Eamon thanked the speaker and presented a copy of Sir Sandford Fleming’s Diaries as a token of our appreciation.

Dennis Carter-Edwards

Looking for Heritage Trees

Heritage trees have more tales to tell than just the number of rings in their trunks, which is why GreenUP is looking for stories about these living relics for a new book being produced this year.

This project, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, will highlight interesting stories about notable trees to encourage preserving these living landmarks of historical events that shaped the city of Peterborough as well as those that reflect cultural practices of its residents and the changing urban environment these trees have adapted to survive in.

The book is part of a multi-year urban forest program that has included GreenUP staff, and their project partner the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, consulting with city staff on the development of an Urban Forest Management Plan, creating inventories of heritage trees, a seed propagation program, and a Treasure Tree Hunt that collected from the public personal stories about trees in their neighborhoods. The PHS recognized the value of the hunt by awarding the Heritage Tree Project Committee the J. Hampden Burnham Award. The hunt also earned a Natural Heritage Community Recognition Award from Ontario Heritage Trust in 2010.

Sheryl Loucks has been hired to coordinate the new non-profit book project. The goal is to collect stories this spring and publish the book in time for a December launch. Loucks is encouraging PHS members to contact her with stories they wish to share or if they are available to help research details about known heritage trees.

For this project's purpose, the Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance definition of a heritage tree will be used: *a notable specimen because of age, rarity and distinctive features; a living relic displaying cultural modification (ex. trail marking, pitch collecting, sap collecting); a prominent community landmark; a specimen associated with an historic person, place, event or period; a representative of a crop grown by ancestors at risk of disappearing, a tree associated with folklore, myths and traditions; a specimen identified as deserving heritage recognition.*

For further details on how to participate in this project, please email sheryl.loucks@greenup.on.ca or call 705-745-3238 ext 217.

Canadian Forestry Corps, 1916-1919

With 2014 being the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, it is likely there will be publications and media projects produced over the next few years to mark that conflict. The names of battles – Ypres, the Somme, Passchendaele, and Vimy, among others – will, no doubt, be prominently mentioned. Individual soldiers will be remembered, and the Canadian units such as the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the 93rd Overseas Battalion, and the Newfoundland Regiment will all be discussed.

There are some Canadian units that served important support roles in the Great War, without whom the fighting regiments and divisions would not have been able to do their jobs as well as they did, but who are all but forgotten because they served behind the scenes – and generally did not make the front page news. One such group of Canadians was the Canadian Forestry Corps. They were professional foresters, lumbermen, sawyers, teamsters, etc., who provided millions of feet of all types of lumber for military usages from the forests of Britain and France. Their jobs even included the creation of airfields for the Royal Flying Corps (later the Royal Air Force) – some of these fields, Biggin Hill for example, would become famous names during the Battle of Britain and the air campaign over Europe during World War II.

I have begun to research the history of the Canadian Forestry Corps in World War I, and would be very interested to learn of any Peterborough and area men who served with this group during this time. My initial interest in this subject came about because of the service of the Reverend James Rollins, then minister of St Andrew's Presbyterian (now United) Church in Peterborough, who was a military chaplain to the Forestry Corps units based in the royal estate forests around Windsor Castle. If anyone wishes to share information about local men who served with the Canadian Forestry Corps, either in Britain or in France, please contact me by e-mail at donwillcock@hotmail.com or by phone at 705-768-6602.

Thank you Don Willcock

Remember When

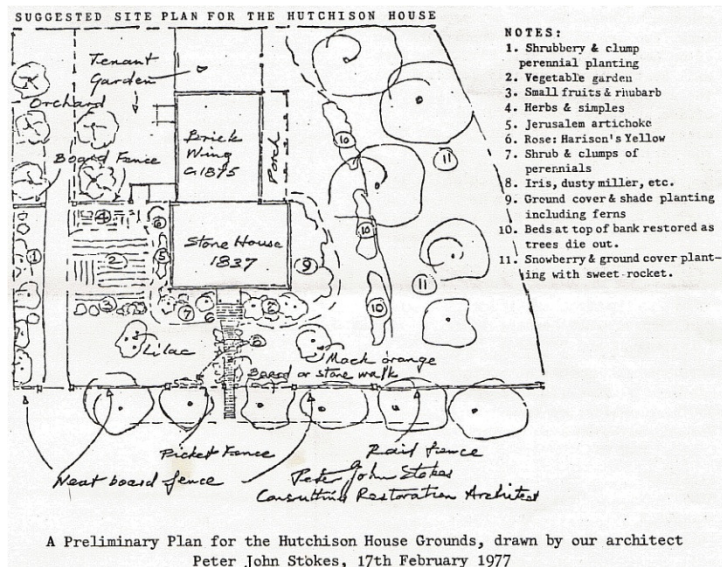
The year 2013 marks the 35th anniversary of the official opening of Hutchison House Living History Museum which had been acquired by the Peterborough Historical Society in 1969 as a bequest from Jeanette Connal Brown (the great granddaughter of James Harvey who bought the house from the Hutchison estate). The circumstances around this unusual development have been briefly covered in Jean Murray Cole's Occasional Paper #2 Hutchison House. Jean's experience with the Museum goes beyond just an academic exercise. Jean and her husband Alf moved to Peterborough in 1966 when he took on the position as Registrar for the newly established Trent University and also as professor in the History Department. Jean recalled those early days when the university faculty played a key role in the cultural life of Peterborough. "[President T.H.B. Symons] worked hard to get the university accepted in the community . . . For example they had public lectures at Queen Mary School . . . People from the university got involved in all sorts of things .. the symphony, the theatre guild, the art gallery and the historical society." While raising six children, Jean maintained an interest in writing and collected material for a biography of Catharine Parr Trail and thus had an interest in local history. In 1967 she was asked to join the Peterborough Historical Society and became secretary. She was on the Board when the Society received a letter from the lawyer for Jeanette's estate (who was tragically killed in a car accident while driving back to Ottawa), that the former Hutchison House was bequeathed to the Society. As Jean observed, "No one knew about this [provision in Jeanette's will] except Ralph Honey who was a Board member and whose wife was a close friend of Jeanette." So, it came as quite a surprise to the Board but as Jean stated, "People discussed it but you can't say no to something like that unless you are completely helpless. At the time the total budget of the Historical Society was \$590 a year." Charlie Huffman spearheaded the fund raising committee. "He was a terrific man and so easy to get along with and [having someone who was] a clerk of the works and head of a construction company and knows all about buildings, its fantastic. . . . Charlie enjoyed the work and would phone me every morning. He always told me what he was going to do that day and asked me what I was doing." The Society contacted Peter Stokes who prepared a preliminary plan with some idea of the work involved. There was a stretch of time between Peter's proposal and the actual start of work as the Society raised the necessary funds to carry out the restoration. In the meantime, Martha Kidd and her volunteers were busy working in the house, stripping wall paper and preparing for the work in the building. The Society hosted a wine and cheese party at the house as work was underway. "It brought in a lot of people who hadn't been members of the Society. . . . and helped with setting up various committees, such as Garden Committee, Acquisition Committee, Volunteer Committee etc." It was an interesting time for the Society as they prepared the museum for the official opening and the Peterborough Historical Society owes a debt to all those who helped make the acquisition and establishment of Hutchison House a reality.

Dennis Carter-Edwards

Hutchison House News - The Bulletin April 1977

Four members of the Hutchison House Garden Committee were among the twenty-five participants in the Ontario Museum Association Seminar held at the Ontario Agricultural Museum in Milton one blustery day last month, "An Introduction to 19th Century Horticulture" was the subject, and experts

who contributed papers and led discussions were Professor Owen Scott, who spoke on “Landscaping Historic Buildings”, Bill Hallowell of Black Creek Village, and Jean Harding of Gibson House. Una Outram, chairman of the Hutchison House Garden Committee, led the local delegation which



included Dr. Fern Rahmel, Anne Heideman and Jean Cole.

The Garden Committee is well into research and planning for the Hutchison House grounds; a tentative landscaping plan (printed in this Bulletin) has been worked out in consultation with our restoration architect, Peter John Stokes. More volunteers are needed and anyone interested in assisting with this aspect of the Hutchison House restoration is asked to contact Una Outram or any other member of the committee.

Hutchison House Report

The following is an excerpt from *Our Forest Home: Being Extracts From The Correspondence of the Late Frances Stewart* Second edition printed 1902

March 1826: “This time of year always brings to my mind my first visit to Edgeworthstown, a time never to be forgotten. Thank you dear H____ for the primroses and violets, their sweet smell has gone, but I preserve them carefully as relics.* How very different everything looks here at this time of the year to what it does at home. The ground is still covered with snow and there is no appearance of buds swelling or dear little spring flowers, all are shut up and hidden.”

*These brittle, withered flowers still lie folded in the faded letter nearly a century old.
— F.B., 1902”

Year after year as February fades and March begins, the promise of springtime fills the air. Daylight lingers a little longer with each passing day, birds greet the dawn with song, the air smells just a bit sweeter, and as we slop our way through slushy streets, we know that ‘old man winter’ will soon be on his way. Signs of spring are everywhere, and, like our forefathers, we look forward with anticipation to its coming.

Many local citizens make a tradition of attending our annual special events such as Hogmany or Peach Tea, and many others plan on visiting the museum to spend a relaxing afternoon on the terrace enjoying scones and jam during the summer. But, there aren’t very many people out there that would look forward spending Family Day on their hands and knees scrubbing the keeping room floor! However, the ‘Baker Clan’ from Cavan are a big exception and cleaning the floor has become a tradition for this gang. Thank you so much to Ann (the ringleader), Walter, Donna, Jamie, Cory, Ashley, Breanne, Keith, Mason, Kevin, Hayley, and Lily for doing such a great job on the floor, and in record time too! The team took less than 45 minutes to get the job done from start to finish. Wow! This year marks the fourth year in a row.

By now, school children must be eagerly awaiting their upcoming March Break. During the week we have an excellent line up of activities for children ages 6-12. Tuesday, March 12, the boys and girls will get the chance to do some wet felting. Wednesday, March 13, we will host a workshop on handmade kaleidoscopes for kids. Thursday, March 14 the children will create fabulously whimsical marionettes. On Friday, March 15, they'll be sewing their own cute cuddly teddy bears.

The March Break workshops all take place from 9:30 till noon at a cost of \$15 per child per workshop. Parents/grandparents are asked to send indoor shoes and snacks with their kids. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register please call the museum office at 705-743-9710.

During the month of March we are also offering an opportunity for volunteers (and potential volunteers) to view the DVD *"A Midwife's Tale"*. From the jacket notes, this film is "adapted from the Pulitzer Prize – winning book by Laurel Ulrich and unfolds like a detective story – the true tale of two women, 200 years apart, linked by the massive yet cryptic diary one of them left behind. The world of frontier midwife Martha Ballard (played by Kaiulani Lee) gradually takes shape as author and historian Laurel Ulrich pieces it together."

We have set the following dates and times for viewing the video: Friday, March 22 at 1:00 PM and Monday, March 25 at 10:00 AM. The film runs for approximately 90 minutes. Midway we will stop for refreshments and a much needed stretch. At our volunteer meeting in April (date still to be determined) Elwood Jones will speak about the publication and subsequent video.

If you are interested in signing up to see the film please call the museum office and get your name on the list. Space is limited. We will also take the names of people who are unable to attend on the dates given, as we will most likely have a third showing.

Finally, I would be remiss in not extending an official "thank you" to Mary Lavery for stepping up to the bar over the past two years as Chair of the Hutchison House Management Committee. It was great working with you Mary, in your capacity as Chair, and we look forward to having you on hand as head of our Costume Committee. In addition, please join me in welcoming Dennis Carter-Edwards to his new position as Chair of the Management Committee. It promises to be an exciting year as we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the opening of the museum. Dennis will surely bring his infectious energy and enthusiasm to the boardroom table.

Gale Fewings

Bulletin submissions for the April issue due by Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

The Bulletin

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Ongoing Exhibits

Lace Up – Canada's Passion for Skating at the
 Peterborough Museum until March 31, 2013

Winter Activities – Snow and Ice
 at Hutchison House Museum until March 31, 2013

Upcoming events at Hutchison House

March 12 to March 15,
 March break programs for children

the video *"A Midwife's Tale"*
 Friday, March 22 at 1:00 pm and Monday, March
 25 at 10:00 am

Heritage Luncheon Wednesday April 3

PHS Annual Heritage Awards Wednesday, April
 17th at 7:30 pm

PHS Memberships:
 Individual: \$35.00
 Family: \$45.00

Peterborough Historical Society
AGM and Dinner
February 19, 2013

