

**PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



Peterborough Historical Society
Bulletin

UPCOMING EVENTS

Love in the Afternoon

Sunday, Feb. 16
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Keeping Room
Tickets \$15.00 each
\$25.00 for two

Heritage Lunch, March 5,
April 2, May 7 and June 4
Noon and 1:p.m.

PHS Monthly Meeting,

March 18
Politics, Scandal and the
Trent Canal
Dennis Carter-Edwards

**Peterborough Museum
and Archives—Portraits**

of the North, December
15, 2013 to March 23, 2014

Issue 404th

February 2014

PHS Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Guest Speaker

**John Wadland, Professor Emeritus
Canadian Studies Department, Trent University**

Princess Gardens

Business Meeting 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Cash Bar: 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at PHS office

\$30.00 for Members \$35.00 for non-members



“As early as his inaugural address in 1964, and well before the nation’s Centennial celebrations, President Tom Symons expressed his hope that Trent University would become a major centre for the study of Canada. At the time, most Canadian universities, indeed many among Canada’s most vocal intellectual elite, regarded the study of Canada as parochial navel gazing. Advocating that Peterborough’s new university would actually privilege Canadian Studies, constituted a courageous challenge to this received wisdom. Accordingly, Trent’s 50th anniversary would seem an appropriate time to take stock, to determine whether we have delivered on Professor Symons’ hope. If we have succeeded, is it time to renew our commitment to it; or, if we have completed the task, accomplished the vision, should Trent now privilege the age of globalism, call the Canadian Studies project concluded and remove it from the university’s priorities? This question appears to be on the table.”

Dr. John Wadland, Professor Emeritus, has provided this brief outline of his remarks as the keynote speaker at the PHS Annual General Meeting on February 25th. His outstanding teaching career at Trent spanned more than 35 years. He served as Chair of the Canadian Studies Program and Director of the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies.

Dr. Wadland is well-known as an engaging public speaker and his remarks promise to be both enlightening and provocative.

From the President

We are delighted to have Dr. John Wadland as our keynote speaker for the Annual General Meeting and Dinner on February 25th. Dr. Wadland was the winner of many teaching awards during his 35 years at Trent University in the Canadian Studies Department. Trent celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year and Dr. Wadland will no doubt share with us his insights into the early days and on Trent's current directions.

There is a change in the agenda for the AGM. The business meeting and election of the new Board will begin at 5:00 p.m. with appetizers and beverages. The roast beef dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. Please encourage non-members to join us for the dinner and keynote speaker. Tickets are available at the PHS office.

Barb McIntosh

Sale of Antiquarian Atlas Raises funds for PHS

PHS member, George Bedford, is an avid book collector. When he was downsizing before moving into Jackson Creek Retirement Residence, he decided to try to find a good home for his 1881 first edition of the *Illustrated Atlas of the Dominion of Canada*.

George donated it to the PHS with the hope that it could be used as a fundraiser for the Society by offering it for sale. John Burbidge donated services- in kind to make some minor repairs to the atlas and Bill Van Nest of Trillium Antiquarian Books, donated his expertise to establish a value and to advertise it to prospective buyers. In early January, the atlas was sold to a collector in the area. The sale provides a much-needed addition to the PHS operating budget.

2014 Heritage Awards

The Peterborough Historical Society is now accepting nominations for its 2014 Heritage Awards Program. These awards recognize outstanding accomplishments in heritage preservation and promotion and are named in honour of former Peterborough citizens who made significant contributions to the community.

This year, the criteria for the **Martha Ann Kidd Award** has been expanded to recognize not just sound restoration work to historic properties, but also new construction that maintains the heritage character and feel of the streetscape.

Other awards categories are: **Samuel Armour Award** for programs, activities or curriculum-based local history material for students; **J. Hampton Burnham Award** for a major project in any media that promotes awareness of the history of the region; **George Cox Award** for preservation, conservation or restoration of significant cultural resources such as artifacts, manuscripts, historic gardens and cultural landscapes; **F.H. Dobbin Award** for publication of a major work that focuses on Peterborough's past; **Charlotte Nicholls Award** for a substantial donation, either financial or in-kind services, toward the commemoration of an historic structure, artifact or cultural landscape.

The deadline for 2014 nominations is March 7th. Further information and nomination forms can be picked up at the PHS office or printed from the PHS website. For further information contact Dennis Carter-Edwards (705) 743-4220.

Sponsors Needed for PHS Historic Plaques

Over the years, PHS has erected over 50 plaques that commemorate sites of historic interest in Peterborough. Beginning in 2011, it began offering its members and others the opportunity to directly participate in the historic plaque program by sponsoring the production of new plaques. The cost is \$150.00 per plaque and the sponsor's name is printed on the plaque.

There are currently four historic plaques in need of sponsors: Albion Knitting Mill; Malone House; Hazelbank Cottage; and John Langton House. If you would like to become a sponsor, contact Gail Corbett 705- 652-9232.

Remember When – Doris Huffman (Part II)

My interview with Doris Huffman covered her recollections of growing up in Lakefield during the 1920s, and 1930s and living in Peterborough in the 1940s. The 20s were a period of rapid social change with “Flappers, Fords and Hip Flasks”, but Doris recalled no such daring experiences as a young girl. *“We led a quiet life in Lakefield and went to the rink on Saturday night and skated and that was our entertainment.”*

Similarly, the “Dirty Thirties” when Canada experienced the full impact of the Great Depression left no strong impression on her. *“Actually, I never even noticed it because everybody was the same, your mother made a lot of your clothes and you lived frugally but you didn’t notice it, at least I didn’t.”* Although her daily walk to school took her past the railway tracks by the station, she never encountered the hobo camps of unemployed men riding the rails nor were such topics discussed around the table. *“I would be shielded from that . . . we didn’t discuss [such issues] at home”*

Her recollections are a timely reminder that broad historical events, when viewed through the lens of an individual or a local community, can appear quite different. As a young teacher taking university courses during the war years, Doris had little time for socializing. However, she did enjoy badminton and joined the Peterborough Badminton Club.

“There were courts in the market hall – four courts but we could only use three because the tenants underneath didn’t like the fact that we were playing badminton upstairs, they were afraid the ceiling would come through or fall in.” It was at the club that Doris met her husband when he returned from the navy at the end of the war.

Married in 1946, Doris quit teaching to raise her family of three children. As a young mother, she joined the Baby Band Mothers sponsored by Trinity United Church. *“We would meet once a month in the evenings . . . we had speakers and you got to meet people you wouldn’t other have met otherwise.”* It was a pleasure hearing Doris’ personal recollections from more than half a century ago.

Dennis Carter-Edwards

From the Curator

We have a number of interesting programs in store this coming year. Please spread the word to non-members of the society and help us to promote our events to the greater community. Word-of-mouth is one of the greatest ways to reach out to others who may not be aware of the wide variety of opportunities to enjoy Hutchison House. There are so many different options open to our visitors of all ages.

For instance, our offering of **'Love in the Afternoon'** in February is a warm-hearted example. Looking for a little love in the afternoon? Come to Hutchison House for a delightful exploration of romance and courtship in the 19th century, on Sunday, February 16, 2014 from 2 to 4 pm. Indulge your inner sense and sensibility through live music, poetry, excerpts from letters and diaries of notable local historic figures, and presentations on courtship practices. Guests will discover the timelessness of romantic love. The event will include a light lunch of fancy sandwiches, finger foods, dainties, as well as 'Valentine Hugs' whisky punch and 'Raspberry Kisses' non-alcohol punch. Admission is \$15 per person, \$25 per couple. Seating is limited and tickets must be purchased in advance at the House. For more information please contact the museum at 705-743-9710 or visit the website at www.hutchisonhouse.ca. This very special event is in honour of Valentine's Day and the kick off to Heritage Week.

If the idea of sitting by the fire enjoying a hearty homemade lunch is more to your taste, here's our schedule of **Heritage Luncheons** for the coming months. The luncheons begin again on Wednesday, 5 February. The two sittings take place at 12:00 pm and 1:30 pm. Our seasonal menu promises to dispel your mid-winter blahs and post-Christmas humdrums. Luncheons will also be held on March 5, April 2, May 7 and June 4. For more information please call the office for details and to book tickets. The luncheons are very popular and most months we sell out, so if you're interested please book tickets well in advance.

Parents and grandparents will be amazed at the **wonderful hands-on activities offered kids over March Break**. Now is the time to register for the four morning workshops being held between March 11 & 14. Erin and I have been experimenting with a number of fun crafts and we are both very excited about our programs this year. Starting with **'Fantastic Sculptures'** made from modeling clay on Tuesday, March 11, moving on to **'Fabulous Finger Puppets'** created with a wide variety of styles and materials on Wednesday, March 12, followed by **'Bobbles & Beads'** hand-crafted jewellery Thursday, March 13, and finishing the week with **'Magnificent Marionnettes'** Friday, March 14. Children will delight in their very own imaginative creations.

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.

Gale Fewings





Hogmanay—January 2014



From the Bulletin February 1980

It was a day of Scottish music, dance, song, recitations, good food and drink as Hutchison House ushered in the new decade with its first annual Hogmanay celebration. Over 315 visitors took part in the festivities on January 1st, which made the day one of the most successful special events Hutchison House has had to date. A special thanks to all those who cooked, guided, and took part in the many presentations.

On January 13th Hutchison House held an open house in conjunction with SnoFest '80. Over 100 persons turned out to see demonstrations of open –hearth cooking and spinning, and to learn more about their pioneer heritage.

Although the House is closed for January and February, we have been extremely busy. The furniture refinishing group has been finishing the display unit in the meeting room. We have been revising and up-dating records, planning special events, cataloguing new donations, cleaning up the storage area, getting ready to complete the pantry display area, and planning a new brochure,

The first volunteer meeting of 1980, to be held at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, February 25th, at Hutchison House, will be geared to the many types of activities and crafts which can be demonstrated by the volunteers. New interpretation material will be distributed. If you are interested in becoming a Hutchison House volunteer, please come to the meeting, I know it will be of interest to all!

As many of you are aware, Heritage Day is Monday February 18th. Although it is not a national holiday, it gives us all an opportunity to reflect and learn more about our country's past. On Sunday February 17th, between 1:00 and 4:00 pm come and step back into the past, and explore Peterborough's living heritage as Hutchison House presents "Heritage Day". Admission is free.

Tom Kuglin, Curator



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Submissions for the March issue due by Wednesday, February 26, 2014. We welcome articles of historical interest.

The Bulletin

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PHS Memberships:
Individual: \$35.00
Family: \$45.00
Student: \$15.00

John Craig: A Writer We Need to Honour Presented by Michael Peterman

Michael Peterman, Professor Emeritus from Trent, gave an inspiring talk on the writings of John Craig,

Craig was born in Peterborough in 1921. He left school in the 1930s to travel by hitchhiking and rail. During the WW II, as he said himself, HE had four ordinary years in the Volunteer Naval Reserve. Once the war was over he attended United College in Manitoba on his veteran's allowance, where he earned a BA. In Manitoba he met his wife and moved to Toronto to get his M.A. at the University of Toronto. Following school he began work at Canadian Facts in Toronto and advanced through the company to become Vice-President. He was always writing and in 1970, he became a full time freelance writer. In 1979, he moved his family to Peterborough.

He wrote over 20 books covering many genres and topics, including children's adventure stories. Many of his novels were set in the Peterborough area and explored controversial topics such as racism between whites and blacks, between whites and natives and between Catholics and Protestants. Happy and Me is autobiographical about his summer experience with a coloured baseball league in western Canada. His historical writings included The Noronic, chronicles the burning of this steamship in Toronto in 1949 that killed 119 people. He also wrote thrillers such as If You Want to See Your Wife Again, sports stories about fishing, baseball, as well as hockey, Olympics and canoeing. Many of his stories included the natural elements, buildings and settlements in the Kawarthas. But the names were disguised to give them general appeal. Michael describes John Craig as the Ernest Hemingway or Thomas Hardy of Peterborough and the Kawarthas. He died in Peterborough in 1982.

All of his are now out of print. However, many can be found in the Peterborough Public Library and other libraries across Canada and in Europe printed and read.

Marilyn MacNaughton

New Storage Shed Will be Built this Spring

Thanks to a donation of building materials from PHS member David Mitchell and funding from The Peterborough Foundation, Hutchison House will be getting a new storage shed this spring.

The new shed will replace the current garage. It will be designed to make the best use of available space and the exterior will better reflect the heritage character of the property. The gardening committee will enjoy a separate room for garden tools and supplies with a separate entrance off the garden.

Project Manager Paul Lumsden expects the project to begin in early spring and be completed in time for spring clean-up and planting.