



# *Peterborough Historical Society*

## Bulletin

Issue 406th

April 2014

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Poetry In Motion Past and Present**

Celebrating Poetry  
Month in Canada  
April 27, 2:00 - 4:00 pm  
Keeping Room  
Hutchison House Museum

#### **2014 Heritage Awards Ceremony**

April 16, 7:30 pm  
Keeping Room  
Hutchison House Museum

#### **Heritage Luncheon**

May 7, 12:00 and 1:30 pm  
Advance Tickets Required

#### **Heritage Luncheon**

June 4, 12:00 and 1:30 pm  
Advance Tickets Required

#### **PHS Spring Plant Sale**

Gardening Committee  
May 24, starts at 9:00 am

#### **Rhubarb Spring Fling**

May 28, 1:00 and 2:00 pm  
Advance Booking Required

### **PHS MONTHLY MEETINGS**

#### **April 15, 7:30 pm**

A Brief History of  
Medicine in the Victorian Era  
Guest: Jim Taggart

#### **May 20, 7:30 pm**

Museums from Around the  
World  
Guest: Ken Armstrong

### **Medical Practices in the Victorian Era presented by Jim Taggart**

**PHS Public Meeting April 15<sup>th</sup>  
Peterborough Public Library, 7:30 p.m.**

The Victorian era was a time when the causes of illness were largely unknown and doctors for the most part were forced to stand helplessly by as their patients died. It was a time of traumatic surgery and extensive drug use. The “cure” was often worse than the illness.

It was also the period when surgeons were empowered first by anesthesia and later by antiseptic techniques, but also a time when new medical theories were rejected because they conflicted with established scientific and medical opinion. Gender and class distinctions resulted in special care for some and often barbaric treatment for women and the lower classes.

These issues and others will be discussed by Jim Taggart at the April 15<sup>th</sup> public meeting.

Jim is a retired elementary and secondary school teacher, history buff and re-enactor from Burlington. He has made countless presentations in schools and to interested groups throughout Ontario. He will give his presentation in period dress, using early medical instruments.

This presentation will be of special interest to PHS members, given the association with Dr. John Hutchison, one of Peterborough's first resident doctors in the mid 1800s.



## From the President....

**D**id you know that maple syrup can only be produced in the northern part of North America, where specific weather conditions exist in late winter. Sap flows best when nights hover just around -5C and daytime temperatures hit + 5C, over several consecutive days. Such weather has yet to arrive here.

Something tells me that the Maple Syrup Festival held in Warkworth last weekend was a bit premature. But the good news is that our brutal winter is predicted to result in a great, albeit late, maple syrup season.

Sinzibuckwud is the Algonquin word for maple syrup, meaning “drawn from wood”. One First Nation legend maintains that the first syrup maker was an Iroquois woman. On a late winter morning, her husband had yanked his tomahawk from a tree where he had left it the night before. On that particular day, the weather had turned quite warm causing the tree’s sap to run into a container at the base of the tree. Thinking it was plain water, the wife used it to cook the evening meal. Everyone was delighted with the unusual sweet flavour of the roast and the syrupy sauce. Thus began the tradition of making maple syrup.

The First Nation peoples showed the early European settlers how to tap the trunks of Sugar Maple trees and harvest the sap. Maple syrup became the major source of high quality sugar in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in eastern Canada.

Today, Quebec is the largest producer of maple syrup, responsible for three quarters of the world’s supply. Exports of maple syrup from Quebec are worth in excess of \$145 million annually.

- *Barb McIntosh*

## Remember When – Rev D. Howson (Part II)

**M**y interview with Rev D. Howson also covered the war years. After leaving U of T, he was a Divinity student at St. Andrews in Edinburgh but the threat of war in the spring of 1939 and the urgings of his parents brought him back to Canada. He completed his degree at Presbyterian College in Montreal. In February 1940 he passed his exams for a commission in the regular forces, having previously been in the Officer Training Corps. At the same time he was offered the charge of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Fredericton, N.B. which was experiencing some difficulties. He opted for the church. I asked him about his choice of career. *“I had spent three years studying for the ministry . . . My grandmother on my father’s side had a brother who was in the ministry and she encouraged me as much as anyone. . . . My father was happy and said I probably wasn’t cut out for business.”*

He enjoyed the experience with his first parish.. *“I had a wonderful time at my first parish. I didn’t cater to the well to do. I tried to bring the poorer people who were left out into the church and I was well accepted. The premier was an elder and it was a difficult situation for a young man only 25, but I think I did fairly well.”*

However, he hadn’t given up his interest in the military. As he explained, *“And then I went into the navy and got a leave of absence and went back and got another degree, a Masters in Psychology . . they kept the church vacant for me . . . they wanted me to come back which I did until they wanted me to go to Korea.”*

The next installment covers the Reverend Major Howson’s years in the Korea War.

- *Dennis Carter-Edwards*

## From the Curator....

The museum hosted four successful March Break programs this year. All of the children really enjoyed the activities and it was lots of fun for the staff and volunteers as well. Thank you to Linda Chandler, Alice Latham and Basil Pappas for giving so generously of your time and energy to help run the programs. Crayola Canada gave the museum a large donation of their product Model Magic to help off-set the cost of materials for two of the sessions. We are very grateful to them for this generous donation valued at approximately \$150.

On Sunday, April 27, 2014 Hutchison House will host "Poetry in Motion" from 2:00 - 4:00 pm in celebration of Poetry Month. Members of the Independent Writers and Poets and Peterborough Spoken Word Collective will bring a real mix of styles to the occasion. In general they will be honouring the genre and those who live and die loving words....that ring and sing, that add joy, knowledge and community to life.

It promises to be a delightful afternoon with a fast pace. At intermission patrons will enjoy period refreshments. If you are interested in attending the event please call the museum office at 743-9710 or e-mail [info@hutchisonhouse.ca](mailto:info@hutchisonhouse.ca). Admission will be pay-what-you-can. Space is limited, to avoid disappointment please call ahead. The readings will be held in the Keeping Room by the fire.

***New to Hutchison House:*** In an effort to make every learning experience a valuable experience, we have included a new interactive program within the Museum! As an addition to our Virtual Museum Tour DVD, Museum Management and Curatorship students from Sir Sandford Fleming College have created a new chest full of artifacts that represent a great deal of the history presented in the museum for individuals who cannot access the upstairs levels of Hutchison House. This chest is accompanied by a book providing an introductory explanation to the history of Hutchison House, allowing an independent learning experience for those who wish this. There is also a short Braille version. This experience is great for visitors who cannot trek up the stairs of the museum, those who would rather sit and experience the artifacts first-hand, or those who are visually impaired. Come and join us for your next museum experience and enjoy the history of our museum hands-on!

- Gale Fewings



## March Break Crafts

(Left to Right): Toula—Finger Puppets; Paige—Fantastic Sculptures; Mackenzie—Jewelry; Cora—Marionettes



## Politics, Scandal and the Trent Canal

### Presented by Dennis Carter-Edwards

Aside from the engineering marvels of the lift locks, first use of concrete, the concrete arch bridge, or the marine railway, all was not as it appears according Dennis Carter-Edwards who spoke about several of the scoundrels, jobbers, wire pullers, fixers, scallywags, self serving politicians, political hacks, fraudsters, inept managers and out and out crooks.

Businessman James Gray Bethune, who was in control of public and private funding, could have gained considerable wealth from the canal. However, due to mismanagement he lost his fortune, his family's fortune and ended up in debtor's prison. Mossom Boyd received a large settlement which started his career as the lumber baron of the Kawarthas and as a result of a surveying error, owner of the lock in Bobcaygeon. Thomas S. Rubidge, who was superintendent of the Trent Canal in the 1880s, thought the canal was waste of money. Some of his colleagues suspected him of being a government plant and relations within the canal office degenerated into fist fights among the engineers.

Then there was the politics. Sir John A MacDonald saw the canal as an excellent way to get votes. Throughout the 1880s and 1890s when the Tories provided money for canal projects, the Liberals would rail against the funding as waste and political patronage and when the Liberals won the 1896 election, Wilfred Laurier was in control of the patronage tap and was unwilling to turn off the flow of contracts to party faithful. In an interview with the Peterborough Daily Review, James Harris McClellan who was appointed superintendent in 1905 stated "*The canal is for commerce and the duty of canal officials is to look after the interests of shippers, lumbermen and manufacturers.*" He rewarded merchants, bankers and friends with "payroll" jobs as labourers.

These are just some of the stories about questionable behaviour. However, Dennis concluded there were many dedicated and talented individuals such as R.B. Rogers who left their positive mark on the waterway.

- Marilyn MacNaughton

---

## PHS Archives and Library Undergoing a Makeover

For the past two years, Board Member, Susan Jewell (a retired librarian who worked for many years at the U of T's Robart's Library), has been sorting the volumes of PHS archival printed material and filling important papers to meet conservation standards. The collection consists of presidential and financial reports going back to the 1950s, as well as newspaper clippings, photo collections and scrapbooks.

The material has been stored in archival boxes, chronologically. An inventory was completed last summer and it was decided to remove some of the materials that are available elsewhere, and create a small reference and research collection that can be used by PHS members, students and others. This is still a work in progress.

The library, now located in the PHS Boardroom, is a unique collection of approximately 600 books, covering many subject areas. The emphasis is on local history, medical practices at the time of Dr. Hutchison, daily pioneer life, early arts and crafts, gardening and herbs, and heritage cooking, to name a few. Many hours have been spent, arranging the books by subject with colour coding and a reference map. Some of the books have been donated and others have been purchased over the years.

The reference library is used by staff to develop programs as well as members of the public by appointment.

## Hutchison House News – Bulletin April 1980

### Hutchison House Costume

Recreating the atmosphere of a nineteenth century household is not an easy task. Like a detective, we search for clues to solve a mystery. Based on research, we are able to piece together fragmentary evidence that enables us to reconstruct a time period from the past. This research includes archaeological investigations; surveying the architectural details of the building; the area, the people who lived there, and the articles and furnishings they gathered about them. As research continues and a mystery is solved, we can begin to furnish the rooms and interpret the past for visitors.

The history of Hutchison House is interpreted by guides. To capture the atmosphere of the recreated past, our guides are costumed. Costuming a large staff of volunteer guides is no easy assignment. Questions arise that must be answered before any costumes can be made: What period will the costumes portray? What were the styles of the period and are they relevant to the restoration of the house?

Miss Maralin Munro spent uncounted hours of careful investigation of the costumes of the 1840's. Her task was made easier by the find of a "rag-bag" during the restoration. In this bag were pieces of textiles, including a dressing sacque, dress sleeves, a child's and a man's shirt, and a woman's house cap. Miss Munro was able to attribute the textiles to the 1840's, and her dating was verified by the costume curator of the Interpretation Division of the National Historic Sites Branch in Ottawa. The collection has claimed the interest of the McCord Museum in Montreal and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

From her textiles and the results of her research, Miss Munro designed the appropriate nineteenth-century costumes needed for the House. The house cap is particularly interesting. Our guides now wear an exact duplicate of the original found in the House. After the design was completed, the next step was to find suitable fabric. This search too was made easier by the textiles found in the House. Comparable materials, prints and colours are available today.

The financing of the project was made possible by grants from the Peterborough Atlas Foundation and Wintario. To date we have thirty costumes which are in the final stage of completion. Special thanks to Mrs. Betty Hinton who assisted Miss Munro, and to all the volunteers who have spent endless hours hand sewing the garments.

A visit to Hutchison House to see our volunteers in their period dress would be a gesture of thanks to the Atlas Foundation, to Wintario, to the kind generosity on Miss Maralin Munro and the numerous other individuals who have made this project possible.

- Tom Kuglin

---

## Options for Planned Giving to the Peterborough Historical Society

Since 1896, the Peterborough Historical Society (PHS) had played a key role in promoting the rich history of the city. In addition to its on-going public education initiatives, PHS owns and operates Hutchison House Living Museum, offering the community an opportunity to experience pioneer life in 19<sup>th</sup> century Ontario.

You can help to ensure that this tradition of community involvement continues to benefit future generations by making a personal donation to the Society. *(continued on page 6)*



## *Peterborough Historical Society*

Phone: 705-740-2600

[info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca)

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

### **Hutchison House Museum**

270 Brock Street  
Peterborough, ON  
K9H 2P9

Phone 705-743-9710

[info@hutchisonhouse.ca](mailto:info@hutchisonhouse.ca)

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

### **The Bulletin**

Editor  
**Barb McIntosh**

Publisher  
**Marilyn MacNaughton**

Distribution  
**Linda Lumsden**

Submissions for the May  
issue due by Wednesday,  
April 16, 2014.

We welcome articles of  
historical interest and  
Letters to the Editor.

Bulletin (ISSN 1484-5983)

Planned giving is any gift or bequest that is arranged now to provide funds in the future. Your gift can be unconditional to be used where the need is greatest, or it can be directed to a specific cause.

While cash donations are the most common form of charitable gift, there are several other options for providing support now or upon your death, including life insurance, publicly-traded stocks, bonds and mutual funds containing stocks, annuities and all or part of your RRSP or RRIF. Your lawyer or estate planner can help you decide which is best for you. All donations through planned giving offer attractive tax benefits.

### **Options for Giving:**

**Bequest.** 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.

**Cash Donation.** Cash donations 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.

**Gifts of Life Insurance.** Almost any type of life insurance can be used as a charitable gift by naming PHS the owner and registered beneficiary of your policy. The insurance proceeds at death will be paid directly to the PHS. They are not included in your estate and are not subject to estate probate fees.

**Gifts of Retirement Funds.** Anyone owning a RRSP or RRIF can make this type of gift. Upon death, gifts of retirement funds can be made outside your estate by directly designating PHS as the beneficiary or through the estate in your will. When the gift is made outside your estate, there is one less step involved and the gift is not subject to probate and other estate settlement fees.

**Gifts of Annuities.** Donors may choose to give a sum of money to purchase an annuity. The donor receives an income from the annuity, usually for the rest of his or her life. On the death of the donor, PHS receives the balance of the annuity. An appropriate tax receipt is provided at the time the annuity is purchased.

**Planned gifts can provide significant tax advantages for the donor, but in order to ensure that all relevant issues have been considered, please contact your lawyer, accountant, financial planner, life insurance agent or estate planner.**

**[info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.com)**