

PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



Peterborough Historical Society
Bulletin

UPCOMING EVENTS

Heritage Luncheons

May 7 and June 4

Noon and 1:30 p.m.

PHS Monthly Meeting,

May 20 7:30 p.m.

Some Museums of Interest, Ken
Armstrong

Spring Plant & Bake Sale

Saturday, May 24

9 am to noon.

Rhubarb Spring Fling

Wednesday May 28

1pm and 2pm

**Peterborough Chapter
OAS Monthly Meeting**

Speaker: Mary Cate
Garden –Landscapes Lost-Things
Left Behind

May 27 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

Free Admission

**Peterborough Museum & Ar-
chives–** Stories of Sacrifice-

Peterborough Remembers WW I

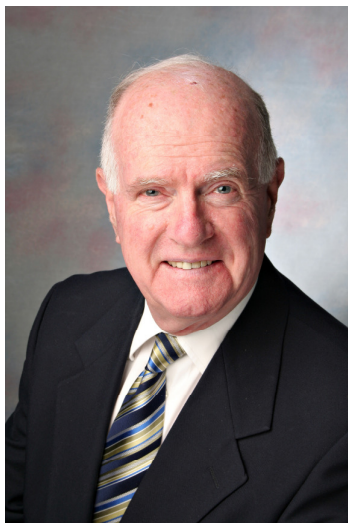
March 30 –June 8

Issue 407th

May 2014

**Some Museums of Interest
Presented by Ken Armstrong**

**PHS Public Meeting May 20th
at Peterborough Public Library, 7:30 p.m.**



Through his extensive travels, Ken Armstrong has visited museums around the world. With slides and commentary he will share his experiences and insights.

One hundred years ago, all museums were remarkably the same. The buildings which housed a nation's treasures were quiet, solitary places. Today museums strive to be different from each other, so as to separate themselves for a discerning public.

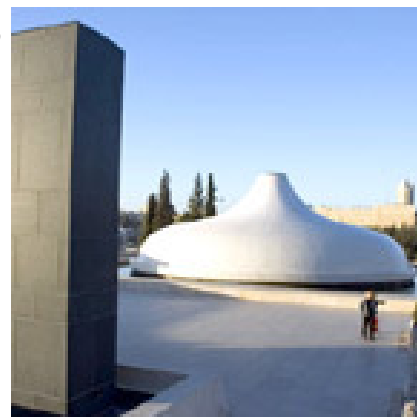
Museum visitors these days are just as curious as they were in the past but today's visitors demand instant engagement with the artifacts on display. So, the challenge facing current museum directors is to capture and stimulate

the public's interest in an age when they can instantly turn to Google to satisfy their curiosity. Today's modern visitor doesn't just want to see the artifacts. They must be properly presented with appropriate lighting, attractive well-written scripts and easy traffic patterns throughout the building.

In his presentation, Ken will show a selection of museums which have been successful in preserving and displaying local, national and international treasures.

He will also discuss the challenges facing museums today. Museums are not self sustaining. They are expensive to maintain and particularly small museums are continually fighting for their lives..

Through slides and commentary, Ken will explore how we can ensure the survival of museums in a competitive age .



Israel Museum

From the President

It's a sure sign of spring when Scilla appear in the garden. These little royal blue flowers are among the first to alert us that winter is over. This year, like everything else, even the Scilla were late. They were spotted for the first time last week in the east garden photo by Gale Fewings). At last we are able to move forward with our spring agenda – replacing the 1950s garage with a new shed that will look more in keeping with the house and give us better storage space.

A special thanks is extended to members of the Garden Committee, Barb Barkley, Betty Hinton, Susan Jewell and Lucy Verpoorte for removing the garden supplies and tools. Also, I want to thank Paul Lumsden and Dennis Carter- Edwards for dealing with the heavy things, along with a host of other vintage items that were destined for the umpster . By the time you are reading this, the new shed should be nearing completion and perennials will be appearing. It will be time to start planning for planting and our annual spring plant sale on May 24th.



Victorian Medicine Presented by Jim Taggart

Jim and Betty Taggart gave an enlightening presentation at the April 15th meeting, confirming that the cure was often worse than disease in Victorian times. Doctors relied on what they were taught by senior doctors and mentors. They determined the ailment by observation and listening to symptoms. They never touched the patient. Remedies such as a potato to cure an ear ache and coffee to relieve constipation or other maladies were common solutions. Doctors believed that purging cured all. Their medical kits contained bleeding bowls, leeches and saws of different sizes. There was little surgery, mainly amputations. Discoveries and developments such as the germ theory presented by Louis Pasteur and Joseph Lister (circa 1860) were ignored. Even Dr. Semmelweis (circa 1849) who insisted that doctors wash their hands and instruments prior to delivering babies was ridiculed. Florence Nightingale didn't believe in the germ theory but she did believe in cleanliness.



Doctors were trained in theory only. It usually took two years at University to receive a certificate as a Doctor of Medicine. Students paid \$100 to the teaching doctor and only had to attend seven of his classes each year. Often, if one couldn't afford the \$100 fee, there were other doctors who charged less. Surgeons learned their work as apprentices and were considered trades people. There was a separation of duties at the time between doctors and chemists. A doctor could diagnose and prescribe. A chemist made and sold drugs but could not prescribe.

In the 1790s, ether and nitrous oxide were popular as recreational drugs for experiences that were known as "Ether Frolics". However morphine and opium were widely prescribed and used in the miracle drugs and syrups sold by chemists. These drugs and syrups sold up to mid 1900s to provide relief from many ailments – in children's teething syrups, for soothing cough syrups, and in medicines to ease morning sickness and menstrual pain. Victorian women used arsenic laced wafers and bathed with arsenic soap and shampoo to look younger and improved their skin tone and colour .

Marilyn MacNaughton

From the Curator

There's been plenty of excitement at Hutchison House over the past several weeks. The old circa 1950s garage was demolished mid-April and in its place we are in the process of constructing a circa 1850s style shed. Replacing the garage has long been on the museum's 'wish list' and finally it is one more thing to be crossed off that ever present 'to-do list' as well.

Heading into Museum Month we are hosting a variety of events in May. We begin the month with a heritage luncheon on Wednesday, May 7th. Most members of the Society will already be familiar with the monthly lunches offered during the fall, winter and spring each year. One more luncheon will take place on Wednesday, June 4th and then we hang up our skillets and bring on the Scottish Teas which run Tuesday through Sunday afternoons throughout July and August.

The Hutchison House volunteers will host a Spring Plant Sale & Bake Sale Saturday, May 24 from 9am to noon. We will offer a selection of perennials and other garden plants just in time for spring planting in addition to fresh baked goodies. Be sure to come early for the best choices. Anyone wishing to donate plants or baked goods is asked to please bring them to Hutchison House between May 20-22 for pricing on Friday prior to the sale.

In celebration of Museum Month, staff and volunteers will host the 5th annual Rhubarb Spring Fling on Wednesday May 22 from 1-4pm. Enjoy a taste of spring with a delicious rhubarb dessert, topped with a dollop of ice cream. Tea, iced tea or lemonade will add a refreshing compliment to this delightful spring repast.

Tickets for the Rhubarb Dessert may be purchased in advance at a reduced rate of \$6.00 or at the door for \$8.00. Sittings are 1pm and 2 pm. To reserve seats for this event please call the museum at (705) 743-9710.

Finally, Erin and I would like to sincerely thank Gail Corbett for arranging presenters for Poetry in Motion, Past & Present held in the keeping room on Sunday, April 27. Thank you as well to all of the talented writers, readers and poets who graciously took part in this very special event. We couldn't have done it without you!

Gale Fewings



Clearing out the old shed was a major undertaking



Construction has started on the new shed

2014 Annual Heritage Awards

The Peterborough Historical Society announced the winners of its 2014 Heritage Awards on Wednesday night April 16, at a presentation ceremony in the historic Keeping Room of Hutchison House Museum. Graham Hart was Master of Ceremonies.

The **Martha Ann Kidd Award** is a new award, honouring the memory of the late Martha Ann Kidd, who did so much to raise awareness of Peterborough's architectural heritage. This award recognizes an organization that has restored an historic building or designed a new building that is respectful of its historic surroundings. The winner this year is the firm Ashburnham Realty and architect Chris Tworowski, for design and construction of the residential block at 7 Fleming Place in downtown Peterborough. This new residential structure was designed in keeping with the architectural character of the adjacent heritage buildings, with advice from the city's Heritage Preservation Office. Paul Bennett of Ashburnham Realty accepted the award.

The **F.H. Dobbin Award** recognizes a major work of either fiction or non-fiction that focuses on Peterborough's past. This year's winner was the well-researched and beautifully illustrated book *Under the Canopy: Peterborough's Heritage Trees*, produced by Peterborough Green up. Editor Sheryl Loucks accepted the award.

The **George A. Cox Award** is given to an organization or individual for the restoration of a significant cultural resource. This year the award went to the City of Peterborough's Engineering and Construction Division for the restoration of the historic Hunter Street Bridge. While consultants and engineering firms share in this accomplishment, the Society recognizes the vision and determination of the City of Peterborough to accurately preserve the special features of this unique engineering treasure in the face of numerous challenges. Blair Nelson accepted the award on behalf of the City.

The **J. Hampton Burnham Award** recognizes the completion of a major project that promotes awareness of the region. John Harris of the Smith-Ennismore Historical Society accepted the award for his role in spearheading a major project to acquire, preserve and catalogue, a substantial body of archival material related to the history of the area. It is through the dedication of such volunteer organizations, that the rich history of Peterborough and area is protected and made available for researchers.

The winners are selected annually by a volunteer panel of independent judges:.



Award Winners: Sheryl Loucks (left) Peterborough Green Up; Paul Bennett, Ashburnham Realty; Blair Nelson, City of Peterborough; John Harris, Smith Ennismore Historical Society; Dennis Carter-Edwards, Chair of the Awards Committee.

Remember When – Reverend Major Donald Howson Part 3

My interview with Major Howson also included his time during the Korean War from July 1951 to February 1953. Although he had a rewarding career as a minister and senior psychologist at the hospital in Fredericton, he remarked, *“they needed me in Korea for the army . . . I had heard about Korea from [Presbyterian] missionaries . . . [there was]. . a job to do. so I decided to go . . . it was dangerous but I was never afraid of it . . . most of the fighting consisted of going out on patrols at night but there were casualties . . as a chaplain I wasn’t on the front but I was up with the soldiers . . . I didn’t live in a dugout like some of the soldiers but you slept in your clothes at night because you were afraid you’d have to move.”* I asked Major Howson how, as a chaplain, he dealt with the troops and what he would say to the young men who were prepared to put their life at risk in a war situation. *“I’ve forgotten what I said but tried to support them as best I could . . . I remember one soldier who was badly injured and it affected me”* In reflecting back on the conflict, I asked Major Howson what memory stands out most in his mind. He replied, *“I remember the destruction of buildings in Seoul and in the countryside the farm houses burned out . . . when we were marching you come to a house and see a garden with cosmos flowers but no house . . . it was very sad.”* He came back to Canada via the West Coast where a whirlwind romance with a girl friend from Peterborough led to a marriage proposal. After tours in Germany, Montreal and Kingston, the Howsons retired to Peterborough. He remains in his family home and is looking forward to celebrating his 100th birthday this fall.

Dennis Carter-Edwards

Hutchison House News – Bulletin September 1976 (Ann Heideman)

The plaster and the 1850 sawn lath have been removed from the second storey ceilings in preparation for insulating and wiring. We now know that the area was originally one big room with a modest fireplace. At best, that fireplace could have only briefly held at bay the chilling cold of winter seeping through the boards and shingles of the roof. In the rafters are still nails and a hook on which doubtless homespun garments were hung. Probably in much haste in winter as their owners prepared to dive into pioneer feather beds. Examination of the flooring provided more thrills of discovery. The heavy bedsteads have left indisputable evidence in the soft pine just where they have stood as well as their exact size,. Behind one plastered wall, a pair of dust covered sturdy shoes rest atop the stone wall. It is fascinating to speculate why, but frustrating, as there is not answer.

On the floor the old handmade pioneer lathing is to remain but plaster has been removed to permit electrical wiring to be done. Much investigation had to be done in the area of the staircases which posed many questions but not always provided answers. There have been three different sets of stairs. The handsome Victorian fireplace inserts and painted tin fills have been removed revealing the original fireplace. The original fireplace in the keeping in the basement is intact too. Those who had dreamed a crane might be found are disappointed but delighted that the eye remains. With removal of the wooden partition the large size of the original room is revealed. The wide original floor boards were uncovered but are poor to use. The intense archaeological dig which followed their removal netted many small treasures, mainly buttons, fragments of clay pipes and thimbles. The work generously undertaken by Valerie Tadda, a graduate Trent student. A cement underfloor will prevent deterioration of the replacement planks. Steel beams inserted under the main floor will be masked as unobtrusive wooden beams in the white washed ceiling. The keeping room will be an exciting place to furnish and later in which to work beside the blazing hearth.

The lovely exterior trim is now expertly repaired as you have doubtless seen. The inside woodwork will soon be repaired and small areas of the floor have already been mended with deftly inserted patches.



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Submissions for the June Issue due by Wednesday, May 21, 2014. We welcome articles of historical interest and Letters to the Editor.

The Bulletin

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Lakefield Literary Festival Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Plans are being finalized for the 20th Anniversary of the Lakefield Literary Festival, July 11 to 13. What began as a small event in honor of Margaret Laurence in has grown into a widely respected and highly popular annual festival. This year, all tickets will be sold on-line beginning on May 6.. Google Lakefield Literary Festival for full details..

July 11, 2pm - Discovering Local Author John Craig, **Michael Peterman** and **Richard Plant**; **8pm** - Truth and Reconciliation with **Host David Newhouse** and authors **Richard Wagamese** and **Mark Abley**.

July 12 - 9:30am, Cenotaph Park, Celebration at the Children's Tent -. **Sheree Fitch** and **Werner Zimmermann**. Free admission; 11:30 am, Christ Church Community Museum- Flora Lyndsay: Passages From an Eventful Life, by **Michael Peterman** with **Host Charlotte Gray**. Limited seating. Tickets at the door, so come early; 2:30 pm, - Confessions of a Fairy's Daughter, growing up with a gay dad" **Alison Wearing** will present her one woman stage production based on her recent book; 4:45 - LCS Dining Hall Reception and Dinner: **Host Mayor Mary Smith**, Presentation of the Young Writers Awards. **Shelagh Rogers** will be the speaker; Evening Readings 8pm- The Margaret Moment, Stories in Our Blood with **Host Christl Verduyn**; and authors **Lawrence Hill** and **Richard Wagamese**.

July 13, 9am - Service at Christ Church Community Museum with **Rev. Munroe Scott**; **11am**, Lakefield United Church with **Rev. Warren Vollmer**; Quest and Questions in Margaret Laurence's Children's Literature. **Sheree Fitch**; 2pm— - Looking Back 100 Years with **Host John Boyko** and authors **Charlotte Gray** and **Maureen Jennings**. The unpublished WW1 medical journals of a Canadian front line surgeon, Dr. Walter Maclean, read by his granddaughter **Carolyn Jones**.

Anyone know of Zachary McCallum?

Ceilidh Mackay sent the following e-mail to PHS asking for our help.
“ For many years, my family had a cottage on Fife Bay Road on Lake Chmonng. At some point in the 1970s, I bought an old bible at a second-hand store in Peterborough. The logo stamped on the front says British and Foreign Bible Society, two shillings and sixpence. The inscription on the front page is Zackary McCallum 1861. Esq. I was able to do an internet search and discovered that Zackary was born in Argyll, Scotland in 1792 and immigrated to Otonabee Township between 1841 and 1851 to homestead a farm. I would be happy to give the bible to any of Zachary McCallum's heirs, if they are known or to the museum or historical society if you are interested. Looking forward to hearing from you.”

Please send an e-mail to PHS or leave a telephone message if you think you are related to Zachary and would like to contact Ceilidh.