



Peterborough Historical Society Bulletin

Issue 412

December 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hogmanay
January 1
1 to 4 pm

Heritage Luncheon
January 7
12:00 and 1:30 p.m.
Cost \$12.00
Advance Tickets
Required

Snowfest
Tea and Dessert
January 14
\$5.00
Advanced Tickets
Required

PHS Public Lecture
January 20
Eric Jackson
The Memoir
Challenge

Peterborough
Museum & Archives
Egypt Gift of the Nile
Until January 11

Snowfest
Carnival on the Hill
January 17

Seasons
Greetings



Hogmanay at Hutchison House

January 1, 2015
1:00 -4:00 p.m.

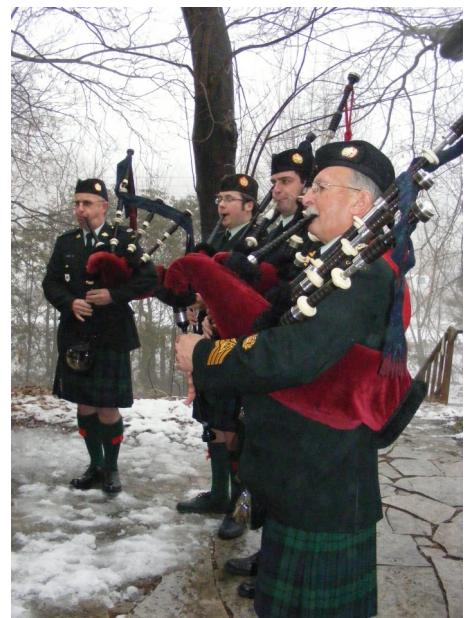
Again this year Hutchison House Museum will be inviting the public to celebrate Hogmanay on New Year's Day. The tradition began in the 16th century when the Church of England passed an Act of Parliament forbidding the celebration of Christmas in Scotland. So instead, the Scots focused on celebrating the New Year with Hogmanay. By the 19th century, Christmas had been restored as a religious observance but Hogmanay continued as a time of merry-making.

As with any festive occasion, Hogmanay includes a wide array of special food and beverages. Included in the cost of admission visitors will enjoy

Scotch Black Bun, Clooty Dumpling, Scotch Eggs, Potted Salmon, oatcakes, shortbread cookies and Haggis. The first-footer will be piped in at precisely 1:00 p.m. followed by a rousing rendition of Burns Address to a Haggis in the Keeping Room. Fiddle music, Highland dancing and the skirl of the bagpipe and drum will keep spirits high.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children and a family rate of \$15.00 (2 adults and 2 children).

Plan to bring your family and guests to the unique experience of Hogmanay at Hutchison House on New Year's Day.



From the President

In the November Bulletin, I announced the PHS Period Chair Challenge and I'm pleased to say that several members have already come forward with offers to donate suitable chairs for our boardroom.

The first donation has come from Norm and Muriel Savage who are donating a chair that has an interesting history to tell.



In the early 1920s, Muriel's father, Frank Greatrix, purchased a drug store on George Street from Mr. Nugent, who was Carol Koeslag's grandfather. Muriel remembers that the chair was in the drug store to be used by customers and believes that it is likely well over 100 years old.

We are looking for 12 to 15 wooden chairs circa 1900. Although chairs without arms are preferred, some chairs with arms can be accommodated.

Barb McIntosh

Sponsors of PHS Historic Plaques Enjoy Donor Recognition Tea



Bob and Cathy Green

The PHS Plaque Committee hosted an afternoon tea in the Keeping room for members who have sponsored plaques over the past several years. There are currently 40 PHS plaques commemorating historical sites throughout Peterborough.



Jim and Ruth Lillico (left), Gail and Bill



Kathy Hooke (left), Betty Hinton, Peggy and Willis Cleveland, and Bill Hinton

From the Curator

The Christmas season is always a special time at Hutchison House. Through the popular 19th Century Christmas programs, staff and volunteers have the opportunity to guide young children through the traditions of long ago. It may have been a simpler time, but there was still that element of anticipation as the settlers prepared the pudding and set about to make the few small gifts they would give one another. Preparations would begin as soon as the harvest was over in the fall and the merchant's Christmas supplies began to arrive. Precious ingredients such as raisins and sugar often had to be hoarded for weeks in order to produce a special dish for the Christmas table.

For us at the House the season kicks off with our annual Festive Sale at the end of November. Thank you so very much to everyone who helped make it a successful event: the 20 volunteers who set up, priced and ran the sale; all those who donated goods; and the crowd of people who came out to make purchases. This year the sale raised approximately \$3,500. We could not have done it without all of you! Special thanks to Doreen Jones for her tireless commitment to the sale of wreaths as a fundraiser for the museum for the past 20 years. That's quite an accomplishment!

Hutchison House will be closed for the holidays from December 19th to the 29th. We will welcome the New Year on January 2015 with our annual Hogmanay celebration 1-4pm. January 1st. Preparations are well under way.

The museum will be hosting a Snowfest Tea and Dessert event on Wednesday January 14 at 2:00 p.m. Visitors will enjoy scrumptious "sweet apple buckle" topped with whipped cream, served in front of a crackling fire in the Keeping Room. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Advanced booking is required.



Festive Sale 2014



Queen of the Wreaths, Doreen Jones, completes her 20th year coordinating the sale of Christmas wreaths. In total Doreen has brought in \$12,320.



Linda Chandler crafted 75 Christmas decorations for the sale.



**PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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Submissions for the January
due by Wednesday, December
17, 2014. We welcome
articles of historical interest.

The Bulletin

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The Canadian Clock Museum Presented by Alan Symons

Despite the worst snow storm so far this year, around 25 people made it to the library on Tuesday, November 18th for Allan Symons presentation on the history of Canadian clocks.

The Canadian Clock Museum in Deep River began with a donation of over 600 clocks from Allan's private collection. He admits to a passion for clocks and how they work. The collection now features over 2,000 different Canadian clocks.

Initially, clocks were only assembled in Canada with imported components. However, all Ontario clock makers at that time put an instruction label with their company's name on every clock. For example, The Canada Clock Company was originally located in Whitby before moving to Hamilton. It assembled and sold weight driven mantel clocks using a pulley system of weights and gravity. Watchmakers and clockmakers were listed in early city telephone directories. However, these were basically repair shops. The owners would buy clocks to be sold after adding their own label.

In the early 1900s, Ontario clock companies started manufacturing and assembling clocks themselves. The Arthur Pequegnat Clock Company began in Kitchener (Berlin) in 1904. They produced eighty-four models of mantel, wall and grandfather clocks. The models were named after cities in Ontario. In 1920, Western Clock Company (later Westclox) began manufacturing and selling clocks in Peterborough. Westclox produced electric and battery wall clocks as well as alarm clocks. Alan brought samples of their common alarm clocks known as Big Ben and the travel alarm clock named Baby Ben. In the 1940s, Westclox produced a Braille Alarm clock. Westclox also sold an illuminated clock from 1920 to 1950, featuring black dial numbers painted with radium. Unfortunately, many women who had jobs painting on these radium numbers, later developed cancer in their throats and on their tongues. Westclox operated until the 1980s.

As the technology developed, demand for clocks slowed and after the 1980s there were no more clocks manufactured in Ontario. Alan noted that one specialty company in Ottawa, called the Canadian Clock Company, is now making outdoor clocks mounted on posts.

For more information go to the website www.canclockmuseum.ca.

Marilyn MacNaughton

High School History Awards 2014

Each year the Peterborough Historical Society awards a prize to the graduating student who achieves the highest mark in history at all high schools in Peterborough and Norwood.

The winners in 2014 were presented with a certificate and a copy of Beneath the Canopy, written by Sheryl Loucks for The Peterborough Green-UP Association. Winners were: Madison More – Adam Scott Collegiate Institute; Whitney Harrison – Crestwood Secondary School; Bryce Giles – Kenner Collegiate Institute; Sylvia Luyben – Kenner Collegiate Institute; Morgan Timmermans – Norwood District High School; Kenny Sloggett – St. Peter Catholic Secondary School; and Susan Hall – Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School.