



UPCOMING EVENTS

**PHS Public Lecture
February 24 (note 4th
Tuesday)
Micheal Peterman
Flora Lyndsay: Or Pas-
sages from an Eventful
Life**

**Heritage Luncheon
March 4
12:00 and 1:30 p.m.
Cost \$12.00
Advance Tickets
Required**

**March Break work-
shops all take place
from 9:30 till noon**

**PHS
Annual
General Meeting
March 31
Princess Gardens**

**Tickets will be available
soon.**

**Michael Peterman discusses his latest book
at the PHS Public Lecture Tuesday February 24, 2015**

Michael Peterman's latest book is a scholarly edition of Susanna Moodie's novel *Flora Lyndsay*, her prequel to *Roughing it in the Bush*. Although she fictionalizes herself as Flora Lyndsay, her book is autobiographical, providing a dramatic account of the planning and voyage that brought the Moodies to Canada in 1832. Moodie's *Flora Lyndsay* was never reprinted after its release in London and New York in 1854.

In his book entitled *Flora Lyndsay; Or Passages from an Eventful Life*, Michael explores the material in her book and relates it to other known accounts of events and circumstances in Moodie's life. Michael is a Trent Professor Emeritus in English Literature with a particular interest in 19th century Canadian and American writing.

PHS Public Lectures are held in the Aylmer Street Public Library, lower level auditorium, beginning at 7:30p.m. Admission is free but donations are welcomed at the door. Copies of Michael's book will be available for sale.

**Landon Pearson is Keynote Speaker
at PHS Annual General Meeting – March 31**

The after dinner speaker at this year's Annual General Meeting is retired Canadian Senator and widely renowned children's advocate, Landon Pearson.

She is currently Chair of the Landon Pearson Resource Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Carlton University.

As the wife of a Canadian diplomat, she raised five children in five countries - Canada, France, Mexico, India and the Soviet Union. Throughout her life she has been an active force for the welfare of children on local, national and international organizations. In 2008, she was made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Her remarks will address the historical factors affecting contemporary Aboriginal children and her hope for the future.

The AGM meeting will be held at Princess Gardens on Tuesday March 31st. The business meeting will take place prior to the dinner. Tickets will be available soon.

From the President

Plans are moving forward to refurbish the “Fleming table” that was donated to PHS by Barbara Heindenreich last year. This table is believed to have been designed by Sandford Fleming and sat for many years in the boardroom of the Royal Canadian Institute in Toronto. It requires some structural repairs and needs to be refinished, but it will be a stunning addition to the PHS board room.

In November, I announced the PHS Period Chair Challenge to encourage members to donate chairs (circa 1900) to compliment the table. The first donation came in December – a Windsor chair from Muriel and Norm Savage. Since then two more chairs have been donated.

In appreciation, PHS will be affixing a small brass plaque on the chair, commemorating the donor in perpetuity.

Barbara McIntosh



Donated by
Barb McIntosh



Donated by
Linda Chandler

Eric Jackson Shared His Experiences Writing a Family Memoir

At the January 20 PHS Public Lecture, Eric Jackson provided a highly entertaining account of his experiences in undertaking to write his family memoir.

In his case, he had many documents to work with because his mother had saved notes, letters and other items over the years. However, Eric warned against believing everything you read. Memories are always subjective, so you need to verify with others in the family. Also the library, museum, genealogy groups and archives are useful places to find supporting material, additional information and confirmation of events.

Once you have the material, a suitable place to write and you have made it a priority, you need to decide the purpose of your memoir – is it a genealogical record or do you want to tell a story. You also have to be prepared for unflattering information that you may find. Few of us are descended from royalty and there may be few scoundrels in your background. Family members may not want some events publicized. You could even end up creating or reviving a family feud. Eric has now completed his memoir and hopes to publish it soon.

He has been encouraged to make his memoir and source documents available to an archive, because while there is lots of material around about famous people- politicians, royalty, military leaders, inventors and entrepreneurs - historians and researchers are also interested in stories about ordinary people and events. So when you sit down to write a letter or write in your diary and you think nothing significant has happened, remember that down the road, an academic historian or a future family member might be interested in your opinions.

Marilyn MacNaughton

Peterborough's share of Champlain's visits to Ontario of 1613 and 1615-16

This year, 2015, is the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's two visits to Peterborough. In the late summer of 1615, an army of Huron and Algonquin warriors took Champlain and a few colleagues from Huronia, Ontario, to Syracuse, NY, to raid a fortified Iroquois town. They travelled down an ancient First Nations route, now followed by the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW). Probably using the Bridgenorth-Peterborough (Chemong Road) portage, they passed through, if not staying over in, downtown Peterborough. They then descended the Otonabee, and the Trent, Rivers (still on the TSW route) to Lake Ontario and then followed that lake's north and east shores to a site near Oswego where they struck inland for the Iroquois town.

This was Champlain's first visit to Peterborough!

Defeated by the Iroquois, they retreated back to Peterborough, literally carrying their wounded, including Champlain. A group of twenty-five or so Huron stayed with Champlain in Peterborough County while he rested and convalesced. They left to return to Huronia in December, when the Kawartha Lakes froze over.

This was Champlain's second visit to Peterborough!

The site of "Champlain's Rest" is disputed. One possible location is by the ancient Chemong Lake portage, near Bridgenorth (where the plaque is), and another is at the abandoned community of Haultain. Both are sited in Peterborough County.

In a long career of exploration and mapping, Champlain's time in what is now Ontario (the evolution of which he greatly influenced) is measured in months rather than years. We believe that we are fortunate that he chose to spend some weeks of those months in Peterborough, providing us with the first European perceptions of our region. Through its Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley, the Trent Valley Archives (www.trentvalleyarchives.com), has been publishing articles on Champlain and Ontario since the spring of 2014 and will continue to do so in 2015. It hopes to produce a commemorative volume on Champlain and the French Heritage of Peterborough later this year.

We would be glad to respond personally to inquiries: Peter Adams (peter.adams@cogeco.ca); Alan Brunger (abrunger@trentu.ca); Elwood Jones (ejones55@cogeco.ca)

Peter Adams



The Trent Valley and surrounding areas, which were traversed by Champlain in late 1615. The larger dotted line approximates his route from Huronia through the Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough to Iroquoia. The smaller dotted line represent Champlain's different return route, to the north of Lake Ontario. (Source: Bishop, M., CHAMPLAIN: The Life of Fortitude (1963).

Sir John A Macdonald, the “Godfather” of the Trent-Severn Waterway

John A. Macdonald has been rightfully acknowledged during the recent bicentennial commemoration of his birth as a founding father and dutiful parent guiding the creation of the Dominion of Canada. Less well known, Sir John was also a key player in the development of the Trent-Severn Waterway.

While the origins of the Trent Valley Canal go back to the 1830s, Macdonald acted as a godparent over the subsequent extension of the canal, that set it on an inevitable path to completion from Trenton to Georgian Bay. At the time of Confederation, there existed a series of 5 disjointed locks from Glen Ross to Bobcaygeon. The province of Ontario built locks at Youngs Point, Rosedale and Lindsay purely to serve local communities with no intent of completing a system of through navigation.

It was Macdonald’s government in the fall of 1882 that authorized construction of locks at Burleigh Falls, Buckhorn and Fenelon Falls which gave new momentum to the stalled dream of a through navigation route in the heart of Ontario. Mossom Boyd, as head of the Trent Valley Canal Association – an effective lobby group for canal completion, pressed the government to extend the system.

Acting on advice from James Stevenson, the MP from Peterborough West, Macdonald set up a Royal Commission to examine the canal scheme. When the commission reported favourably in 1891, Macdonald as Minister of Railways and Canals (as well as being Prime Minister) approved expanding the canal system from Peterborough to Lakefield and Balsam Lake to Lake Simcoe. This critical development set the Trent system on the inevitable trajectory towards linking Lake Ontario with Georgian Bay, although this wasn’t achieved until 1920. Still, Macdonald and his Peterborough colleague James Stevenson can lay claim to being godparents to the building of the Trent-Severn Waterway.

Dennis Carter-Edwards



Early photo of the
locks at Fenelon Falls

From the Curator

The one good thing I have to say about a January with extremely frigid temperatures is that it's just too cold to snow! I must admit I've enjoyed driving on dry roads in recent weeks. Of course now we're heading into February and the second half of winter when traditionally the snow begins in earnest. Alas, I'm afraid I'm a typical Canadian complaining about the weather.

No matter what the weather Hutchison House remains a welcome warm place to spend time. Just ask the 38 people who came out for tea and dessert during Snofest in January or the many participants attending our monthly Heritage Luncheons. The keeping room really does come alive when a fire is crackling in the hearth.

The sound of young children's voices ringing through the air is another joyful part of 'living history'. With March Break just around the corner we're taking registration for a series of half-day programs aimed at children 6-12 years of age. This year our workshops include: Leaping Leprechauns Tuesday, March 17; Teddy Bears Wednesday, March 18; Marionettes Thursday, March 19; and Down to the Letter Friday, March 20.

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 peanut-free snacks with their kids. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register please call the museum at (705) 743-9710. You can learn more about our programs and events by visiting our website at www.hutchisonhouse.ca. If you're on Facebook check out Hutchison House and become a friend. Please share with others and help to spread the word about all we do at the museum.

Gale Fewings

Two Sitzings for Snofest 2015



The Grahams attended the first sitting.



The Reeves, Nightingales and Morrisons came for the second sitting.



**PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Phone: 705-740-2600
info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca

**Hutchison House
Museum**

270 Brock Street
Peterborough Ontario
K9H 2P9

Phone 705-743-9710
info@hutchisonhouse.ca

Websites:
hutchisonhouse.ca

peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca

Submissions for the March Bulletin are due by Wednesday, February 18, 2015. We welcome articles of historical interest.

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PHS Annual Heritage Awards Call for Nominations

The PHS welcomes nominations for its Annual Heritage Awards from now until Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

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 broader heritage community.

This year, other historical societies in Peterborough County are being encouraged to participate by nominating worthy recipients in their area.

Awards are presented in six categories:

The Samuel Armour Award recognizes the development and/or delivery of programs, activities or curriculum based local history material that engages students in exploring the diverse history of the region.

The J. Hampden Burnham Award recognizes the completion and presentation of a major project in any media such as a painting, video, web design, or newspaper article that promotes awareness of the history of the region.

The George Cox Award recognizes the preservation, conservation and/or restoration of significant cultural resources such as artifacts, manuscripts, historic gardens, and cultural landscapes.

The F.H. Dobbin Award recognizes the publication of a major work, either fiction or non-fiction that focuses on Peterborough's past.

The Martha Ann Kidd Award recognizes the preservation, restoration or sympathetic new construction within an historic setting of built heritage – commercial, residential and institutional buildings – of Peterborough City and County.

The Charlotte Nicholls Award recognizes a substantial donation either financial or in kind services towards the commemoration of a historic structure, artifact, cultural landscape.

Nominees must reside within the boundaries of Peterborough County. They may be individuals, groups, organizations or institutions. Projects must have been completed in the past three years. The winners will be selected by an independent Awards Committee.

The nominations forms are available at the PHS Office or can be downloaded from the awards page of the PHS website www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca. They can be mailed or delivered to the PHS office or sent by e-mail.

The 2015 awards will be presented at the PHS Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, March 31st at Princess Gardens.