



UPCOMING EVENTS

**PHS Monthly Lecture
February 16
Plans for the Mount
Andi van Koeverden
Public Library
7:30 p.m..**

**PHS Monthly Lecture
March 15
Annual General Meeting.
& Dinner
Princess Gardens**

**Heritage Luncheons
February 3, March 2
12:00 and 1:30 p.m.
Advance tickets
required**

Status of Development Plans for The Mount Topic of PHS Public Meeting on February 16

The chance to redevelop the majestic former home of the Sisters of St. Joseph on Monaghan Road, is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. Its 131,400 square feet of buildings and 10 acres of park-like setting make it ideal for redevelopment as residential and community spaces with both non-profit and private tenants.

Since acquiring the property in August 2013, The Mount Community Centre has been raising funds and developing a plan to transform the Mount property to serve a variety of uses that include: a mix of market-rent and affordable housing; an inter-generational park; concerts and special events in the chapel; community kitchen and gardens; and meeting spaces.

Andi van Koeverden is the Strategic Advancement Director for the project. At the PHS Public Meeting in February, she will outline the progress that has been made so far and plans for the future. Andi has a BA in Education and spend her early career as a public school teacher. She later worked in adult education on curriculum development, community outreach and project management. Before moving to Peterborough in 2013, she served as the Community Events Coordinator for the City of Dryden.

The PHS meeting on February 16th will be in the Basement Auditorium of the Public Library beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free but donations are welcomed at the door.



From the President

Given current economic news, I am very pleased to be able to report that PHS has ended 2015 in the black, thanks to prudent administration by Treasurer Peter Darling. However, while the Society itself is covering the cost of its modest outreach programs, we urgently need to significantly improve our fundraising to appropriately support the operation of Hutchison House Museum. For the past several years, the museum has been forced to draw on its maintenance fund to balance the books, despite operating at full capacity on a very limited budget.

In January, we submitted a grant application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, requesting funding to build a covered extension to the patio area on the east side of the house. This new space would double our seating capacity for Scottish teas and other museum events, as well as provide a more attractive venue for rentals for weddings and private parties that will increase earned income. It will have electric outlets so that we could also expand programming into the evening hours for new revenue generating activities such as workshops, lectures, musical or theatrical programs. I believe that this project can significantly increase our ability to attract new audiences to the museum and improve our financial viability on an on-going basis.

We expect to hear if our application is successful by the end of March. Fingers crossed everyone!

Barbara McIntosh

Winter at Hutchison House, January 2016



PHS Annual General Meeting & Dinner

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Guest Speaker

Dr. Raymond March

Professor Emeritus, Chemistry

Trent University

Project Rosetta: Trapping Ions on Comets

Princess Gardens

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

Cash Bar: 6:30 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

PHS Heritage Awards will be presented after dinner.

\$40.00 for Members \$45.00 for non-members

Tickets will be available at PHS office in early February

From the Curator

With recent news that the partial demolition of the historic jail (gaol) behind the County Court House is set to begin on February 1, 2016, it seemed fitting to focus on a little history of the building and its place in our community of the distant past.

Considering the topic I turned to a copy of Dr. T.W. Poole's "*The Early Settlement of Peterborough County*" published in 1867. Poole dedicated a short chapter to the subject including a list of the magistrates and building committee. Many familiar names are on this list and a scan of the page appears with this article.

According to Poole's publication a meeting was held on "the second day of June, 1838". The chapter goes on to describe various aspects of the plan, the players, expenditures, etc. For anyone interested in reading Poole's book we still have it available for sale in the Hutchison House Bookshop for a very modest price.

In summary, the walls and roofs of the Court House and Jail were completed in 1839, with the interior of the Court House finished by mid-November 1840. "The jail was not entirely finished until the summer of 1842, owing to a defect in the written agreement, by which the contractor, Mr. Edward Lee, claimed that the plastering was not included in his contract; and the season of 1841 was so far advanced when this became known that the plastering of the Jail had to be deferred until the following spring."

Many early drawings and paintings of Peterborough depict the building along with St. John's Church in the same image. It seems the Court House and Jail were somewhat of a tourist attraction. The day after his arrival in Peterborough Fleming notes on Wednesday, June 18 1845 "Went out with the Dr to see the town. There are some good shops & stores in it and a large court house & cells which we were through. There was one debtor, a man & wife for burning a house & a Lunatic, now being the prison for the whole district of Colborne".

It is true that every building has its own story. Dr. Hutchison was among the magistrates who met for the purpose of naming the Building Committee for the erection of the new Court House and Jail. Martha Kidd's "*Peterborough's Architectural Heritage*" 1978 states "this large stone Court House for the County of Peterborough is considered to be one of the finest in Ontario."

Gale Fewings

42 CHAPTER VIII.

ERECTION OF COURT HOUSE AND JAIL.

On the second day of June, 1838, a meeting of the magistrates of the proposed new Colborne District was held at "the Government school house," as the minutes term it, for the purpose of naming a Building Committee for the erection of the new Court House and Jail, and other matters in connection with the same, as provided in the Act passed at a previous session of the Upper Canada Legislature. The magistrates present were:

Daniel Griffith, Esq., J. P.	Thomas Traill, Esq., J. P.
Thomas Need,	G. A. Hill,
Edward Duffy, "	Ephraim Sanford,
C. Moe, "	George G. Bird, "
Edward S. Hickson, "	Robert Reid, "
Robert P. Madge, "	F. Connin, "
James Wallis, "	J. Hutchinson, "
Walter Crawford, "	Thomas Carr, "
Robert Dennistoun, "	John Darcus, "
John Langton, "	Thomas A. Stewart, "
A. McDonell, Esq., J. P., M. P. P.	

The Hon. T. A. Stewart, M. L. C., was called to the chair, and John Darcus, Esq., appointed Secretary of the meeting. On subsequent motions, the following gentlemen were appointed officers and members of the Building Committee, of whom three were declared a quorum:

BUILDING COMMITTEE.

Hon. Thomas A. Stewart, <i>Chairman.</i>
William H. Wrighton, Esq., <i>Secretary.</i>
Edward Duffy, <i>Treasurer.</i>
Ephraim Sanford,
Robert P. Madge,
Edward S. Hickson,

On motion of C. Moe, Esq., seconded by E. Duffy, Esq., the Committee were restricted to an expenditure of £4,000 on the new buildings, but subsequently, on finding that the tenders for the work, offered agreeably to the plans adopted, exceeded that amount, a second meeting of the magistrates was held, at which, on motion of James Wallis, Esq., seconded by R. Dennistoun, Esq., the Building Committee were empowered to proceed to the extent of £6,000.



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The Conservation and Repair of Old Books

PHS Public Meeting, January 19th

John Burbidge, a retired philosophy professor who found a second career repairing antiquarian books, treated the audience at the January meeting to an engaging presentation on the repair of antique leather and cloth bound books.

Professor Burbidge proved the old adage wrong, for sometimes you can judge a book by its cover, especially if it is a well crafted, hand tooled leather cover. He explained that when a book comes in for repair, "you have to sit and let it talk to you." It is necessary to understand how the book was originally assembled and what the future use will be - working copy, prized family heirloom or investment - before repairing it.

As part of his training, Professor Burbidge studied the long history of book production. He entertained his audience with a capsule history of the development of writing material from the ancient Egyptian clay tablets to fine Chinese paper, the evolution of binding from simple sewn hand written manuscripts by medieval monks to modern printing presses and the refinement of covers from leather bound sheets to modern board covers. He also discussed the development of illustrations that changed from wood cuts that were incorporated into the text to steel engravings in more modern publications.

To illustrate some of the challenges in repairing antique books, Professor Burbidge brought examples of 16th to 18th century books with typical problems.

Several members of the audience also brought along their own antique books which Professor Burbidge used to highlight repair challenges associated with old books.

When asked how repairs might impact the monetary value of a book, he simply replied that books have many values - treasured childhood memory, a family bible passed down through generations or a favourite book that needs repair so it can be read more easily.

While he does repair high end antiquarian books, often the cost of repair might outweigh the monetary value. For book lovers, a cherished volume is much more than a financial investment.

Dennis Carter-Edwards

