



UPCOMING EVENTS

**PHS Monthly Lecture**  
Wednesday, May 18  
**NOTE LOCATION and**  
**DAY**  
The Parlour  
Trinity United Church

**Rhubarb Fling**  
Wednesday, May 25  
1:00p.m. and 2:00 p.m.  
Advance tickets \$7.00  
At the door \$9.00

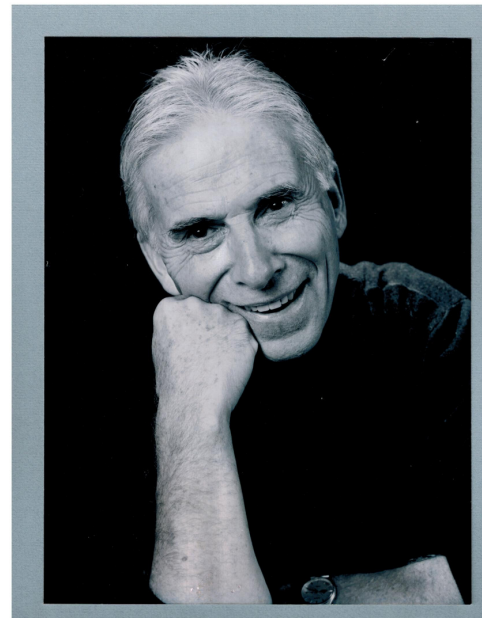
**PHS June Tour**  
Wednesday June 15  
A Special Tour of  
PMA (Peterborough Museum and Archives)

Issue 427

May 2016

**Eric Jackson will be speaking about V.R. Jackson at the May PHS Meeting, May 18 at The Parlour, Trinity United Church**

The story of V.R. Jackson's early years sees him involved in two of the most profoundly influential events in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century history of Canada: the tidal wave of transatlantic migration and the First World War. Then, having survived three years of the horrors of the Western Front – including the forge of Vimy Ridge – he returned to Warsaw (his original 1911 destination). Where in the interwar years, he married Doris, a fellow Sheffielder, and raised with her a family of four. As village barber he was able to support this large family. As well, in his shop building perhaps on earlier training at the Sheffield School of Art he produced a vivid portfolio of caricatures of the village worthies that came his way.



*Victorian Afternoon Tea*

*Hosted by Hutchison House  
Museum Volunteers*

*On June 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm in the Keeping Room  
at 270 Brock Street*

*A light lunch of savouries, sweets and tea will be served.  
Tours of the House will also be available.*

*Tickets are \$25.00 in advance only. Please call (705) 743-9710  
Seating is limited to 24 for the afternoon.*

## From the President .....

I am honoured to have been elected, again, as President of the Peterborough Historical Society. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that the position affords, and hope to do my best for the Society. I will be working closely with the capable, talented, and enthusiastic people who make up the PHS Board, the Hutchison House Management Committee, and the Staff and Volunteers of Hutchison House. Thank you, in advance, for your dedication, passion, and hard work -- without which neither the PHS nor Hutchison House would continue to thrive. Thank you, too, to the PHS members for your strong and continuing support of the PHS and the House.

We in the Canadian heritage community do have some challenges, most of which concern funding. It is a sad fact that nothing – not even historical societies and beloved 19<sup>th</sup> century historic house-museums – survives in today's world without a good supply of cold, hard cash; therefore, the PHS Board will continue to seek ways to increase the Society's income, membership, and community profile. If members have fundraising ideas, they will be welcomed for consideration, but it is hoped that you would also assist in implementing your ideas – the greater the involvement of our PHS membership and the general public, the more likely projects are to succeed.

Finally, there are some special heritage anniversaries coming up in the next few years: December of this year is the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the original Peterborough City and County Historical Society; 2017 is Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, as well as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of both the Peterborough Museum & Archives and Lang Pioneer Village; 2017 is the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hutchison House's construction, and 2018 is its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a museum. These upcoming milestones may provide the Peterborough Historical Society and Hutchison House with some special fundraising opportunities – and we can all have fun celebrating them. After all, history doesn't have to be (and shouldn't be) dry and dusty.

**Don Willcock**

## LOOKING BACK

As we are finally sensing the taste of real spring and forgetting that sudden burst of very wet snow, it is interesting to read what George Douglas observed at the end of April in 1942. Writing to his northern friend P.G. Downes he stated,

*"Our season has been an incredibly severe one. Even now, at almost the beginning of May, there are huge remnants of drifts around the north side of the buildings and the snow is deep in the woods except in the more open parts. We had very high water, in great volume, from the latter part of March till well on in April. Then protracted cold weather, even zero temperatures with incessant high winds, checked the thaw which had resumed only a few days ago. Now the lake is very high again right up to my boat house floor and a great flow coming down the lake reminding me of the Slave River above Fitzgerald. To give you some idea of the freakishness of the weather, we had quite a heavy snowstorm yesterday afternoon and evening changing to light rain, then a thunderstorm with much lightning and heavy rain. Now it has cleared up from the North, with strong winds. The waves are washing against the Floater and for the first time in almost 6 months are not freezing as they do so. I can give you no more vivid idea of the season. K. and I have just had lunch down here which we have aboard about once a week."*

George and his wife Kay often spent early spring on the Floater. George kept yearly records of wind, storms, water levels and clouds and anything else he classified as "conditions". Living at Northcote Farm on the edge of Lake Katchewanooka was a great source of nature and its challenges.

**Kathy Hooke**

## From the Curator .....

Rhubarb was first described as a medicine in a Chinese herbal remedy dating from 2700 B.C. and for centuries it continued to be grown for its curative qualities. It was nurtured by the monks in the monasteries of Asia and Europe during the Middle Ages (also as a medicine), but it was not until 1777 that it was first recorded in Britain, in an herbal garden at Banbury, Oxfordshire.

In the nineteenth century some interest was taken in using rhubarb for culinary purposes, and it slowly began to appear in London vegetable and fruit markets. In 1855 the term “rhubarb pie” appeared in print for the first time, heralding a dessert that became so popular that rhubarb became known as “pie plant” in North America. Its popularity continued to grow in the nineteenth century, largely because it was so easy to cultivate.

I’ve been watching with great interest and anticipation the daily growth in our own rhubarb patch. Given a little more sunshine balanced with a good measure of warm spring rain and we’ll have plenty on hand for our yummy rhubarb-ginger jam and other tasty treats.

Hutchison House Museum will host our seventh annual Rhubarb Spring Fling on Wednesday May 25. 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. Pay for tickets in advance at a cost of \$7 or at the door for \$9. Sittings are 1pm and 2pm.

Again this spring volunteers Linda Chandler, Loretta Terry, Carol Marsland and Alice Latham are hosting an elegant Victorian Tea in our historic keeping room. Book your reservations now for Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 starting at 2:30 pm. It promises to be another delightful light lunch of savories, sweets and tea. Tours of the museum will be conducted by costumed guides. The ladies organized two very successful Victorian Teas in support of the museum in 2015 that sold out very quickly, so to avoid disappointment don’t delay booking a table. Tickets for the event are \$25 each and pre-registration is required as seating is limited.

For more information on our upcoming events or to book a reservation please call the museum office at (705) 743-9710 or visit the website at [www.hutchisonhouse.ca](http://www.hutchisonhouse.ca).

**Gale Fewings**

**On Thursday April 28, Gale and Erin with the help of John Fewings, Linda and Paul Lumsden painted the Keeping room.**





**PETERBOROUGH  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

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**The Bulletin**

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**Mike Hendren of the Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) speaks at the April Meeting**

Mike Hendren, the Executive Director of the KLT, developed a passion for nature through his experiences in the outdoors as a youngster. He refined his skills with a B.A. in Geography and Business at Trent and a degree in Urban Planning at Queen's. Mike's deep commitment and extensive experience were well demonstrated during his presentation.

KLT is one of over 195 Trusts across Canada, dedicated to protecting significant natural areas that are important to retain the biodiversity of indigenous plants and animals. Since it was founded in 2001, the KLT has acquired some 15 properties totalling over 3,000 acres. Most recently, they have acquired Boyd Island, a near pristine island in the Pigeon River that once belonged to the famous Boyd family of Bobcaygeon. In order to acquire this property, the Trust needed to raise over a million dollars for a trust fund for the perpetual care of the island which they accomplished in a matter of weeks.

The Kawartha Land Trust has one of the largest territories in which they have mapped significant properties primarily for ecological reasons. The challenge remains to acquire a representative sample of properties that protects sensitive corridors and retain the biodiversity for indigenous plants and animals to thrive. This doesn't have to be through acquisition but can be through conservation agreements. Conservation agreements are legal agreements between the Trust and private landowners, that are attached to the title to the property to protect specific features in perpetuity, even when the property is sold to new owners.

Although, fund raising is an important part of KLT's work it takes more than money to operate the Trust. It has an array of volunteers with diverse skills from biologists and archaeologists to arborists and accountants to geographers and computer technicians, as well as lots of volunteers who simply want to help – pick up garbage, do plant counts and host events.

The Kawartha Land Trust is committed to the conservation of our treasured natural resources for the health and well being of future generations. For further details, check the website at <http://kawarthalandtrust.org>.

**Dennis Carter-Edwards and Marilyn MacNaughton**



Cleaning the gardens at Hutchison House pictured Les Bowser prunes the apple tree and Lucie Verpoorte is in the garden

