



UPCOMING EVENTS

**PHS Monthly Lecture  
NOTE LOCATION and  
DAY**

The Parlour  
Trinity United Church

**Wednesday, October 19**  
Speakers Anne Morawetz  
and Don Bocking  
Camp Ponaka

**Wednesday, November 16**  
Speaker Lois Tuffin  
Journalism in Peterbor-  
ough

all at 7:30 pm

**Heritage Luncheon**  
**November 2, December 7,**  
**12:00 and 1:30 p.m.**  
**Cost \$15.00**  
**Advance tickets**  
**required**

**Haunted Hallowe'en**  
**Hutchison House**  
**October 29**

**Christmas Market**  
**Saturday November 26**  
**10 am until 12:30 pm.**

Issue 430

October 2016

**REMINDER OF LOCATION FOR MEETINGS.** This year, while the Library is closed, the Historical Society will continue to hold its monthly meetings on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in The Parlour, Trinity United Church** (entrance off parking lot on Reid Street).

**Anne Morawetz and Don Bocking to give presentation  
on Camp Ponaka  
on Wednesday September 19  
at the Parlour, Trinity United Church**

Camp Ponaka, located on Lake Baptiste northeast of Bancroft, is one of the best-known boys camps in the greater Peterborough region. This year it celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> season. Our guest speakers at this month's meeting will be Anne Morawetz and Don Bocking, owners and Directors of Camp Ponaka, along with Fred Rapson, who will examine the history of the camp.



## From the President .....

What is History? It usually is thought of as the big world events of the past that appear in books and newspapers – such occurrences as wars, treaties, natural- and man-made disasters, creating new nations and breaking up old ones. These are topics that are made into movies, documentaries, and television mini-series. Prominent people of the past – monarchs, political and social leaders, military commanders, financiers, explorers, and such – have their life stories told in voluminous biographies (or write their own autobiographies). These accounts certainly are aspects of history but they do not, by any means, tell the whole story of our world's past.

The Peterborough Historical Society's May and September guest speakers gave proof of this. Eric Jackson and Blair MacKenzie have researched their respective families' histories, and gave us intimate and personal looks at the lives of their ancestors – people who may be considered "ordinary folk" in the grand scheme of things, but were far from ordinary. The men and women whom Eric and Blair presented to us went about their lives doing what they needed to do – earn livings, raise families, go to war when necessary, serve as community leaders, etc. – likely without ever thinking about being feted, rewarded, or receiving accolades.

Perhaps all of us should investigate our own history and, using a different definition, document the "great" people in our families and communities. If we don't, many interesting personal stories – and treasured memories – will be lost to our descendants and to history. Who knows, you might find out something extraordinary, astonishing, or "great" about someone connected (or even close) to you.

**Don Willcock**



Junior Volunteer Appreciation Party

## From the Curator .....

October 1823 Frances Stewart wrote: "In the autumn of our first year in Douro our youngest little girl of not quite two years old was [ill] with Dysentery. I was quite ignorant of the disease & there was no Doctor within reach, the nearest being a good many miles distant. We had as yet no canoes on the river & were often depending on chance visits from the Indians for a passage to the other side. One of our hired men, a faithful Highlander, seeing how very ill our darling was, volunteered to swim across the rapid stream & walk through the woods to the Doctor, promising that if I wrote the particulars, he would bring the necessary medicines. He started early in the morning of a cold October day & returned about midnight with some powders & a message that the Doctor would come up the following day. But no improvement & the day passed in great anxiety for the Doctor did not come. On the third day he came having left at the promised time, but lost his way in the woods & hence the delay." (Cited in Jodi Lee Aoki, ed., *Revisiting "Our Forest Home" The Immigrant Letters of Frances Stewart*, 2011.)

The doctor referred to in the letter was Dr. John Hutchison residing at the time in the Cavan area. Sadly he was unable to help little Bessy Stewart who passed away on October 20, 1823. It is always interesting to read the stories of our forebears through their own written words. Thankfully we have access to them through the many publications and archival holdings available to our community.

Moving on to the present I would like to thank the volunteers for helping with our recent plant and lawn sale. While the day turned out to be a rainy one we did manage to make \$236 for the museum in spite of the weather.

We hope our upcoming events will prove a little more profitable. Next up on the calendar we have our Haunted Halloween for Kids on Saturday, October 29; two Heritage Luncheons scheduled before the end of the year on November 2 and December 7; the annual Christmas Market on Saturday November 26 from 10 am until 12:30 pm.

Please note we will once again take orders for Empire cheese. Order forms will accompany the October Bulletin. Just fill out your order form and send it to Hutchison House with payment and your order will be ready for pick up at the Christmas Market. For more information on our events please visit the website or call the museum office.

**Gale Fewings**



Plant Sale—Betty, Barb, Edith



Yard Sale—Erin, Norm, Linda, Dennis



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HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

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**The Bulletin**  
Editor: **Dale Standen**  
Publisher: **Marilyn  
MacNaughton**

Bulletin (ISSN 1484-5983)

**The Fairbairn and related families in Peterborough history**

It has been said that a community's history is merely a collection of individual family histories. This old adage was proven true by the presentation of Blair Mackenzie to the September meeting of the PHS. In tracing his family history, Blair linked two prominent Peterborough families who left a lasting legacy not just in their service to the community, but to street names as well. Robert Fairbairn, born in Scotland in 1789, came to Peterborough via Bowmanville in the 1820s and rose to prominence as post master and justice of the peace. With his wife, Helen, they had 9 children. The eldest son, Thomas, born 1824, married Jane Roger, daughter of the Reverend John Roger, minister at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. A lawyer, he served as a Liberal MLA for Peterborough West but died young at the age of 34. The Rev. John Roger was caught up in the split among Presbyterians and moved to the Free Kirk St. Paul's. Although a strict, religious minister, Rev. Roger built a stately home, "Cordach," which the speaker suggested was a copy of a similar property back in Scotland. One child of Rev. Roger, George M., played a prominent role in the Peterborough legal community, serving as a County Court judge. George M. Roger and his law partner were instrumental in developing Juniper Island and the many canoe regattas held there. Their names are commemorated in Fairbairn and Cordach streets, a tangible link to the lives of these notable Peterborough families.

**Dennis Carter-Edwards**



Jane Roger and T.M. Fairbairn