



UPCOMING EVENTS

Heritage Luncheon
April 5
12:00 and 1:30 p.m.
Cost \$15.00
Advance tickets
required

Doors Open
Peterborough
Saturday May 6

Rhubarb Spring Fling
Saturday May 27

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

**An Artist in our Midst
Wednesday April 19 2017
at the Parlour Trinity United Church**

Local artist **Stephanie Ford Forrester** will be our guest speaker on Wednesday, 19 April, at Trinity United Church Parlour. As former curator of Hutchison House Museum, Stephanie is well-known to PHS members. After studying fine arts at Mount Allison University, she has had a distinguished career as an artist in multiple forms: prints, paintings, mixed media, textile work and body prints. She has had numerous solo exhibitions in Ottawa, Toronto and the Peterborough area. In 2010 at Art Expo in Ottawa she was awarded the Trailblazer Award for outstanding artistic achievement in the spirit of Tom Thomson. Her work has been featured in the art magazines *Arabella* and *The Quilter Magazine*, and in *Art Works*, a new Canadian visual arts textbook. She holds a County of Peterborough award for leadership in arts and culture. Her work continues primarily in the medium of textiles, in luminous raw silks, batiks and fine cottons.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

The Peterborough Historical Society held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 21 March at Princess Gardens. The annual business meeting was followed by another fine meal by the staff at the Gardens, the presentation of the Society's Heritage Awards, a brief address by the Society's Honorary President, Dr. Thomas H. B. Symons, and a special presentation by guest speaker Steve Guthrie, videographer at CHEX Television. In addition to the routine business matters, Mr. Elwood Jones brought up the issue of the sale of the Pig's Ear and the Black Horse pubs, both heritage structures. In support of preservation, the Society passed a motion to write to Council supporting the designation of the pubs under the Ontario Heritage Act.

The highlight of the evening was an entertaining and informative talk by Steve Guthrie on the revolutionary changes in technology and television since the founding of CHEX sixty years ago. With numerous historical images and artefacts from the 1950s onward, he traced the various personalities and programs that were introduced to viewers in the area. Many in the audience recalled some of these programs or bringing their children to them. Most striking was the rapidly changing technology and how adept CHEX was in either adopting it or leading in the use of new equipment. Dennis Carter-Edwards thanked the speaker and tried to imagine what new technologies our grandchildren will experience.

As a special feature, the Honorary President of the Peterborough Historical Society, Dr. T.H.B. Symons, offered a few remarks on the importance of history for our community, and for our country to know itself and to stand strong as a society for the values we share in these challenging times. In this 150th year of Confederation, he reflected on how well the Fathers of Confederation had built, in showing how "disparate parts" could be brought together to make a country that could grow and evolve peacefully.



Jean Cole and Dr. T.H.B. Symons

Directors of PHS Board confirmed for 2017: Linda Chandler, Bill Corbett, Claude Dufresne, Kathy Hooke, Paul Lumsden, Daniel Rainey, Dale Standen, Don Willcock

PHS Heritage Awards for 2016: Graham Hart, member of the committee to adjudicate the PHS Heritage Awards for 2016, announced the winners and presented the awards.

The **Samuel Armour Award**: given for the development and delivery of programs that engage students and others in exploring the diverse history of our region, to **Curve Lake First Nation** for the production of their informative documentary film, *Oshkigmong – A Place Where I Belong*. Anne Taylor accepted the award on behalf of Curve Lake First Nation.



Graham Hart, Anne Taylor

The **F.H. Dobbin Award**: given for a publication that focuses on Peterborough and region's past, to Elwood Jones and Matthew Griffis for their book, *Postcards from Peterborough and the Kawarthas*. Elwood Jones accepted the award on behalf of himself and Matthew Griffis.



Graham Hart, Elwood Jones



Graham Hart, Warden Joe Taylor

The **Martha Kidd Award**: given to recognize outstanding work in the preservation of the region's built heritage, to the **County of Peterborough** for its sensitive and creative work in preserving significant remnants of the old county gaol and developing an informative heritage park. Warden Joe Taylor accepted the award on behalf of the County.

The **Charlotte Nicholls Award**: given to recognize a substantial financial donation for the commemoration of the cultural assets. For the first time, the Society is presenting a **posthumous award to Marion Kaffka** for her very generous bequest towards to maintenance and operation of Hutchison House Museum.

There were no recipients for the **J. Hampton Burnham Award** or the **George Cox Award**.

Marion Elizabeth Kaffka (nee Davidson) 1924-2015



I first met Marion Kaffka in the early 2000s when she paid a visit to Hutchison House Museum. We got along swimmingly right from the get-go. At that time Marion wanted to donate a valuable full leather bound set of books entitled *The History of Scotland, Its Highlands, Regiments and Clans* in 8 volumes. The books had belonged to her uncle Samuel Hugh Whyte (he changed the spelling to White) who, as a young man in Winnipeg, built a very extensive library. When he passed away in 1955 he left the set to Marion. As we talked she told me that she had previously donated a wool coverlet (HH accession #977.34.1) that had belonged to her great-grandparents, Hugh and Jean MacDonald, who brought it to Canada from Dingwall, Rosshire, Scotland in 1854.

Marion and I would meet up with each other many times over the years. Personable and unassuming, she was also intelligent and proud of her family history. I loved listening to her stories.

Her mother Mae Irene Whyte (born Mary Ann) was a Winnipeg suffragist who marched with Nellie McClung on the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. In 2015 the Manitoba Museum mounted the exhibit "Nice Women Don't Want The Vote". Marion told me she sent them some of her mother's belongings, but it wasn't until recently that I discovered she also helped to fund the project.

The Manitoba Museum has created a travelling edition of the exhibit that is currently scheduled for display at the Glanmore National Historic Site in Belleville (March-May 2017). One of the panels shows a young woman dressed in a man's suit and tie wearing a fedora and holding a cigarette. The woman in the photo is Marion's mother. Every time I visited Marion in her home I asked to see that picture!

Few members of the Peterborough Historical Society are familiar with Marion Kaffka's name. I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to get to know her. Marion generously bequeathed significant funds to Hospice Peterborough, Lang Pioneer Village, and the Peterborough Historical Society for Hutchison House. The PHS portion was over \$100,000.

In 2006 when she donated *The History of Scotland* book set to Hutchison House Museum, Marion gave me a written history of her Uncle Samuel White and his library. At the end of the page she wrote the following. "I somehow find it rather comforting to know that a coverlet of my great-grandmother and a set of Scottish history of her grandson, my uncle, are now at the same location."

Thank you for your many wonderful gifts, Marion, with very warm appreciation and fond memories of a dear friend. Often the best thing we can do for others is to listen to their stories.

Gale Fewings



Celebrating Doreen Jones' 90th Birthday



March Break—Ruby, Jenna and Hanna

Hutchison House Report

Where does the time go? It seems like just a month ago that I was reporting on Hogmanay and now Easter is only weeks away.

While February is now a bit of a blur, there were some very generous undertakings on our behalf by a number of volunteers deserving of recognition for their efforts. On Sunday, February 12 Linda Chandler, Carol Marsland and Loretta Terry once again hosted a Victorian Afternoon Tea with a Valentine's theme. Although the numbers were not as large as hoped for, the ladies persevered in spite of a snow storm throughout the day. A week later on Family Day twelve members of the Baker family from Cavan rolled up their sleeves and hand-scrubbed the keeping room floor. Ann Baker has organized this annual tradition for the past eight years. Thank you everyone for putting so much energy, dedication, and elbow grease into making Hutchison House better.

Preparations for the March Break programs took up early March. Erin and I were kept busy sourcing the raw materials for our Woodland Elves and Fairies Week. This was the first time we offered two programs per day over a four day period. The challenge was to have enough materials on hand to spark the imagination of young children who would be creating their own fairy characters and constructing small houses and gardens out of found, recycled and repurposed materials. By all accounts the children enjoyed themselves immensely. Many parents were impressed enough to ask when we'll offer similar programs for them. There is something to be said for the idiom Fairy gardens are trendy these days, proving the adage that "everything old is new again." Settlers in the Victorian era embraced fairies and elves as they looked back to the folk tales of their ancestors. Fairies and elves were both good and bad, pranksters and helpful. They were the guardians of nature, woodland animals and gardens. They were helpful if you respected them, but caused problems when you didn't. Hopefully contemporary fairy gardens only attract the good ones!

Look forward with us to our spring events: Heritage Luncheons on the first Wednesday of the month in April, May and June; our participation in Doors Open Peterborough on Saturday May 6; and our hosting of the annual Rhubarb Spring Fling on May 27.

For more information on our programs and events please call the museum office, visit our website, <http://www.hutchisonhouse.ca/>, or join us on Facebook.

Gale Fewings

From The President

The recent sale of two historic downtown Peterborough buildings – the Pig's Ear Tavern and The Blackhorse Pub – and their possible demolition raises the issue of the value of old buildings. Some people see such structures as just "old" and best torn down to be replaced by new multiple-housing units, retail space, parkland, etc.; others see old buildings as "historic" and worth keeping at all costs. The reality probably lies somewhere in between: some historic buildings can be converted or "re-purposed" at reasonable cost, while others have structural or architectural issues that either cannot be fixed or would be prohibitively expensive to adapt to new use.

Large municipalities often have sufficient tax bases to develop and support heritage areas (e.g. Toronto's "Distillery District" and "Evergreen Brick Works", Quebec City's "Old Quebec", and Vancouver's "Gastown"), but smaller communities seldom have the resources to do the same and rely on the assistance of private property owners to help create and maintain such projects. Peterborough is fortunate to have a heritage designation programme, spearheaded by the Council-appointed Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (PACAC), and a Heritage Property Tax Relief programme, to encourage property owners to restore and keep up historic buildings. Thus, when one walks throughout the older sections of our town, many residences, business buildings, and even whole streetscapes can be appreciated for their original architectural beauty and style or for their historical significance. Provincially there is the Ontario Heritage Act to help protect historic structures from falling to the wrecking ball.

For heritage legislation and tax relief we can thank local, provincial, and federal governments, but ultimately it is up to individual citizens/voters to be vigilant and speak out when they see an historic building under threat.

Don Willcock



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Voices from Peterborough's Past

This photograph in the collection of the Peterborough Museum and Archives carries a caption "Kiwanis Club-Jackson's Park, Children's Rec Building, July 1921 (or 22 or 23)." In the minutes of May 1914 of the Nurses Supervision Committee of the Peterborough Health Association there is reference to searching for a suitable location for a children's summer camp. Jackson's Park was eventually chosen and until 1921 when the number of campers had increased to 58, kitchen, dining and other facilities were accommodated in tents. In 1921 a wooden kitchen was built, and the following year a dining hall and a rest building were added. The building under construction in the photograph is likely one of the latter.



Courtesy of PMA

The purpose of the Peterborough Health Association was to address the scourge of tuberculosis, the "white death," in the community. It raised funds to provide medical supplies and hire a nurse or two to care for tubercular victims in their homes. It established a Nurses Supervision Committee, comprised of a few bourgeois women, the nurse and a doctor, to hire and supervise nurses, purchase supplies, visit patients, provide milk and eggs to needy families and raise funds.

The children's summer camp appears to have been an initiative of the Supervision Committee, in support of which the women on the committee, clearly organizing and running the operation, applied remarkable skill in the art of scrounging and drumming up volunteers and funds. The Kiwanis Club was one of many supporters. Other fundraising was accomplished through regular bridge parties, rummage sales, entertainment events and the like.

The purpose of the camp was to provide healthy, outdoor activity for the underprivileged or "delicate" children in the city, most being identified with the help of the school nurse. Fresh air, exercise and good nourishment were weapons in the battle against tuberculosis.

Dale Standen

Two Men, Two Wars:
Peterborough's John Kelleher
and James Rollins
Donald Willcock



The 2017 PHS Occasional Paper is now available. *Two Men, Two Wars* by Don Willcock, the PHS President, is available with membership in the PHS. For non-members the price is \$6.00.