PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



# Peterborough Historical Society Bulletin

Issue 438 June 2017

**UPCOMING EVENTS** 

Celebrate at Home for Canada's Birthday Sunday July 2 at the pavilion on the hill (located on the grounds of the Peterborough Museum & Archives).

Scottish Teas at Hutchison House Tuesday July 4 until Sunday, September 3

Peach Tea at Hutchison House Friday August 18

In the Fall:

PHS Bus Tour. Thursday September 28

PHS Monthly Lecture at 7:30 pm Tuesday September 19 Speaker Joan Sangster

> Tuesday October 17 Speaker Dale Standen

Tuesday November 21 Speaker Heather Caldwell **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** The day and location of the PHS monthly meetings in the fall will change. The day will revert to **the third Tuesday of the month**, as it was before the Library closed for renovations. Because the Library will not reopen until later in the fall, our meetings for at least September and October will be in **the Lion's Centre**, **347 Burnham Street**. The Lion's Centre has parking on site, and is wheelchair accessible.

#### FALL SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2017

Tuesday, 19 September: Joan Sangster, "A Century of Women's Suffrage: Commemorations, Myths and Canadian History." Joan Sangster is Vanier Professor at Trent University, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, retiring President of the Canadian Historical Association and has written extensively on women's working class history in Peterborough.

Tuesday, 17 October: Dale Standen, "Peterborough, the Spanish Flu and the Challenge of Contagious Disease in the Era of the First World War." Dale Standen is Professor Emeritus of History, Trent University. He has written on the History of New France and has researched and engaged in public history, especially as practiced in museums.

Tuesday, 21 November: Heather Caldwell, "Canadian Nursing Sisters – The Bluebirds 1914-1918." Heather Caldwell is a historical researcher and practices public history through historical reenactment. Her talk will include the experience of Helen Fowlds of Hastings, who served as a nurse on several fronts in the First World War. A display of some items used by nurses overseas will accompany the talk.

PHS Bus Tour. Save the date: Thursday, 28 September

This year the annual bus tour is a double-header: the **Glanmore House National Historic Site** in Belleville, and the **National Air Force Museum** in Trenton. Lunch will be in Belleville. Both these nationally significant museums have undertaken remarkable restorations and are a must-see. Details of price and itinerary will be published in the next *Bulletin* at the beginning of September. In the meantime, mark your calendars and tell your friends.



Glanmore House Belleville



National Air Force Museum Trenton

#### From The President .....

After a busy winter and spring, summer will be upon us very soon. For the PHS, this means that things will slow down a bit (no public meetings), but for Hutchison House things get very active. (Check out the upcoming events and watch the Hutchison House website <a href="https://www.hutchisonhouse.ca">www.hutchisonhouse.ca</a>.) It is the same with people: some will be taking it easy with vacations, quiet time around home or at the cottage, while others will be busy travelling or spending time with family (which often means very lively children and grandchildren) and/or friends. Whatever you are planning for your summer, we at the PHS wish you a safe and happy one. See you in September.

Don Willcock

# **Hutchison House Report**

It certainly is the year to celebrate our history with Canada's 150 top of mind. We at Hutchison House have been invited to take part in numerous local initiatives including the recent Doors Open Peterborough on Saturday, May 6. The theme of the event was 1867 A Day in the Life. The weather wasn't ideal on that day, however over 300 people on average visited most of the sites on the tour including Hutchison House. According to an inhouse survey of our guests, clearly over 50% of respondents had never been to the museum before. Hosting the event was a great opportunity to meet and greet so many new friends. All of the responses were very positive and everyone indicated they would attend another event and /or recommend a visit to the House to others. See a full report on the event elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

As Peterborough residents prepare to *Celebrate at Home* for Canada's Birthday, we welcome you to join us on Sunday, 2 July for 150<sup>th</sup> Heritage Celebration at the pavilion on the hill (located on the grounds of the Peterborough Museum & Archives). There will be hands-on activities for the whole family at Peterborough's Canada 150 celebration, including a free pancake breakfast provided by the East Peterborough Lions Club at 10:00 am; interactive activities and displays from Hutchison House from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm; and horse-drawn wagon rides from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. There will be 4 musical acts: Dan Fewings; the Mayhemmingways; Stefan & Saskia and the Paddling Puppeteers. Watch for a re-enactment of a Fenian Raid from the 1860s and much more from Lang Pioneer Village throughout the day. The Canadian Canoe Museum will be offering guided tours up and down the Peterborough Lift Lock in voyageur canoes from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Peterborough Lift Lock Cruises will be providing rides up and down the Lift Lock from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. The Peterborough Museum and Archives will be open from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm with their "Made in Canada – Really!" exhibition, and with behind-the-scene museum tours from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.

All of the above events have been planned and organized by Canada's 150th Anniversary Celebrations Committee made up of city staff and members of many local arts and heritage organizations. For more information about Peterborough's Canada 150th Celebrations and a list of events, visit their website at <a href="https://www.peterborough.ca/PTBO150">www.peterborough.ca/PTBO150</a> and follow on Facebook (www.facebook.com/PTBO150) and Twitter @Ptbo150 #ptbo150.

Remember that the seasonal Scottish Teas begin at Hutchison House on Tuesday, 4 July until Sunday, 3 September from 1-4 pm daily (closed Mondays). The popular annual one-day Peach Tea takes place on Friday, 18 August. For more information call the museum office at 705-743-9710 or visit our website at <a href="https://www.hutchisonhouse.ca">www.hutchisonhouse.ca</a>.

**Gale Fewings** 

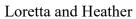


# **Volunteer Service Awards—May 4**

Dylan, Emma, Susan and Carol

Jeff, Michael, Heather. Edith and Elizabeth





Doors Open—May 6

Michael, Kathryn and Gail





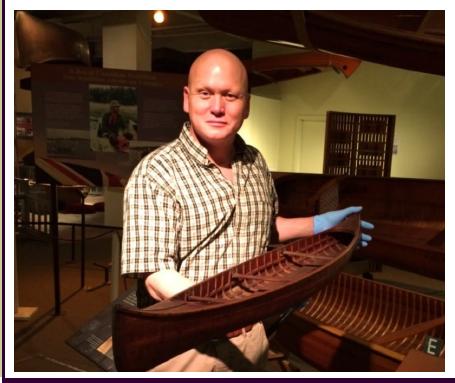
# **Canadian Canoe Museum Exhibit on Canoe Manufacturing**

Jeremy Ward, curator at the Canadian Canoe Museum, was guest speaker for the May meeting of the Peterborough Historical Society. As curator, he is responsible for some 600 watercraft in the collection. Of these, some 65 are from countries all around the globe, which underscores the universality of the humble canoe in all its various designs, materials and uses. In addition to the watercraft collection, the Museum houses an expanding archival collection. Records from various Canadian canoe companies, including many from the Peterborough area, were donated to the Museum and form an equally valuable resource. The collection consists of pay records, catalogues, small-scale models used to market company products, medallions, correspondence and other items. Society President Don Willcock helped in organizing the collection, adding to his list of local archival records that he has worked on, including the Trent-Severn Waterway collection.

The focus of Jeremy's presentation was on the new exhibit that will be officially opened this summer at the Canoe Museum. The exhibit, entitled "Artisan and Industry: Canoe Making in the Manufacturing Era," will examine the shift from small scale, craft based canoe production, to the large scale factory based production. Peterborough was ideally suited for this transition in the twentieth century. It has excellent railway connections, an excellent supply of suitable wood, skilled labour and entrepreneurs willing and able to invest the necessary capital to establish and operate the various canoe companies that flourished in the Peterborough area. He explained the basic technique of "assembly line" type production which involved using a basic mold and building a canoe around it. The large scale output came at a price as the various styles and materials were continually reduced to facilitate large scale production. He also mentioned the extensive marketing techniques that were developed to promote sales not just in Ontario but in the United States, Europe and even Australia. Four-foot scale replicas, elaborate catalogues with elaborate art work and sponsorship for regattas were all techniques used to sell canoes. Among the visuals in Jeremy's presentation were examples of this type of art work, in particular the exquisite drawings by J.D. Kelly for the Rice Lake Canoe Company.

Jeremy concluded this remarks by highlighting upcoming events including the special canoe day at the Lift Lock where they hope to fill both tubs with watercraft. President Don Willcock thanked the speaker and encouraged members to get out to the various events.





Jeremy Ward. Models were used by manufacturers to market their products.

## DOORS OPEN DRAWS A CROWD AT HUTCHISON HOUSE AND WITNESSES A SPECIAL EVENT

Doors Open on 6 May attracted more than 300 visitors through the Harvey-Connel Room. The event featured three Literary Salon sittings with authors, poets and special guests. Author Gail Corbett (*Nation Builders: Barnardo Children in Canada* and *Katherine Wallis*), hosted the event which featured celebrated Professor Emeritus Michael Peterman who shared his work in progress on Canadian poet James McCarroll (1814-1892). His reading from McCarroll's *Madeline and Other Poems*, *NY*, included the lyrical "The Gray Linnet," and McCarroll's popular comic Irish poems. Professor Peterman has been attracted by this early Canadian poet for over thirty years. His book will be published by McGill/Queen's University Press this Fall.

In another group of readings, Canon Ron Davidson, well-known Peterborough clergyman, recounted a short biography of Joseph Scriven and read from his poetry and hymns. He described the various geographic sites in the area frequented by Scriven.

Enid Mallory, author of numerous history books, shared stories from Country Stores, Kawartha Lakes and Robert Service. Gord Mallory read from Claire Galvin's *The Holy Land*.

A special guest was Kathryn (Lampman) Clarke, the granddaughter of celebrated Canadian Poet, Archibald Lampman, and she honoured the occasion with a very special offering. The audience was moved when she read from Lampman's last poem, unpublished, which he had composed to his baby son, Kathryn's father. Archibald Lampman died at age 35, two months after he wrote the poem in pencil in his notebook. Here it is published for the first time.

Gail Corbett

Written 5 December, 1898, by Canadian Poet Archibald Lampman. Read by his granddaughter at Hutchison House, Doors Open, 6 May 2017 by his granddaughter, Kathryn Clarke of Peterborough.

### **MY LAST CHILD**

I saw my little manchild six months old,
The wonder of his dreamy eyes let fall
To watch a sunbeam moving on the wall,
A little shifting sunbeam, burning gold,
Of mystic shadows full as it could hold
The curtain's lace work, and a curious scrawl
Of swaying things outside, and each and all
Were marvellous to him and made him bold
To stretch his hands out so, a moment rude,
And grasp and try to catch it if he could
And when he could not, like a baffled sage
With patient eyes and head a little bent,
He pondered as we might at ripest age,
In grave conjecture silent and intent.

**Archibald Lampman** 



#### PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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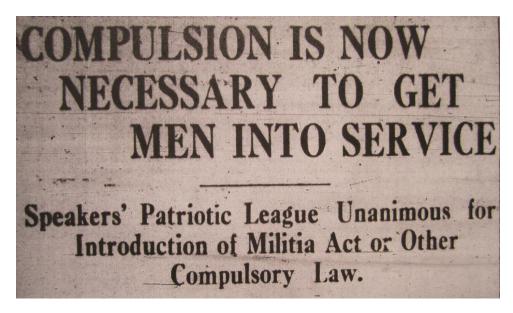
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The Bulletin
Editor: Dale Standen
Publisher: Marilyn
MacNaughton

Bulletin (ISSN 1484-5983)

**Correction:** In our April bulletin, the historical photo shown in the "Voices from Peterborough's Past" was of the former Canadian Canoe Company factory on Water street at Brock. Another building visible in the distance was incorrectly described as being the Pig's Ear. That tavern, in fact, was further west on Brock street. Thanks to Erik Hanson for noting this.

# **Voices from Peterborough's Past**



Conscription Call March 1917

This headline from the *Peterborough Daily Review* of 13 March 1917 announces the impending crisis over conscription that fractured the country during the First World War. The crisis has often been depicted as a conflict between Quebec and English Canada, with Quebec opposing conscription and English Canada supporting it. However, the issue was far more complex. Among farmers in the west, and in southwestern Ontario, there was strong opposition to conscription. In local communities like Peterborough the crisis exposed significant social and economic rifts. The manufacturers and businessmen of the local Speakers' Patriotic League passed a resolution in favour of conscription, but the *Review's* report reveals contradictions between patriotic sentiment and material interest. It was easy for businessmen to imagine "hundreds of young men in the theatres, poolrooms and at dances, and idlers on the streets....who should be taken," but at the same time professed the need for able, fit men to do the work in their factories that women could not perform. It was a dangerous cauldron of high emotion in face of a problem that had no obvious solution.

**Dale Standen**