



UPCOMING EVENTS

**PHS Monthly Lecture
at 7:30 pm**

Tuesday October 17
Speaker
Dale Standen

Tuesday November 21
Speaker
Heather Caldwell

Victorian Tea
Sunday 22 October,
2:30 pm
Book your reservations
now.

**Haunted Hallowe'en for
Kids**
Saturday 28 October
1– 3 pm

Hutchison House
Festive Sale
Saturday, 25 November
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

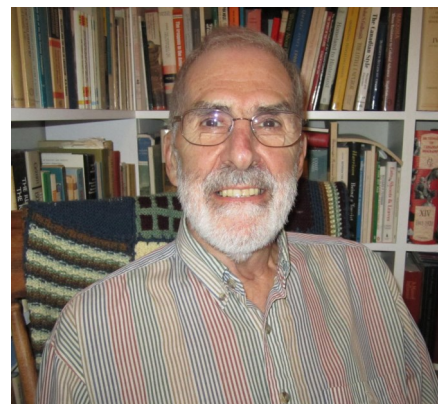
Heritage Luncheons
Wednesday, 1 November
Wednesday, 6 December.
Reservations for these popular lunches must be made in advance.

REMINDER OF LOCATION OF MEETINGS. The day and location of the PHS monthly meetings in the fall will change back 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**, at the usual time, 7:30 p.m. The Lion's Centre has parking on site, and is wheelchair accessible.

“Peterborough, the Spanish Flu and the Challenge of Contagious Disease in the Era of the First World War.”

**Tuesday, 17 October,
The Lion's Centre, 347 Burnham Street,
7:30 p.m.**

The year 2018 will mark the one hundredth anniversary of the Spanish Influenza pandemic which is estimated to have killed 50,000 in Canada and possibly more than fifty million worldwide. It was a shattering experience at a time when it was hoped that such deadly epidemics were a thing of the past. No community escaped the Spanish Flu, and how Peterborough handled other contagious diseases at the time frames the local response to this unexpected plague in the final months of the First World War. **Dale Standen** is Professor Emeritus of History, Trent University.



HUTCHISON HOUSE FESTIVE SALE, 25 NOVEMBER 2017:

Don't miss the Christmas sale at Hutchison House. Orders for Empire cheeses can be picked up at the sale. Order forms for cheese are included with the Bulletin. See the Hutchison House Report in this issue for more details.

From The President

Commemoration is important to individuals and entities. People celebrate birthdays, wedding anniversaries, school graduations. Countries commemorate significant anniversaries and prominent citizens, as do cities, towns and provinces.

In recent months, however, there have been controversies surrounding commemorative statues in both the United States and Canada. In the U.S., the trouble was caused by calls for, and threats to remove statues of Confederate military commanders in several southern cities. In Canada, the statue of Halifax founder Edward Cornwallis triggered protests and calls for its removal because of his treatment of Indigenous peoples while Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia.

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A provincial teachers' union called for the removal of Sir John A. Macdonald's name from Ontario schools because of his policies regarding Indigenous peoples while Prime Minister of Canada.

Is removal of statues and building name boards the right way to handle historical controversies? In some cases maybe: after the fall of such national dictators as Saddam Hussein of Iraq, Muammar Gaddafi of Libya, and Nicolai Ceausescu of Romania, their own former subjects pulled down or destroyed statues of these men. In post-Communist Europe, many statues of Soviet leaders (primarily Stalin and Lenin) also came down by the hands of citizens or new regimes. Whether Cornwallis, Macdonald, and Robert E. Lee deserve the same treatment is something that deserves more calm and reasoned discussion. Some of the U.S. statues have been removed by municipalities (Baltimore's were taken down in the dead of night), and others are still standing while their fates are being decided. The Cornwallis statue has been covered with a tarp while its fate is discussed, and as yet no moves have been made to remove Macdonald's name from Ontario schools.

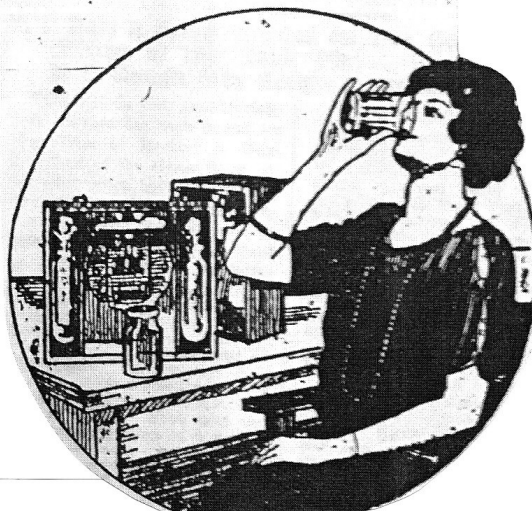
Hungary, on the other hand, has handled the statues from its controversial past in what I think is a very interesting and progressive way: surviving statues of Soviet personalities and Communist Hungarian leaders have been taken to a "Memento Park" – essentially an open-air museum – in Budapest. With explanatory and educational signage, the Park is meant to provide Hungarians and other visitors with the opportunity to learn about Hungary's troubled and turbulent years within the Soviet sphere of influence, instead of trying to obliterate or ignore that period. History can never be erased, so it seems a better idea to educate people with the whole story of an era, nation or individual, than to have only bits and pieces – or a one-sided version – available for viewing and study. Perhaps the Hungarian example is one that would work for Canadians and Americans, too.

Don Willcock

Voices from Peterborough's Past

To Renew the Body by Drinking Radium

"Longer life, a new body glowing with the restored vigor of youth, new hair on bald heads and the third set of natural teeth are among the promises that the more optimistic radium experts are making for the use of radium emanation or radioactive waters with a treatment of disease and old age.... Is it possible, as one physician has suggested, that in radium may be found the 'spark of life'—the mysterious electronic force that drives the life of the world?..."



The article from which this excerpt is taken, credited to the *Popular Science Monthly*, appeared in the *Peterborough Examiner* on 1 October 1923 on the page entitled "New and Interesting Facts from Science." It is an example of the wild and dangerous speculative claims, based on no scientific evidence whatever, that often follow the reporting of genuine scientific discoveries, in this case the isolation of radium by Marie Curie in 1898. The article quotes a Dr. C. Everett Field, described as a "radium therapist" and Director of the Radium Institute of New York, that radium, "in some cases, is the most efficient medicine to give needed stimulus to the healing apparatus of diseased organisms," and "may prolong life at least fifteen years." The article is silent on the credentials of "Dr." Field or of his Radium Institute. It says nothing at

all about the "physician" entrepreneurs who were marketing a home-use apparatus to dissolve radium in drinking water, as shown in the accompanying illustration. There were in the United States numerous diploma mills selling bogus medical credentials, to the frustration of the legitimate medical profession and scientific community. Of course, the marketing of miracle health remedies and products is not only a phenomenon of the past.

Dale Standen and Ken Brown

Hutchison House Report

Hutchison House welcomed over 1,300 visitors this summer through, teas, workshops, rentals, events and tours of the museum. Staff and volunteers were kept hopping, and visitors provided very positive feedback about their experiences at the museum. The top 5 comments from Scottish Tea patrons:

"I never feel like my summer is complete until I've had tea at Hutchison House."

"A delight in the middle of Peterborough."

"Hardly aware of being in the City."

"Great date spot"

"So glad you are here-we will be back again."

As summer officially ends and fall begins, staff at Hutchison House remain busy with a variety of rentals from a 100th birthday to a Drag Queen high tea and an upcoming wedding, bus tours, school tours and much more. It seems that the hustle and bustle of the summer months has continued on into September.

Due to upcoming bookings at the museum there will be no **Heritage Luncheon** in October. The remaining lunches for 2017 will be **Wednesday, 1 November** and **Wednesday, 6 December**. Reservations for these popular lunches must be made in advance by calling, emailing or dropping into the museum office.

Again this fall volunteers Linda Chandler, Loretta Terry and Carol Marsland are hosting an elegant **Victorian Tea** in our historic keeping room. Book your reservations now for **Sunday, 22 October, 2017** 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. Tickets for the event are \$25 each and pre-registration is required as seating is limited.

On Saturday, 28 October from 1-3 p.m. Hutchison House Museum will host our annual **Haunted Halloween for Kids**. This afternoon of children's activities features crafts, apple games, fortune telling, tricks and treats. Admission for the Haunted Halloween 'spooktacular' event is \$5 per person. Costumes are encouraged and children must be accompanied by an adult. While we do make the upper levels of the house a little spooky, it is not our intention to scare anyone to death.

The annual **Hutchison House Festive Sale** is also fast approaching. The sale will take place on **Saturday, 25 November** between 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. This is an important fundraiser for the museum. The volunteers and staff will be getting together in the coming weeks to finalize plans for the event. **Empire cheese may be ordered in advance** for pick-up at the sale at the end of November. An order form for Empire Cheese is enclosed or attached with this issue.

Erin Panepinto

Drag Queen High Tea Madge, Laura and Glenda



summer students Sky, Shelby, Farah



100th Birthday Craig Low, Jane Cummings, Sheena Swirlz, Judith Low



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SOCIETY**

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Much Beyond Suffragists to Commemorate in Canadian Women's History

Professor Joan Sangster, Director of the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies at Trent University, was the guest speaker at the September meeting of the Peterborough Historical Society. Her talk, "A Century of Women's Suffrage: Commemoration, Myths and Canadian History," was based on her extensive research for a forthcoming book. Rather than dwelling upon the conventional story of the Canadian suffragist campaign, Professor Sangster offered a fresh perspective by arguing that the campaign for the vote was only one of broader and more comprehensive efforts over a century to address pressing social issues that women faced. She highlighted some of the early advocates of votes for women that have received less attention than the more well known feminist champions. Women such as Mary Ann Chad Cary, who edited the *Provincial Freeman*, were arguing for women's rights in the mid-nineteenth century. Professor Sangster also brought a more critical eye to the movement, arguing that it was by no means monolithic. There were comfortable middle class white professional women who had the social connections and time – thanks to domestics who did their housework – to push their agenda, while others such as Helena Gutteridge, an English working class immigrant, worked through the established trade union movement to promote women's issues.

Opponents of the suffragists, such as McGill professor and popular humorist Stephen Leacock and Toronto intellectual Goldwin Smith, drew witty responses from women. A mock parliament run by women turned the critics' arguments on their head and proved popular and effective. Professor Sangster argued against the notion that women were silent and politically inactive after they won the vote. This ignores the effective work that women did at the provincial and municipal level to address pressing issues, such as custody of children, equal pay and property rights.

Professor Sangster's talk generated many questions from the audience. In reply to a question regarding temperance, she responded that the temperance movement was an important vehicle for bringing women into the campaign for social betterment and helped educate male legislators who saw women's votes as a means to achieve the goal of temperance legislation.

President Don Willcock thanked the speaker for an enlightening and entertaining presentation.

Dennis Carter-Edwards



Among the lesser heralded women who fought for women's equality in various ways are Mary Ann Shadd Cary, Helena Gutteridge and Margaret Haile.