



UPCOMING EVENTS

PHS Monthly Lecture at 7:30 pm

Tuesday November 21
Speaker
Heather Caldwell

Hutchison House
Christmas Market
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.

Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" in the Keeping Room by firelight
Sunday, 10 December
2:00 pm.
Advanced tickets \$20.00

REMINDER OF DAY AND LOCATION OF MEETINGS. The day of the PHS monthly meetings is **the third Tuesday of the month**. This fall our meetings are being held in **the Lion's Centre, 347 Burnham Street**, at the usual time, 7:30 p.m. The Library is scheduled to move back into its renovated building later in the fall. If this schedule is maintained, the PHS monthly meetings will again be located in the Library beginning in January 2018.

"Canadian Nursing Sisters – The Bluebirds 1914-1918."

Tuesday, 21 November, 2017, The Lion's Centre, 347 Burnham Street, 7:30 p.m.

With an average age of 24 years, more than 2,500 trained Canadian nurses volunteered to serve in the Canadian Army Nursing Corps overseas in the First World War. Several nurses from the Peterborough area were among them. **Heather Caldwell** is an amateur historian, a long-time historical re-enactor, and volunteer at Lang Pioneer village. She is a member of the Canadian Military Heritage Society, the Great War Association and the 1812 Crown Forces of Upper Canada. A display of some items used by nurses overseas will accompany the talk.



HUTCHISON HOUSE CHRISTMAS MARKET/FESTIVE SALE, 25 NOVEMBER

2017: Remember the Christmas sale at Hutchison House 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. Orders for Empire cheeses can be picked up at the sale. Order forms for cheese are available at Hutchison House, 270 Brock Street, or cheese may be ordered by phone, 705-743-9710. See the Hutchison House Report in this issue for more details.

From The President

Don Willcock



Each year as Remembrance Day approaches I turn to my military library. Sometimes I choose an “old friend,” and sometimes a book less well-thumbed. This year I reached for a recently-acquired, unread second-hand volume, *The Great War In Verse And Prose*, selected and edited by J.E. Wetherell, published in 1919 by A.T. Wilgress of Toronto, and “Recommended for use in schools”. It contains wartime prose and poems by writers of the early 20th century, some famous and some not. Among the familiar names of Rudyard Kipling, Winston Churchill, Robert Service, Rupert Brooke, Arthur Conan Doyle, and John McCrae, I came across a couple of poems by the Canadian Robert J.C. Stead. I had not heard of Stead so I did a little research.

Robert James Campbell Stead was born in 1880 at Middleville, Lanark County, Ontario. In 1882 his family moved to a homestead near Cartwright, Manitoba. At the age of eighteen years, Robert began publishing a weekly newspaper and in 1908 he published his first book, *The Empire Builders and Other Poems*. For the next two decades Stead wrote a number of novels, short stories and poems that portrayed Canada and Canadians – especially the West and Westerners – in a rousing, nationalistic fashion. Stead moved to Calgary to work in the immigration department of the CPR. He died in 1959.

Robert J.C. Stead published his one book of wartime poetry, *Kitchener And Other Poems*, in October 1917 with a second printing a month later. I do not yet know if he served in the Great War but his poetry conveys the grim reality expressed by soldier-poets. I found “He Sleeps In Flanders” particularly poignant. Lest We Forget.

*

HE SLEEPS IN FLANDERS

*He sleeps in Flanders. Well he sleeps,
For Flanders' sleep is deep indeed;
About his bed the trench-rat creeps;
In some far home a woman weeps;
And the lone moon its vigil keeps
Above his sleep in Flanders.*

*No note shall break the silent sleep
That found him when his day was done;
No note is blown so loud and deep
That it can pierce the gates of sleep –
The earthen gates full damp and deep –
That guard his sleep in Flanders.*

*He saw not where his path should lead,
Nor sought a path to suit his will;
He saw a nation in her need;
He heard the cause of Honor plead;
He heard the call, he gave it heed,
And now he sleeps in Flanders.*

*Yet let this ray of light remain,
Though darkness cut him from our view;
We know the sacrifice, the pain –
We cannot feel our faith is vain –
We know the loss, but not the gain
Of those who sleep in Flanders.*

Robert James Campbell Stead

Hutchison House Report

Gale Fewings



The opening of Hutchison House Museum on 24 May 1978 must have been an exciting and nail biting time for those involved. In 2018 Hutchison House Museum will mark its 40th year! It has taken many hearts and hands to keep the Museum going over the years. With the aim of collecting stories, memories and anecdotes about the House we are launching the **Hutchison House Memory Project**. If you have a story to share please contact us. We are eager to hear from anyone who has a lasting memory of Hutchison House, whether recent or long ago. Interviews can be conducted in person, over the phone or by email. We are hoping to create a commemorative booklet that includes stories, newspaper articles and photographs that highlight the connections between the museum and the community. The publication will be available for sale at our 40th Anniversary Open House scheduled for Sunday, 27 May 2018.

Before 1918, however, there are still many events to enjoy at Hutchison House. Our **annual Christmas Market will take place on Saturday, November 25 from 10:00 am until 12:30 pm**. Home baking, shortbread, fruit pies, jams, jellies and preserves will be featured, along with other special seasonal treats. Books and other gift items will also be available for sale. **Please note the deadline for Empire cheese orders is Tuesday, 16 November** for pick up on the day of our Christmas Market or by arrangement with staff.

The **Christmas Market** is a very important fundraiser for the museum and donations of items for sale are gratefully accepted. We are asking for baked goods such as Christmas cookies, shortbreads, cakes, pies, etc. as well as candy, jams, jellies, preserves and other gift-worthy items for our treasures table. Please consider making a donation of some kind to help the volunteers make the day a success! **Donations of goodies will be gratefully accepted during the week prior to November 25.**

We are still taking bookings for the **upcoming Heritage Luncheons held on 1 November and 6 December**. Sitting times are 12:00 pm and 1:30 pm at a cost of \$15 per person. Reservations must be made in advance. The latter months of the year are always a busy time at the Museum. And, Hogmanay is just around the corner!

Fans of Charles Dickens will be interested in an event scheduled at **Hutchison House on Sunday, 10 December at 2:00 pm**. The planning and hosting of this special event has been developed by volunteers Loretta Terry, Linda Chandler, and Carol Marsland. Mark your calendars for **Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol"** in the Keeping Room by firelight. We will be listening to a recording of the 1939 Campbell Soup radio show, as presented by Orson Wells, and starring Lionel Barrymore as Ebenezer Scrooge. A choice of dessert, tea and coffee will be served. The cost for this event is \$20.00 per person prepaid and seating is limited. The ladies hosted this event for the first time in 2016 and it was very well received. To book tickets please call the museum office at 705-743-9710.



Hutchison House Canada 150 display



Kristen & Kevin Peltsch wedding at Hutchison House
September 30, 2017

Spanish Influenza Mobilized Peterborough to Action

On Tuesday October 17, Trent University Professor Emeritus Dale Standen (History) spoke on “Peterborough, the Spanish Flu and the Challenge of Contagious Diseases in the Era of the First World War.” The talk was very well attended; in fact, the Lion’s Centre was overflowing with late arrivals and chairs were at a premium.

It is general knowledge that the “Spanish Flu” killed more people world-wide than the carnage of the First World War. In comparative terms Peterborough got off lightly, in large part because of a well-organized volunteer work force in the city and the vision of the city’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hewitt Amys, who took the business of public health very seriously and kept all institutions in the city on high alert. Amys attributed only 31 deaths to the flu and its complications, primarily pneumonia, in Peterborough. Drawing on records from the Peterborough Board of Health and local newspapers, Prof. Standen took his attentive audience through the frightening days in late October and early November 1918 when ‘the great pandemic’ was most virulent in the city.

Prof. Standen began by discussing the nature of influenza in general terms and the sudden emergence in 1918 of a novel Type A strain recently identified as H1N1. But in those days there was no flu vaccine and no herd immunity to this new strain. He also situated the pandemic in the context of the First World War and the rapid evolution of medical knowledge in the previous fifty years. He traced the development of hospitals in the Peterborough area including Queen Mary isolation hospital on the city’s outskirts (Langton St.) to deal with the increasing challenges posed by contagious diseases. Dr. Amys and the Board of Health commandeered the Oriental Hotel for an emergency hospital at the peak of the flu epidemic. Statistics also made it clear that measles and scarlet fever were still ominous public-health threats in the years before and after the flu pandemic.

Offering an informative overview of health issues in the 1910s, Standen discussed the new ideas and strategies at work to improve public health. With a newly-focused awareness of the dangers of tainted water (as opposed to bad air) as the source of many diseases, city officials sought to install a city-wide sewer system and were discussing a water filtration process. The Spanish flu and its lethal consequences likely spurred the construction of a water filtration plant and a sewage treatment facility in 1921 and 1922.

Michael Peterman



Dale And Don

Sunny September Bus Trip

The September PHS Bus Trip to Stirling and Belleville was a most enjoyable day of things rural and urban.

Our first stop was at the Hastings County Farmtown Park, located on the grounds of the Stirling Fairgrounds. The museum consists of several buildings containing a large collection of tractors and other farming implements, historical artifacts, and agricultural displays – including several life-sized dioramas portraying general farm life, and more specific things such as cheese-making and bee-keeping. One building is set up as a “Heritage Village”, with a chapel (used regularly for weddings) and eighteen storefronts exhibiting appropriate artifact displays. The last building of our tour held an outstanding collection of die-cast vehicle models (not toys!). Our tour guide, Jack, was extremely knowledgeable, humorous, and made agricultural history and equipment come alive.

After an excellent Chinese buffet lunch on the outskirts of Belleville, we moved on to the downtown and Glanmore House National Historic Site. On arrival, we were met by a very familiar face: former PHS president Barb MacIntosh, who is now a Glanmore docent. Glanmore was built in 1882-83 for wealthy banker J.P.C. Phillips, and displays the lavish décor, furnishings, and art that gave a cluttered feel to homes of Ontario’s Victorian elite. The museum is a unique and successful partnership between the Canadian Government, which owns and maintains the property, and the City of Belleville, which furnishes and operates Glanmore.

On the way out of Belleville, we drove past the former home of Susanna and Dunbar Moodie (still a private home), then continued on to Campbellford for a stop at the Empire Cheese store. Cheese and ice cream on a warm sunny day are an excellent way to end a day trip!

Thanks to Paul Lumsden for arranging such a great day for all.

Don Willcock



Hastings County Farmtown Park



Glanmore House National Historic Site



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From the Peterborough Museum and Archives Jon Oldham, Archivist



October is a busy time at the PMA – and especially here in the Archives. School semesters are well underway and projects are coming due. With Remembrance Day just around the corner, students throughout the city have been working diligently on war-related research projects.

Dr. Daniel Travers' students from Trent University's HIST 3351 class have been researching a variety of World War One topics for an exciting online exhibition project.

Students in Fleming College's *Museum Management and Curatorship* program are creating artifact dossiers – basic research to add to our understanding of newly-acquired artifacts. These students are learning (among other things) that attending lectures, watching documentaries and reading books are all great ways to learn, but there is nothing quite as visceral or as exhilarating as discovering new information hiding in the countless primary documents available in local archives.

In our modern world of instant information (thank you, Google), the process of original research can seem at times slow, even plodding. But the incremental gains from original research eventually build to a new understanding of our community and its thousands of compelling stories.

Archival research is also the best way to uncover the less grandiose (though not less interesting) stories – about workers, small businesspersons and other ordinary folk – which are every bit as moving as those of industrialists, leaders and the rich. We just don't know that much about them ... yet.

Watch for news of some of these stories in the coming months. Or better yet, book an appointment in the Archives and discover for yourself the thrill of research.

PHS High School History Award Winners 2017

Congratulations to the 2017 winners of the High School PHS awards for excellence in history!

Adam Scott Secondary School
Crestwood Secondary School
Kenner Secondary School

Olivia Maley
Logan Kelly
Mathew Scully
Alex Brown (international Baccalaureate)
Brooke Driscoll

St. Peter's Secondary School

We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Linda Lumsden, Awards Committee Chair