



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 20 March: AGM

"The Prime Minister Unbuttoned: How we Discovered Mackenzie King's Secret Life"

Speaker

Christopher Dummitt
Princess Gardens starting at 5:30

PHS Monthly Lecture at 7:30 pm

Tuesday, 17 April
"Downtown Peterborough in the 1950s and 1960s: A Young Fellow's Perspective." Speaker

Fred Gariepy
Peterborough Public Library,
7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 15 May
"Slave Narratives Transcribed by Susanna Moodie" Speakers **Michael Peterman and Molly Blyth**,
Peterborough Public Library,
7:30 p.m.

Heritage Luncheon
March 7, April 4
12:00 and 1:30 p.m.
Cost \$15.00
Advance tickets required

March break programs for children—details
Hutchison House report

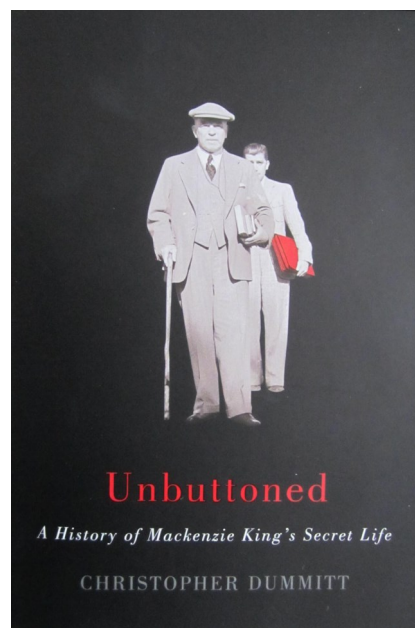
Mad Hatters Tea Party
Sunday 22 April 1-4pm.
Tickets \$25 per person.
Advance tickets required

Hutchison House 40th anniversary celebration
Open House,
Sunday May 27, 1-4 pm.

Issue 445

March 2018

Trent University Professor **Christopher Dummitt** will share fascinating tales of sleuthing the secret life of the longest-serving Prime Minister in Canadian history, William Lyon Mackenzie King. "Weird Willie," as some would label him, is the subject of great controversy: deeply admired, passionately despised, or ridiculed for his practice of spiritualism through mediums to communicate with his dead mother and dog. Copies of Professor Dummitt's recent, acclaimed book may be purchased at the AGM and dinner.



PHS Annual General Meeting and Dinner
Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Guest Speaker: Professor Christopher Dummitt

"The Prime Minister Unbuttoned: How We Discovered Mackenzie King's Secret Life"

Princess Gardens
PHS Business Meeting 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Cash Bar: 5:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m.
PHS Heritage Awards will be presented after dinner

\$45.00 for Members \$50.00 for non-members
The dinner with guest speaker is open to the public
Tickets are available at PHS office
Phone: 705-740-2600 or 705-743-9710
The dinner with guest speaker help support PHS projects

PHS Heritage Award Nominations: Last call for nominations for the annual PHS heritage awards. The six categories and nomination form are posted on the PHS website: <http://www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca/awards.php>. Or phone 705-740-2600 or 705-743-9710.

From the President ...

Don Willcock



When the month of March comes around, what are some of the things that come to mind? A week-long school holiday, maybe; American college basketball, maybe; St Patrick's Day, very likely. March is often perceived as an "Irish" month, which culminates on and around the 17th with parades, the wearing of green clothes and hats, and the consumption of immense amounts of beer – much of which may be coloured green in North America (although no amount of food colouring will turn a pint of Guinness green!).

While Patrick is Ireland's patron saint, and his attributed death date of 17 March has become a celebration of Ireland and all things Irish, he was not Irish-born: the teenaged Patrick was taken by raiders to Ireland from his home in Britain, enslaved for six years, escaped home, then returned as an adult cleric with the purpose of converting the Irish to Christianity.

Like St Patrick, two other British patron saints – Scotland's St Andrew (feast day is 30 November) and England's St George (feast day is 23 April) – were not born in their assigned countries, nor did they ever set foot in Britain. Andrew was one of Christ's Apostles, and George was believed to be a Roman army officer who was martyred about AD 303 for being a Christian.

The fourth patron saint of the British Isles and Ireland – Wales' St David – is perhaps the most overlooked of the holy quartet, which is ironic because he was the only British patron saint who was born in his assigned country, and a considerable amount is known about his life and work. St David's feast day is 1 March, and his emblem is the daffodil.

David was purportedly born sometime around AD 500 at Caerfi, Pembrokeshire, Wales. He became a renowned teacher and preacher who established churches and monastic settlements in Wales, southwest England, and Brittany. One of his monasteries was at Mynyw (now St David's, Wales), which became the site of present-day St David's Cathedral (not to be confused with the one of the same name in Cardiff). David was appointed Bishop of Mynyw, and died there circa AD 589; he was enshrined at his cathedral. In 1120, Pope Callixtus II canonized David, and at a later unknown date he was declared a saint by the Eastern Orthodox Church also.

So, as March arrives perhaps we should raise our glasses to toast not just the Irish patron saint, but also the Welsh.

"Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus!" ("Happy St David's Day!")

"Shona La Fheile Padraig!" ("Happy St Patrick's Day!")

Heritage lecture forced to cancel

Regrettably, Erik Hanson was unable to give his lecture on "Heritage in the Age of Climate Change" in February. He, like many others in Peterborough and elsewhere in Ontario, grappled with a flooding basement that day when heavy rain drenched the province. How ominous if those rains were due to climate change!

Happily, Erik is able to reschedule his lecture for the fall. Watch for the notice of all fall and winter meetings and lectures in a subsequent issue of the *Bulletin*.

We apologize to all those who turned up for the lecture, there being no means of announcing the cancellation on such short notice. Those who stayed a while at least could enjoy a cookie or two, and some pleasant conversation.

Dale Standen

The Peterborough Public Library Reopens

The Peterborough Public Library reopened its doors on January 30, 2018 returning home to a newly renovated space. The opening was met with many enthusiastic and positive comments from visitors.

The staff are thrilled to be able to offer programming opportunities once again in this amazing new space. The new layout is working well thus far, and the new study rooms are consistently in use, as are all the cozy corners. It's wonderful to see so many people in the building enjoying the space in their own way.

February was a great month for Library programming. The staff pulled out all the stops for an amazing month of grand opening celebration programs. We were visited by Catfish Willie, Olaf and Dub Trinity. There was button making, Lego days, movie nights, and a knit-in. The Kawartha Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society (KBOGS) offered a drop in genealogy workshop; we held a paint night and brought back the ever popular Blind Date with a Book. We did our best to offer a taste of the many different types of things the library can offer our community.

If we are looking a little tired that might be due to the wonderful response from the community. We welcomed 656 new library card holders in our first 9 days. From January 30 to February 6, 2018 we had a total of 16,793 checkout/renewals, and in 2017 for the same period there were 11,526. This is roughly a 45% increase in checkouts. This is phenomenal!

The new space hasn't been without its challenges, but we are learning to work in it. There are still some changes to come - extra public internet computers, window coverings, and the return of a café.

Staff are looking forward to adjusting routines to suit the space and welcoming back the Peterborough community into their Public Library.

We hope to see you soon!

Jennifer Jones
CEO, Peterborough Public Library



Hutchison House Report

“With the words “Sap’s running!” one of Canada’s oldest industries gets ready to swing into action and thousands of winter-weary Canadians prepare to celebrate the coming of spring.” This is a quote from *Nothing More Comforting: Canada’s Heritage Food* by Dorothy Duncan.

Indeed, I have it on good authority the sap is running already and as I write this report the beginning of March is just around the corner. My co-worker, Erin, with her husband Rob tapped several maple trees over the Family Day weekend.

While the Panepintos were busy setting up for the maple syrup season the Baker family were hard at work cleaning the keeping room floor at Hutchison House as part of their annual Family Day tradition. This marks the ninth year in a row that Ann and her family have gotten down on their collective hands and knees to hand-scrub the bare wood floor. Eleven family members comprising three generations rolled up their sleeves to help. Thank you one and all!

Gale Fewings



The Baker Clan



Floor cleaning



Hannah & Lily

Unfortunately, trees like people don't last forever. We realized the time had come for an old sugar maple on the lower lawn of the property. The upper limbs of the tree had been cabled years ago and it has deteriorated beyond repair. After PHS Board volunteer Paul Lumsden approached Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services for the City, consultations with Erik Hanson and Paul Hambidge determined that the tree had to come down. Phil Jacobs arranged for the forestry crew from public works to do the work, at no cost to the Museum. We remain very grateful to the City of Peterborough for their ongoing support of Hutchison House.



The dying Maple tree



City crew removing Maple tree

Currently Erin and I are preparing programs for the March Break. From Tuesday March 13th to Friday March 16th children are welcome to come to the museum for hands-on activities, pioneer games and lots of fun! Each of four different half-day programs will be offered morning and afternoon. Programs include: **Tuesday 13 March Silhouette Art; Wednesday 14 March Mobiles; Thursday 15 March Shadow Boxes; Friday 16 March Fairies and Woodland Elves.**

Programs run from 9:30am - 12pm or 1-3:30pm and are suitable for children ages 6-12. The cost is \$15 per attendee and pre-registration is required. Children are encouraged to bring their own peanut-free snacks. For more information visit our website for photos and details or **call the office at (705) 743-9710.**

Finally, in addition to our monthly Heritage Luncheons which continue on the first Wednesday of the month until June, there will be a special **"Mad Hatters Tea Party" on Sunday 22 April 1-4pm.** hosted by volunteers Loretta Terry, Linda Chandler and Erin Murphy. Tickets are \$25 per person and must be purchased in advance. This is a fundraiser for the museum and anyone who has attended one of these events in the past knows people won't go away hungry or disappointed. Please phone our office to make your reservations.



**PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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Museum**

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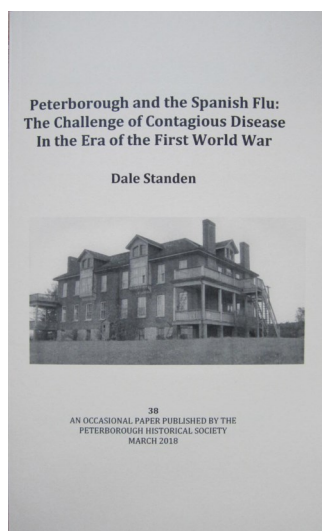
peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca

The Bulletin

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

Bulletin (ISSN 1484-5983)

The 2018 PHS Occasional Paper will be available at the AGM. *Peterborough and the Spanish Flu* by Dale Standen, Professor Emeritus Trent University and PHS volunteer, comes with membership in the PHS. For non-members the price is \$6.00.



Volunteers Needed for Doors Open 2018!

Doors Open Peterborough is happening once again on Saturday May 5, 2018 and we are looking for people who might be interested in volunteering their time to make this great day possible. Join us as we partner with sites and organizations from across the city to bring Peterborough's industrial heritage to life.

In order for Doors Open to be a success, a large group of volunteers is needed to provide visitors with a friendly, informative, and fun experience. Volunteer duties will include directing visitors to the sites, providing general information, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and keeping a record of the number of visitors to each site. Volunteers do not need any previous experience to participate in Doors Open and will be provided with information and a formal training session prior to the day of the event. For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, please contact Jessica Bisson at: jbisson@peterborough.ca

Thank you!

**PETERBOROUGH CANADIAN IRISH CLUB
ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION**

March 17/18

St. Joseph's Douro Parish Hall

ALL DAY FAMILY FUN 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Breakfast at 9 a.m.- 11 a.m.

Tickets in advance: \$10. Call Shelley Ryan 705-742-0987, or:

Purchase at door: All-day pass \$20; Afternoon and evening only, \$10

ENTERTAINMENT: 11 a.m.- 10 p.m.: CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, MUSIC,

DANCERS, EVERGREEN CLOGGERS, FIDDLESTIX

APPALACHIAN CELTIC BAND BANCROFT, 7 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Light dinner for purchase, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Cash bar