



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Peterborough Historical
Society
Monthly Meetings**

Tuesday, October 16:
Kevin Siena,
"Jail Fever:
A History of
Typhus and Terror."

Tuesday, November 20:
Don Willcock,
"Peterborough
Remembers Her Fallen:
The Citizens' War
Memorial."

Hutchison House Events

Heritage Luncheons
October 3, November 7

Mask Making
Workshop for Kids
Saturday, October 13

Haunted Halloween
for Kids
Saturday, October 27

Christmas Market
Saturday, November 24

Charles Dickens'
"A Christmas Carol"
in the
Keeping Room
Saturday December 8

Dylan Thomas
recording of
"A Child's
Christmas in Wales"
and
"The Gift of the Magi"
Sunday, December 9

IMPORTANT REMINDER: PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETINGS. The monthly meetings and lectures are on the **third Tuesday of the month: September, October, November, January, February, March and May at 7:30 p.m., Lion's Community Centre, 347 Ashburnham Street.** Note that we are returning to the Lion's Community Centre for the 2018-2019 season.

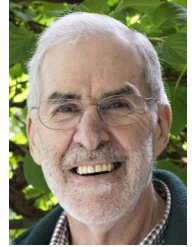
**"JAIL FEVER: A HISTORY OF TYPHUS AND TERROR"
Tuesday, 16 October 2018,
Lion's Community Centre, 347 Ashburnham Street,
7:30 p.m.**

Some diseases invite historians to write about them: plague, smallpox, syphilis, AIDS. Nowadays, Typhus has no such cachet. Yet, there was a time when it was the most feared disease of all. That time was the late eighteenth century, when Typhus was commonly called "Jail Fever."



This talk will try to do two things. First, it will explore what made "Jail Fever" so frightening to eighteenth-century society. We will look at how Typhus came to act as a proxy for Plague during the century after Britain's last great epidemic (1665-66). If plague was going to return, the place believed most likely for it to strike was a jail. Secondly, we will explore the implications of medical theories that presented the poor as especially prone to this disease. In ways that mirror how early theories of race depicted various groups as physiologically distinct, doctors' ideas about the poor illustrate how social class was similarly understood as a scientific fact. The poor were different... and thus, dangerous.

Seventeenth-century prisoners examine one another for signs of disease
Moses Pitt, *The Cry of the Oppressed...*
(London, 1691)

From the President ...**Dale Standen**

When I travel, I try to visit as many museums as possible. This month we are spending two weeks on the west coast and I have managed to visit three museums of very different kinds.

Like most small museums, that of the 15th Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA), located in the Bessborough Armoury in Vancouver, is the labour of love of volunteers. Its motive force is Peter Moogk, Professor Emeritus of History at University of British Columbia (UBC) and a retired Captain in the RCA Reserve. The collection ranges from large field guns, like the renowned 25-Pounder, to the pips and flashes of various RCA units. The Bessborough Armoury, built in 1939, is an architectural treasure as the only Art Deco-style armoury in the country.

The Museum of Anthropology at UBC is world famous, primarily for its vast, stunning collection of Indigenous artifacts and art of the North West Coast. Visitors leave with no doubt of the long, powerful, unbroken Indigenous history on the BC coast, and of its current vitality despite the disruptions imposed by settler society. Rich exhibits of the Musqueem and Squamish communities are forceful reminders that Vancouver and its suburbs were not built on unoccupied land.

The Cumberland Museum on Vancouver Island is a community museum that relishes the diversity of its past while at the same time confronts the social and ethnic conflict that accompanied diversity and economic development. Coal attracted the likes of Robert Dunsmuir, who built a fortune on “black gold,” and hundreds of Chinese and Japanese sojourn labourers and immigrants who gave the community a distinct character well into the twentieth century. The stories of racism, class conflict and horrific death tolls in the mines are told alongside the joys, satisfactions and preoccupations of ordinary people in a growing community. The museum succeeds, with evidently limited resources, in conveying the richness and complexity of an early settler, coal-mining community.

Visits to museums like these three reinforce for me the important role that museums play in reminding us of a past that is complex, very different from our present, and certainly different in many ways from our hopes for the future.

September 2018 PHS Public Meeting Heritage in the Age of Climate Change

With a seemingly endless series of natural disasters that have beset the planet in recent years – hurricanes and other “super storms”, massive wildfires, floods, tornadoes, and rising sea levels – it should be clear that humans are drastically altering their local and global climates.

In a timely presentation, Erik Hanson, Heritage Resources Co-ordinator for the City of Peterborough, introduced his audience to the potential role of preserving heritage buildings in the reduction of carbon gas emissions. He pointed out that pre-1900 structures had very little carbon input because the materials used tended to be simpler (mainly wood and brick or stone) and locally-sourced or -manufactured, while the actual construction was accomplished by human and animal labour instead of with machines. By contrast, today’s buildings have extremely large carbon footprints – from the processes that create the large amounts of steel and glass commonly used in skyscrapers, to the carbon fuels used to transport materials from distances, to the energy for operating their heating and cooling systems (needed because windows often are sealed, allowing no fresh air to enter).

Erik noted that it is environmentally responsible to retain and/or renovate heritage edifices instead of demolishing them (thus adding considerably to growing landfill issues) and putting modern structures in their places. Another exacerbation that should be avoided is the large-scale removal of carbon-cleaning woodlands to make way for new-build subdivisions and industrial or consumer complexes.

Thank you, Erik, for an enlightening and thought-provoking talk.

Don Willcock

Pathway of Fame Induction, 2018

Don Willcock

On Saturday, September 8, thirteen deserving Peterborough and area citizens became the newest inductees on Peterborough's Pathway of Fame. Included in this group are three members of the Peterborough Historical Society "family."

The late Mary Lavery was honoured in the "Community Betterment" category, for her extensive work to preserve and promote local history and heritage. Among the many community positions and projects, Mary served as President of the PHS, was a volunteer cataloguing the Balsillie Collection of Roy Studio Images for the Peterborough Museum & Archives, and authored two books: *Upper Stoney Lake: Gem of the Kawarthas*, and *Up the Burleigh Road: Beyond the Boulders* (with her husband Doug).

Also 2018 inductees are Enid and Gord Mallory, in the "Literary" category. Until Gord's passing earlier this year, the Mallorys were a great literary team. Enid has written, with Gord's able photographic and publishing assistance, eleven books on local and Canadian history, people, and nature.

Congratulations to all the 2018 Pathway of Fame honorees, but especially to Mary and Doug, Enid and Gord.



Mary Lavery

Enid and Gord Mallory



Hutchison House Report

Gale Fewings



People passing by Hutchison House may or may not have noticed that we have a newly painted sign on the boulevard. Our old sign was looking a little worse for wear and the Management Committee decided it was time to replace it. Luckily we still had a second signboard kicking around and put it to good use. John Fewings painted the lettering, Paul Lumsden and Don Willcock painted the pole, and Paul with the assistance of Bob Green hung the new sign up. Thanks boys!

With the passage of time comes, too, the passing of old friends. I was very sad to hear that Maureen Pammett, long-time volunteer with Hutchison House, died in August. Maureen was an active member of the volunteer team for many years and while she was no longer able to commit her time to the House due to problems with diminishing eyesight she always made an effort to attend our functions whenever she could. She will be greatly missed by those whose lives she touched.

At Hutchison House there is no such thing as the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. The daily Scottish Teas kept everyone on their toes and Peach Tea last month also proved to be as popular as ever. The junior volunteers charmed our visitors as usual with their youthful spirits. As a reward, the end-of-summer party this year was a real hit, especially the on-site petting zoo. Yes, that's right, a petting zoo on the lower lawn, presented by Woolley Wonderland Farm Critter Visits, was a fabulous experience for all with a selection of weird and wacky chickens, miniature goats, potbelly pigs, a rabbit, and more, including baby ducklings to cuddle.

Now, with a new season upon us, we're looking forward to hosting a number of programs and events taking place in the fall and leading up to the holidays in December. For the first time the museum will offer two P.A. Day programs for school kids on Friday, September 28. Monthly Heritage Luncheons (held the first Wednesday of the month) begin on October 3. On Saturday, October 13, we will run a morning Mask Making workshop for children to be followed on Saturday, October 27, by our fun-filled Haunted Halloween for Kids.

We are now taking orders for Empire Cheese which will be available for pick-up at our annual Christmas Market scheduled for Saturday, November 24. It is important to note that a portion of the selling price of the cheese directly benefits Hutchison House. Look for more details about the sale in the next Bulletin. If you want to know how members of the PHS can help make this annual volunteers' event a significant fundraiser for Hutchison House, please call the museum office at 705-743-9710 and speak with either Gale or Erin.

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" in the Keeping Room by firelight is returning by popular demand on December 8. If you crave other Christmas-themed stories, mark your calendar for Sunday, December 9, for the Dylan Thomas recording of "A Child's Christmas in Wales" in addition to a recording of "The Gift of the Magi". A choice of dessert, tea and coffee will be served both days with different desserts offered each afternoon. The cost is \$20 per person prepaid or \$30 for the weekend. Seating is limited, so to avoid disappointment book well in advance. More information is available on our website at www.hutchisonhouse.ca.



Hutchison House summer staff
at the petting zoo

Summer 2018 at Hutchison House



Hutchison House summer staff having fun



Paul Lumsden and Bob Green hanging the new sign



Hutchison House Volunteers



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HISTORICAL
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Voices from Peterborough's Past Grand Opening Peterborough Pleasure Park

Wanted, for the Grand Opening of the PETERBORO PLEASURE PARK Week of May 22,
PEOPLE IN ALL BRANCHES OF CIRCUS and VAUDEVILLE BUSINESS, write. Would like to hear from DOG and PONY SHOW for opening week; also man to make PARACHUTE DROP or any other Park Attraction that can be featured. Would like to hear from a good Carnival Co. J. H. RYAN, Owner and manager. N. B.—Peterboro is about 60 miles from Toronto, on the main line of the C. P. R. It is the home of the Edison Electrical Co., the Quaker Oats People. Population, 16,000. Twenty thousand more to draw from. Will accept good, smart man as partner, with \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) to manage the show. Address all letters to P. H. RYAN, Peterboro P. O., Ont., Canada.

New York Clipper, April 15, 1905, p.210.

When it comes to “amusements,” sometimes things just don’t work out. Towards the end of January 1905 the *Examiner* announced: “New Park to Supply Vaudeville Show . . . Park to be Opened at South End of Town During Coming Summer.”

A Mr. J.H. Ryan, an outsider, had plans to fence in one and a quarter acres of land on the banks of the Otonabee River – a handy spot near the terminus of the trolley tracks operated by the Peterborough Radial Railway Company. Admission to his park would be free in the afternoon, and ten cents in the evening. Boats could be rented for morning outings on the river. He would offer the best of vaudeville with a change of program every week – and feature a big “balloon ascension” on opening day.

The paper lavished its fair share of praise on the venture: “Mr. Ryan has had extensive experience in undertakings of this nature, and has always met with success. He has travelled in the United States and in some Canadian cities exhibiting freaks of mankind, and in connection with vaudeville shows. He had on several occasions exhibited his curiosities at the Toronto Exhibition.”

In April Ryan was advertising in the pages of the *Clipper* for help in setting up the operation. Yet around that same time, on April 12, the *Examiner* was announcing that there would be “No Amusement Park at South End of City.” Instead, the city’s streetcar company would be delivering riders, at the cost of a nickel, to its own amusement park at the entrance to Jackson Park.

That summer thousands of people turned out at Jackson Park for picnics and evening band concerts. At the end of July the company added one of the newest sensations – motion pictures – to the program, and they were a huge success, attracting hordes of people night after night. An estimated 4,000 to 5,000 people turned up on August 2. “The great part” of the crowd, the *Examiner* reported, “went up at night to see the moving pictures, and to hear the band.”

As for Ryan, despite his past record of success, his dream of a Peterborough Pleasure Park fell through, and no more was heard from him. Perhaps the “good, smart man . . . with \$500.00” didn’t turn up to partner the show. But the home-grown Peterborough Radial Railway Company’s motion pictures at Jackson Park – and other amusement attractions there – would continue, with great success, over a number of years to come.

Robert Clarke