



UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough Historical Society Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, February 19
Su Ditta,

"Punching Above Our
Weight: Contemporary Arts
Practice in
Peterborough."

Tuesday, March 19
Ken Brown and Jon Oldham
"Historical Peterborough
Businesses Revealed
through Select Business
Letterheads."

PHS ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING.
Tuesday, 16 April,
time and location TBA.

PUBLIC HEALTH
CONFERENCE
Saturday, February 9
program and registration
form enclosed.

Hutchison House Events

Heritage Luncheons
first Wednesday of the month
February to June.
Advance tickets
\$15 per person
sitting times at 12:00 noon
& 1:30 p.m.

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 Burnham Street.

**"Punching Above Our Weight: Contemporary Arts
Practice in Peterborough."
Tuesday, 19 February 2019,
Lion's Community Centre, 347 Burnham Street,
7:30 p.m.**



The arts have been an essential element of Peterborough's past and we must not overlook how influential they can be in defining community. From early days there have been local theatre and concert performances and a regular stream of visiting artists to perform in several venues. In recent times, Peterborough and surrounding area have become a hive of creativity in the visual and performing arts. **Su Ditta**, Executive Director of the Electric City Culture Council and a leader in arts management nationally and locally, will examine the recent and current importance of the arts in Peterborough.

Note: A special joint meeting with the Peterborough Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society:

"Stealing Away Home: Archaeology and the Underground Railroad in Ontario."

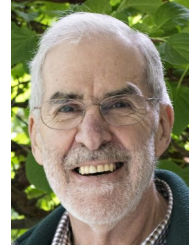
Both an archaeologist and an historian, **Karolyn Smardz Frost** explores our nation's rich African Canadian heritage, and specializes in studying and teaching about Canada's role as the main terminus of the Underground Railroad. In 2007, Karolyn won the Governor General's Award for *I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad*. Karolyn's newest volume, *Steal Away Home* (HarperCollins Canada 2016) tells the story of Cecelia Jane Reynolds, who at the age of fifteen fled her Kentucky owner by way of the Cataract House hotel at Niagara Falls NY. **Tuesday, 26 February 2019, 7:00 p.m. Lion's Centre, 347 Burnham St.**



PHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The annual general meeting of members will take place on Tuesday, 16 April, time and location to be announced later. The meeting will be followed by the usual social gathering, dinner and guest speaker.

From the President ...

Dale Standen



The Peterborough Historical Society will be especially active in February, engaged in three public events examining three very different aspects of the history of Peterborough and Ontario.

Early in the month on Saturday, 9 February, the PHS is partnering with Peterborough Public Health to host a one-day conference on public health in the City and County, past, present and future. This is an extensive and exciting undertaking to examine a subject of great significance to the community. In the twentieth century, Peterborough became a regional health centre and the development of effective public health institutions is an important part of that story.

Our regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, 19 February, features a talk by Su Ditta, Executive Director of EC3, on contemporary arts practice in Peterborough. The current arts scene, vibrant in all dimensions of performance and visual arts, is expanding an important theme in the City's history.

A week later on Tuesday, 26 February, the PHS is pleased to join the Peterborough Branch of the Ontario Archaeological Society to support a special public lecture by Karolyn Smardz Frost, historian and archaeologist, on archaeology and the underground railway in Ontario. She has written extensively on the subject and in 2007 won the Governor General's Award for *I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad*. Copies of her books will be available for purchase at the lecture.

The history of health and medicine, the arts, and the history of African-American migration to Ontario speak to important developments in the evolution of community. It will be a stimulating month.

On another matter, because of a computer crash in December, we had to restore our electronic files including our membership mailing lists. The lists now have been checked and we hope are fully restored, but just in case you may have missed the January Bulletin, please let us know.

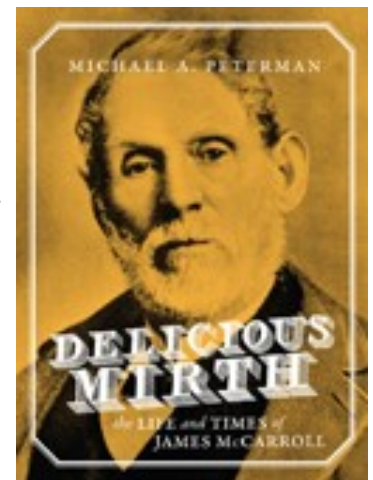
PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

There is still time to register for the forthcoming conference on the history and current state of public health in Peterborough, the Kawarthas and Ontario! The date is **Saturday, 9 February 2019**. The program and a registration form is attached/enclosed, and also may be accessed on the PHS website at <http://www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca/events.php>. The PHS has partnered with Peterborough Public Health to organize this conference as part of the celebrations of 130 years of a permanent Board of Health in Peterborough. **Register now to avoid last-minute higher fees, and join the exploration of public health in Peterborough's past and present.**

BOOK LAUNCH

Michael Peterman will discuss the subject of his new book, *Delicious Mirth: the Life and Times of James McCarroll*. McCarroll (1814-1892) was a talented Irish poet, journalist, humorist, musician and arts critic whose travels brought him to Peterborough for a while. Co-hosted by the PHS and Traill College. **Wednesday, 27 February 2019, Bagnani Hall, Traill College, 310 London Street, 7:30 p.m.**

Note: March lecture clarification. The subject of the March lecture by Ken Brown and Jon Oldham should be clarified. The talk will focus on a number of historical business and professional letterheads as historical sources, and what they can reveal about businesses and their owners. The title should be more restricted, such as: "Historical Peterborough Businesses Revealed through Select Business Letterheads."



January 2019 PHS Public Meeting “The New Canadian Centre and Diversity in Peterborough”

At the first meeting of 2019, Hajni Hos, Executive Director of the New Canadian Centre, explained the work of the Centre in the context of the history of immigration in Peterborough. The first people are the Anishinaabe on whose traditional territory Irish migrants settled 200 years ago. British immigration, though not exclusive, dominated until the Second World War. Following the war, immigration from continental Europe increased, including from such countries as Holland, Italy and Germany, and refugees from Hungary after 1956. At the same time, Canada abandoned earlier exclusionary immigration policies based on race and ethnicity and from the 1960s immigrants from Asia, Africa and Latin America joined the stream.

The New Canadian Centre (NCC) is a not-for-profit charity formed in 1987, evolving from an organization of commu-

nity members who acted to sponsor Vietnamese refugees in 1979 and Polish refugees in the early 1980s. In the 1990s, it received refugees from Kosovo and Rwanda; from 2000-2015, from Columbia, Somalia, Nepal, Senegal and Afghanistan; and since 2016, from Syria. In Peterborough, two fifths of refugees are privately sponsored and three fifths are government sponsored. The needs of refugees are numerous and urgent: medical, documentation, housing, language, employment, education, interpretation. The NCC staff, numbering 27, and more than 400 volunteers, help navigate them through the channels and provide a wide array of services. The outcome is successful integration into the community.

The NCC similarly provides services to regular immigrants who, combined with refugees, number between seven hundred and eight hundred each year. A remarkable feature of NCC's clients is that over the years they have come from 125 countries: in 2017-2018 alone, they came from 82 countries. No single group (except maybe people from Syria) has large numbers and, therefore, there are no ethnic enclaves as characterized earlier phases of Canadian immigration. While becoming integrated, they find community among their own diversity. And they do integrate. They are focused and keen to work, with an employment level well above the national average.

Overall, the community has warmly welcomed our recent immigrants and refugees. Regrettably, Hajni notes that there have been incidents of ethnic and racial intolerance that reflect an exclusionary vision of community at odds with the majority. Those who know Peterborough's history understand that the community has always been changing and adapting to new realities and will continue to do so. Our new Canadians, so effectively served by the NCC, are writing exciting and important chapters in our history.

The NCC serves Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes and Northumberland as well as Peterborough. Its funding comes from the federal government especially, and from the provincial and municipal governments, United Way and from private donations and grants.

Following numerous questions from the audience, Don Willcock thanked Hajni for her informative and stimulating presentation.



Dale Standen

Hutchison House Report

Gale Fewings



Hogmanay is always a terrific celebration and our 2019 event was no exception. There were over 150 visitors this year as well as approximately 50 volunteers including the entertainers, their families, the PHS board members, and of course, the fabulous Hutchison House volunteers. We owe many thanks to everyone for helping to make the occasion such a success.

Last month, I made reference to an upcoming event called Distaff Day that we were hosting in partnership with the Peterborough Weavers and Spinners Guild. I'm happy to report that the afternoon proved to be delightful. Members of the Guild brought some beautiful examples of their work and demonstrated spinning on their wheels, along with needle felting and knitting wool that had been worked from raw fleece to three finished strands of dyed yarn. Samples of a wide variety of fibres and two tabletop looms accompanied a photographic display. Our visitors throughout the afternoon enjoyed the warmth of the keeping room fire, apple cider and cookies, and were genuinely interested in learning more about both the House and the Guild. We very much look forward to the opportunity for future collaborations with this talented group of artisans.

If you are interested in seeing some of their handiwork, mark your calendars for the Peterborough Weavers and Spinners Guild Fibre Arts Festival & Sale scheduled for Saturday, 16 March 2019, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., at the Peterborough Sport & Wellness Centre on Brealey Drive. Admission is \$5.00.

January is quickly passing us by and before long we'll mark Candlemas/Groundhog Day, February 2nd. Candlemas is the Celtic festival marking the 'cross-quarter day' or mid-point of the season. Part of the celebration was the anticipation for the upcoming growing season, and people would try to forecast the coming of spring or lingering winter. Sunshine on Candlemas meant more winter. In England and France, if a bear saw his shadow on Candlemas that meant six more weeks of winter. In Germany, people used badgers. In the 1800s, the German settlers in Pennsylvania brought their Candlemas traditions with them; not finding any badgers in America, they used groundhogs instead.

Meanwhile back at Hutchison House, Erin and I continue to plan and organize programs for children that we'll offer through our PA Day programs as well as March Break, in addition to working with the collection and running the monthly Heritage Luncheons. Luncheons take place on the first Wednesday of the month from February to June. Advance tickets are \$15 per person with sitting times at 12:00 noon & 1:30 p.m. Each month features a different menu and unfortunately we cannot always accommodate special dietary needs, although every once in a while (not often) we manage to avoid gluten-based foods.

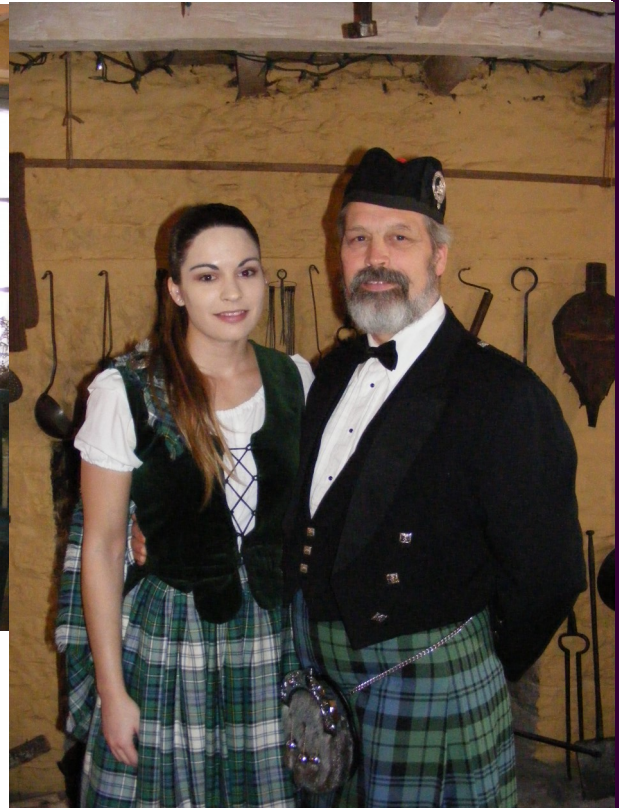
You never know, maybe the new revised Canada Food Guide will change things!



Hogmanay
January 1, 2019



Doug Kean, Colin Campbell, Barry Landry
Hogmanay 2019



Kaitlin & Barry Landry
Hogmanay 2019



Matilda spinning & Gabby carding wool
Distaff Day





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Voices from Peterborough's Past

Three Generations of Irish Canal Engineers

The Killaly family had an impressive impact on Canadian Canals. John Killaly (1766-1832) was the principal engineer of the Irish Grand Canal Company. His son, Hamilton Hartley Killaly (1800-1874), emigrated from Ireland to Canada and was the Chief Engineer for the Board of Works, set up in 1841 after the union of Upper and Lower Canada. After touring the nascent Trent Canal with Nicol Baird, he recommended that only a few of the locks then under construction be completed, including Witla's lock (today Lock 19). Killaly's son, H.H. ir (1837-1892), also served as canal engineer, carrying out extensive work along the St. Lawrence Canal until his untimely death at age 55. H.H. ir's son, Albert Lawrence (1875-1960), was Superintending Engineer of the Trent Canal during the challenging post World War I years. In 1946, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire, a distinguished honour. He died 9 September 1960.

Albert Lawrence
Killaly

Courtesy of the
Peterborough
Museum and
Archives

