



UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough Historical Society Monthly Meetings Fall 2019

Lion's Community Centre
7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 17 September
Jim Forrester
"The Old Red House"

Tuesday, 15 October
Bob Taylor-Vaisey
"Tom Symons"

Tuesday, 19 November
Ted Morin
"Staff Sergeant Eddie Morin"

Peterborough Historical Society Events

PHS Heritage Awards

Wednesday, 19 June
Atrium of Canterbury
Gardens Retirement Residence
7:00 p.m.

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.

Appreciation Reception

Saturday, 22 June
Hutchison House
3:00 p.m.
Call Hutchison House

Scottish Teas

Tuesday to Sunday
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Peach Tea

Hutchison House
Thursday, 15 August
By reservation

Issue 458

June 2019

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.**

Monthly Lecture Schedule, Fall 2019

Tuesday, 17 September: Jim Forrester, "The Old Red House: The Life of a Heritage Building in Perth, Ontario." Jim Forrester has degrees in History, Film Studies and Library Information Science. He has extensive experience in log and timber frame reconstruction.

Tuesday, 15 October: Bob Taylor-Vaisey, "Tom Symons: A Canadian Life as Told by his Files." Bob Taylor-Vaisey is a retired corporate archivist and senior document management consultant for Imperial Oil Limited. He is currently organizing the personal papers of T.H.B. Symons, founding President and Vice-Chancellor of Trent University.

Tuesday, 19 November: Ted Morin, "Staff Sergeant Eddie Morin: Local Veteran of the First Special Service Force (The Devil's Brigade) in the Second World War." Ted Morin is a retired Manufacturing Manager whose interest in his father's military service has engaged him in military history. He participated in the Lakefield War Veteran's Project and is currently on the Board of Directors of the First Special Service Association.

HERITAGE AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY

The PHS annual Heritage Awards presentations will take place on **Wednesday, 19 June 2019** in the Atrium of Canterbury Gardens Retirement Residence (1414 Sherbrooke Street, Peterborough), from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

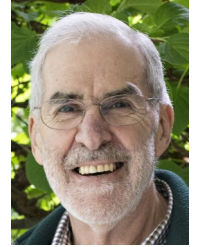
There will be a social time with light refreshments, followed by the presentation ceremony. The event will be emceed by retired CHEX anchorman Graham Hart, in his inimitable style. Canterbury Gardens is fully accessible, with good acoustics and plenty of parking. All are welcome to attend, and we hope you will come out to thank our Awards winners for their contribution to local heritage causes.

Don Willcock, Heritage Awards Chair

Watch for the next issue of the PHS Bulletin at the beginning of September.
Wishing you a pleasant summer!

From the President ...

Dale Standen



In 2012, Andrew Elliott published a wonderful, richly illustrated book on Peterborough's architectural history, *The Glorious Years: Peterborough's Golden Age of Architecture 1840-1940*. When I received a notice that the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (PACAC) was sponsoring a public lecture by Elliott in April, I pulled his book off the shelf for a quick review for what I anticipated to be a further dive into this rich history.

I was apparently not alone in my surprise when Elliott spoke instead on Sandford Fleming and nineteenth century Peterborough. That was just fine. In fact, Elliott's attention to Fleming's restless, remarkable range of interests and talents, both aesthetic and practical, inspired comparison with the nineteenth century Peterborough architect, John Belcher. Fleming is mainly known as an engineer and surveyor in the building of railroads, and for inventing standard time. But his sketches of buildings and scenes in Peterborough and elsewhere, his map making, and his design of the first Canadian postage stamp (a beaver, of course), displayed an aesthetic sensitivity to complement his engineering practicality.

So it was with Belcher. Arriving in Peterborough in 1858 to practice as a civil engineer, Belcher became the town's preeminent architect of both residential and commercial buildings and influenced significantly the visage of the town's built environment. He was versatile and evidently would build whatever style his clients wanted: Italianate, Gothic Revival, Second Empire, and for his own house on Edinburgh Street, a Tudor Revival addition. His preference, however, was the Second Empire style whose distinctive mansard roofs he inspired throughout the town. Among his achievements in the city core were the Morrow Building, the Market Hall and the now-demolished Post Office and Bradburn Opera House.

But Belcher's aesthetic preoccupation with architecture above the ground was accompanied by a most practical attention to engineering essentials beneath the streets. In 1878, he was appointed City Engineer. It was not just parks and roadways that demanded his time in this job. It was also sewers. In the 1890s, as the town began to address the public health challenge of urban sewerage, it let numerous contracts for installing pipes and other necessary sub-surface infrastructure. The By-laws authorizing the contracts required that contractors follow the specifications laid down by the city engineer, John Belcher.

The professional lives of John Belcher and Sandford Fleming reflect a common experience of creative and artistic people with ambitious objectives. The path may be strewn with mundane essentials, but there is plenty to reward the effort along the way.



John Belcher's House on
Edinburgh Street
Photo Credit: City of
Peterborough, Heritage
Preservation Office,
reproduced in A. Elliott,
*The Glorious Years: Pe-
terborough's Golden Age
of Architecture, 1840-
1940*, 2011.

Voices from Peterborough's Past The Peterborough Historical Society Prepares for a New Century – the Twentieth!

President Lt. Col H.C. Rogers addressed the annual meeting of the Peterborough Historical Society in September 1901. He reported on his attendance at the provincial meeting held in Belleville and on the tours and lectures offered. He informed members he had offered the PHS as host for the next annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society. Secretary T.H.S. Hay reported on the Society's activities over the past year. In December, they sponsored a lecture by Sir J.G. Bourinot on the U.E.L. Settlement of Canada. In June, the Society hosted the Veterans of 1866 at the Victoria Museum where a "pleasant hour was spent in congratulatory speeches after which the Veterans were conducted through the museum." As Hay reminded the members, the Victoria Museum, "originally intended only as an auxiliary to the Society, has become the most vital feature of its existence." Over a hundred years later, public lectures and Museum programs remain at the core of the Society's activities.

Dennis Carter-Edwards



Inverlea, location of the Victoria Museum
Courtesy of Peterborough Museum and Archives



Ontario Historical Society meets at Inverlea
Courtesy of Peterborough Museum and Archives

Peterborough Historical Society and Peterborough Public Health collaborate on a Jane's Walk tour

"Jane Jacobs was a writer, urbanist, and activist who championed the voices of everyday people in neighbourhood planning and city-building." Gina Varrin, Jane's Walk Peterborough organizer, arranged several citizen-led walks in the month of May to discuss Jacobs' ideas of human-scale urban living, and to explore different themes in the city. In the evening of 3 May, PPH and PHS participated in "Making the Invisible Visible," a tour that focused on the critical role of public health in influencing virtually every dimension of urban life and development in Peterborough, past and present. Dr. Rosana Salvaterra, Medical Officer of Health, members of her staff, and Dale Standen, President of PHS, identified locations of current action and past significance in the maintenance of public health. About 25 people participated in the walk of 2½ kilometers over 2 hours. Check out the website: <https://janeswalkptbo.wordpress.com/>

Dale Standen, President of PHS and Dr. Rosana Salvaterra, Medical Officer of Health lead Jane's Walk



Hutchison House Report

Gale Fewings



I first met Gary and Valerie Aitken in either 2004 or 2005 when they stopped in at Hutchison House on their way home to Westmount QC from British Columbia. Gary was researching his family tree and had been visiting his cousin, Ainsley Manson, when she told him that he should visit us on route to Montreal. Some members of the Historical Society will be familiar with Ainsley because she is a descendant of Dr. Hutchison, as was Gary, and she wrote "House Calls", a storybook for children based loosely on the doctor.

One thing that Gary was curious to find out from us was the familial relationship between our doctor and Sanford Fleming. For those who don't know, Dr. Hutchison and Andrew Fleming, Sanford's father, were first cousins. When Fleming arrived in Upper Canada in 1845, he stayed on with the Hutchisons until the doctor's death in 1847.

From here on, Gary's story becomes a little more complicated. You see, Gary's mother, also a direct descendant of John and Martha Hutchison, married into the Fleming family in a somewhat interesting manner.

Maybe it's best to start at the beginning. Sanford's son Walter married a widow with a son. In turn, his step-son married a widow, Gary's mother, who already had a son. So Gary became the step-son of a step-son of Sanford's son Walter. (It sounds a little like a rhyme or a riddle, doesn't it?)

Throughout the afternoon, Gary, Valerie, and I, got along famously. Prior to hearing about the museum from his cousin Ainsley, Gary had no idea Hutchison House Museum existed. And, for my part, I was equally interested in learning more about his family connections.

During their visit, they showed me a little gold locket that Sanford had given his wife Jeannie for her 33rd birthday in 1864. Inside, there are two photographs: on the left, portraits of the youthful couple, with the inscription "Peterboro 1854"; on the right, a family portrait showing Sanford and Jeannie surrounded by their five young children, bearing the inscription "Jany 13 1864".

Gary also showed me a gold pocket watch that Sanford had given his son Walter. Apparently, he gifted pocket watches to all of his sons once they each reached a certain age of maturity.

Suffice to say, there is a great deal more to the story and, given the limited length of the Bulletin, I best save the rest of the tale for the time being. After their visit, Gary sent photographs of the locket and I wrote to suggest that if he ever decided to part with this lovely little gem, Hutchison House would be the perfect place to receive it.

Sadly, Gary died quite suddenly of a heart attack about three years ago and recently his widow Valerie has been back in touch. She has graciously offered both the locket and the pocket watch to Hutchison House as her husband had always intended to do.

I am very happy to announce that Valerie and her son Andrew will be coming in person to deliver this wonderful gift on Saturday, June 22nd. In their honour, we will host a reception at the museum beginning at 3 p.m. and all members of the Society interested in attending will be most welcome. To assist with our planning, please let us know if you would like to join us either by calling the office or by email.



Gold Locket





Young Queen Victoria



Victorian Afternoon Tea

Victorian Mourning Jewelry



Young Sanford Fleming 1845



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Bryan Palmer in front of the
London house where Lenin
resided in 1908

May 2019 PHS meeting: “The Winnipeg Strike of 1919 Revisited”

One hundred years ago, to the month, workers in Winnipeg brought the city to a standstill with a general strike. At the Society’s well-attended May meeting, Professor Emeritus Bryan Palmer of Trent University examined the complex circumstances of the strike, its immediate reverberations and its significance today.

On 15 May 1919, the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council ordered a general strike in support of striking metal and construction workers. Thirty thousand workers walked off the job. A police charge against a pro-strike demonstration on 21 June, “Bloody Saturday,” killed two demonstrators. Some strike leaders were arrested for seditious conspiracy and the strike collapsed on 25 June after six weeks.

The objectives of the metal and construction workers, such as unionization, collective bargaining, an eight-hour day, were not revolutionary. What was revolutionary was a conviction among many of the working class of the need to redress the imbalance of power that was overwhelmingly in favour of employers and those with property who claimed the right to dictate wages and working conditions. Unregulated capitalist enterprises had grown immensely in the previous decades, further stimulated by wartime production. Post-war inflation outpaced wage increases. Employers refused to negotiate and successfully appealed for support from establishment governments alarmed by social and political revolution abroad and growing radicalism at home. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 in Russia inspired a “Red Scare” in western democracies which easily targeted immigrants as dangerous foreigners. Labour leaders were smeared with the label even though most were of British origin and conventional working class.

Business leaders and some politicians responded to the Central Strike Committee, which had arrogated to itself a regulatory role during the strike, by forming the Citizen’s Committee of 1000. It had the ear of the federal government, especially of Arthur Meighen, Minister of the Interior and acting Minister of Justice, who supported and acted upon the calls for suppression of the strike.

The working class overwhelmingly supported the strike, but there were divisions. Returned soldiers, for instance, divided over whether to support the strike or oppose it. Women who supported the strike were more demanding of change than in previous decades: the first to walk off the job were the telephone operators, or “Hello Girls.”

Although the strikers failed to achieve their goals, the danger of ignoring social injustice became evident. Elections in the west in the following decade produced progressive governments. Strike leaders, such as J. S. Woodsworth, helped found the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, precursor to the New Democratic Party. Following the Second World War, governments legislated labour and welfare measures to address wealth and power imbalances so prevalent earlier in the century. Unions effectively challenged employers’ intransigence.

Palmer notes, however, that in the past quarter century, unions have become less militant and more acquiescent in face of globalization and other pressures seemingly beyond their control. We are left to ponder what lies ahead.

Following questions and discussion, and much applause, Dale Standen thanked Professor Palmer for his insightful lecture.

Dale Standen

