



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Peterborough Historical Society Monthly Meeting

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

Tuesday, 17 September  
James Forrester  
"The Old Red House  
in Perth: A Historic  
Building's Story"

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

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

### Hutchison House Events

Downton Abbey Luncheon  
Sunday, 15 September  
Sold out

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

Call Hutchison House  
for details

Issue 459

September 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.**

**"The Old Red House in Perth: A Historic Building's Story"  
Tuesday, 17 September 2019,  
Lion's Community Centre,  
347 Burnham Street,  
7:30 p.m.**

The phrase "If these old walls could speak" is appropriate for this talk. **James Forrester** will be speaking about the restoration/renovation of the historic "Old Red House" in Perth, Ontario. Jim, with the help of the heritage trades program at the Perth campus of Algonquin College, is restoring an 1816 building that is closely linked to the early history of Perth. What began as a military settlement after the War of 1812, Perth's fascinating history has close ties to the tragic death of the Duke of Richmond, Governor General and the senior military officer in the colony, who died in the area after contracting rabies from a fox while inspecting troops at Fort Henry. Join us to learn more about this intriguing building and its history.



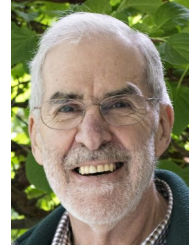
Jim Forrester, left, with model  
in front of the "Old Red House"  
in Perth

## PHS Strategic Planning Exercise

The PHS Board is developing a Strategic Plan for the next five years, for which it is undertaking extensive research and consultations. Members are invited to contribute their views on the future direction of the Society and Hutchison House Museum by writing to Wayne Godward, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee, Peterborough Historical Society, 270 Brock Street, Peterborough, ON K9H 2P9, or by email to [info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca), by Monday, 16 September 2019. Once responses have been received, there will be a mini workshop held in early October to further solicit feedback. Please indicate if you are interested in participating in the workshop as part of your response. Thank you!

## From the President ...

**Dale Standen**



Summer travels bring the pleasant prospect of visiting distant museums. In July, Bernice and I spent ten days with our daughter and her family in Quebec, a Province where heritage is deeply respected. Most of our time we relaxed on Isle aux Coudres, but also spent three days in Quebec City.

Located in Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive, the ferry terminus to Isle aux Coudres, is the Musée Maritime de Charlevoix, which interprets the wooden schooner-building industry on the shores of the St. Lawrence River over three centuries, and the maritime life of coastal shipping communities until the industry ended in the 1970s. The initiative of local citizens and the generosity of the last proprietor transformed the shipyard and a few remaining schooners into an important heritage site. Local history matters.

The entire old town of Quebec, of course, is a historic site in itself and supports what is probably the richest single-site tourist industry in the country. The streets and restaurants are jammed with tourists from morning to late evening, especially in summer. Most of the town's buildings are 19<sup>th</sup> century structures, with a good representation of 18<sup>th</sup> century ones, and some significant survivals from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. As with most old towns, frequent fires decimated earlier structures. The best intact 18<sup>th</sup> century quarter is the lower town market square in front of Notre-Dame-des-Victoires church, surrounded by the houses of the town's well-to-do merchants.

For heritage interest, what is striking about the old town is the preservation of the pre-20<sup>th</sup> century scale of the buildings. There are essentially two exceptions: the tower of the Disneyesque Chateau Frontenac added in the 1920s, and the Art Deco Price Building of 16 stories (82 metres) completed in 1930. The latter was opposed, unsuccessfully, by the city's planning and conservation commission and stirred a controversy among heritage preservationists, which led to legislation in 1937 that limited building height to 20 metres within the old town. A wise move. There are some 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings and additions scattered throughout the town, but all of a scale and decor that respect the historical visage.

The city also has museums of which three are must-sees. The Musée des Ursulines tells the story of the nuns who educated girls since their establishment in Quebec in 1639. The vision of Marie de l'Incarnation was to convert and educate Indigenous girls but the Ursulines soon became the preferred school for the daughters of the colonial elite. The Morrin building houses the old Lower Canadian prison, opened in 1812 on the then-progressive model of John Howard, and the gem of the balconied library of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec of 1842. The newest museum, opened in 2011, is that of the remains of the old Fort et Chateau St. Louis, beneath Dufferin Terrace. When the terrace needed repairs in 2005, Parks Canada decided to excavate the ruins of the Chateau, part of which dates from Champlain's era. The Chateau was the governor's residence and centre of official high society. Fire destroyed its interior in 1834 and it was demolished in 1838, with successive terraces built over it. Because its lower level – kitchens, food storage, wine cellar, ice house – were undisturbed, and fire-damaged upper storeys fell through, a wealth of artifacts were recovered and much of the first floor structure remains intact. The museum interprets three centuries of social history and the evolution of the Chateau building.

The richness of Quebec's built heritage invites reflection upon the importance of the built heritage of Peterborough's "old town." As Quebec shows, the value of preserving the whole is surely greater than the sum of its parts.



Chateau St. Louis in 18th century with current buildings behind in grey. Parks Canada exhibit

## Peterborough Historical Society Heritage Awards Winners

The Peterborough Historical Society recently honoured the annual Heritage Awards for 2018 at a ceremony held at Canterbury Gardens, with noted Peterborough personality Graham Hart as master of ceremonies.



The **F.H. Dobbin Award** for a publication that focuses on Peterborough was presented to Rosemary McConkey for her extensive work on local family genealogies.



The **George Cox Award**, which recognizes excellence in respectful restoration of cultural resources such as heritage buildings, was presented to Trent University for the recent restoration of the Bata Library and its commitment to a comprehensive heritage plan for the ongoing maintenance of the campus. Dr. Michael Eamon received the award on behalf of Trent.



The **2017 Martha Kidd Award** also was presented at the ceremony, by Paul Lumsden, to Paul Millard for the tasteful conversion of the former Knox United Church into affordable community housing. The project took more than two years but saw the preservation of key architectural elements such as the stained glass windows and exterior woodwork.

The **Samuel Armour Award** was awarded to Gale Fewings for her dedicated work as curator of Hutchison House Museum in delivering high quality education programs for two decades.

The **Martha Kidd Award** was awarded to David Nelson for his work of more than twenty years with the Lang Pioneer Village Advisory Committee.

The **J. Hampden Burnham Award**, which recognizes a major research project that sheds new light on Peterborough's history, was given to the History #3351A students of Trent University for the development of their online history project of World War I soldiers.

There were no successful candidates for the **Charlotte Nicholls Award** for 2018.

President Dale Standen thanked all the recipients as well as the members of the community who took time to nominate the winners. He also thanked the staff at Canterbury Gardens for providing an elegant setting and refreshments for our event.

**Dennis Carter-Edwards**

## PHS High School History Awards

Congratulations to the following spring graduation winners of the PHS History Awards:

Liam MacDonald and Cameron McQuaid, Kenner Collegiate Vocational Institute

Alexis Tompson, Adam Scott Collegiate Vocational Institute

Megan Foley, St. Peter's Catholic Secondary School

We wish them every success with their future studies.

The high school winners with a fall graduation will be announced in a future *Bulletin*.

## In Memoriam

Longstanding PHS member and supporter, Professor Bruce Hodgins, died peacefully on 8 August, age 88. Professor Hodgins came to Peterborough as one of the founding members of the Department of History at Trent University in the early 1960s. An energetic advocate of the history of Ontario and of the study of Canada, he had a special passion for the north and canoeing. He was one of the founding organizers of the Canadian Canoe Museum.



## Hutchison House Report

Gale Fewings



With each passing day, the summer season is quickly diminishing. All too soon it will come to an end and autumn, in all her glory, will once more be upon us. I do look forward to the changing of the seasons, but the end of summer is a bittersweet time at Hutchison House. It means the end of the daily hustle and bustle of Scottish teas. The summer staff who have gelled into one fabulous team will each go their separate ways. The house will seem empty without the ringing voices and youthful exuberance of the junior volunteers.

It has been a good summer with volunteers, of all ages, stepping up to the plate to share our stories with visitors from around the globe or to peel peaches and help prepare for our annual Peach Tea.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our three summer students, Skylar Gibeault, Farah Bubteina, and Theresa Manuma for all their hard work and dedication throughout the summer months. It has been a pleasure working with them and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

Now it is time for Erin and I to turn our attention to the fall season when we will once again offer monthly luncheons, host school programs and events, and continue with our quest to keep this old house sound and welcoming.



Summer Workshops  
Fairy gardens                      Pioneer Day  
Book Binding



## A Valued Donation: Remembering Sanford Fleming

As announced by Gale in the previous *Bulletin*, Valerie Aitken and her son, Andrew, attended a reception at Hutchison House on 22 June at which she donated two significant artifacts and numerous documents relating to Sanford Fleming. The gold locket, gold watch and documents that included a copy of Fleming's will, are rich additions to the collection that will enhance the museum's educational programming.

Valerie was fulfilling the wish of her late husband, Gary, a descendant of Fleming, but she was equally committed to the idea that important historical artifacts belong in an appropriate institution where they will be kept safe and made publically accessible. Such an enlightened and generous view makes possible the museum's mission of enriching our understanding of history through material culture. That is the true value of objects, and we are all greatly indebted to Valerie and her family for their gift and for their appreciation of its historical importance.

Dale Standen

## Special Objects Bringing Special Stories to Life!

Away back when I was a student, I had no knowledge of the accomplishments of Sir Sandford Fleming. All I knew was that I was attending Sir Sandford Fleming College. Again, when I was at Trent University, Fleming was just another local post-secondary school. I will admit here and now that I was not a history major.

It was not until I was hired through a grant placement at Hutchison House Museum that I came to understand that Sandford Fleming was a flesh and blood human being with a keen sense of duty and a beautiful mind, not to mention his great contributions to the history of Canada and, to greater effect, the world at large.

It was Fleming, the person, though that caught my attention and piqued my interest. Many times over the years, I have referred to Fleming's diaries in my Hutchison House reports. There is so much information to be gleaned from his words. There are many interesting stories contained in his diaries including the voyage to Canada, the first time he visited Niagara Falls, daily comings and goings of a young man, but by far my favourite has always been 'the stump story' which figures prominently in the romance of Sandford Fleming and Anne Jane (Jeannie) Hall.

In an attempt to keep a long story short, I will offer a quick summary of events. In December 1853, Sanford finds that he and Jeannie have a mutual attraction for each other while she is on a visit to Toronto. While personally escorting her back to Peterborough in early January, Sanford is "dashed against a stump" when both are thrown from a sleigh in an unfortunate accident. While Jeannie comes out unscathed, Sanford lay in the snow for some time thinking that his ribs and breast bone were broken; on examination by a Dr. Kellogg, however, no bones were broken but Fleming was very much bruised and the journey was delayed by a few days.

During the intervening months, Sanford proposed to Jeannie Hall and their marriage took place on 3 January 1855, nearly a year to the day of the fateful accident. On their honeymoon, they retraced their steps from the year previous and spent a few days with Dr. Kellogg and his family. While there, Fleming writes, "walked along to see the stump on which I was thrown out of sleigh and so nearly killed!! After all I believe that I have to thank it for my wife!!" In the end, he "went down and cut stump and carried it upon my shoulders."

There is some evidence that Fleming used pieces of the stump to make a cradle for their firstborn son, Frank. If he did use pieces of the stump, it appears that he did not use it all. In a later diary entry dated 13 January 1864, Fleming writes "Jeannie's birthday 33 years old – gave Jeannie small gold locket with likeness of myself in 1854 & group of all the children in 1864, the frame of picture was part of the 'old stump' of 10 years before today I was an invalid". Sound familiar?

When Valerie Aitken brought her husband Gary's precious gifts of the small gold locket and Fleming's son Walter's pocket watch to donate to Hutchison House last June, I felt as though Sandford's stump story had come full circle and we at the museum are thrilled with these very generous gifts! Such stories about the people who lived here long ago help those of us who interpret their life and times to better understand their humanity, and the physical evidence of artifacts helps with the telling.

**Gale Fewings**



June 22 reception

Linda Chandler, Valerie Aitken, Gale Fewings and Andrew Aitken (Valerie's son)

Dale Standen and Valerie Aitken



Documents and artifacts relating to Sir Sandford Fleming







**PETERBOROUGH  
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SOCIETY**

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**The Bulletin**  
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## Voices from Peterborough's Past Without Projectionists, No Movies: Ernest Young

Ernest Young was one of a myriad of downtown cultural industry employees who faithfully worked behind the scenes. By the time an article was published about him in New York's *International Projectionist* trade magazine, he had been working in the theatre business for 50 years, the last 16 of them in Peterborough.

Born in Swansea, South Wales, Young went to work at age 15 as an apprentice electrician. At the age of 18, he took a job with "Poole's Myriorama" – one of several travelling moving panorama shows (sometimes called "moving dioramas") that were immensely popular in the nineteenth century and continued to be so into the early age of motion pictures. When Young took up the tour around 1907, the show was in its waning years and the attractions his team presented included not just the panoramas – which he described as large still pictures depicting topical events (accompanied by comments from a lecturer) – but also vaudeville acts and "slapstick" motion pictures. Young's job was to run off the movies during the three-minute breaks between acts.

After a short time on that circuit, Young secured a job as a projectionist in Bolton, England. During the First World War, he served in the British Army where he continued the same line of work – showing mobile movies to troops at army camps. After the war, he returned to his job in Bolton before immigrating to Georgetown, Ontario, in 1924, again getting work as a projectionist. In 1941–1942, he moved from Georgetown to Peterborough and a position at the Capitol Theatre. He moved a few doors down to the Odeon when it opened in 1947. In the 1950s, he was secretary-treasurer of Local 432, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Operators of the USA and Canada. He lived with his wife Gladys in an apartment at 710 George St. N.

Young told *International Projectionist* in 1957 that he was still a big movie fan and enjoyed his work as much as he did when he projected his first picture "as a lad of 18."

Following a short illness, Ernest Young died in Peterborough in April 1958 at the age of 69.

**Robert Ganton Clarke**, <https://www.peterboroughmoviehistory.com/>.



**Ernest E. Young,**  
secretary, Local  
432, Peter-  
borough, Ont.,  
Canada.

*International  
Projectionist*  
(New York),  
March 1957, p.25.