



UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough Historical Society Monthly Meeting

Ted Morin
"Eddie Morin and the Devil's
Brigade in the Second
World War"
Tuesday, 19 November
Lion's Community Centre
7:30 p.m.

Hutchison House Events

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.

Hutchison House
Christmas Market
Saturday, 23 November
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Charles Dickens'
"A Christmas Carol"
Saturday, 7 December
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Dylan Thomas recording of "A
Child's Christmas in Wales"
and a recording of "The Gift of
the Magi".
Sunday, 8 December
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Victorian Christmas for Kids
Sunday, 15 December
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Call Hutchison House
for details

Issue 461

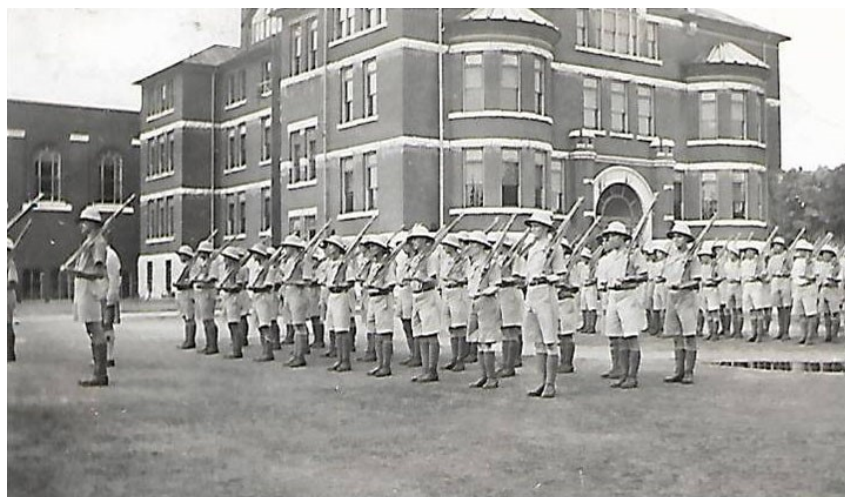
November 2019

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.

"EDDIE MORIN AND THE DEVIL'S BRIGADE IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR"

Ted Morin
Tuesday, 19 November 2019,
Lion's Community Centre,
347 Burnham Street,
7:30 p.m.

The Joint Special Service Force, the "Devil's Brigade," was an elite Canadian and American unit formed in 1942 for secret missions in Norway, Italy and Romania. Eddie Morin was one of 13 local men who served in the unit. **Ted Morin** is a retired manager who has researched the story of the Devil's Brigade and of his father's service in it. He has been part of the Lakefield War Veteran's Project, where he researched and wrote Military Profiles of Lakefield area Veterans. He is presently serving as a Director on the First Special Service Association Board of Directors.

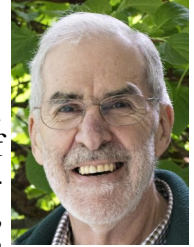


Eddie Morin's platoon, Peterborough Armoury
Note: Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational School (PCVS) depicted in the background

The Peterborough Historical Society acknowledges with thanks the support of the City of Peterborough and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport of Ontario.

From the President ...

Dale Standen



In the past month, three vibrant local heritage events each attracted hundreds of visitors. On 21-22 September, the air show celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Peterborough airport. Of



Sopwith replica, Peterborough Air Show

course, the aerial performances of the Canadian Armed Forces Parachute Team SkyHawks, the Snowbirds, a CF18 Hornet, four replicas of First World War bi-planes, and several aerobatic demonstrations were spectacular. The static displays on the tarmac illustrated some of the heritage and current state of aeronautics, underscoring an airport's place as part of local industrial history.

On the same weekend, Curve Lake First Nation held its annual Pow Wow, a happy celebration of past and present cultural expression to which all are made welcome. Drums, songs, dances and processions demonstrated the identity of the Mississauga Anishinaabe, the first people with the longest history on

this, their traditional territory. Indigenous artists from near and far enriched the day. One of them, Jeffrey George from Kettle and Stoney Point First Nation, gave me a special gift. Noticing a new cast on my broken wrist, he offered to write on it. He explained that a bear paw has healing power, so he drew one on my cast, for which I thanked him warmly.

The third event was Applefest at Lang Pioneer Village on 6 October. I had not visited the Village in several years. The last time was to show the timber cabin of David Fife to a visiting family friend who was a direct descendent of the famous Peterborough farmer. The current visit was an opportunity to check out the new Peterborough County Agri-



Curve Lake First Nations Cultural Centre

cultural Heritage Building and its remarkable flexible space. The whole site swarmed with families enjoying all the regular and seasonal activities and food, especially the apple pies and apple crisp! The special occasion that drew me to Applefest was the Recognition Ceremony for David Nelson, a tireless volunteer and successful champion of heritage building projects in the County for more than 40 years. On behalf of the County, Warden J. Murray Jones presented David with the Heritage Champion Recognition Plaque. I was invited to present David with the Martha Kidd Heritage Award on behalf of the Peterborough Historical Society.

Apart from these events there was and is much more to see in our heritage-rich region. One further location that Bernice and I visited was the Curve Lake First Nation Cultural Centre. Jack Hoggarth, Cultural Archivist, received us warmly and gave generously of his time to tour us around the exhibits of artefacts, which include lithic tools dating from centuries and millennia ago, and more recent items representing Curve Lake First Nation history. Modest in size but rich in content, the Centre is another gem of local history.

And of course, there is our own Hutchison House Museum whose excellent programs and tours are available year round. We are fortunate in Peterborough always to have some fascinating heritage on offer.



Presentation of heritage awards to David Nelson

Left to right: Dale Standen, Laurie Siblock, Warden J. Murray Jones, Dave Nelson, MP Kim Rudd, Carol Warner (Chair Lang Advisory Committee)

TOM SYMONS: A CANADIAN LIFE AS TOLD BY HIS FILES



Tom Symons photo credit
YourTV Peterborough

The Peterborough Historical Society has as its mandate the preservation and presentation of our community's collective heritage. One aspect of that heritage is the written record and the critical role our documentary history plays in our understanding of who we are as a society and a nation. Members and guests were presented with a forceful reminder of this at the October lecture. Bob Taylor-Vaisey and Kathryn Matheson gave an informative talk on the process of organizing, archiving and researching the impressive collection of personal papers, publications, minutes, agendas, clippings, speeches, financial records and other material produced by Vanier Professor Emeritus of Trent University, T.H.B. Symons. Many will recognize Professor Symons as the founding President of Trent University. As his papers amply demonstrate, his career spans many aspects of Canada's cultural life over a 70-year period. His interests range from heritage preservation, Canadian history, education and Aboriginal affairs, to mention just a few, both on the national and international stage. As Mr. Taylor-Vaisey, an archivist for Imperial Oil for 30 years, mentioned, it was both a daunting task to organize some 407 linear feet of material for transferral to Trent University Archives and an archivist's dream job to work with such an important and diverse collection. He described the process used to structure the collection using archival principles to group materials of a similar topic, respecting the original order and creating a finding aid to provide ease of access to the relevant material. The task was even more challenging as other Symons records had been transferred to the Archives over many previous years, and, in order to create coherent finding aids for research purposes, there needed to be an integration of information. There is also the Symons personal library of hundreds of books, papers, journals – some 140 linear feet that reflect the eclectic interests of Professor Symons. Selecting material to send to the Archives was challenging and a decision was made in some instances to use representative examples.

Kathryn Matheson, a graduate of Trent University and Researcher and Administrative Co-ordinator for Professor Symons, presented the second part of the evening's lecture. Her focus was on the use of the collection and the rich historical records it provides for an extensive range of scholarly research. She mentioned just a few examples to illustrate the point. A researcher looking at Ontario's role in the constitutional debates of the 1960s wanted access to the material in the collection that related to Professor Symons' discussions with Robert Stanfield. Another wanted material on the language controversy in Sturgeon Falls that Professor Symons mediated. Almost every week a new request comes in and the range and depth of the collection will generate even more analysis.

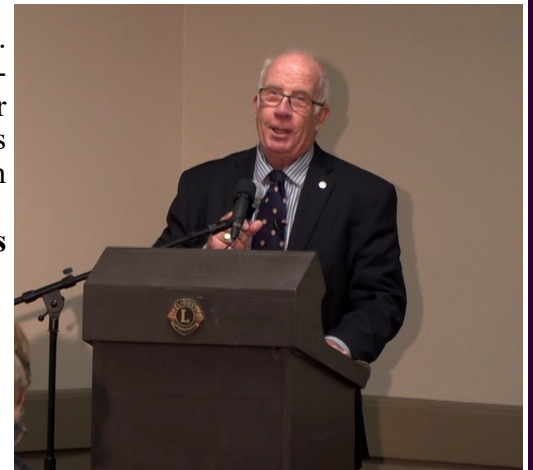
more analysis.

Professor Symons and Mrs. Christine Symons attended the lecture and took part in the social hour afterwards. The presentation was videotaped for later broadcast on the local channel.

Dennis Carter-Edwards



Kathryn Matheson photo credit
YourTV Peterborough



Bob Taylor-Vaisey photo credit
YourTV Peterborough

Hutchison House Report

Gale Fewings

"Volunteers are not paid – not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."
Sherry Anderson.



Thanks again to all of you who devote so much of your time and effort for the sake of Hutchison House. Most times, your only reward is just two little words....thank you. We can never thank you enough.

Several Hutchison House volunteers received Volunteer Service Awards from the Province of Ontario on September 30th this year. We are honoured to have nominated Betty Hinton (40 years); Phyllis Nelson (40 years); Annette Diamond (10 years); Douglas Lavery (10 years); Rachel Baker (youth 5 years); Gabby Lockman (youth 5 years); and Dana Jordan (youth 5 years). The hard work and dedication of all our wonderful volunteers is outstanding. We really could not do it without you!

As November closes in, we are once again planning for the upcoming Volunteers' Christmas Market scheduled for Saturday, 23 November 2019. The sale starts at 9:30 a.m. and runs until approximately 12:30 p.m. Most years, however, the wonderful home-baked goodies sell out way before noon! In addition to cookies, pies, cakes and squares, we will offer 'new-to-you' gift options in our attic treasures area. Word has it that Santa's little helpers are already busy creating unique handmade one-of-a-kind crafts for gifting or for decorating your home.

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" in the Keeping Room by firelight is returning by popular demand on Saturday, 7 December. If you crave other Christmas-themed stories, mark your calendar for Sunday, 8 December, 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 desserts, tea and coffee, will be served both days with different desserts offered each afternoon. The cost is \$20.00 per person prepaid or \$30 for the weekend. Seating is limited and in order to avoid disappointment, book well in advance. Hutchison House volunteers are organizing and hosting this entertaining fundraiser. Reservations must be booked and paid for in advance.

For the young and young-at-heart, we will be hosting our Victorian Christmas for Kids event on Sunday, 15 December, 1-3 p.m. We introduced this event last December and we were very happy with the number of families that took part in the celebration of Christmas past. The afternoon will feature hands-on crafting for children, tours of the house decorated for the season and gingerbread men baked on the hearth.....who knows, children may also have the opportunity to call Santa directly on our rotary phone! This is a drop-in event with no preregistration required.

Volunteer helpers are always most welcome for each and every program and event hosted by Hutchison House.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." Elizabeth Andrew.



Left to right: Betty Hinton, Douglas Lavery, Rachel Baker, Gabby Lockman, Phyllis Nelson. Annette Diamond and Dana Jordan were unable to attend the event.

Voices from Peterborough's Past Movies and the Great Depression in Peterborough

The Great Depression of the 1930s began with the stock market crash of autumn 1929 and had a devastating effect on Peterborough, just as it did across the country.

During that decade, the cheap form of entertainment provided by movies proved as popular as ever (aided by reduced ticket prices). Peterborough had two movie theatres, the Regent (est. 1920) and the Capitol (est. 1921), and both managed to hold their own.

When *Charley's Aunt* (1930) came to the Regent in January 1931, in a review in the *Examiner*, Cathleen McCarthy (writing as "Jeanette") spoke of the laughter it inspired: "Every day, throngs of people laugh themselves tired over the galumphing adventures of Donna Lucia d'Alvadores and her insistent suitors. . . . Donna Lucia can make you forget the stock market crash and the prevailing depression and the vagaries of the courts of justice. All you want to do is to laugh until you are tired."

The movie theatres did their part to help in those difficult years. In December 1930, the Capitol Theatre along with R.M. Glover of the *Examiner* and "various ticket selling committees" got together to help provide funds for unemployment relief. Mayor Denne warned that if this kind of action were not taken, "a bread line

might result." The men's and the women's branches of the Canadian Legion, *Examiner* employees, the theatre staff, the Belmont Club, and the Kinsmen all sold tickets to the show. The *Examiner* gave free advertising. The evening included draws for several prizes: "a lovely dressed doll," a Christmas cake, a textile-art-painted scarf, and three handkerchiefs.

"Community spirit in Peterborough had a real flowering last night at the Capitol Theatre," reported the *Examiner*.

The evening included a variety of live music that "brought down the house." In addition to the feature movie, stage attractions included Frank Clarke and his Cherrio Entertainers – with banjos, violins, harmonicas, and piano, playing old favourites. Ed Leonard accompanied by William Conroy on the violin "did a buck and wing step." Jack Smith and Bob Hendry did songs in kilts and feathered bonnets. Mowry-Steer and their Silver Collegians, led by Ferdy Mowry in "snappy blue and white suits," played popular dance tunes, ending with "Dinah."

The 11:30 p.m. show "drew a capacity crowd of over one thousand people." The money raised went to four of the city's relief organizations.

Robert Ganton Clarke,

<https://www.peterboroughmoviehistory.com/>

ANNOUNCING

Big Benefit Mid-Nite Performance

Capitol Theatre

Thursday, Dec. 18 at 11.30 p.m.

**Entire Proceeds (100%) to go
to Unemployed Relief Purposes**

Big Comedy Picture Programme

COMEDY FEATURE PICTURE

"CRAZY THAT WAY"

WITH

JOAN BENNETT and KENNETH McKENNA

Comedy - Novelties - Music

This Performance is made possible through the co-operation of the Capitol Theatre; Mr. Glover of The Peterboro Examiner, and the various ticket selling committees. Famous Players are donating the theatre; the Capitol Staff are donating their services; Manager Stewart has arranged for the picture program to be supplied gratis. Mr. Glover of The Peterborough Examiner is donating all advertising space and tickets, and the Ticket Selling Committees are donating their services in selling tickets.

Here Is Your Opportunity to Help!

A Good Cause. Don't Forget Time and Date

TICKETS 50c [No Tax]

Examiner, Dec. 17, 1930, p.13.



**PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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The Last Spike was driven at 9:22 a.m. on 7 November 1885 at Craigellachie, B.C. by Donald Smith, a director of the C.P.R. This spike represents the completion of the railroad and the union of a nation, Sanford Fleming is the tall round shouldered, white bearded gentleman to whom Linda is pointing.



Congratulations to Andrea Mcdermid Boue!

Andrea is the Crestwood Secondary School winner of the PHS High School Award for excellence in history. We wish her continued success in her future endeavours.

Membership Renewed?

If you have renewed your PHS membership for 2020, THANK YOU! If not, please complete and return the enclosed membership form. Memberships are the life blood of the Society that support the informative monthly *Bulletin*, the speaker series, the publication of an annual historical booklet, Hutchison House Museum and other initiatives that preserve and celebrate the region's history.

Happy Birthday

Don Willcock, past-president of PHS and Hutchison House volunteer, will be holding a birthday reception on Sunday, 10 November at Hutchison House. You are invited to drop in anytime between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. to share some cake, light refreshments, and conversation. Cards or greetings only, please, but the birthday boy would appreciate donations toward the operation and upkeep of Hutchison House Museum. Hope you will be able to come by and help him celebrate a "milestone" birthday.