



UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough Historical Society

Strategic Planning
Membership Workshop
Monday, 9 December
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Hutchison House

Monthly Meeting

Barry MacDougall
"Adjudicating First Nations'
Damage Claims by Specific
Claims Tribunal"
Tuesday, 21 January
7:30 p.m.
Lion's Community Centre

Eric Conroy
"The Story of the S.S. Keewa-
tin:
112 Years of Steamboat
History and the Rescue of this
Maritime Treasure"
Tuesday, 18 February
7:30 p.m.
Lion's Community Centre

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.

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 462

December 2019

WINTER/SPRING SPEAKER SCHEDULE FOR 2020

PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETINGS.

The monthly meetings and lectures are on the **third Tuesday of the Month: January, February, March and May at 7:30 p.m. Lion's Community Centre, 347 Burnham Street.**

Tuesday, 21 January: The Honourable Barry MacDougall, "Adjudicating First Nations' Damage Claims by the Specific Claims Tribunal." Barry MacDougall is a retired Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and of the Specific Claims Tribunal.

Tuesday, 18 February: Eric Conroy, "The Story of the S.S. Keewatin: 112 Years of Steamboat History and the Rescue of this Maritime Treasure." A successful entrepreneur, former Director of the Santa Claus Parade and one-time waiter on the S.S. Keewatin, Eric's presentation will focus on the history and rescue of this Edwardian era steamboat.

Tuesday, 17 March: Sylvia Sutherland, "Reflections on a Career in Journalism and Municipal Politics." A former mayor of Peterborough and today an active columnist and political commentator, Sylvia will speak about her years in journalism and municipal politics.

Tuesday, 15 April: Peterborough Historical Society AGM, guest speaker TBA.

Tuesday, 19 May: Dennis Carter-Edwards, "Caring for the 'Worthy Poor' in Peterborough: Building and Operating the County House of Refuge, 1907-1917." A retired historian with Parks Canada, Dennis will share his research on the extensive original records of the House of Refuge, especially the registers of admittance.



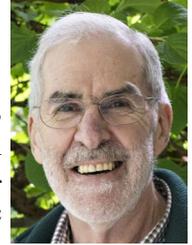
Merry Christmas

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



This is the final *Bulletin* of 2019, and we can look back upon another full year of events and programs. There were the regular seven monthly meetings with informative lectures and ten issues of the *Bulletin* bringing news, notices, reports of events, and micro-stories from Peterborough's past. Our outreach activities included an exciting partnership with Peterborough Public Health that staged a successful one-day conference in February celebrating 130 years of the Peterborough Board of Health (publication of proceedings to come in the new year), and a public health-themed Jane's Walk in May in the downtown core. Hutchison House Museum is concluding another active, all-year schedule of school-based educational and public programming with entertaining history-related events. Don't miss the several seasonal events still to come in December!

In the October *Bulletin*, I mentioned that the PHS Board had established a Strategic Planning Committee to develop a new 5-year strategic plan for the Peterborough Historical Society/Hutchison House. At that time, I stated that we would be asking for member input by holding an information-sharing workshop to explore the content of the proposed strategic plan.

Strategic Planning Membership Workshop

To assist in the planning of the direction of the PHS/Hutchison House for the next five years, the Committee has visited select museums in Ontario, has researched current directions that community and independent museums are taking to survive in changing communities, has consulted numerous community members with relevant expertise with a variety of perspectives, and has consulted several extensively engaged volunteers.

The Committee will be holding an **information workshop for PHS members on Monday, December 9th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Hutchison House**. The 5 key strategic priorities to be discussed are summarized here:

- An optimized governance model with an effective succession plan
- Review and enhancement of programs
- Financial sustainability
- A fully functioning physical plant – Hutchison House
- Through capacity building, increased memberships and a strengthened volunteer base

If you are interested in participating in this workshop, please contact the Society office by **December 5th, 2019** at 705-740-2600 or info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca. If you are unable to attend the workshop, we invite you to submit comments/reflections in writing, c/o Wayne Godward, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee, by email or by post to 270 Brock Street, Peterborough ON, K9H 2P9.

We look forward to seeing you on December 9th.



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

In keeping with the November theme of Remembrance, the Peterborough Historical Society's monthly lecture featured a special presentation by Ted Morin on his father Eddie's service with the Joint Special Service Force, often referred to as 'The Black Devils.' Drawing on his extensive research, personal family photos and stories told by his father and fellow members of the Special Service Force, Mr. Morin told a compelling story of his father's recruitment, training and service with this elite unit during the Second World War. In July 1940, Eddie enlisted with the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders and was granted a short leave at the end of that year to get married. In July 1941, his regiment embarked for England where members underwent further training. He returned to Canada in early 1942 and was sent West as a small arms instructor. Discussions that would dramatically change Eddie's military career, however, were underway between Canada and the U.S. In June 1942, approval was given, despite grave misgivings, for the creation of an elite, specially trained Special Operations Force of Canadian and American soldiers to carry out strategic, highly dangerous commando type actions. Recruitment notices circulated among Canadian units that summer.

Despite the provision that only single men would be accepted, Eddie's application was approved, although Mr. Morin still does not know why. In August, Canadian recruits arrived at the Joint Special Service Force's training camp in Helena, Montana and immediately started an intensive and physically demanding training program. Sixty mile hikes, outdoor survival training in minus 40-degree winter conditions, weapons training, parachute jumping, skiing, rock face climbing and amphibious operations all tested the men to the very limits of their physical and mental endurance. Twenty-five percent of the Canadians failed the demanding tests but Eddie was one of the "lucky" ones to make the cut.

Mr. Morin went on to describe some of the actions the Devils took part in, noting with meticulous research, the campaign in Italy, especially the Battle for Mount Difensa where the unit suffered more than 40 percent casualties. Their reputation for never failing to secure an objective despite the odds, earned them the moniker, as quoted in a German soldier's diary, 'The Black Devils,' for the camouflage they applied for night raids. Eddie was captured by the Germans and marched to the POW Camp Stalag VIIA where he remained until liberated in April 1945. He returned home to Lindsay, Ontario in August of that year and died in 1977 at the age of 58. Mr. Morin illustrated his talk with many photographs and also displayed some artifacts including the tunic that his Dad wore.

President Dale Standen thanked the speaker for a thoughtful and poignant presentation.

Dennis Carter-Edwards



Dale Standen and Ted Morin

Hutchison House Report

Gale Fewings



As I look out the office window on this snowy day in mid-November thinking about composing my Hutchison House report for the Bulletin, I'm wondering once again what it was like for the settlers who were unaccustomed to winter in Upper Canada. At times like this, I search the museum's reference library for snippets of the past. This time I have chosen a quote from Catharine Parr Traill's *Female Emigrant's Guide*.

"December – Sometimes this month is open and fair during the first week or so; but it varies from moderate to intense cold. We must not be surprised at finding the streams ice-bound, the earth hardened into stone, or deep snow covering the earth; but this is according to our climate; and to those who look for its approach, and are in any way prepared for its severity, the Canadian winter is a cheerful season."

I don't believe as much can be said for the dark and brooding skies of November! One thing that makes November palatable is the buildup to our Volunteers' Christmas Market. Many kitchens around our community are currently filled with the smells of shortbread, Christmas pudding and other seasonal treats in preparation for our sale on November 23rd. As I write this report, we are still days away from our event and final details of this very important fundraiser will not be available prior to publishing, so I'll just say that from what I've seen thus far, this year's sale is shaping up to be a great success. Special thanks to everyone who helped this year.

We are currently taking reservations for the upcoming Charles Dickens "*A Christmas Carol*" in the Keeping Room by firelight December 7, the Dylan Thomas recording of "*A Child's Christmas in Wales*" in addition to a recording of "*The Gift of the Magi*" and a Stuart McLean Christmas story on December 8. There will be carol singing, and hot apple cider, a choice of a delicious dessert, 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.

Plans and preparations are also underway for our Hogmanay celebration on January 1, 2020. As in past years, our first-footer will be "piped in" at precisely 1 p.m. with a rousing rendition of 'Burns' Address to a Haggis' to follow shortly thereafter. Visitors will enjoy tours of the museum as well as samples of the taste of Scotland throughout the afternoon. Highland dancers and the skirl of the bagpipe and drum will round out the day. Plan to drop in to wish new friends and old neighbours the best for the coming year. Admission prices: adults \$10.00; children \$5.00; family rate \$25.00 (2 adults/2+ children). The event runs from 1 to 3 pm.

Gale Fewings

Christmas Market 2019



Voices from Peterborough's Past Hey Kids! Drinks and Snacks at the Paramount Theatre, Summer 1955

The Paramount Theatre at 286 George St. N. (where The Venue is today) opened in December 1948, about a year after its equally modern next-door neighbor, the Odeon (now the site of Showplace), made its debut.

In the decades that followed, the Paramount and Odeon were the prime sites for movie going in Peterborough, showing the latest and biggest motion pictures. Their only rivals, the Centre (346 George N., demolished in the 1970s and replaced by Peterborough Square) and the Capitol (306-308 George N.), were closed in 1956 and 1961, respectively.

An *Examiner* retrospective in July 1950 commented: "Yes, the movie industry certainly has changed. Movie-making may now be called an art, and it is a modern miracle that Peterborough's four theatres can bring local audiences the best, and the rest, of that art from the studios of Hollywood, London and the world."

By the middle of the 1950s, television and the mobility offered by the automobile were having an effect on movie attendance. Paramount manager Arthur Cauley had come to Peterborough from Cobourg in 1936 to take over management of the Capitol; in 1953, he moved over to the Paramount. Cauley did everything he could to lure in the customers, as apparent in a 1955 Pepsi-Cola promotional gimmick that captured the attention of the New York-based trade magazine *Motion Picture Herald*.

Robert Ganton Clarke,

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

DRINK SALES DOUBLED WITH SPECIAL STUNT



Motion Picture Herald,
July 2, 1955,
p.52.

Seeking new means of increasing fountain sales of Pepsi-Cola at Famous Players' Paramount theatre in Peterboro, Canada, manager Arthur E. Cauley came up with the idea of marking the cups with numbers and offering as prizes cartons of the beverage. He took this plan to his local Pepsi-Cola distributor, who cooperated enthusiastically by decorating the stand as shown above, complete with an electric sign and special display stand (at right) and supplying 16 cartons of Pepsi each Saturday for two weeks. He also provided the promotional sign which reads as follows: "Hey Kids! Free—carton (6 bottles) of Pepsi-Cola. You may have a prize-winning cup—look on the bottom for the red number." Fountain sales of Pepsi were doubled, Mr. Cauley reports, and at no cost to the theatre!



**PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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ANOTHER MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!

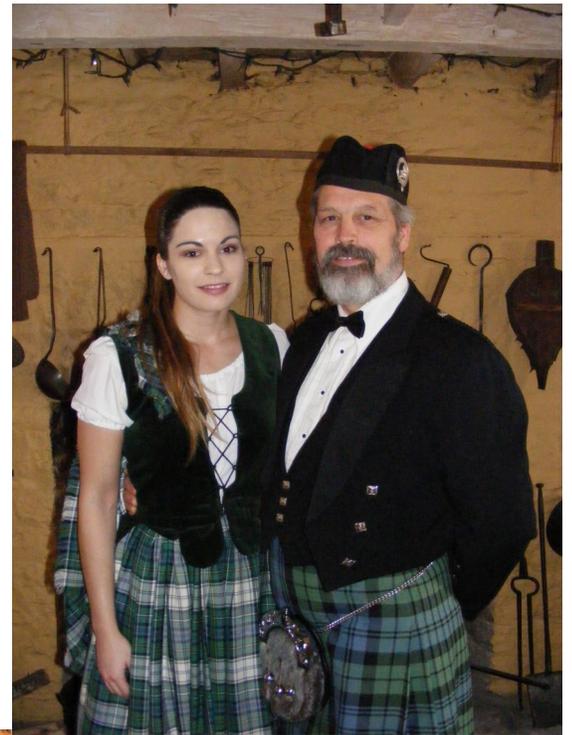
If you have renewed your PHS membership for 2020, THANK YOU! If not, a membership renewal form is enclosed. Memberships are essential to support the informative monthly *Bulletin*, the speaker series, the publication of an annual historical booklet, Hutchison House Museum and other initiatives that preserve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

DONATIONS FOR 2019

A reminder: in order to receive an income tax deduction for donations in 2019, donations must be received by the Society before 31 December 2019. The Society and Hutchison House Museum, like all heritage organizations, depend upon donations to meet operating expenses in providing all their programs and events. Thank you for your generous support!

**Looking Forward to
Hogmanay January 1, 2020**

Kaitlin & Barry Landry
at Hogmanay 2019



Doug Kean,
Colin Campbell,
Barry Landry
at Hogmanay 2019