



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Peterborough Historical Society

#### Monthly Meeting

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

Sylvia Sutherland  
"Reflections on a  
Career in Journalism  
and Municipal Politics"  
Tuesday, 17 March  
7:30 p.m.  
Lion's Community Centre

#### Hutchison House Events

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

Call Hutchison House  
for details

## 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.**

**"The Story of the *S.S. Keewatin*:  
112 Years of Steamboat History  
and the Rescue of this Maritime Treasure"  
Eric Conroy  
Tuesday, 18 February 2020**

Built in 1907, *S.S. Keewatin* was one of several passenger steamships ordered for the Canadian Pacific Great Lakes fleet. Taken out of service in 1967, she was rescued from the scrap yard to become a marine museum in Michigan for 45 years. When threatened again, *S.S. Keewatin* was again saved, this time to return to Canada to be a museum in Port McNicoll, her former home port, where she remains today. **Eric Conroy** served as a teenage waiter aboard the *S.S. Keewatin*. After a career as a marketer, entrepreneur and publisher, he is currently President and C.E.O. of Friends of Keewatin, a charitable foundation dedicated to the ship's preservation.

Eric Conroy

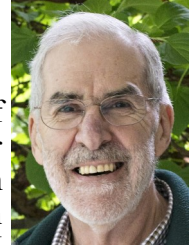


S.S. Keewatin



## From the President ...

**Dale Standen**



The value of history is a current debate in education: what can you do with a Bachelor of Arts degree? The question has appeared frequently in recent public discussions and the answer often heard is “not much.” Behind this answer is the assumption that education should focus on specific skills training for jobs in the most expansive sectors of the economy. In keeping with this materialist purpose, the current obsession is to push students and resources into the STEM subjects: science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

These are important subjects and some level of them should be a requirement for all students in this day and age. Truth be told, western universities since their medieval origins have always shown some practical, vocational purpose. They trained priests for the church, lawyers for the courts, administrators for royal and state bureaucracies. Technical knowledge, traditionally acquired through apprenticing, or in specialized academies, more recently moved into universities as requirements expanded. Commerce, navigation and international relations, for example, required knowledge of geography, astronomy, mathematics, accounting, modern languages and history. Medicine required knowledge of biology, anatomy and chemistry. Anthropology, sociology and psychology grew from the need to understand human behaviour in different cultures and in rapidly changing societies. The current proliferation of disciplines in face of changing requirements is not new.

The vocational purpose of education, however, is not the only purpose that developed over time. A self-governing populace required sound education for good judgment. Philosophy, the classics, history, music, art and literature came to be understood as foundations of human knowledge without which society would lose its moral bearings. These and related subjects in the humanities provide comparative context, clear and critical thought and they stimulate curiosity. Perhaps most important, they deepen self-knowledge. These educational purposes, too, are practical even if less obviously so than the material and vocational purpose.

In a recent *Globe and Mail* article, Phoebe Knight, an undergraduate arts student, well understands these other purposes of education (16 January, A20): “The value of a Bachelor of Arts is not that it will get me a high-paying job immediately after graduation; it’s that it gives me the opportunity to explore the potential of my mind.... What will I do with my degree? I don’t know. What I do know is that the possibilities are endless. The most important thing I’ve learned during my time at university is the importance of passion. Passion for learning is what differentiates my university experience from that of many of my peers, which I can apply to any job I find that stirs that passion.”

Perhaps the most important key performance indicators for judging universities are not how quickly students are employed after graduation, or whether they are employed in a job directly related to their field of study. Parents, high school counsellors, employers and politicians might take note.



Barry Landry      Nick Lasch

## Hogmanay 2020





## Hutchison House Report

Gale Fewings



Hogmanay is always a terrific celebration and our 2020 event was no exception. There were over 125 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 who help to make the House feel like home. Many thanks to everyone for helping to make the occasion such a success.

Erin and I have had the good fortune to be working with some fresh young eager volunteers through the Trent University Teaching Stream program. Pretty much weekly since the fall, we've had two students in particular assisting with a variety of activities. Lynsey and Victoria are back from the Christmas break and looking forward to continuing with their placements.

During the winter months the museum does become rather quiet and this is the perfect time to complete some of the tasks that no one ever gets to at busier times. You do not have to be a student at college or university to get involved with our collection. Anyone with an interest in working with the artifacts should contact the museum office to discuss the opportunity to sign on as a volunteer, or for that matter, current volunteers who are looking for new tasks or duties are also encouraged to get 'hands-on' with the collection.

At a small site like Hutchison House volunteers really are the backbone of the organization. As my dear Grandma Skelhorn used to say, "grandfather may be the head of the house, but I'm the neck, and the neck turns the head." I'll add this: "a strong backbone keeps everything upright!"

On a very personal note, I am sad to report that Bill Carson is stepping down from the Management Committee after many years of service to the Peterborough Historical Society. Some members of the Society may not know Bill, or know what he has done for the organization. He has been a mentor and a friend. I will miss his sound financial advice and support very much, but I still look forward to seeing Bill and Barb when they return from Victoria in the spring and sharing some stories about my granddaughters Tilly and Poppy with them.

We're now in the process of planning our offerings for the upcoming March Break programs. Working with young children has its own rewards and we always make learning fun. Help wanted! Get involved! Come out and play with us!

### Hogmanay 2020



Dancers: Kaitlin, Abby, Lynn, Meara, Charlie, Islay



Volunteers: Rachel, Abby

## ADJUDICATING FIRST NATIONS' DAMAGE CLAIMS BY THE SPECIFIC CLAIMS TRIBUNAL

Retired Superior Court Judge, the Honourable Barry MacDougall was the guest speaker at the January meeting of the Peterborough Historical Society. Admitted to the Bar in 1969, Judge MacDougall went on to a distinguished legal career serving, among many distinguished positions, as Judge of the Specific Claims Tribunal.

Established by the federal government in 2008, the Tribunal adjudicated disputes involving unresolved claims by First Nations for negative impacts such as environmental or boundary encroachments on Aboriginal Reserves. Beginning with the Royal Proclamation of 1763, Judge MacDougall underscored the importance of legally binding commitments by the Crown to protect the interests of First Nations in their subsequent dealing with the civil authorities. Citing the case of the Madawaska Maliseet Nation of New Brunswick, he showed how a rigorous historical research project had revealed evidence of how the Madawaska Maliseet Reserve had been clearly recognized by the Crown and then how this recognition had been subsequently eroded away without due process or compensation.

Judge MacDougall's message was clear – good history makes for good policy - and he cautioned that, as a nation we need to have a better understanding of our collective history, warts and all, in past dealings with First Nations if we hope to achieve a reconciliation. President Dale Standen thanked the speaker for a thoughtful and inspiring presentation.

**Dennis Carter-Edwards**



Barry MacDougall, Dale Standen

**Exploring Ancient Routes:  
Highlights of the Robert L. Hunter Map Collection  
from the Trent University Library & Archives  
On display now until Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Peterborough Museum & Archives**

The *Exploring Ancient Routes* exhibit of maps now on display at Peterborough Museum and Archives was developed in partnership with Trent University Library and Archives. It features rare, vintage maps from the Robert L. Hunter collection located in the Archives at Trent. Dating 1556 to 1897, the maps show the evolution of geographical coverage and knowledge over time, as early cartographers learned more about the lands on which we live. Cartographer and map engravers' work on display include that of Robert de Vaugondy, Gerardus Mercator, Vincenzo Coronelli, Emanuel Bowen and more. Robert L. Hunter (1914-1986) was an avid collector of Canadiana.

**Looking forward to the PHS March Meeting**



The March lecture for the Peterborough Historical Society will feature Sylvia Sutherland. A former journalist, mayor and now political commentator, Sylvia will reflect on her varied and challenging career. From an active role as journalist recording the news, Sylvia entered the political arena making news as the first elected female mayor in the history of Peterborough. Still active in the community offering her insights into the current politics of the day, Sylvia's presentation promises to be an interesting and informative talk.

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







**PETERBOROUGH  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

Phone: 705-740-2600  
info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca

**Hutchison House  
Museum**

270 Brock Street  
Peterborough Ontario  
K9H 2P9

Phone 705-743-9710  
info@hutchisonhouse.ca

Websites:  
[hutchisonhouse.ca](http://hutchisonhouse.ca)

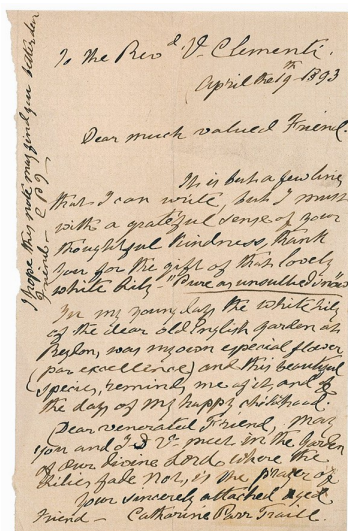
[peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca](http://peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca)

**The Bulletin**  
Editor: **Jodi Aoki**  
Publisher: **Marilyn  
MacNaughton**

Bulletin (ISSN 1484-5983)

## Voices from Peterborough's Past Of letters and lilies

A sense of longing permeates many of the nineteenth-century letters housed in local archival repositories. Even into her nineties, the noted author Catharine Parr Traill, who had arrived in Upper Canada some 60 years previous from England, still wrote of the homeland with tender remembrances. In one such letter, sent to Reverend Vincent Clementi in the spring of 1893, Traill expressed deep appreciation for the gift of a lily telling him how it reminded her of the "dear old English garden" of her happy childhood:



*"To the Rev'd V. Clementi  
April the 19th 1893*

*Dear much valued Friend*

*It is but a few lines that I can write, but I must with a grateful sense of your thoughtful kindness, thank you for the gift of that lovely white lily – "Pure as unsullied snow."*

*In my young days the white lily of the dear old English garden at Reydon, was my own especial flower (par excellence) and this beautiful species, reminds me of it, and of the days of my happy childhood...*

*Your sincerely attached aged friend  
Catharine Parr Traill"*

Catharine Parr Traill (1802-1899) had a particular interest in plants; indeed, a scrapbook of grasses collected by her in the Stoney Lake area in her 92<sup>nd</sup> year is located in the holdings at Trent University Archives and numerous references to her pursuits of flowers and grasses and other plants appear in her writings. Among the many books she published are *Canadian Wild Flowers* (1868) and *Studies of Plant Life in Canada* (1885).



*Catharine Parr Traill.*

In 1896 at the age of 94, Traill became the first honorary president of the Peterborough Historical Society.

**Jodi Aoki**

Photo Credits:

Letter:  
Atwood family fonds  
Trent University Archives

Photograph:  
Hall Gillespie law firm  
fonds  
Trent University Archives