



UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough Historical  
Society

Monthly Meetings  
To be announced

Hutchison House Events  
To be announced

Issue 466

April 2020

Special COVID-19 Issue

April is the month when we look forward to warmer weather, longer daylight hours, flowering gardens and more time outdoors. This year, however, the advent of COVID-19 casts an ominous shadow over the normally joyful prospect of spring.

In its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the PHS is following the orders and advisories of public health authorities and the various levels of government. **All programs and other activities of Hutchison House Museum and the Historical Society are cancelled until further notice.** Although staff and lead volunteers will continue essential operations, the Museum and offices are closed to the public. In between the monthly *Bulletins*, we may send out special notices by email to keep members informed of developments and changes in plans in as timely a manner as possible. Given the circumstances, we will be able to communicate directly with members only by email. **If you are not currently receiving the *Bulletin* by email and would like to receive notices, please send your email address to [info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca).**

Last month in the *Bulletin*, when authorities still hoped the outbreak could be contained, I reflected upon how historical quarantine measures compared with the current experience. Since then, public health authorities have abandoned hope for complete containment and are advocating social distancing, intensified hygienic practices (especially frequent hand-washing) and, for those with any kind of virus or who have travelled abroad, self-isolation.

For up-to-date information on the COVID-19 pandemic and for recommendations if you are concerned about your health, or that of someone else, **consult the Peterborough Public Health website: <https://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/>.**

**This Peterborough Public Health website also provides a link to the Ontario Ministry of Health self-assessment tool: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-self-assessment>.**

The media is saturated with reports on the progress and effects of the pandemic, and conveys unmitigated gloom. It is worth noting that current data suggest that most of those who catch COVID-19 will experience only mild or negligible symptoms. However, the data also show that seniors and those with compromised health are most vulnerable to complications. All of us need to take precautions to minimize exposure, such as social distancing, frequent hand-washing and good hygienic and sanitizing practices.

So let's be calm, careful and considerate of others. Good health to everyone.

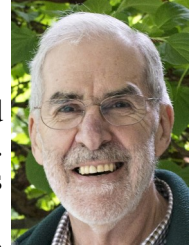
**Dale Standen, President**

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



## From the President ...

Dale Standen



Because response to the COVID-19 pandemic has required cancellation of scheduled events and programs, some usual reports and notices are absent from this issue of the *Bulletin*. We will report on what measures have been taken regarding PHS and Hutchison House events and what contingency plans are being considered.

Before turning to business matters, I want to note how sad we all were to learn of the death of Gale Fewing's mother, Florence Nightingale Skelhorn, on 9 March, at 88 years of age. The added disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic cancellations and community restrictions were an unfortunate coincidence that has added to the tasks facing the family. We support Gale in every way possible at this difficult time.

## Announcements

**Gale Fewings' Retirement.** Our Curator of Hutchison House Museum for the past 22 years, Gale Fewings, has announced her plan to retire on 30 June. This is a momentous event for the museum on several counts. Gale has served as Curator for more than half the museum's existence. Her deep knowledge and wise guidance are responsible for programs and exhibits that have made the museum highly regarded in the community. She will be greatly missed but she has left a solid legacy on which to build. We thank her profoundly for her outstanding work. More on this at a later date.

**March meeting and public lecture.** The talk scheduled for 17 March to be given by former mayor, Sylvia Sutherland, had to be cancelled. It will be rescheduled and announced when we have clarity on when the current pandemic restrictions will be lifted.

**Annual General Meeting.** The Historical Society's AGM scheduled for 21 April has been cancelled and will be rescheduled when the restrictions on public gatherings are lifted. The location and format of the AGM will be determined by circumstances, but our guest speaker, Dr. Rosana Salvaterra, Medical Officer of Health for Peterborough Public Health, has agreed to speak as planned.

**Annual Heritage Awards.** The call for nominations for the Historical Society's Annual Heritage Awards continues regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic. A nomination form is available on the PHS website: <http://www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca/awards.php>. The notice is posted in this *Bulletin*. So far, the deadline of 9 April holds, but if a change becomes necessary there will be an announcement. **Note that nomination forms may no longer be dropped off at Hutchison House. They must be submitted either by email or post mail.**

**New PHS website.** Work on the new website for PHS continues, though the launch date is not yet predictable. It will likely be delayed by the pandemic measures.

**May meeting and public lecture.** No one knows whether the pandemic restrictions will still be in force in May. If they are lifted in time, we will be holding a meeting with lecture on 19 May as originally scheduled.

**PHS Occasional Paper.** As is customary, the 2020 Occasional Paper will be available for distribution to members at the AGM when rescheduled. Because of the closure of Hutchison House and the social distancing required by pandemic restrictions, it will not be possible for members to pick up their copies before the restrictions are lifted.

## Hutchison House Report

Gale Fewings & Erin Panepinto



“One never knows the idyllic charm of our northern woods who has not seen them in April, when it is all a feast of birds and buds and waking life. Midsummer does not compare with this. This month belongs to the birds and flowers; but most of all to the robin. I cannot tell this story without giving the robins the place which I know they must have had in it, — great husky fellows, as red as blood in the lifting between showers that made a golden sunset, sitting high in the treetops and splitting their throats with their rain-carol, singing in jubilation at being back again, glad to find once more the corner of the earth that they were born in, and trolling forth such lusty music that all their pertness and swagger and pilfering of a later date is forgiven in advance. Of all the birds of springtime, I would like best to be the robin just getting back to his old home; for it is brave and blithe and bonny that he is, and he is April to all of us in the far north.”

— Fannie Hardy Eckstorm, *The Penobscot Man*, 1904.

While much in life right now might seem uncertain, the one thing we know for sure is that with the return of the robins and the sprouting of new life in the gardens, spring is on its way. And with spring comes spring cleaning!

Due to unforeseen events with the COVID-19 outbreak, Hutchison House is currently closed to the public. While we do not expect visitors or volunteers, for that matter, to expose themselves to potential harm, staff at the museum will spend some time on cleaning and clearing clutter on our own for the time being or until we have been told to close down shop altogether.

### **All planned activities and programs are cancelled until further notice.**

Plans for garden work are suspended for now; hopefully, however, in the near future we will once again have some assistance from students of the Lakefield College School come out to help with some of the clean-up. Previously they had been scheduled for Sunday April 26.

The Garden Committee is looking for more members; if anyone out there has a desire to get your hands dirty or ‘green up’ your thumb, we’d love to hear from you. In fact, we are looking for new volunteers for all of the committees. You can contact the office at 705-743-9710 or visit our website at [www.hutchisonhouse.ca](http://www.hutchisonhouse.ca) to learn more about becoming a Hutchison House Museum volunteer.



Many members of the Society may be undertaking a spring clean-up at home as well. We are planning to take part in the Gilmour Street yard sale on Saturday, May 23. Dale and Bernice Standen have once again graciously offered their lawn for our use. We would greatly appreciate donations of quality items to add to our sale. Plants will also be welcome.

Bea with Opa (Bob)

## CFGP Grant to PHS

The Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough has awarded a grant of \$10,000 to the Peterborough Historical Society. An anonymous donor has made this grant possible.

On behalf of the PHS, I wish to express our deep gratitude to the individual, family or group that made this generous contribution in support of the Society and its mission to promote the heritage of our community. I wish also to thank the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough for its invaluable role in facilitating support for the PHS and other organizations that are the fabric of the community.

As a volunteer organization, the Historical Society depends upon the generosity of its member and community donors to carry on its work of helping to understand our past and the unfolding history of our present. We are most grateful to those who so value this important work.

**Dale Standen, President**



## Voices from Peterborough's Past "PETERBORO'S ONLY NIGHTCLUB"



*The Elite Court over the Elite Grill, one of Canada's Finest Restaurants*

**Now...When Congratulations are in Order... Let Us Extend Ours**

And, at the same time, suggest **The Elite** for your Wedding Reception, your Bridal Party Dinner Dance, or any of your social obligations. Later for a Bridge, your Anniversaries, or any other special occasions.

Where else but at **The Elite** can you find the Quiet Elegance, Spaciousness and Unexcelled Cuisine.

Orchestra or Entertainment at its best can be supplied at a moderate cost. You are freed of all responsibility. Does not this enhance our Good Wishes?

**ELITE GRILL**  
ELITE COURT-UPSTAIRS-DINE & DANCE

339 GEORGE STREET

PETERBOROUGH, Ont.

Appointment Phones: 7 and 1324

Elite Grill: wedding advertisement for Elite Court  
*Weekly Review*, 3 March 1938

Louis Yeotes' billiard hall and tobacco shop at 339 George Street, just north of Charlotte Street and the old Bank of Nova Scotia, expanded in the late 1920s to include restaurant operations, variously called the Elite Café, Elite Sweets Café, Elite Tea Room, and Elite Grill. By 1938, Yeotes had moved the second-floor billiard hall up the street to 407 George, where it still operates, now managed by his grandnephew, Dean Pappas. The upstairs of 339 George Street was converted to a dance club, the Elite Court, with Louis' son Spero as manager.

The two colourized Roy Studio postcards show the new modern exterior and interior of the restaurant on May 8, 1936. The two views of the Elite Court upstairs were taken 18 months later, and the two ads from the *Peterborough Review* date to 1938. By the early 40s, the premises housed a Tambllyn Drug Store.

**Ken Brown**



Elite Court looking east – bandstand in George Street window  
Roy Studio photograph. Peterborough Museum & Archives



"THE ELITE". The Most Beautiful Restaurant and Tea Room in Canada, PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO.



"THE ELITE". The Most Beautiful Restaurant and Tea Room in Canada, PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO.

Postcards: "The Elite" Photogelatine Engraving Co. Ltd., Ottawa, 1936 Peterborough Museum & Archives

### LEARN TO DANCE

AT

**Doris and Mowry's**  
School of Dancing

Phone  
3643-W

**ELITE COURT**

Phone  
7

Big Apple, Lambeth Walk, Susie 2, Chuck-a-Boom. All the latest steps of moderne dancing. Special Ballroom class for students.

Latest version of Eleanor Powell and Bill Robinson Tap routines. Also Toe, Toe Tap, Acrobatic and Ballet Dancing.

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS DAILY

MORNING—10 to 12 • AFTERNOON—2 to 5

Elite Grill: dance classes advertisements  
*Weekly Review*, 10 November 1938

The Most Beautiful Between Toronto and Montreal

**ELITE GRILL**  
PETERBORO'S ONLY NIGHT CLUB  
For Reservations Phone 7

**DANCE . . .**  
Where you will find a delightful atmosphere of gaiety . . . where you will find the best floor in town.

**DINE . . .**  
Where the food is of the best . . . where you will find the greatest variety on the menu . . . and where the service is always prompt and efficient.

**Every Sunday Night 8.40**  
**Community Singing**  
Admission 25c Lunch Free

**Peterborough Historical Society  
Annual Heritage Awards  
Call for Nominations                      Deadline 9 April 2020**

As a means of encouraging programs and activities that commemorate our rich history and acknowledging achievements in the fields of cultural, social and architectural history, the PHS presents the Annual Heritage Awards for citizens of Peterborough City and County. The awards recognize outstanding accomplishments in heritage preservation and promotion and are named in honour of Peterborough citizens who have made significant contributions to the broader heritage community. There are seven separate awards.

**The Peterborough Historical Society welcomes nominations for its annual Heritage Awards until Thursday, 9 April.** Nominees must reside within the boundaries of Peterborough County. They may be individuals, businesses, institutions, organizations, groups or members of the media. Nominations will be considered for projects completed in the previous year and will be evaluated by an independent Awards Committee. If you are aware of a deserving project or person, submit an application. Individuals may also nominate themselves or their own project. A nomination form may be picked up at the PHS office at 270 Brock Street or downloaded from the PHS website: <http://www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca/awards.php>.

**The Heritage Awards will be presented at a ceremony to be scheduled in the spring of 2020.**

**NEW AWARD: The Thomas H.B. and Christine Symons Heritage Award** for an outstanding one-time or ongoing contribution to local, regional, provincial, national or international heritage causes made by residents, former residents, groups, businesses or organizations from or to the Peterborough region.

**The Samuel Armour Award** recognizes the development and/or delivery of programs, activities or curriculum based local history material that engages students in exploring the diverse history of the region.

**The J. Hampden Burnham Award** recognizes the completion and presentation of a major project in any media such as a painting, video, web design, newspaper articles, etc. that promotes awareness of the history of the region.

**The George Cox Award** recognizes the sympathetic redesign or sensitive new construction that respects the existing character of significant cultural resources, such as buildings, cultural landscapes, period gardens or the preservation of manuscripts, photographic collections, etc.

**The F.H. Dobbin Award** recognizes the publication of a major work, either fiction or non-fiction that focuses on Peterborough's past.

**The Martha Kidd Award** honors the memory of Martha Kidd, historian of architecture and of Peterborough's built heritage, and recognizes outstanding work in the preservation of our region's built heritage.

**The Charlotte Nicholls Award** recognizes a substantial donation, either financial or in kind or services, towards the commemoration of a historic structure, artifact, cultural landscape, etc.

Nomination forms may be downloaded from the Awards page of the Peterborough Historical Society website at [www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca).

Please submit nomination forms no later than 9 April 2020. They may be submitted using one of the following two methods:

As an email attachment sent to the Society's email address: [info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca).

In hardcopy format sent through Canada Post and postmarked no later than 9 April 2020, to the following address: The Awards Committee, Annual Heritage Awards, Peterborough Historical Society, 270 Brock St. Peterborough, Ontario K9H 2P9.





**PETERBOROUGH  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

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info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca

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Museum**

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Peterborough Ontario  
K9H 2P9

Phone 705-743-9710  
info@hutchisonhouse.ca

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

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

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NOTE: *Until further notice  
please use email only as a  
method of contact.*

## **Back to the Future: 130 Years of Public Health in the Kawarthas**

Proceedings of the Public Health Conference  
held Saturday, 9 February 2019  
to commemorate the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of the founding of a permanent Board of Health in Peterborough



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AN OCCASIONAL PAPER PUBLISHED BY THE  
PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MARCH 2020

### **NOTICE OF BY-LAW AMENDMENTS**

The Board of Directors of the Historical Society has been reviewing the Society's procedural bylaw and will be approving some proposed revisions for ratification at the Annual General Meeting when it can be rescheduled. The revisions will be distributed to our email list of members, and we hope to be able to post them on our website. We have approximately 50 members for whom we do not have an email contact. If you are not on our current email list and would like to save the Society considerable expense by receiving the revision document by email, please send your email address to [bob.taylorvaisey@gmail.com](mailto:bob.taylorvaisey@gmail.com). Otherwise, we will be sending hardcopy versions of this document through Canada Post.