



UPCOMING EVENTS

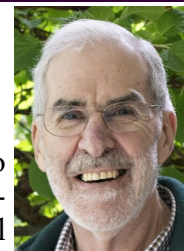
**Peterborough Historical
Society**

**Monthly Meeting
To be announced**

**Hutchison House Events
To be announced**

From the President ...

Dale Standen



At its meeting in May, the Board of Directors decided that it could no longer postpone the Annual General Meeting of members, which was originally scheduled for mid-April. It is evident that the restrictions on physical distancing and size of public gatherings could continue for some time; the Board, therefore, has chosen the option provided by the Declaration of Emergency to hold a virtual AGM on Tuesday, 16 June, 2020. The details of arrangements are provided in the enclosed Notice of Annual General Meeting of Members. Concluding the business of the AGM will allow the Society to move forward to address the immediate challenge of the pandemic closure, and the longer-term implementation of the new Strategic Plan. There is much to do.

The immediate focus is on adapting programs to meet the public health requirements for social gatherings. The need to maintain physical distancing and to ensure continual disinfection of surfaces presents a challenge to every business and not-for-profit organization. The recent opening of select businesses is showing that there are safe ways to regulate numbers and movement of people, though with lower volumes. The Society is reviewing ways to adapt its monthly meetings and public lectures, and its other public events, to the new reality. Like many other museums, Hutchison House faces the particular challenge of smaller spaces. Our Curator Gale Fewings and Assistant Curator Erin Panepinto are working out procedures to ensure safety for what will be more limited on-site events. Like all other museums, they are devoting most attention to developing virtual programs that can be offered through the internet. This will likely be one of the most lasting effects of the pandemic on the heritage sector.

The project of building a new interactive website will be crucial in this development. The project is moving along, though a little delayed because of disruptions everywhere occasioned by the pandemic. When completed, the new website will offer exciting new possibilities for the Society and Hutchison House Museum to engage the community in its history.

None of the programs and projects of the Society and Museum is possible without the work of our volunteers. Their commitment and enthusiasm for the goals of the Society and Hutchison House are the life blood of the collective project. More volunteers are always needed and welcome, and I invite you to contact me, Gale or Erin to express your interest in helping out.

The coming of spring is a reminder that more agreeable times will come. Let's continue to stay safe as we move outdoors.

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.



Hutchison House Report

Gale Fewings



During this difficult time of Covid-19 many things have changed. At this time, we're not quite sure how or when the upcoming season at Hutchison House will take place. Certainly, the museum will have to adapt to new regulations with regard to safety and social distancing concerns. No one knows for sure how it will all pan out. Currently, the House is still closed to the public and will remain so until we are allowed to open again.

On a positive note, our herb gardens are undergoing a rejuvenation due to the work of volunteer members of the Peterborough Community Medicine Garden. They have really stepped up to the plate and have been working diligently for the past month. We are beginning to see the fruits of their labour, and that of the many Hutchison House garden volunteers who nurtured the gardens along for so many years.

With an aim to replenishing some of the herbs, the gardeners are seeking donations of medicinal, culinary, or strewing plants. Most readers will already be familiar with medicinal and culinary plants, but I thought it might be interesting to take a look at the old tradition of strewing plants.

Strewing herbs are certain kinds of plants that were scattered (strewn) over the floors of dwelling places and other buildings. Such plants usually have fragrant or astringent smells and many also serve as insecticides or disinfectants. Their use was widespread in England during the Middle Ages through to the 18th century.

In the early Middle Ages bathing had declined in England. As people became smellier, the use of fragrant herbs became more popular. They were used in all areas of the house including kitchens, dining halls and bedrooms. The herbs were laid on the floor along with reeds, rushes or straw and pleasant odours would be released when people walked on them. Certain plants would help to keep pests, such as fleas, at bay.

Often the strewn plant materials were left on the floor for several months at a time. In order to keep the floor coverings in place, a board, known as the threshold, was placed across the doorway. I always find it interesting to discover the original meaning behind many of the terms still in use today. Of course, every door has a threshold, but it is fun to look back to its origin.

Sharing such little tidbits of the past with visitors, especially young ones, is one of the very enjoyable facets of conducting programs and tours at Hutchison House. We can't wait to open up the museum and once again allow visitors through our own threshold.

In the meantime, with gardening season now in full swing, anyone wishing to donate herbs for the garden can simply drop them off along the wall of the walkway and the gardeners will do the rest. Plants ideally should be labelled and may be in pots or even plastic bags. Your gift of greenery will be greatly appreciated!

Hutchison House Herbs





An inviting spring view of the new patio at Hutchison House

PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SPECIAL DONATION

I wish to make a special donation to the Peterborough Historical Society to assist with the operation of Hutchison House in the challenging circumstance of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please allocate my donation as follows:

☐ Peterborough Historical Society

☐ Friends of Hutchison House

I wish to pay by:

Cheque: ☐ Make payable to the Peterborough Historical Society

Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Name on card: _____

Card #: _____

Expiration Date: (mm/yy) (___/___)

Security Code: () (3 digit # on back of card)

Signature: _____

Mail payment to: Peterborough Historical Society, 270 Brock Street, Peterborough, ON K9H 2P9



**PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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

Peterborough Historical Society

Notice of Annual General Meeting of Members

In accordance with the provisions of the Declaration of Emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Peterborough Historical Society will be held by means of a **ZOOM webcast meeting on Tuesday, 16 June, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.** for the following purpose:

- To elect Directors
- To appoint Auditors for the Corporation and to authorize the Board of Directors to fix their remuneration
- To receive the Financial Statements for 2019, reviewed by Tim Nicholls, Chartered Accountant
- To confirm the amended By-Law passed by the Board of Directors on 14 April 2020
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Only paid-up members of record at the close of business on 5 June, 2020, will be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting. **If you will be attending by joining the Zoom meeting, register by responding by email to: dstanden@trentu.ca.** Several days prior to the AGM meeting date, an email will be sent to **registered eligible members of record** with the link and password enabling them to join the meeting at the scheduled time.

All reports, documents and other materials for the AGM are posted on the website of the Peterborough Historical Society: www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca.

Dated at Peterborough this 22nd day of May, 2020.

Dale Standen, President
By order of the Board

This year, to confront the public health impact of COVID-19, and to avoid risks to the health and safety of our staff, volunteers and members, the meeting is being held as a completely virtual meeting, to be conducted via live webcast. The meeting will not take place in a physical location. It is intended that participants will be able to communicate adequately during the meeting.

To participate with both audio and video, eligible members will need access through a computer or other device with camera and microphone and the required minimum technical capabilities (most computers, laptops and tablets for the past several years should be adequately equipped). In order to join the meeting quickly and easily, it is advisable to download the free version of ZOOM beforehand and consult the website: <https://zoom.us/>.

All further communication regarding the AGM will be by email. Members who wish to attend and participate, but who have not yet provided an email address to the Society, should do so before 5 June, 2020, addressed to D. Standen, President, Peterborough Historical Society: dstanden@trentu.ca.