PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Peterborough Historical Society Bulletin

Issue 469

September 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough Historical Society

Monthly Meeting To be temporarily replaced by PHS Talks

Hutchison House Events

Heritage Lunches to resume on Wednesday, 7 October. **Reservations and advance** payment are required.

The lunches, and any other onsite events are subject to change if required by a change in the local state of COVID-19.

WELCOME TO THE 2020-2021 PHS SEASON

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to COVID-19, the PHS monthly meetings and lectures this year will be replaced by **PHS Talks**, a series of virtual presentations posted on the Hutchison House YouTube page. Notices of the talks will be publicized in the usual manner, and summaries of each talk will be included in a subsequent *Bulletin*. The aim is to post a talk on the third Tuesday of each of the months of September, October, November, January, February, March and May.

"'MUSICIAN OF EXTRAORDINARY MERIT': JOSEPH CHURCHILL ARLIDGE **IN PETERBOROUGH"**

Mr. Robert Arlidge

Musician and teacher Bob Arlidge will describe the fascinating circumstances and work of his great grandfather who, after first immigrating to Toronto from London, spent two active years in Peterborough, 1891-1892. Here he played a leading role in the musical life of the community. Hired as organist for St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, he established a Philharmonic Society, a popular school of music, and performed in concerts before appreciative audiences. This promises to be an inspiring talk for these challenging times.

To be posted on YouTube 15 September 2020: https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCQvUNc56VBwk9xVqN Lqnyg



J. Churchill Arlidge Photographer unknown. Source: Faculty of Music Library University of Toronto

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

It has been five months since the Government of Ontario introduced emergency measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic, which required the cancellation of PHS public events and the closure of Hutchison House to the public. Two months ago the government introduced its schedule for a phased reopening of businesses, including museums. Although many restrictions remain, and will continue for some time, the Society and Museum are adjusting as well as possible to these extraordinary circumstances.

On the Museum front, the retirement at the end of June of Gale Fewings, our devoted Curator of 22 years, required extraordinary temporary measures in light of the pandemic emergency. The PHS Board is fortunate that Erin Panepinto, our experienced Assistant Curator, accepted the interim appointment as Acting Curator for the remainder of the year. Erin's knowledge of the Museum's operations has ensured a smooth adaptation to the modifications imposed by the pandemic.

The PHS Board postponed the search for a regular curator because Hutchison House, like other museums, has lost much operational revenue due to the closure and limited reopening, and because of the uncertainty of future revenues and income from any source. The uncertainties are likely to last for some time. For this year, the assurance of municipal and provincial operating grant support, the savings in lower salary costs, and the wage subsidies from the federal government CEWS program, are anticipated to prevent a serious deficit for 2020. The prospects for 2021 are entirely unknown.

On 15 July, Hutchison House Museum reopened on a limited basis, more details of which Erin provides in her following report. On reopening, the primary concern has been to keep staff, volunteers and visitors safe; the practice is always to be on the cautious side of what the regulations permit. The very positive public response to the Museum's reopening, and to the online and adapted craft-kit versions of the summer camp program, is encouraging. Seeing people again enjoying the Museum is most rewarding. Erin and the Museum's Operations Committee are carefully considering what on-site events may be safely undertaken in the fall, always contingent upon circumstances and public health requirements at the time.

Despite the loosened restrictions in Stage 3 for public gatherings, the requirements for PPE, physical distancing and other precautions indoors continue. We have chosen to be cautious and not restart PHS monthly meetings with speakers on-site. Instead, as the lecture notice on the first page advises, we will be pre-recording speakers' illustrated talks and providing them online in a virtual format on a monthly schedule. They will be posted on the YouTube channel of Hutchison House: <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvUNc56VBwk9xVqN_Lqnyg</u>. As usual, a subsequent issue of the *Bulletin* will publish a summary of the talk.

The pandemic closures interrupted the call for nominations for the annual **PHS Heritage Awards** and we temporarily suspended the process. We are now resuming the call for nominations with a new deadline for submissions. The plan is to arrange a virtual awards ceremony later in the fall, late October or early November. The Heritage Awards notice is included in this *Bulletin*, and nomination forms are available on the PHS website <u>http://www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca/awards.php</u> or can be picked up at Hutchison House.

I shout a big thank you to all whose work and support has sustained the Society and Museum during this challenging time, and over the years. First on the list is Gale Fewings for her unparalleled contribution to the excellence of Hutchison House Museum. Staff and volunteers pay tribute to Gale elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. I regret that the COVID-19 restrictions prevented a proper retirement party at Hutchison House but we will look forward to an occasion, one hopes not too long delayed, when we can all gather in cheerful celebration. A special thanks also to our volunteers, without whom the Museum could not operate, and to our donors and

members whose support is so essential.

A few of many examples of COVID-19 signage found in store windows in Peterborough





Peterborough Historical Society Annual Heritage Awards Call for Nominations <u>Revised Deadline 8 October 2020</u>

Due to COVID-19 closures, the call for nominations for the PHS Annual Heritage Awards has been extended. The Heritage 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, 8 October.

Except for the Symons Award, nominees must reside within the boundaries of Peterborough County. They may be individuals, businesses, institutions, organizations, groups or members of the media. Except for the Symons Award, nominations will be considered for projects completed in the previous year. They 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 downloaded from the PHS website: http://www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca/awards.php, or picked up at the PHS office at 270 Brock Street.

A virtual ceremony to present the awards will be arranged for late October or early November.

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.

Submit by 4:00 p.m. 8 October 2020 or postmarked no later than 8 October 2020 to: The Awards Committee, Annual Heritage Awards, Peterborough Historical Society, 270 Brock St., Peterborough, Ontario K9H 2P9

Nomination forms may also be downloaded from the Awards page of the Peterborough Historical Society website at <u>www.perterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca</u> and emailed to the Society's email address: <u>in-fo@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca</u>.

Erin Panepinto

Hutchison House Report

As the summer season comes to a close, museum staff and volunteers are grateful that we were able to have one at all! With COVID-19 rearing its head across the globe, Hutchison House Museum has been grateful to everyone who spent their summers 'touring' their own back yards and supporting the museum and other local cultural attractions.

This summer, we were fortunate to have three students on staff: former volunteer Rachel Baker as Museum Programming Assistant, Hailey Lansley as Curatorial Assistant and

Halsea Root as Historic Interpreter. Because of our shortened Tea season, staff hit the ground running in July trying to get everything in place to ensure a safe space. With restrictions in place and A LOT of cleaning, the

museum was able to open for a condensed season of Scottish Teas, serving 176 visitors in 12 days of Teas. We also offer 'Scottish Tea in a Bag' for those unable to visit. Available at \$15, each bag includes dry mix for one scone (serving four), one dozen oatcakes, a jar of jam and two tea bags. Purchase one for your own tea party or to give as a gift!

While we were unable to host day camps this summer, the museum has been offering three different Day Camp kits for use at home. The kits, available at \$15 each or two for \$25, include instructions and all the material needed to create one of our popular Day Camp projects: Bookbinding, Teddy Bears and Fairies. For added instructions, our summer students created video tutorials available on our YouTube channel. With a boost from a CBC radio interview with Wei Chen on Ontario Morning, the first Day Camp kits were sold out on day one!

Scottish Tea in a bag

In addition to the summer programming, staff have been gearing up for the fall season. As children will be heading back to school or will be homeschooling, the museum has been developing Virtual School tours and activities as a way of continuing our education program in the absence of in-person class trips.

Museum staff and volunteers would like to express a big THANK YOU to Gale Fewings who retired 30 June as Curator of Hutchison House Museum. Gale was the heart, soul and backbone of the museum and wore many hats (most of them at the same time): administrator, curator, fundraiser, researcher, exhibit designer, volunteer coordinator, collections manager, gardener, educator, cook, programming co-ordinator, mentor, friend and so much more. She engaged with the community and shared its history with an enthusiasm that was contagious. Gale is a storyteller with a love of Hutchison House and the people who lived in it. Working together with many wonderful volunteers and staff over the years, she inspired a love of the museum and very successfully kept it relevant to the community.

Best wishes, Gale, on your retirement and good luck in this new phase in your life. Hutchison House Museum won't be the same without you.

Linda Chandler and Gale Fewings

Gale and John Fewings









Peterborough Historical Society

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Summer 2020 at Hutchison House

Haley Lnsley, Rachel Baker, Halsea Root ready to serve





Haley and the Book Day Camp



Rachel and the Fairy Day Camp



Halsea and a Day Camp Bear

Peterborough Historical Society



PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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In Memoriam

Staff and volunteers of Hutchison House Museum were saddened to hear of the passing of Don Earle, a long-time supporter of the Museum, on 8 August 2020. Don and his wife, Barb, were involved with the Museum for many years. Most recently, Don was a member of the Hutchison House Trust Committee. His obituary is found in the *Peterborough Examiner* at the following link:

https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/thepeterboroughexaminer/ obituary.aspx?n=don-earle&pid=196653959

Barb McIntosh presenting to Don 50/50 draw winnings at 2014 AGM





Barb Earle, Dave Mitchell, Enid Mitchell and Don Earle at Hogmanay from an earlier year

Heritage Lunches

Hutchison House Museum is planning to resume the Heritage Lunches on Wednesday, 7 October, with reduced numbers and other adjustments to comply with public health requirements for safety. Reservations and advance payment are required, so book early to reserve a spot. Phone 705-743-9710, or email in-fo@hutchisonhouse.ca. The lunches, and any other on-site events that may be scheduled, are subject to change if required by a change in the local state of COVID-19.

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