



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.

Harvest Tea and Dessert
Thursday, 22 October.
\$5.00
Reservations and advance
payment are required.

Halloween event
Timed spooky tours
Friday, 30 October,
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, 31 October,
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Market
Saturday, 28 November,
and Sunday, 29 November,
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

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

WELCOME TO THE 2020-2021 PHS SEASON

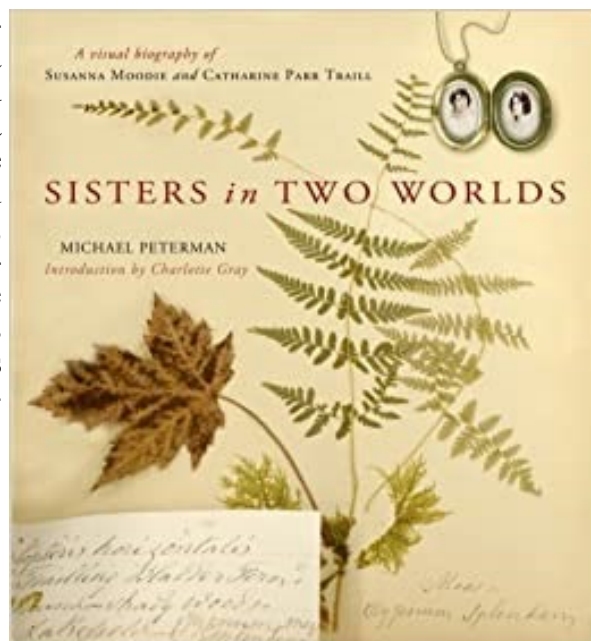
IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to COVID-19, the PHS monthly meetings and lectures this year will be replaced by **PHS Talks**, a series of virtual presentations posted on the Hutchison House YouTube page. Notices of the talks will be publicized in the usual manner, and summaries of each talk will be included 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.**

“‘THE CRADLE OF CANADIAN LITERATURE’: EARLY LITERARY WRITING IN LAKEFIELD AND PETERBOROUGH”

Professor Michael Peterman

Canadians are familiar with the writings of Catharine Parr Traill and Susanna Moodie, the Strickland sisters who immigrated with their husbands to the Peterborough area in its pioneer days. Less well-known are the many other accomplished writers who lived and wrote in the area. Michael Peterman, Emeritus Professor of English at Trent University, has studied the rich literary history of the region and written extensively about it. In this episode of **PHS Talks**, he reflects upon this remarkable contribution to Canadian literature.

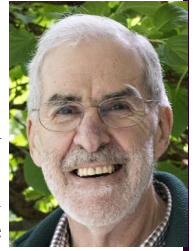
To be posted on YouTube, 20 October
2020: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvUNc56VBwk9xVqN_Lqnyg



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



The PHS and Hutchison House Museum have received a generous donation in kind from Yoshi Aoki, Senior Producer of Vantage Point Media House in Belleville. Fond childhood memories as a participant in the Museum's programs, and an appreciation of the building's exceptional aesthetic properties, inspired Yoshi to produce a comprehensive photographic record for use by the Museum. Additionally, he offered to design a new, up-to-date logo for the PHS. The Board accepted Yoshi's offer with alacrity and profound thanks. The two versions of the new logo design approved by the Board are displayed below. They will be officially launched later in the fall along with a new website design for PHS and Hutchison House Museum.

There are several considerations that determined the Board to seek a new logo. Often, people do not readily identify the current logo, the theodolite, a land surveyor's instrument. The argument for change, however, goes much deeper than this.

Those familiar with the past understand that the only constant in history is change. The world is a very different place than it was even a few decades ago, and this is true of our local community. When our family arrived in Peterborough fifty years ago, manufacturing industries were major employers, including Quaker Oats, CGE, Outboard Marine Corporation, DeLaval and Westclox. Now, the last four have disappeared, or no longer manufacture here, and our community is dominated by service industries: Trent University, Fleming College, PRHC, seniors homes, tourism, cultural enterprises, government departments, retail centres and diverse professional service businesses. Digital innovations and the internet are transforming these in ways not yet foreseeable.

Equally significant are changes in population, outlook and ideas. The PHS revitalized from the 1950s to the 1970s in a climate of provincial and national centenary celebrations. Then, a widespread preoccupation was the commemoration of settler pioneer foundations, which were British. Paradoxically, revolutionary transformations that demanded attention already were shaping our communities. Indigenous demands for the restoration of violated rights regarding treaties, land and resources drew attention to a previously neglected Indigenous history of ancient and fundamental significance. Immigrants from all over the world – Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Central and South America, the Middle East, the Mediterranean, Eastern Europe – are bringing rich cultural diversity to our history. Descendants of early settlers are embracing cosmopolitan perspectives.

In this environment, a logo that privileges a single cultural tradition may not resonate with others, and may even appear unwelcoming. Images carry unwritten messages. For example, can Indigenous compatriots identify with an instrument that symbolizes the clearing of the forests and the imposition of settler order upon their traditional lands?

In order to convey its inclusive intent, the PHS requires a logo that anyone can embrace. What could be more appropriate than an image from the natural world in which our communities are situated? The chosen design, provided by Yoshi Aoki, features a stylized blue heron, a familiar inhabitant of the Otonabee waterway that all of us share and depend upon.

EST.



1897

PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY | EST. 1897

A Window into Peterborough's Music History

The first episode of **PHS Talks** offers a rich glimpse into the world of music in London, Toronto and Peterborough in the Victorian and Edwardian era. Speaker Bob Arlidge sketches the career of his great grandfather, J. Churchill Arlidge, a child prodigy who began his professional career as a flute soloist at age 11 in London in 1860. In the following three decades he became a pianist, organist, tenor vocalist, flute virtuoso and published composer.

In 1885, J. Church Arlidge emigrated to Toronto to continue his musical career. In 1887, the Carlton Street Methodist Church appointed him organist and choir master. He worked and performed extensively outside his church appointment, as flute soloist with the Toronto Philharmonic Society and other ensembles, and he played in numerous concerts and music festivals, teaching flute both privately and at the Toronto College of Music.

In December 1887, some musicians founded the Toronto Orchestral Association, one of Canada's first musicians' unions. After a year, most musicians in Toronto had joined, but not Arlidge, who never joined. Since union rules prohibited members from performing with non-members, it is not surprising that the number of Arlidge's performances dwindled dramatically.

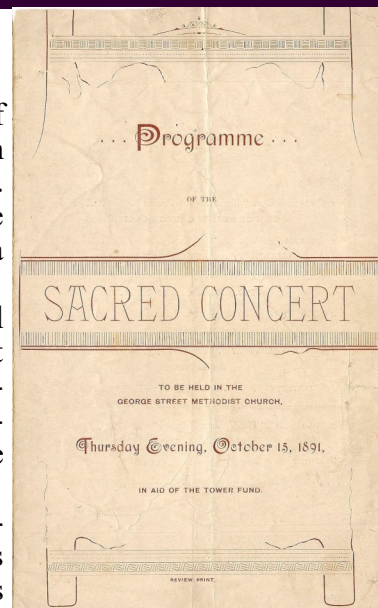
This is likely the reason that in 1891 Arlidge accepted the appointment as organist and choirmaster at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Peterborough, beyond the jurisdiction of the Toronto Musician's Union. As during his time in Toronto, Arlidge engaged in multiple musical activities beyond his church appointment. In June 1891, he formed the Peterborough Philharmonic Society with himself as conductor. Among its performances, in February 1892 in the Bradburn Opera House, was *The Sacred Oratorio of Emmanuel* by John Eliot Trowbridge, involving sixteen soloists, thirty-nine chorus voices (all local singers) and thirteen instrumentalists. Some of the latter were engaged from Toronto, among whom the violinist Frank Welsman whose ensemble later became the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Arlidge founded the Peterborough Academy of Music at his home address of 14 Murray Street, offering instruction "in all branches of music." Arlidge was Director and two other teachers from Toronto were also listed. He advertised that he would be in Lindsay every Thursday to receive pupils.

Probably because his work in Peterborough was insufficiently lucrative, Arlidge returned to Toronto in December 1892. There, he continued his church work but his public performances were rare. These latter were mostly outside the city, or performed for private societies. After 1902, until his death in 1913, Arlidge can no longer be found performing or teaching outside his church appointments.

We are most grateful to Bob Arlidge for illuminating this important portrait of a musician and the world of music in Peterborough and Ontario. Anyone interested in Bob's book, *Mr. J. Churchill Arlidge: 19th Century Flute Virtuoso*, should contact the PHS: info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca.

The 20-minute illustrated video of this **PHS Talk** may be viewed on the Hutchison House YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUgqZykw60M>

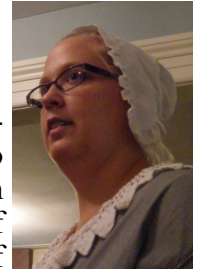


MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

The leaves are turning colour, nights are getting chilly and we'll soon be putting our gardens to bed for another year. These are also reminders that it is time to renew our Peterborough Historical Society memberships for 2021. It has been a disrupted year in most respects for everyone, including the PHS. Although the pandemic has forced the postponement of regular events and programming, volunteers have been developing some virtual alternatives to keep us engaged with our heritage. The Board of Directors has continued to work on the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Erin Panepinto, summer student staff and volunteers at Hutchison House have produced a modified schedule of engaging programs, virtual and on-site, that comply with the requirements of public health in face of COVID-19. We will be presenting annual heritage awards, producing the monthly *Bulletin* and publishing an Occasional Paper in 2021. We look forward to your participation and support in our ongoing engagement with our past. A membership renewal form is enclosed..

Hutchison House Report

Erin Panepinto



“... The autumn foliage is fast covering the earth with a thick carpet of variegated leaves, returning to her bosom that which was derived from her, to be again resumed in due season, to form fresh leaves and buds, and woody fibre. How much wisdom may be imparted to us even by the fall and decay of the leaves of the trees; and to man alone has been given the privilege of looking upon these things with the eye of faith and reason, that by the small and weak things of earth, his could may be lifted up to Heaven, to adore God the creator in all his works.” (*The Female Emigrant's Guide*, Catharine Parr Traill)

Fall has arrived at Hutchison House Museum. As the summer season comes to a close, staff and volunteers are looking ahead to our fall events and examining ways in which to hold them in a safe manner.

The Heritage Lunches will resume on Wednesday, 7 October, with the usual seating at 12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Seating will be limited.

Having not been able to hold our usual spring dessert events, we decided to host a Harvest Tea and Dessert on Thursday, 22 October. At a cost of \$5.00, you can have coffee, tea or water and apple buckle with whip-cream. Sittings are scheduled for 12 noon, 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Tours of the Museum will not be offered for this event.

Our Halloween event will look a little different this year, as well. Timed spooky tours will be available on Friday, 30 October, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday, 31 October, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Children can dress up and enjoy a tour of the decorated Museum; they will receive a craft and a treat to go. Family units (maximum of 6 people) will have 25 minutes per time slot to tour the Museum. Every hour, staff and volunteers will clean all high touch surfaces and washrooms. Admission is \$5.00 per person with free admission for children under 5 years of age.

Everyone is required to wear a mask while inside Hutchison House Museum. If you are attending an event with food, you will be required to wear a mask at all times except when seated and eating. All events at the Museum require advance payment and registration. Please contact the Museum office for more information or to make a reservation.

Our Christmas Market will also look a little different this year. In addition to advance orders of Empire Cheese, the Museum also will be taking pre-orders for Day Camp Kits and for several of its baked goods including Scottish Tea in a Bag, Greenery, Meat Pies, Shortbread, Gingerbread, Sugar Cookies, Rhubarb Ginger Jam and Elderberry Jelly. Our Christmas Market will be held on Saturday, 28 November, and Sunday, 29 November, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be a number of other baked goods available at the sale as well. In conjunction with the Christmas Market, Hutchison House Museum volunteers will be holding a Snowflake tea and dessert on the same days from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. More details on the Christmas Market to come as planning for the event evolves.

All Hutchison House events are subject to change or to cancellation with the ever changing COVID-19 regulations. If events are cancelled, full refunds will be provided.



Left to right: Halsea, Rachel and Hailley flipping the kiddermiester carpet in the parlour. This task is done once a year in order to expose the carpet to equal amounts of light on both sides.

Hutchison House in pictures



Hailey Lansley, Halsea Root, Rachel Baker getting ready to film “Flirting with Victorians”. See the videos on Hutchison House Facebook



Halsea making jam



Peterborough Community Medicinal Gardeners processing herbs from Hutchison House herb garden





**PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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The Grand Opera House and the Turner Building

The intriguing photograph of the northeast corner of George and King streets shows the Turner Building and, next door, the Grand Opera House – both as relatively young structures. The same photograph also appears in a 1914 promotional booklet, *“The Electric City” – Peterborough, Views of City and District, with Information from Official Sources, 1914.*

I’m wondering if the fire brigade was simply out there that day posing for a photograph or showing off a new ladder; they look relaxed. The fire brigade was still using horses; Peterborough had only a few automobiles on its dirt roads at that time (in 1914, 200 cars were registered). The firemen might have been demonstrating that they had a ladder that went high enough to protect a five-storey building, perhaps the tallest downtown.

The J.J. Turner Company, “Manufacturers,” a local fixture established in town in 1885 (before that they had been in Port Hope), announced on their building’s front wall that they were not just in “Peterboro” but also in Regina, Saskatchewan – and explicitly declared to the local world the products made in that building. “Girls Wanted” said a small sign directly above “Horse Blankets.”

At this time, the Turner family also owned and operated the Grand Opera House, which opened in autumn 1905.

The family had started with an awnings and sail factory in Port Hope in the 1870s and in 1885 established a second factory in Peterborough. They moved into the building at the corner of George and King around 1903. The property at one time had been the site of an old blacksmith shop.

The partially seen theatre display signs indicate that this photograph was taken 14 October 1912, when the famed and long-time actress May Robson (born 1858) was appearing in the play *A Night Out*. Robson had a long career on the stage, appearing in Peterborough more than once. She also spent many years in movies, from 1915 until close to her death in 1942. She was, for instance, Aunt Polly in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Aunt Elizabeth in *Bringing Up Baby* (both 1938) and grandmother Lettie Blodgett in *A Star Is Born* (1937).

The Grand Opera House was demolished in 1942 and a few years later, in 1948, the Paramount Theatre rose in its place. The Paramount building is now the site of the Venue.

Robert Ganton Clarke, <https://www.peterboroughmoviehistory.com/>.



Grand Opera House & Turner Building Photo Credit: Balsillie Collection of Roy Studio Images
Peterborough Museum and Archives,
2000-012-001031-1

For more information on the Grand Opera House, see: <https://www.peterboroughmoviehistory.com/the-theatres/the-grand-opera-house-1905-37-part-1-the-rise>.