



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Peterborough Historical  
Society**

**Monthly Meeting**  
To be temporarily  
replaced by PHS Talks

#### Hutchison House Events

**Heritage Lunches**  
Wednesday, 4 November  
Wednesday, 2 December  
Reservations and advance  
payment are required.

**Snowflake Tea and Dessert**  
Saturday, 28 November  
and Sunday, 29 November  
at 1:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m.  
Reservations and advance  
payment are required.

**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.**

### “PERSONAL REMEMBRANCES OF REMEMBRANCE DAYS PAST”

#### David Rumball

Remembrance Day since the Second World War has not always been observed with the attention and respect that is witnessed in recent years. David Rumball retired as Captain in the Canadian Armed Forces in 2000 after serving eighteen years. Having grown up in a small military town in Ontario, he has observed an ebbing and resurgence of Canadians' pride in their veterans. Following his military career he worked for the Peterborough Regional Health Centre and has served in several community volunteer capacities for which he has received numerous honours and awards.



Peterborough War Memorial by Walter Allward,  
Confederation Park

**To be posted on YouTube, 11 November, 2020:**

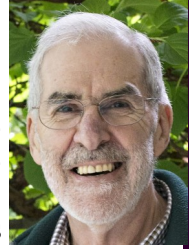
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvUNC56VBwk9xVqN\\_Lqnyg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvUNC56VBwk9xVqN_Lqnyg)

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



While the COVID-19 pandemic has demanded our attention for half a year, matters of history and heritage in the community have not disappeared. The fate of historical buildings and locations in face of development and city planning is a recurring topic of public discussion.

Back in December 2019, when SARS-CoV-2 first may have made the jump from animals to humans, City Council moved to place a heritage designation on the former United Canadian Malt building on south Park Street at Landsdowne. This was too late, as it turned out, because the developer-owners already possessed a legal demolition permit. The only Art Deco style manufacturing building in Peterborough, built in 1931, succumbed to the wrecker's ball.

More recently, the County received and is considering an unsolicited offer to purchase the old Court House and Victoria Park. Although both the City and County agree that the original building should be designated, the fate of later additions, the other building on the property, Victoria Park and the remains of the old goal that are preserved as an interpretive site, is apparently uncertain. The PHS awarded the Martha Kidd Award to the County for preserving the ruins of the old goal and creating a heritage park in 2016.

In the week that I am writing this report, the *Examiner* published a letter to the editor from a citizen expressing concern that Inverlea Park was one of three sites being considered for the new fire hall to serve the north end. This, according to the writer, is despite a report approved by Council earlier this year that noted insufficient green space and parks in the City's centre. Also, Inverlea is a site of historical significance. The residence of a former county judge, Robert Dennistoun, Inverlea was the home of the City's first museum, the Victoria Museum, operated by the Peterborough Historical Society. The park property was acquired by the Nicholls Park Trust and opened in 1894. The PHS erected a plaque to commemorate the site's historical importance.

These concerns of heritage preservation remind us how a community's history is unavoidably involved in its development. Not everything, built or open space, can or should be preserved but much can and must be for a range of reasons that include environmental efficiency, cost, history and aesthetics. Our visual and experienced spaces remind us where we've come from and who we are as a community, and can help us understand where we may be headed, or where we may want to go. Buildings and parks and neighborhoods are not only monuments to what has been accomplished but lessons in what is valuable for a successful community.

Choice is necessary and good choices require informed debate. Citizens need to inform Councillors what matters to them. A committed dialogue between heritage advocates and developers for mutual understanding of goals and possibilities is most likely to achieve positive outcomes. In Peterborough, we are fortunate to have heritage professionals within the City's Community Services division to provide informed advice and guidance to Council and to the community. There is an encouraging awareness of the importance of history and heritage for cultural health and growth.

As COVID-19 demands so much of our attention, the appearance of heritage issues in our public discourse is a reassuring sign of our community's vitality.

## PHS High School History Awards

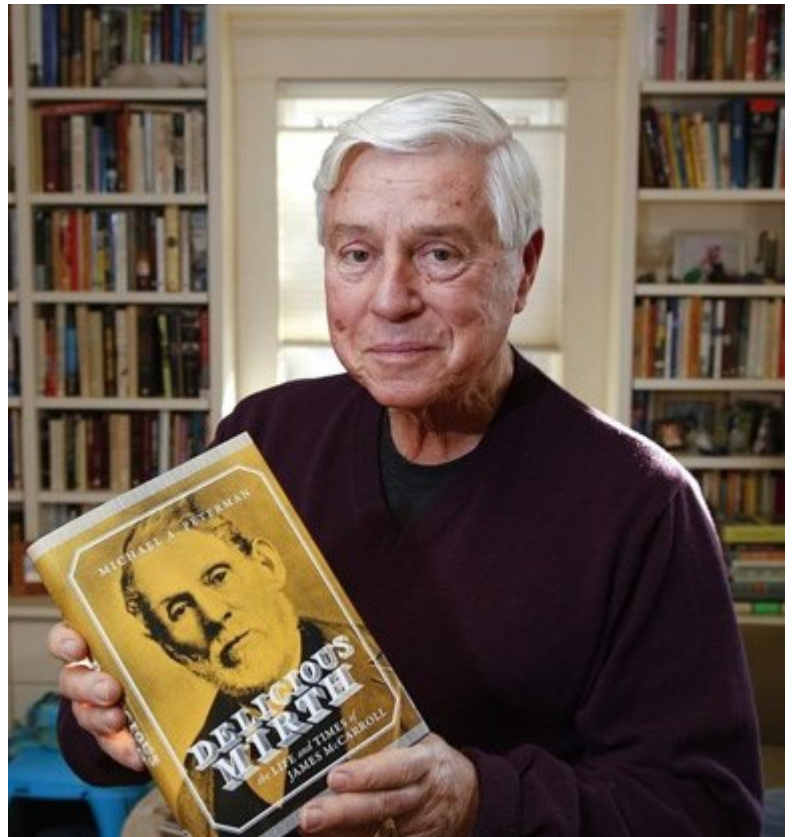
Congratulations to the 2020 High School Award winners for excellence in History! Despite the disruptions that COVID-19 caused to the schools and students this year, we are pleased to announce six winners for their outstanding achievements in history:

Lauren Stoyles, Adam Scott Collegiate Vocational Institute  
Katelynn Jordan, Crestwood Secondary School  
Yifei Zhou, Kenner Collegiate Vocational Institute  
Paige Piche, St. Peter Catholic Secondary School  
Lily Ross, Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School  
Nicholas Pedersen, Norwood District High School

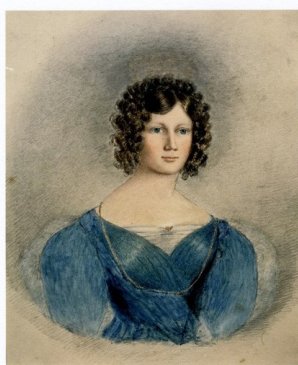
PHS wishes them continued success in their future endeavours.

## “The Cradle of Canadian Literature’: Early Literary Writing in Lakefield and Peterborough”

Professor Emeritus Dr. Michael Peterman presented the second in the fall series of online talks by the Peterborough Historical Society. The leading expert on the literary output of the Strickland family, Peterman has crafted an informative and thought-provoking presentation that examines the literary careers of the three Stricklands - Catharine, Susanna and brother Sam. Peterman argues convincingly that these genteel-bred English settlers in the “Backwoods” of the Peterborough region not only created an international audience for their writings about the “settler experience” in the Kawarthas but also nurtured and inspired a later generation of writers with deep and abiding connections to Peterborough. Peterman highlights two such figures, James McCarroll, writer, newspaper editor and musician, who began his writings while a young man living in Peterborough, and Isabella Valancy Crawford, a leading female writer of poetry. Both individuals had direct links to Peterborough and to the Stricklands, though their careers were made elsewhere. The extensive literary output of the Stricklands was filtered through their own personal encounters with the pioneer environment and their very different personalities. Peterman makes a strong case that the creative and challenging environment of the Peterborough region – indeed, the broader Kawartha Lakes region – surely is deserving of the title, Cradle of Canadian Literature.



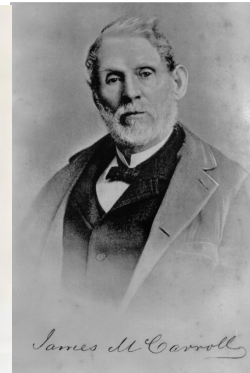
Catharine Parr Traill



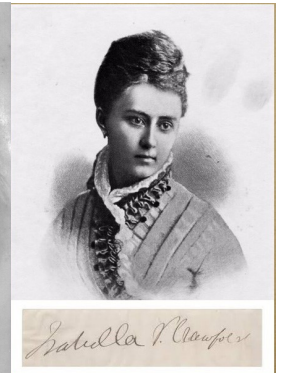
Susanna Moodie



Samuel Strickland



James McCarroll

Isabella Valancy  
Crawford

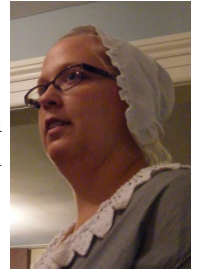


## Hutchison House Report

Erin Panepinto

“In November, the smell of food is different. It is an orange smell. A squash and pumpkin smell. It tastes like cinnamon and can fill up a house in the morning, can pull everyone from bed in a fog. Food is better in November than any other time of the year.”

Cynthia Rylant, *American children's author and librarian*



In an era of such uncertainty, one thing can be counted on this time of year and that is the sounds, smells and colours of the autumn season. Normally in November, our Halloween event is behind us and we are looking ahead to the increase in school programming, our Christmas Market at the end of the month, a variety of Christmas programming in December, and a Hogmanay event that rings in the New Year. This will not be the case for 2020. As with other organizations, fall programming at Hutchison House will look a little different. While the leaves here have changed and the smell of cinnamon may be in the air (mostly from my hot chocolate at my desk), our fall events will be a little different.

The luncheons will continue as long as Peterborough does not revert to Stage 2. We have kept in touch with our health inspector representative throughout the pandemic to ensure that we are doing all we can to keep our visitors safe.

Due to COVID-19, the annual Christmas Market will look a little different. In addition to the Empire Cheese orders, we will be offering some of our most popular items for pre-ordering as well. While there will be some limited shopping available the day of, there will be a maximum of four visitors in the sale room at one time. Be sure to order ahead to ensure that you get the items you hope for. There will be NO Attic Treasures or Christmas items available this year. For books in the Bookshop, please see our website or call the museum office for availability. The deadline for all advance orders is Friday, 13 November 2020.

In addition to the Christmas Market, Hutchison House volunteers will host a Snowflake Tea and Dessert on Saturday 28 November and Sunday 29 November, with sittings at 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Enjoy a delicious dessert by the fire in the Keeping Room for \$10 per person. There is limited seating and pre-registration and payment is required. Items for sale at the Christmas Market will be available during the Tea. For more information or to reserve your seat, please contact the museum office at 705-743-9710.

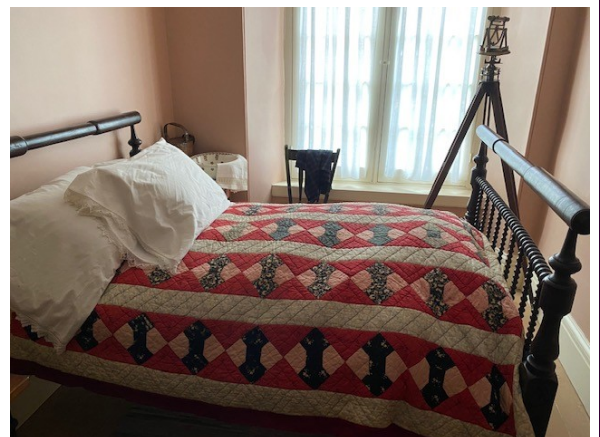
As with all of the museum's programming, in-person events are subject to cancellation based on whatever restrictions are in place at the time. If the museum has to close to the public again, anything that was pre-ordered for the Christmas Market will be available for curbside pick-up. If you have questions about safety protocols in place at Hutchison House, please feel free to contact the museum office.



Halsea serving at the October luncheon



Halsea and Bob changing the textiles



## Elizabeth Galvin (23 December 1926 - 1 March 2020)

Members of the Peterborough Historical Society have been saddened by the passing of Elizabeth (Bette) Galvin in her 97<sup>th</sup> year. A longtime supporter of Hutchison House and the PHS, she was a poet at heart and published poems in *The Canadian Forum* before putting together her own book of poems, *The Shuttered Door*, in 1973. As a historian, she skillfully edited books by her husband Clare, including *The Holy Land: A History of the Township of Ennismore*. But poetry was her métier and she wrote an important book celebrating the poetic output of local author Isabella Valancy Crawford. Entitled *Isabella Valancy Crawford: We Scarcely Knew Her* (1994), the study looks closely at the known events of Crawford's short life and attends closely to many of her remarkable poems.

**Michael Peterman**

## Norman J. Savage (26 January 1930 - 8 October 2020)

In a year with so many other losses, Hutchison House Museum staff and volunteers had to say goodbye to beloved volunteer and supporter Norm Savage. For over 25 years, Norm wore a variety of hats around Hutchison House including interpreter, board member and trustee and helped with a number of school programs and events. Even when he wasn't able to volunteer, Norm was still a great supporter of the museum. Norm was the first person to give me a tour of Hutchison House. It was my very first day of work and someone had dropped in for a tour at the same time that Norm was visiting. It was easy to see his enthusiasm for history and his love of the museum. I have always joked that Norm taught me everything I've already forgotten about Lord Nelson; his picture hangs in the doctor's office. Norm led an interesting life and always had the greatest stories to tell when he dropped by the office for a visit. We will miss you, Norm, and whenever I see Lord Nelson, listen to Dicken's 'A Christmas Carol' or try for the millionth time to figure out the conversion of British pounds to Canadian dollars, I'll think of you.

**Erin Panepinto**



Norm receiving volunteer award with Don, Terin, Emma, Loretta, Calsey and Marilyn



Norm with Ann



Norm leading a school tour



Norm with Marilyn at Hogmanay





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Balsillie Collection of  
Roy Studio Images  
Peterborough Museum  
and Archives, 1978-012-  
40A-44.

### **Buffalo Bill Comes to the Crystal Theatre, December 1910**

The photograph of the Crystal Theatre on George Street (just above Hunter) must have been taken on Saturday, 10 December 1910. It was a frosty day, with the lowest temperature of the winter so far and a big snow storm on the way. Winter that year had begun 28 October, followed by five months of snow and cold temperatures that would last until at least 31 March.

You can see the breath of the small horse and the warmly bundled news-boys and others gathered for the occasion on the street. A man sits on a cutter with a large white horse attached in front. Another man on a small horse and three young girls are in costume. This scene was all about the arrival of the famous Buffalo Bill – on film, at least, and in the form of an impersonator.

Buffalo Bill was both a living man and a legend, and he did come to Peterborough more than once, in one way or another. In addition to many appearances in fictionalized film form, he came at least twice to Peterborough with his famous wild west show, in 1880 and 1897. On this particular day, the film being shown at the Crystal was *Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Pawnee Bill's Far East* (released September 1910 and produced by William F. Cody himself).

The photograph shows a promotional event organized by the Crystal's manager, Wesley A. Edwards. One of the young girls seems to be dressed in Indigenous costume and another might be "Annie Oakley." The man on the small horse is playing Buffalo Bill.

All did not go completely well that day. Edwards hired a man named Alfred Rickaby to dress up as Buffalo Bill and ride around the streets to advertise the film. Rickaby came to the theatre at 10:00 a.m. and got annoyed when his "charger" had not yet arrived. He later said that he waited around in the cold for his money (\$1.50 to \$2.00) from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. but did not get paid.

Later on, as the accounts put it, Rickaby was "rather the worse for liquor" – having "toyed with the amber fluid." He went into the theatre and created a nuisance. When Edwards asked him to leave, Rickaby refused and was forcibly "put out." Rickaby charged Edwards with assault, but in court on Monday, after hearing from several witnesses (including the colourful Rickaby), the judge dismissed the case.

The show itself was a success. "The Buffalo Bill attraction at the Crystal," the *Review* noted, "is proving quite a novelty and is drawing large crowds."

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