



WINTER/SPRING SPEAKER SCHEDULE FOR 2021

NOTE: 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 Museum 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.**

PHS TALKS

January: **Robert Ganton Clarke**, "'Packed to the Doors': The Electric City Goes to the Movies"

February: **Erin Panepinto**, "'These are a Few of My Favourite Things': An inside Look at Select Artifacts from the Hutchison House Collection"

March: **Dennis Carter-Edwards**, "The Peterborough County House of Refuge: Caring for the Elderly Poor 1907-1921"

April AGM: Speaker and Topic to be determined

May: **Ken Brown**, "The Many Working Lives of Robert Romaine"

ANOTHER MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!

If you have renewed your PHS membership for 2021, THANK YOU! If not, a membership renewal form is attached/enclosed. Memberships are essential to support the informative monthly *Bulletin*, the speaker series, the publication of an annual historical booklet, heritage awards, Hutchison House Museum and other initiatives that preserve and celebrate the region's history.

DONATIONS FOR 2020

A reminder: in order to receive an income tax deduction for donations in 2020, the donations must be received by the Society before 31 December 2020. The Society and Hutchison House Museum, like all heritage organizations, depend upon donations to meet operating expenses in providing all their programs and events. This is especially the case in this difficult year. Thank you for your generous support!

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough Historical
Society

Monthly Meeting
To be temporarily
replaced by PHS Talks

Hutchison House Events

Heritage Lunches
Wednesday, 7 February
2021

Reservations and advance
payment are required.

Victorian Christmas
Saturday, 12 December
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

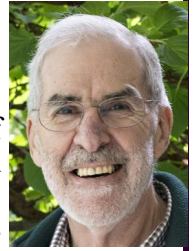
Reservations and advance
payment are required.

Hogmanay meal-to-go
pre-order by
Friday, 18 December
Meals available
for curbside pickup
Thursday, 31 December
between
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 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.

From the President ...

Dale Standen



Should there be height restrictions on city buildings? In historic districts, should facades of new buildings be visually compatible with the old? These questions vex residents, planners and municipal politicians everywhere, including Peterborough.

In face of objections from nearby residents, a developer, Peterborough Homes, recently removed a proposed six-storey condo building from its residential plan for property on Armour Road. Too “overwhelming” for the neighborhood was the complaint.

Downtown, Council just gave preliminary approval for a five-storey apartment building on George Street where the historical streetscape is normally three, and only occasionally four, storeys. The Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (PACAC) is reported to have judged the proposal “too tall,” with an “irregular face” that is “proportioned to be generally ‘out of context’ with the heritage downtown.”

Not to suggest too close a comparison, Peterborough shares the debate over building height and appearance with such storied cities as Paris and Quebec City. NIMBYism often plays a part but in historical city cores, green, bright and open space to accommodate healthy neighborhoods for dense urban populations, and the preservation of built heritage sectors, are major considerations behind restrictions on height and architectural design.

Paris, like European cities generally, has eschewed tower buildings until recently. When the construction of skyscrapers became possible in the twentieth century, Paris slapped height and architectural restrictions on buildings within the historic walled city. The iconic Eiffel Tower, which is not a building, remains the tallest structure in Europe at 324 metres. In recent decades, office towers were permitted in the financial district of la Defence, far removed in the suburbs. A decade ago, however, the ramparts were breached when a boxy tower was allowed in Montparnasse, provoking great controversy.

Quebec City has a similar heritage history, which I noted in my report on a Quebec trip in the *Bulletin* of September 2019. The old town, within the 18th century fortifications, retained its largely 18th and 19th century visage until 1924 when the CPR built the fantasy-inspired tower of the Chateau Frontenac hotel. This was followed by the 82 metre Price Building, an Art Deco skyscraper built by the Price Brothers Limited forest product company, completed in 1930 in the heart of the historic town on rue Ste-Anne. Two historic buildings were destroyed to make way for it. Despite a growing heritage preservationist movement, the city’s planning and conservation commission failed to stop the project. The controversy led to legislation in 1937 that limited the height of buildings to 20 metres in the old town. Today, the protected heritage of the old town makes Quebec City one of the prime tourist destinations in North America.



The preservation of heritage buildings, height restrictions, and regulations for compatible design of new buildings, have maintained a human scale and aesthetic in Paris and Quebec City, which urban dwellers and visitors find attractive.

The character and scale of urban heritage in small cities matter just as much.

Édifce Price et Jardin des Ursulines,
Québec (03Q,E6,S7,SS1,P76835)
Bibliothèque et Archives nationales
du Québec

“PERSONAL REMEMBRANCES OF REMEMBRANCE DAYS PAST”

Retired Captain David Rumball presented the November 2020 PHS Talk offering his “Personal Remembrances of Remembrance Days Past.” Growing up in Cobourg, he recalled seeing Veterans parading at the annual Remembrance Day service and enjoyed talking to them. In the latter part of the twentieth century, there appeared to be more Veterans than general public at the Remembrance Day services but after 9/11 and the dispatch of Canadian troops to Afghanistan there was a marked change. The motorcade that carried the remains of Canadian soldiers killed in action along the Highway of Heroes brought the reality of war and the ultimate sacrifice that so many have made over the course of the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War home to all Canadians. Captain Rumball spoke of the national Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as a focal point for Remembrance each November. In our own community, the Citizens’ War Memorial and the Peterborough Armouries provide both a symbolic and a tangible reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by so many to protect our freedoms: freedom of education as represented by PCVS, freedom of religion as represented by the adjacent Murray Street Baptist Church and City Hall embodying our democratic freedom to elect governments of our choosing. Captain Rumball is the Secretary of a Special Committee set up to collect, preserve and present artefacts and memorabilia related to Peterborough’s military history in a dedicated Military Museum. Anyone interested in donating can contact Captain Rumball at daver@nexicom.net or leave a voicemail message at 705.748.5932 and he will return your call.

The PHS Talk by David Rumball is located at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvUNc56VBwk9xVqN_Lqnyg.

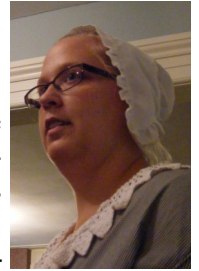
Dennis Carter-Edwards



Peterborough War Memorial by Walter Allward, Confederation Park

Hutchison House Report

Erin Panepinto



Wow! I blinked and the next thing I knew we were getting ready to deck the halls here at the museum as the festive season is fast approaching (or, if you are like me and took advantage of the warm November weather to put up the outdoor decorations, the festive season is already here!).

Hutchison House Museum has one event coming up in December (COVID-19 permitting) and that will be our annual Victorian Christmas event on Saturday, 12 December, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Come and enjoy a tour of the museum, as it is now decorated for the holiday season, and learn how the Hutchison family would have celebrated this time of year. There will be timed entry with a maximum of six people (of the same household) per time slot. Children can take home a goody bag with gingerbread men and the material to make a holiday craft. Admission is \$5 per person; children under five are free. Registration and advance payment is required. For more information or to reserve your time slot, please contact the museum office.

You are required to wear a mask at all times when touring the museum. Museum staff will be sanitizing all high-touch surfaces between visitors. Note that Hutchison House Museum events are subject to change or cancellation with the ever-evolving COVID-19 regulations. If the museum has to cancel an event, full refunds will be awarded.

One of the biggest changes to the Hutchison House Museum event lineup is our popular annual Hogmanay event. Unfortunately, no amount of adjusting this event could make it viable to run in 2021 with the current pandemic and social distancing requirements. However, while we're unable to celebrate Hogmanay together at the museum, we would like to bring it to you. All day long on 1 January, Hutchison House Museum will be flooding our social media accounts with Hogmanay content including history of the holiday and images from past events. If you have videos or images from past Hutchison House Museum Hogmanay events that you would like to share through our social media platforms, please contact the museum office at info@hutchisonhouse.ca. In addition to our social media posts, museum volunteers will be creating Hogmanay meal-to-go with much of the food that we would normally serve on 1 January. Please pre-order your meals by 18 December. Meals will be available for curbside pickup between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on 31 December. Meals are \$20 and will include the following: Scotch egg, tatties and neeps, oatcakes, cheese, a sample of potted salmon, shortbread and clootie dumpling. For an extra \$5 we will also provide a piece of Haggis.

The museum will be closed for the holidays from Saturday, 19 December to Monday, 28 December.

Staff and volunteers at the museum wish you and your family a safe, happy and different holiday season.





Hallowe'en at Hutchison House





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HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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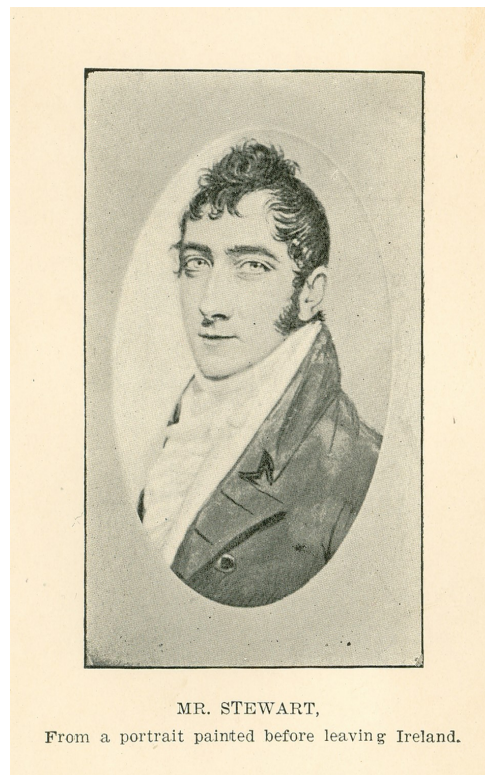
Voices from Peterborough's Past "Too cold for pleasure"

December is upon us and with it our attention turns to travel, although this year, with the pandemic and all, many of us may not venture out too far from home. A reflection on past lives, on those of our forbearers, perhaps offers some levity to our worries as we lament the difficulties of the current year and strive to move beyond them. Almost two centuries ago, the worries around travel were of another type as Thomas Stewart found out in a harrowing winter experience in 1824:

"... I believe when I last wrote in December, Tom was just going to Cobourg by the new road. He found it rather a tedious journey as his sleigh was drawn by oxen & the new road was so bad that he was all the first day going 9 miles... Tom reached Cobourg quite safely & crossed Rice Lake ... where he was to wait till his own sleigh came up... he waited & walked about on the lakeshore for a long time & then he thought he would go back part of the way across the lake & listen if they were coming. When he had proceeded some way from the shore one of those sudden snow showers came on.... Poor Tom could not see land on any side nor could he hear any sound to direct him which way to steer his course. He was surrounded by an atmosphere of snow & the wind was most intensely cold. He tied down the ears of his cap & buttoned his coat tight round him, & tried to gain an island which he knew was near. At last he became uneasy for he did not know where he was, or how to find his way back & he was growing too cold for pleasure. In this very uncomfortable situation he was considering what to do, when he thought he heard someone call out. He lifted up his cap & distinctly heard a call which he answered & very soon a man came up to him & told him that Major Anderson (who lives on this side of the lake) begged he would come to his house, as he would certainly perish if he staid out. He very kindly sent his sleigh out for Tom & brought him safely to terra firma... Tom soon saw his own equipage arrive... & came home safe & sound next day, heartily tired of his oxen sleigh & of the new road... there are many trees lying across the road uncut... & every sleigh has to jolt over them... the best of our "bush" roads scarce deserves the name for they are but paths..."

From a letter by Frances Stewart (Douro, Ontario) to Harriet Beaufort (Ireland), 27 January 1824

Frances Stewart fonds, 74-1005. Trent University Archives.



MR. STEWART,
From a portrait painted before leaving Ireland.

"Mr. Stewart, from a portrait painted before leaving Ireland" [pre-1822]

Our Forest Home: Being from the Correspondence of the Late Frances Stewart / ed. E.S. Dunlop, 1902