



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.

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

NOTE: Due to COVID-19, the PHS monthly meetings and lectures this year are 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.**

**“PACKED TO THE DOORS:
THE ELECTRIC CITY GOES TO THE MOVIES”**

Robert Ganton Clarke

Locally educated and a graduate of Queen's University, Robert Clarke is a movie historian with a special interest in the social context of movie going and the many buildings that created a magical atmosphere in which to experience movies. His talk will focus on early movie going and Peterborough's theatres. Robert's extensive research on this topic can be found on the website, "A Peterborough Movie-Going History," <https://www.peterboroughmoviehistory.com>.



To be posted on YouTube, 19 January 2021:

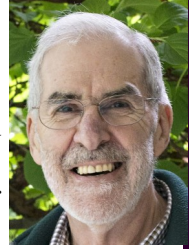
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvUNc56VBwk9xVqN_Lqnyg

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



Last January in this space, I looked ahead to all the plans, events and programs scheduled by the PHS and Hutchison House Museum for 2020. High on the list was the beginning of the implementation of the new Strategic Plan that pointed the direction for PHS and HHM to follow over the next five years with the goal of engaging our changing community. One of the early objectives is the creation of a new, more interactive website that will expand our capacity to communicate with our members and the public.

Then COVID-19 entered our lives forcing closures, cancellations, delays, postponements and nimble adjustments, recalling Robert Burns' dictum that "The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men Gang aft agley." Forced to close everything, we faced a future with Burns' foreboding, "An' forward tho' I canna see, I guess an' fear!"

We guessed and feared that our loss of revenue would create a deficit for 2020, and we cut costs wherever possible, including important maintenance work, and by adjusting staffing costs following Gale Fewings' retirement as Curator at the end of June.

Happily, we had no need to fear the worst. The quick assurances of committed funding from the city and province, and the announcement of the emergency federal wage subsidy program, allowed us to maintain HHM staff at least to July. This allowed successful development of digital, virtual and hybrid versions of regular programming and events during the period of pandemic restrictions. Summer student employees helped further the transition for HHM, and the PHS switched its monthly speaker series to a recorded virtual format posted on the HHM YouTube channel.

We have avoided the feared deficit this year with the assistance of the extended federal wage subsidy program, better-than-expected revenues from modified summer events at HHM, and generous donations from you, our loyal members. As a result, in 2021 we expect to resume the deferred maintenance projects and restore some needed staffing at HHM.

I am very pleased to announce that Erin Panepinto, who occupied the position of Acting Curator until 31 December 2020, has accepted the position of Manager/Curator for one year until 31 December 2021. Erin successfully guided the transition of HHM programs to virtual and hybrid formats and since July has ensured the safe, limited reopening of the museum under pandemic restrictions. This is a remarkable feat, accomplished in difficult circumstances. The Museum is fortunate indeed to have Erin at the helm to face the ongoing challenges that still lie ahead in 2021. The Board of Directors looks forward to working with her in this task.

Uncertainties for 2021 remain. The pandemic is far from over and the consensus in the museum world is that a restoration of extensive on-site programming is unlikely until 2022 at earliest. Operating revenues will remain depressed and government emergency subsidies will end. In the meantime the PHS and HHM must achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan for sustainability and a vital engagement with the wider Peterborough community.

Finally, and most importantly, none of what has been achieved in 2020, and none of what must be achieved in 2021 and future years, could have happened or will happen without the loyal and committed work of our volunteers. Despite the pandemic's risks, HHM volunteers have stepped up to support Erin in providing safe ways to deliver programs for the public. Valuable community heritage institutions like HHM cannot exist without devoted volunteers. They are the quiet heroes of the cause. As soon as the pandemic is safely subdued, together we will honour them as they deserve. We and our community cannot thank them enough.

Best wishes to stay safe in 2021.



1995 Hogmanay—Iain Steele, Kathy Hooke, David Bate

Hutchison House Report

Erin Panepinto



Goodbye 2020 and Hello 2021! I would like to start the New Year by expressing a heartfelt THANK YOU to all our amazing volunteers who helped keep the museum afloat and rolled with all the changes resulting from COVID-19 restrictions. We ended the year on a positive note, all because of everyone's hard work that enabled us to open the museum to the public despite the curveball that was 2020.

Normally, we would start the new year with our annual Hogmanay event. Although we were not able to hold the event in person this year, we reached out to volunteers and asked them to share some of their favorite memories from Hogmanay's past. Full stories and images can be found on our website and social media channels. We've provided just a few of the stories below:

"While I will admit to loving the taste of clootie dumpling I will confess I hated making it. I used to call it "the curse of the clootie". You see, clootie dumpling is a boiled pudding made the traditional way by mixing all the ingredients together, while boiling cloth in water prior to covering same with flour then plopping the dough in the centre of the cloth. Once you have done this you pull up the edges and secure them with string leaving some room for expansion while you make sure that no water will seep in during the 3½ hours that it takes to boil the thing on the stove. The fun really starts when it's time to remove the clootie from the still boiling water, being careful to work as quickly as possible to cut the string and turn the steaming dumpling out on a pan before the dough sticks to the cloth. Mind you, the flour used to coat the cloth is now burning hot and sticky. If you do not work fast enough the outer surface of the clootie will tear and stick to the cloth (you definitely do not want that). Now that you have burned your fingers... you have something on the pan that, to me, closely resembles grey brain matter. The pan is then placed in the oven to bake until a lovely brown skin forms on the outside. By the end of it all one can be very proud of one's accomplishment; however, I don't think any of our visitors ever really appreciated the sacrifice..." - Gale Fewings

"I always looked forward to Hogmanay and looking after the entrance. It was a cold spot sometimes but always fun with my long time partner Norm Savage. I took the money and Norm kept track of the tickets. Together I think we were very fair in determining who was a child, an adult and a family. We were a great team and I will miss him every year. We had regular visitors who also looked forward to seeing us at the door. Norm had many friends drop by. I also met several people from other groups I belonged to. All always had a kind word or joke to share. One year when a plea went out to the community because we had lost some major funding they came in droves - the Keeping Room was full, the stairs down to it was full, they were lined up in the hall to the front door and the lineup was growing outside. One year a past co-worker of mine arrived with a group of 4. They were dressed in their New Year's finery - gowns and suits. They had started celebrating New Year's the night before and were still going at 1:00 pm New Year's day... My most favourite part was the bagpipes and drums. Being on the second floor you not only heard the music but felt the music because the floor vibrated. Norm did not like the bagpipes. But one year he and an employee from that year found space at the front door and danced to the pipers." - Marilyn MacNaughton

"... the *Examiner* ran an interview/article and photo on "the new Curator at Hutchison House" in that low news period between Christmas and New Year's, giving it a full 1/4 page. Well, to put it very mildly, this was advertising you cannot buy and everyone came. Over 400 people showed up that day, well beyond the capacity of the House to accommodate. Opening at 1:00 pm we ran out of food by 1:30; you literally could not move across the Keeping Room to the kitchen, bookshop and Harvey Connal Room. We ran out of Scotch and whipping cream to make the Atholl Brose by 1:45 pm and were sending Board Members home to raid their liquor cabinets (which they graciously did) and sending volunteers running to the convenience stores for cream, and on it went, close to chaos. The volunteer guides in the upstairs rooms were all talked out... I can recall thinking "Is this what Hogmanay is like every year?" Mercifully, that has not been the case. That one pushed us all well beyond enjoying a good crowd and into the territory of great concern and moments of near panic." - Stephanie Ford Forrester



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Hogmanay in the Past



1997
Hogmanay
first footer



2003 Hogmanay
address to the haggis



2009 Hogmanay
Scottish dancers



2006 Hogmanay
Pipe Band