



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Peterborough Historical
Society**

Monthly Meeting
To be temporarily
replaced by PHS Talks

Hutchison House Events

**All on-site events
are temporarily cancelled
due to 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.**

**“THESE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS:
ARTIFACTS OF HUTCHISON HOUSE MUSEUM”**

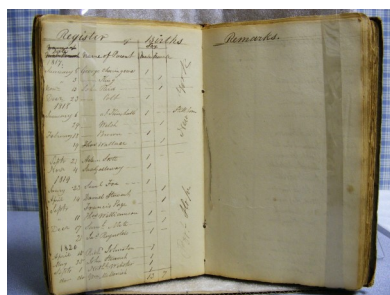
Erin Panepinto

Erin Panepinto, Curator/Manager for Hutchison House Museum, will be the featured speaker for the February PHS Talks. A graduate of the Fine Arts program at Wilfrid Laurier University and the Museum Management and Curatorship program at Fleming College, Erin has a dozen years experience working at Hutchison House. She will be highlighting some of her favourite artifacts in the collection and why they have such special meaning to the story of the noteworthy Peterborough Hutchison family and their illustrious cousin Sir Sandford Fleming.



To be posted on YouTube, 16 February 2021:

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



Dr. John Hutchison birth registry,
1817-1846, p. 1

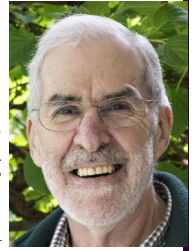
A locket received by Jeannie Fleming as a birthday gift from her husband, Sir Sandford Fleming, 13 January 1864



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



Today this space pays tribute to Thomas H.B. Symons, Founding President of Trent University and Honorary President of the Peterborough Historical Society, who died at the beginning of January.

Tom and Christine arrived sixty years ago and made Peterborough their home. Tom took on civic responsibilities with the same commitment that he demonstrated toward the array of causes he led at the provincial, national and international levels. The importance of an understanding of our history guided his approach to every task. In accepting the role of the Society's Honorary President, he wrote, "...the self-knowledge and understanding generated, preserved and expounded by the activities of a local historical society are tremendously important for a community." He supported the Society and Hutchison House Museum by attending events and offering assistance and sound advice whenever called upon.

Our Vice-President, Bob Taylor-Vaisey, an early alumnus of Trent University, worked closely with Professor Symons in several capacities over the years. We are grateful to him for providing the following tribute.

Thomas H. B. Symons, 1929-2021: A Canadian Icon

We were all deeply saddened by the passing of Thomas H.B. Symons on January 1, 2021. He was Peterborough Historical Society's second Honorary President and for decades supported the initiatives of the Society.

I had the immense honour of organizing a massive collection of Tom Symons' files for transfer to Trent University Archives. I was galvanized by his deep respect for the human spirit evidenced through a set of eclectic interests that is so broad it defies understanding how one individual could be so motivated.

Thomas H.B. Symons was a pioneer of causes that he saw as part of the tapestry that is the study of Canada, and was a champion of these causes when there wasn't one, his vision based on a clear sense of responsibility and accountability in the service of the public good. He was a kind, compassionate and influential leader.

Whether it concerned the evolution of our understanding of Indigenous culture, or the fundamentals of human rights, or the challenges of heritage



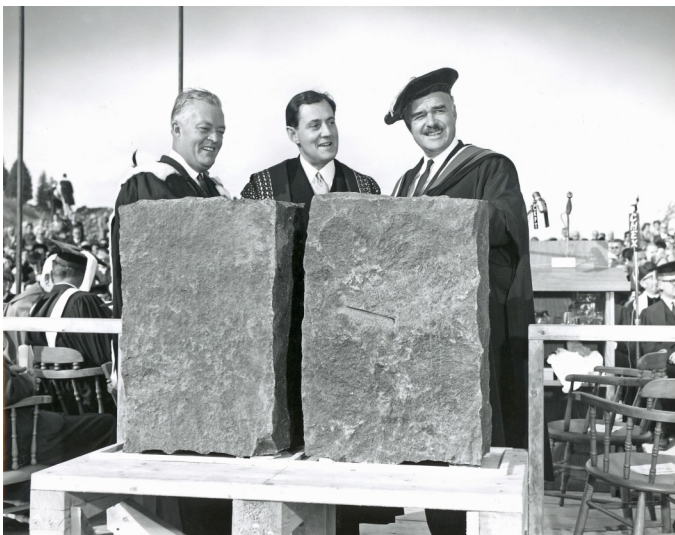
Thomas H.B. Symons
(photographer unknown)

preservation and conservation, or the study of Canada, Tom Symons was in the forefront. His unique set of life principles and the application of those principles resulted in a legacy of influence that initiated and transformed key aspects of Canadian society.

The group photograph accompanying this article is one example of Tom Symons' range of influence, when he was a major catalyst in the signing of the Ontario-Quebec Cultural Exchange Agreement in 1965 with Jean Lesage and John Robarts.

His legacy, preserved through his files, will support scholarly research about our time long into the future.

Bob Taylor-Vaisey



Laying of the Cornerstone, Champlain College, Trent University, 20 October 1965

l-r: President Thomas H.B. Symons, Hon. John Robarts, Hon. Jean Lesage
(photographer unknown)

PHS Talks January Let's Go to the Movies with Robert Clarke

The Peterborough Historical Society launched its 2021 virtual lecture series with an entertaining presentation by local historian Robert Ganton Clarke. A passionate researcher on movie history, both of the City of Peterborough and beyond, Robert gave a well illustrated summary of the early history of moving pictures in Peterborough and the theatres they were shown in.

The first motion picture shown in Peterborough was at the Bradburn Opera House in January 1897. By the 1920s, there were many purpose-built movie theatres, such as the Royal (1908), the Princess (1909), the Empire (1914), the Regent (1920) and the Capitol (1921). Indeed, by the 1940s and 1950s, the movie theatres lined up along George Street formed an impressive "theatre row." The big three were the Paramount, Capitol and Odeon.

More than a history lecture, Robert's talk was a nostalgic return to a different era that many members of the Society will fondly remember. My spouse Karen recalled walking to downtown from the north end on a Saturday with her 25 cents earned from babysitting to watch a feature, a cartoon and a thrilling western.

While giving an impressive overview of the history of movies, initially undertaken for an exhibit to mark the 10th anniversary of the Reframe Film Festival, Robert's presentation highlighted many other aspects of the movie business in Peterborough. Writing under the pseudonym Jeanette, Cathleen McCarthy, a reporter for the *Peterborough Examiner*, was one of the early movie reviewers for the paper with a regular column on the movies that were playing in town. Robert also mentioned some of the early players in the local movie theatre business such as Mike Pappas who owned the Royal along with his successful tobacco store. Tragically, Mr. Pappas in later life was arrested as a vagrant and lodged in the local jail, gazing out on the theatre he once owned. Robert has clearly a love of movies and their place in the history of popular culture and he is to be encouraged to bring his vast knowledge into book form.

Dennis Carter-Edwards



Centre Theatre, 1946
(photograph taken from across George Street,
Peterborough; photographer unknown)
Archives of Ontario, RG 56-11 File Item Code
RG 56-11-0-202-1

**At The New
TIZ-IT
THEATRE
TO-NIGHT**
ENTIRE CHANGE

BIG EXTRA FEATURE
SHE WAS HIS MOTHER
A Big Human Drama in 4 Acts

Comedy **HIS WEDDING DAY** Comedy **THE ACCUSING BODY** Comedy **BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE**
in 3 Acts

8 - BIG REELS - 8
MRS. FOSTER'S ORCHESTRA

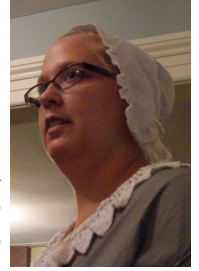
TO-MORROW ANOTHER ENTIRE CHANGE
Featuring Series No. 2 of
THE TREY O'HEARTS

MATINEES **NIGHTS**
To all **5c** To all **COME EARLY 5c AND 10c**

Peterborough Examiner, 10 March 1915,
p.7

Hutchison House Report

Erin Panepinto



[February]: “This is the coldest of the Canadian winter months and though the lengthening of the days gives you more sunshine it seems to add little to your warmth. Cold and clear the sun shines out in a blue and often cloudless sky, but the thermometer often indicates a very low temperature, 10, 12, 18, nay, sometimes as low as 28 and even 30 degrees below zero [Fahrenheit]. Warm wrappings are now indispensably necessary to the traveller. In event of any person finding their ears, hands or faces frozen, which accident can be seen as well as felt, the part becoming of a livid whiteness, and feeling hard and stiff, the remedy is at hand, and must be applied immediately to the frozen part, viz., snow rubbed on hard till the flesh resumes its former healthy appearance: some apply spirits of turpentine or brandy, or spirits of any kind, after the snow has been rubbed on well.

The care of the cattle and sheep, drawing in firewood, splitting of rails for fencing, and preparing sap troughs, are the usual operations in the settlements during this month.”

- *The Female Emigrant's Guide*, Catharine Parr Traill

As we began 2021, Hutchison House Museum rang in the new year in lockdown. While the Museum is closed to the public, staff are busy, however, behind the scenes preparing for a year of activities to be held primarily online and **hopefully eventually** in person.

Because of the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, we were unable to film our first footer as we had originally planned. Thank you to Barry Landry and his family who were ready to step in and help us film a socially distant first footing and highland dancing and fiddle music in our Keeping Room. Hopefully, we will be able to celebrate these activities together (even in a limited capacity) in 2022.

Thank you also to everyone who ordered Hogmanay meals. With your support, the Museum was able to raise the amount that we would normally raise for an in-person event under regular circumstances. I would also like to give a personal thank you to everyone for their understanding when we had to change the curbside pick-up date of the Hogmanay meals to Robbie Burns Day (January 25). This allowed for more food preparation time given that we could not have our volunteers helping onsite. And, finally, a big thank you to my husband and to my father who stepped in to help in place of our volunteers to cook the Scotch Eggs. I know that this was not the Hogmanay that we were hoping for, but because of our great community, Hutchison House Museum was still able to celebrate. A slide show of past Hogmanays was created and is available to watch online on our YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NLMW4W_3YE.

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Museum this past year. With all your support through donations and program and event participation, staff and volunteers were able to continue to maintain and operate Hutchison House Museum and to engage with the community during these unprecedented times.



Voices of Peterborough's Past "The Greatest Exhibition Ever Brought to Canada"

Anyone spending time perusing newspaper archives will inevitably come across some surprising content that reflects community sensibilities and sensitivities different than those found in current times. Mixed in with regular sporting, stage and movie diversions in July 1930, we found an interesting Peterborough event.

A year earlier, in 1929, Captain Ted Fleury had ventured into the Pacific to catch five whales with the goal of taking these on tour for educational purposes. It took 17 hours for him to subdue the particular beast shown in the image, after having a 150-pound harpoon bomb of nitroglycerine sent into its entrails. Fleury came to Peterborough with the carcass to tell the story: the whale's heart alone weighed 250 pounds; its tongue, long-since removed to make oils for perfume, another 1500; its mouth was big enough to swallow a rail car; six tons of entrails had already passed along the fertilizer road, replaced by 5600 gallons of formaldehyde in a two-week exercise performed by 10 morticians.

And then the year-long national U.S. tour, beginning with 7 weeks in Los Angeles opposite the United Artists Theatre. A Toronto promoter took on a southern Ontario loop that included three days at the CNR crossing on Peterborough's Charlotte Street.

Local retailers delighted in this event, some offering free tickets, others advertising "a whale of a bargain...the whale spouts special values...as large as a whale at minnow prices."

Local educational purposes having been served, the special rail car then moved on to Belleville.

Ken Brown

PETERBORO --- 3 Days Only

JULY 21-22-23

Charlotte St. and Canadian National R.R. Tracks

The World's Greatest Educational Exhibition

TRANSCONTINENTAL TOUR of the

60 TON CAPTIVE



**LARGEST SEA-MAMMAL
EVER EXHIBITED!**

On specially constructed steel R.R. car, direct from Avalon Bay, California ; battled
17 hours before being captured.

THE GREATEST EXHIBITION EVER BROUGHT TO CANADA

AMPLE FREE PARKING SPACE

Special Price to Children 10c. Adults 25c. Open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Daily

*Peterborough
Examiner, July
1930*



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HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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Peterborough Historical Society seeks volunteers

The PHS seeks volunteers to contribute to its volunteer Board and/or to committees that undertake its several programs and responsibilities. There are opportunities for a range of leadership skills and interests: community collaboration, member engagement and recruitment, financial oversight, legal oversight, human resources, program development, philanthropy/fundraising.

The PHS owns and operates Hutchison House Museum, which depends upon, and provides many opportunities for, volunteers with varied interests and skills to assist with its operations and programs.

We depend upon active people who want to do something different and interesting, and to join others in contributing to a worthwhile community enterprise. Give us a call and let's talk about your interests.

Peterborough Historical Society: 705-740-2600
Email: info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca
Hutchison House Museum: 705-743-9710
Email: info@hutchisonhouse.ca

Getting Hogmanay dinners ready for Robbie Burns' Birthday



Erin making cloutie
dumpling



Erin in her Covid-19 bubble making scotch eggs with her dad, Walter Lewis and her husband, Rob Panepinto