



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough Historical  
Society

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

**Hutchison House**  
will once again  
be open to the public,  
Monday-Friday  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Appointments are required

#### Daffodil Spring Tea

Welcome Spring with  
an afternoon tea.  
Enjoy a selection of  
sweets and savories,  
served in the Keeping  
Room.

Details to be  
announced,  
pending COVID-19  
constraints.

**NOTE:** Because of the Annual General Meeting, there will be no public meeting of the PHS in April. The next public meeting and PHS Talks will be in May; the notice of the public meeting and the talk will be published in the *Bulletin* at the beginning of May.

### Annual General Meeting Guest Speaker

#### The Honourable Jeff Leal

#### “The State of Politics in Ontario and Canada”

We are pleased to have the Honourable Jeff Leal as our guest speaker at the AGM of the Peterborough Historical Society in April. Born and educated in Peterborough, a graduate of Trent University and the University of Windsor, Jeff devoted more than three decades to public service in Peterborough and its region. Elected City Councillor from 1985 to 2003, he was elected Member of Provincial Parliament from 2003 to 2018, finishing his career as Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs with cabinet responsibilities for Small Business. A highly respected community leader, Jeff Leal is well-positioned to reflect on several decades of political history in Ontario and Canada. **Jeff Leal’s talk will follow the Zoom business meeting of the AGM scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, 20 April 2021.**

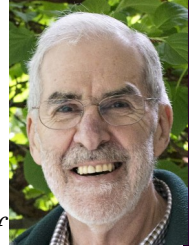


Jeff Leal  
trade mission  
to China  
2015

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



Early in March, Kylee Pedersen wrote a thoughtful piece in the *Globe and Mail* about the dilemma of memorializing a place when there are competing claims to ownership of the place's history. Pedersen writes:

*We create places that we feel reflect us – our interests, our values, our material ways of being. But what happens when a place does not reflect everyone? What does it mean when one form of placemaking is prioritized over another? Whose place is commemorated, whose is buried?*

Where she grew up in Alberta's foothills was a Methodist church, built in 1875 as southern Alberta's first permanent Protestant mission, and commemorated by subsequent generations of settlers as a symbol of their place. It was built on land already imprinted by centuries, or millennia, of trails etched into the landscape by the Stoney-Nakoda Nation and their predecessors. The church burned down in 2017, sparking a controversy over whether it should be rebuilt, and intensifying contested claims to place. Whose claim should be respected and commemorated?

The question applies universally, including to Peterborough. When settlers moved into this area after the signing of Treaty 20 between the British Crown and the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg in 1818, they created a place that reflected themselves. They cleared the forests and imprinted their community upon a land that already had untold centuries of use as a carrying place and meeting ground by Indigenous predecessors. They gave it their own name, Peterborough, with no reflection of the Indigenous sense of place, Nogojiwanong, the place at the foot of the rapids. Our organization is named the Peterborough Historical Society.

In recent decades, belatedly, Indigenous history has been penetrating the consciousness of settler societies. A number of years ago, the PHS erected a historic plaque near the foot of Simcoe Street by the Otonabee River, in Millennium Park, to commemorate Nogojiwanong. It was a step in the direction of recognizing Indigenous placenaming but it also clung to the Eurocentric settler predilection to insert its own in every story: it mentioned that Champlain had, once, travelled past this place. Champlain belongs to a different narrative.

Commendably, the City of Peterborough recently took the necessary step of collaborating with Curve Lake, Hiawatha and other local First Nations to replace the PHS plaque with three large panels that tell an appropriate Indigenous story of Nogojiwanong and its larger historical context. Installed in the fall of 2019, these panels should be read by everyone to understand the importance of Indigenous history to us all. If you have not yet paid the panels a visit, you will find them on the Millennium Park trail at the south end of Water Street. For information on the Nogojiwanong Interpretive Panel project, see the City webpage:

<https://www.peterborough.ca/en/news/nogojiwanong-project-interpretive-panels.aspx>.

Everyone who makes a place home brings a story to add to the place's history. There can be multiple claims to place within an evolving community, each deserving recognition and respect.



# Nogojiwanong

## The Michi Saagiig (Mississauga) Nation

has a deep relationship with Nogojiwanong (The Place at the Foot of the Rapids, now Peterborough) going back long before European contact. The area lies on an important water route over which the Michi Saagiig would travel between Lake Ontario, Lake Simcoe, and the west. There is a long-established Michi Saagiig presence and occupation over the waters, carrying places, burial sites, gathering and village sites.

As Europeans made their way into the region the Michi Saagiig relationship with this area was altered by trade, military, the Royal Proclamation, the American Revolution, the first treaties and the reserve system. In adapting to this pressure the resiliency in the Michi Saagiig Nation held firm and has been maintained to this day.

## Peterborough Historical Society

### Notice of Annual General Meeting of Members

In accordance with the provisions of the Declaration of Emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Peterborough Historical Society will be held by means of a **ZOOM webcast meeting on Tuesday, 20 April 2021, at 7:00 p.m.** for the following purpose:

To elect Directors

To appoint Auditors for the Corporation and to authorize the Board of Directors to fix their remuneration

To receive the Financial Statements for 2020, reviewed by Tim Nicholls, Chartered Accountant

To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Only paid-up members of record at the close of business on 2 April 2021, will be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting. **If you will be attending by joining the Zoom meeting, register by responding by email to: [dstanden@trentu.ca](mailto:dstanden@trentu.ca).** Several days prior to the AGM meeting date, an email will be sent to **registered eligible members of record** with the link and password enabling them to join the meeting at the scheduled time.

All reports, documents and other materials for the AGM will be posted when available in advance on the website of the Peterborough Historical Society: [www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca).

Dated at Peterborough this 19th day of February, 2021.

**Dale Standen, President**  
**By order of the Board**

As last year, to confront the public health impact of COVID-19, and to avoid risks to the health and safety of our staff, volunteers and members, the meeting is being held as a completely virtual meeting, to be conducted via live webcast. The meeting will not take place in a physical location. It is intended that participants will be able to communicate adequately during the meeting.

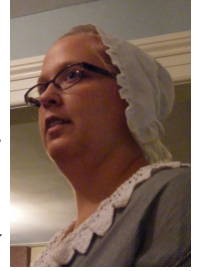
To participate with both audio and video, eligible members will need access through a computer or other device with camera and microphone and the required minimum technical capabilities (most computers, laptops and tablets for the past several years should be adequately equipped). In order to join the meeting quickly and easily, it is advisable to download the free version of ZOOM beforehand and consult the website: <https://zoom.us/>.

After the April *Bulletin*, all further communication regarding the AGM will be by email. Members who wish to attend and participate, but who have not yet provided an email address to the Society, should do so before 2 April 2021, addressed to D. Standen, President, Peterborough Historical Society: [dstanden@trentu.ca](mailto:dstanden@trentu.ca).



## Hutchison House Report

**Erin Panepinto**



The sun is shining, the snow is melting, the birds are chirping and Spring is in the air! Staff and volunteers continue to work behind the scenes at Hutchison House Museum doing all sorts of fun activities: grant writing, annual reports, more grant writing, program planning, meetings, cleaning and did I mention grant writing?

Two long-time volunteers, Linda Chandler and Loretta Terry, completed their temporary exhibit 'The History of the Peterborough Historical Society and What We Do' which will remain on display in the Harvey Connal Room until Fall 2021. Learn about the history of one of the oldest historical societies in Canada, from the first Honorary President Catharine Parr Traill in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to restoring and opening Hutchison House Museum in 1978 and the variety of other activities that the Peterborough Historical Society participates in annually.



I would like to give a very big THANK YOU to everyone who supported our take-home St. Patrick's Day meal fundraiser. We sold 166 meals! This fundraiser was very well received by the community and quickly sold out. Thank you also to all of the volunteers who gave their time to help prepare and package the food. Given the numbers that we had for this meal, I could not have done it all without your help.

At the time of this report, Peterborough continues to be in the red zone for COVID-19. Visitors to the Museum require appointments as we can only have five people in the building at one time. While we are hopeful that by April 17 and 18 we will be able to continue with our Daffodil Afternoon Tea, it is best to call or email the office for up-to-date information on Museum programming and events.

### St Patrick's Day meal volunteers

Bob Laing



Cara Peterman



Loretta Terry



Linda Chandler

Don Willcock



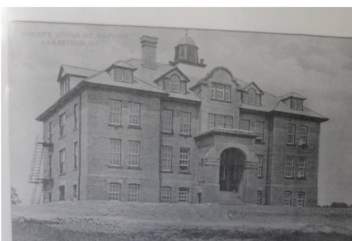
## PHS Talks February

### “The Peterborough House of Refuge and Care of the Elderly in early 20<sup>th</sup> Century”

The March presentation on care of the vulnerable elderly in Peterborough County in the early twentieth century revealed history coming full circle. The development and operation of institutional care for those seniors who, either through age or misfortune, were lacking the necessary means of support can provide some timely lessons for the current state of crisis in long-term care homes. The establishment of the Peterborough House of Refuge in 1907 was mandated by the provincial government to ensure a basic level of care for this vulnerable segment of society. This was part of a larger pattern of institutional development by governments that occurred during this period for the disadvantaged, such as the blind, deaf, orphans and those suffering mental illness. Fortunately, numerous original records have survived that help document those who were admitted to the Peterborough House of Refuge and the conditions they experienced. Referred to as “inmates,” men outnumbered women three to one, although they were older when admitted and stayed for a shorter period. Life for the residents was strictly regimented and those who were able were compelled to work, men in the farm operation connected with the House or for the women, sewing. These were never intended as genteel homes for the aged, where residents enjoyed their “golden years.” Rather, the

#### The Peterborough County House of Refuge & Care of the Elderly in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Dennis Carter-Edwards



House of Refuge was designed to meet this societal obligation in the most frugal manner possible and only as a last resort. Ensuring suitable accommodation, professional staff and appropriate level of care for vulnerable seniors are issues that challenged then and remain a challenge today.

The March presentation was also an opportunity for me to revisit a topic that I examined as my first piece of published writing. In 1975, I wrote about the “Care of the Worthy Poor” for a collection of essays on the history of Cobourg. In the intervening years, I have learned much about the craft of historical research, writing and presenting. The PHS Talk on the Peterborough House of Refuge was indeed history coming full circle.

## In Memoriam David S. Mitchell

David Mitchell was a hard-working and generous volunteer who served many years at Lang Pioneer Village, Peterborough Museum and Archives, Trent Valley Archives and Hutchison House Museum. He was the recipient of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario 2008 Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement.

David Mitchell has left a lasting contribution to Hutchison House Museum and the Peterborough Historical Society as he and his wife Enid generously donated the funds to construct the new shed and to renew the storm windows on the main floor of the Museum.

David Mitchell and Dennis Carter-Edwards at the opening of the Hutchison House Museum shed. The shed was funded through a generous donation from David and Enid Mitchell.







**PETERBOROUGH  
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SOCIETY**

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## Voices of Peterborough's Past The Great Corner Gas Controversy

See that house in the image on the northeast corner of Water Street and Parkhill Road? Nowadays, if you were standing where that car is and looking east, you would roughly have your back facing a Subway outlet – but the house would still be there.

In 1950, that gas station was operated by Harry J. Tudhope, and it was not the only gas station in the vicinity. The *Examiner* more than once indicated that there were *three* service stations near that corner. Along with Tudhope's, the Connelly Brothers had a station on the south side between George and Water. (In looking at the City directories, I've been unable to locate the third; if anyone remembers it, please let me know.)

In 1950, Imperial Oil wanted to plant another garage on that northeast corner. For about twenty years, Imperial had operated a gas station on the east side of George Street between Brock and McDonnell, across from Confederation Park. When the municipal government decided to put its new City Hall on part of that property, Imperial sold the site to the City. The company then proposed a new site on the northeast corner of Water and Parkhill streets.

That idea had a couple of major problems: a 1931 bylaw made a restricted area of the northeast corner; and the surrounding area already had its fill of stations. "Ratepayers in the area bounded by Parkhill Rd., Water, Dennistoun and Inverlea were highly incensed." [*Peterborough Examiner*]

When the City decided to ask the provincial Municipal Board to rescind the bylaw, citizens protested. Some worried about the depreciation of property values. Others quite realistically argued that there were already enough filling stations. The City was facing an acute housing shortage, and the house that would be torn down contained two or three apartments. And another gas station, neighbours said, would make the corner more dangerous.

The owner of the property, Mrs. Walter Ferguson, understandably wanted to sell her property to the company.

In the end, City Council approved a recommendation from its board of works, zoning the corner at Parkhill Road and Water Street for residential purposes only. Imperial Oil had to look elsewhere. A hundred and twenty years later, there are no gas stations in sight. The last I looked, that house on the corner had an apartment available for rent.

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



*Peterborough Examiner*, 5  
April 1950, p.15.