



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough Historical  
Society

Monthly Meeting  
by Zoom  
Members must register

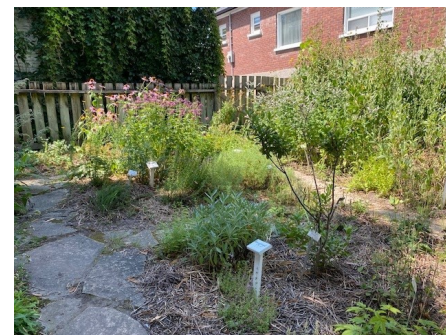
PHS Zoom Meetings  
at 7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday September 21  
Speaker: Kelly McDowell  
Tuesday October 19  
Speaker: James Conolly &  
Kate Dougherty  
Tuesday November 16  
Speaker: Janette Higgins

Hutchison House  
Closed to the public

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This season's monthly meetings and speaker series will remain virtual but will revert to our regular schedule on the **third Tuesday of the month; September, October, November, January, February, March and May** at 7:30 p.m. The meetings will be conducted on Zoom with a question and answer period following the speaker's presentation. Attendees will be provided with the link to join meetings when they register by email to the email address provided.

### **"Rediscovering Hutchison House Herbal Garden with Kelly McDowell" Speaker Kelly McDowell**

After a busy summer with programs on a limited schedule at Hutchison House Museum and new initiatives by the Board of Directors, the Peterborough Historical Society is ready to launch the fall program of lectures. The September speaker, **Kelly McDowell**, is a healing arts practitioner. Over the past five years as she prepares for qualifying as a registered Clinical Herbalist, Kelly has been studying with numerous herbalists rediscovering and deepening her passion for plant medicines as allies for spiritual and physical healing. A volunteer, working with the herb gardens at Hutchison House Museum, Kelly will lead us on a virtual informal tour of the garden sharing her knowledge of the healing properties of the herbs and the context for the emergence of herbal medicine. This promises to be an interesting and informative presentation.



Hutchison House Museum Herb Garden

**Tuesday, 21 September 2021, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Register to attend by sending an email note to [info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca) with "herb garden" in the subject line.**

### **Forthcoming Talks this Fall**

**October:** James Conolly and Kate Dougherty. "The Archaeology of Nassau Mills: The Abandoned Plaster House in Context"

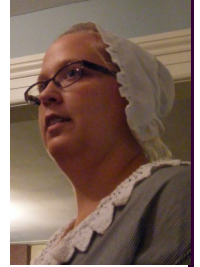
**November:** Janette Higgins. "Fighting for Democracy: a Canadian Activist (from Peterborough) in Spain's Civil War"

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.



## Hutchison House Report

Erin Panepinto



“Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them.”  
– A.A. Milne, ‘If I May’ Miniature Masterpieces (30 October 2015)

As summer 2021 comes to a close, Hutchison House Museum staff would like to express a huge THANK YOU to our garden volunteers of the past two years. In 2020, a garden revitalization project was undertaken by a keen new group of gardeners; they began by removing all the flowers, weeds, roots and runners in the front and east flower beds and by adding compost. Their hard work continued this spring, giving the west side of the house the same treatment; then began the daunting task of replanting. Some of the removed plants were saved and transferred to other beds and some new flowers were added, all keeping within the theme of a Victorian period garden. This project has taken well over 200 hours of volunteer time this year alone. In addition to the flower beds, members of the Peterborough Community Medicine Gardeners continue to care for and manage the herb garden. Plans for more herbal workshops are anticipated for this fall; keep an eye on our website for details.

We wish to thank garden volunteers Diane Card, Glenda Salt, Marjorie Vendrig, Tammy MacFarlane, Margaret Stafford and Tamara Nelson for their hard work in creating and maintaining a beautiful space around Hutchison House Museum. The Museum has been fortunate to have had a committed and hardworking group of garden volunteers over many years: among these are Una Outram, Jean Cole, Anne Heideman, Ellen Pammett, Joyce Lewis, Dr. Fern Rahmel, Florence Brown, Margorie Winkler, Jane Deyman, Charles Huffman, Enid Mitchell, Bard Earle, Carol Dauncey, Joe Laycock, Betty Hinton, Emily Cathy Thomson, Brenda Westbye, Emily Scholdice, Forester Blackwell, Peggy Edmison, Maudey Payne, Marie Gilbert, Scharmion Kelly, Hazel Wilson, Barb McIntosh, Loretta Terry, Barbara Barkley, David Barkley, Lucie Verpoorte, Wadsworth Kulatungam, Linda Lumsden, Susan Jewell, Doreen Jones, Bill Corbett, Bob Green, Edith Butler, Gibson Seeley, Juli Hillier, Lois Scott, Sherry Lynn McMahon, Annette Diamond and others. Several students have volunteered, as well. Thank you to everyone for your hard work and dedication in maintaining a great first impression of the Museum!

I would also like to thank our summer staff. We were fortunate to have 3 students, a Museum Management intern from Fleming College and a new part-time member. Rachel kept the kitchen hopping by baking up a storm, supervising juniors and putting together our Scottish Tea in a bag (still available in the bookshop). Rebekah completed some partially finished cataloguing and delved into the ‘accepted but not accessioned’ boxes as well as some of the mystery artefacts in our collection. Anna (who will remain with us part-time this fall) has been researching the connections and relationships between the settlers and Indigenous Peoples of the Peterborough area as well as developing some new children’s workshops that focus on Indigenous crafts. Sam, our Museum intern, has provided tours, baked, researched and helped whenever needed. She has developed several short videos entitled ‘The Untold Stories of Hutchison House Museum’ for our YouTube Channel and has taken on research for an upcoming exhibit on immigration. Alice, our new part-time contract staff, has been keeping our social media platforms up to date and fun and relevant; she has also been filming a series of free ‘pioneer at home’ camps (available on our YouTube Chanel), designing a new school program and developing new programming initiatives which we are hoping to launch this fall.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn’t thank our junior volunteers and guides who have braved the frontline of public interaction during COVID-19 to present history and provide meaningful experiences for our visitors. Here’s hoping that next summer starts to feel more normal, whatever that new normal may be.

### Calling all Peterborough newcomers!

As part of a research project for an upcoming in-person and virtual exhibit, Hutchison House Museum staff are looking for stories from local citizens who have either immigrated to Canada and settled in Peterborough or have had a family member (such as a grandparent or parent) do so. Anyone wishing to participate or receive more information on the project can contact Erin at the Museum office: [info@hutchisonhouse.ca](mailto:info@hutchisonhouse.ca) (email), or 705-743-9710 (phone).





Diane Card and Glenda Salt in the garden



Sam Hutchison and Rachel Backer picking Elderberries



Carol Koeslag, Phyllis Nelson, Betty Hinton from volunteer appreciation tea

## Voices of Peterborough's Past

### An Historic Historical Trip on the Maggie

*I came across a newspaper notice and an unattributed, rather humorous report from 1956 in a Peterborough Historical Society file located at Peterborough Museum & Archives (PMA 92-0186). Since the PHS has been unable to arrange a trip this year due to the ongoing pandemic, members may find solace in reading about a PHS boat trip from a distinctly different era. The report shows that everything will work out, despite some initial glitches. Don Willcock*

Newspaper notice of a trip planned by the PHS on the "Maggie" (*Peterborough Examiner*, 4 June 1956):

#### SOCIETY ON MAGGIE

The first chartered trip of the season which the 'Maggie' will make over the Lift Lock and along the canal is Tuesday evening when the Peterborough Historical Society boards 'Maggie' and holds its monthly meeting thereon.

A report on the PHS "Maggie" excursion of 5 June 1956 (PHS file, Peterborough Museum & Archives):

"It was fortunate that this notice appeared, for the Captain and the First-mate of the Maggie happened to see the notice, and to read the notice, and with some curiosity they betook themselves to George Street wharf on the evening of the fifth [June], to – as they expressed it – 'see what it was all about'.

The season had been cool – very cool – with remarkably little sunshine. But the evening of June the fifth was glorious, and Little Lake sparkled in the beautiful light of early evening.

At 6:45, about 25 of the more venturesome members of the Historical Society had gathered for the adventure. The same expectant jollity seemed to pervade the group that had been evident in the good old days, as a Sunday School picnic used to set out on the Empress or the S.S. Stony [sic] Lake to spend the day cruising down the Otonabee. Nobody seemed to mind particularly when he or she discovered that, due to some unfathomable misunderstanding, a sail around Little Lake was to take the place of the expected trip over the Lift Lock. (Some may have been inwardly relieved, who knows?) Gay spirits prevailed, and cameras clicked at a great rate.

The ladies were suitably dressed in kerchiefs and warm coats, and winter woollies had not been altogether abandoned.

The appearance of the men was especially jaunty. Those who owned English caps proudly wore them. Many wore gay sport jackets. But Magistrate Philp out-classed everyone by wearing a most becoming naval cap, borrowed from the Skipper. All looked so manly smoking their pipes, which pipes, by the way, were the only ones used to pipe Admiral Philp aboard.

Well – we were off to a good start. Most of the ladies, hardy souls that they were, sat up on top deck. They had an excellent view of Burnham's Point. It did look beautiful. One delight quickly followed another. We next headed towards the cemetery, and everybody remarked how attractive it looked. Just then a fresh little breeze sprang up, and the Maggie rocked ever so slightly. But there was nothing to fear. The Maggie boasted one life-belt, and a half-inflated inner tube. One lady solemnly announced that she was not a good sailor. Mrs. Harris suggested that we sing 'Throw Out the Life-line'.

It was then that the little man who was both First-mate and Purser arrived to collect fares, and everyone was put into a happy frame of mind when it was discovered that the charge was reduced from 75¢ to 50¢ because of the curtailed trip.

Well, there wasn't a dull moment. It seemed as though we had just started when the first (and only) stop was announced. This was at Mark Street wharf, where the monthly meeting was held, the President, Miss Heide-man, presiding as she stood alongside the Maggie and addressed the members. Mr Tom Allan then told us that there would be time to alight and write Post-cards. One lady suggested that we might go into the old Peck house, and telephone long distance to any of our relatives who might be anxious, to assure them of our safety.

Mrs. Maniece, who had missed the ship, and so had chased the Maggie around the shore by car, arrived just in time to exchange greetings with those on board.



All too soon the signal was given, the mooring ropes were cast off and we were away again. As we left Mark Street wharf, one of those horrid little speed boats known as “sea fleas” circled the Maggie in a most impudent manner. Some of the more timid souls on top deck feared the force of the waves created, but the good ship Maggie rode them nicely.

The sun was still shining brightly as we sailed by the Marble Works on our return journey. We had been on board all of 3/4 of an hour and the journey was almost at an end. Some on the forward deck remarked on the lovely “Sea Breeze”, but others with more discerning noses classed it as a C.P.C. [Canada Packers Co.] breeze.

Quite a sizeable crowd had collected on George Street wharf to greet our safe return. As we disembarked some remarked on the ability and speed with which most of the travellers regained their land legs. Especially noticeable in this respect were those recently returned from more extensive ocean crossings – such as Magistrate and Mrs. Philp, Dr. and Mrs. Honey, Miss McCulloch, Miss Howson and others.

Those who had travelled on the upper deck heaved sighs of relief when they reached the wharf, for those steep ship’s steps were difficult to negotiate successfully, especially if one came down face forward.

Well, the trip was over. The square mile of Little Lake had been covered in its entirety. History had been made.”



Cruise Boat Maggie  
Source: Peterborough Museum & Archives

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

The arrival of September reminds us to renew our PHS memberships for 2022. We all had hoped that COVID-19 by now would no longer require severe restrictions on physical gatherings and that our heritage programs and activities would be back to a semblance of normal. Unfortunately, COVID-19 is a trickster and despite the progress of vaccination we must continue to follow heightened public health practices in all that we do. Nevertheless, work, programs and events go on in modified form both at Hutchison House Museum and in all PHS undertakings. We will hold virtual public monthly meetings until we have the public health green light to gather in person once again, and the *Bulletin* will appear monthly as usual. We thank you for your continued participation and support. A membership renewal form is enclosed.

### Margaret “Peggy” Joyce (Moore) Cleveland (6 February 1926 – 4 August 2021)

Members of the Peterborough Historical Society were saddened by the passing of Peggy Cleveland in her 95<sup>th</sup> year. Peggy, along with her husband Willis, were long time supporters of the PHS and Hutchison House Museum through the 1980s and 1990s; Peggy assisted at many events including the annual Christmas sale. An obituary is available at the following link:

<https://www.highlandparkfuneralcentre.com/obituary/MargaretPeggy-Cleveland>.



**PETERBOROUGH  
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## Immigrant Stories Enrich Our History

To encounter a new document that adds a fresh, rich perspective to our history is a rare and exhilarating experience. Such a document is the diary of Dukesang Wong, the surviving portions of which were published last year and are purported to be “the only known first-person account by a Chinese worker on the construction of the CPR.” The excerpts were translated by Dukesang Wong’s granddaughter for a sociology essay at Simon Fraser University in the 1960s. Tragically, a few years later the complete original diary of seven notebooks was destroyed in a fire without having been copied.

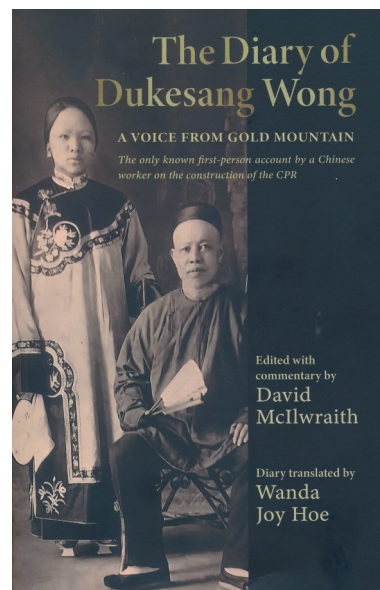
As the son of a magistrate in China, Dukesang Wong belonged to the educated mandarin class and therefore was unusual among the migrants and so-journers who ventured across the Pacific Ocean to labour for wages, either to remit to their families back home or to start a new life here. Dukesang’s motive to emigrate stemmed from the defamation and murder of his father in the violence and factionalism that consumed the Qing Dynasty in its dying years, and the resulting diminished prospects for his own future. The restoration of his family’s reputation weighed heavily upon him and motivated him to succeed in America. Just prior to his departure, he was betrothed to an infant, Lin, a practice not uncommon in China. Lin arrived in Vancouver with her guardians when about ten years old and married Dukesang in Victoria a few years later.

It would be easy in the current charged political atmosphere to dwell upon Dukesang’s ample reference to racial discrimination that he and fellow Chinese experienced. They were malnourished, over-worked, physically abused, socially segregated and denied access to services and many employment opportunities. More novel are Dukesang’s reflections on this strange white society and his own values. “These lands are wild!” is his exclamation on witnessing a fist fight in the street in Portland, Oregon, while bystanders did nothing to prevent a brutal beating. In the midst of a labour shortage for building the CPR in 1885, he found unfathomable and petty the imposition of the head tax to restrict Chinese immigration: “These mighty lands are great to gaze upon, but the laws made here are so small.”

Despite impediments and discouragements, Dukesang focused on starting a family and building a successful life, a goal he achieved by becoming a tailor in New Westminster, the “Saltwater City.” This fragment of a diary gives a voice to a real person who made conscious choices when faced with challenges not of his making. Dukesang Wong is much more interesting when viewed as an agent of his own destiny than as a passive victim of racial discrimination.

Dukesang Wong has left us more than the means of connecting with his personal story: his diary reminds us that migrants are people with goals who devise strategies to navigate whatever impediments they face. It is an important reminder that newcomers to our communities, including to Peterborough, bring new cultures and perspectives that contribute to a history that is constantly evolving. The first Chinese known in Peterborough arrived around 1892, part of the massive global migrations of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries that have especially transformed societies in the western world. It is difficult to imagine a more important subject for historical study.

**Dale Standen**



1 David McIlwraith, editor and Wanda Joy Hoe, translator, *The Diary of Dukesang Wong: A Voice from Gold Mountain* (Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2020) .