



PETERBOROUGH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY | EST. 1897

Issue 479

October 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough Historical
Society

Monthly Meeting
by Zoom
Members must register

PHS Zoom Meetings
at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday October 19
Speaker: James Conolly &
Kate Dougherty

Tuesday November 16
Speaker: Janette Higgins

Hutchison House
Games Night
at the Museum
Every third Thursday of the
month
6:00-8:30 p.m.

Haunted Halloween
for Kids
Friday October 29
between 5:00 p.m. and
8:30 p.m.
or Saturday October 30
between 10:00 a.m. and
4:00 p.m.

Heritage Luncheons
on October 6
and November 3

Hearth Cooking Workshop
on Saturdays
November 6, 13 and 20

Christmas Market and
Snowflake Tea
Saturday November 27, and
Sunday November 28

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.

"The Archaeology of Nassau Mills: The Abandoned Plaster House in Context"

James Conolly and Kate Dougherty

In 2017 and 2018, Trent University's archaeology program ran an excavation and survey project at the historic Nassau Mills industrial complex, situated at the southern portion of the university campus. In this talk, the two co-directors, James Conolly and Kate Dougherty, present the results of the project. As well as a general overview of the project's findings and the interplay between written documentation and archaeological evidence, they focus on the history of one of the prominent structures as revealed during the excavation.

James Conolly is Professor of Archaeology at Trent University, and studies landscape archaeology and environmental history. **Kate Dougherty** is Curator and Technician in the Department of Anthropology at Trent University. Her interests include the study of nineteenth and early twentieth century material culture.



Original CGE powerhouse, Trent-Severn Waterway
archival collection

Tuesday, 19 October 2021, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Register to attend by sending an email note to info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca with "Nassau Mills" in the subject line.

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 ...

Bob Taylor-Vaisey



There is no doubt that most historical societies and museums across Canada undertook considerable reviews of what they do and how – and why – in response to the limitations imposed because of COVID-19.

Every aspect of our Society and Hutchison House has been subject to such a review, and that reassessment will be ongoing. There is a difference, in my opinion, between change which is **forced**, and change which is, by virtue of its intrinsic value, **needed** to develop new and enhance current vibrant, exciting and successful programs, events and communications.

We are focusing on the latter. What is needed to run a heritage awards program in the future? What is needed to attract an expanded demographic in membership? What is needed to attract sponsorship of our initiatives through partnerships with local businesses or fellow-minded associations?

We are about to launch a new website, arguably the most visible communication vehicle we have. We are in the process of building a business plan meant to attract sponsors, donors and partners. And we are developing a succession plan that will ensure recruitment and retention of individuals bringing a wealth of skills to plan for the future of both the Society and Hutchison House.

The Board cannot complete these tasks in isolation. We need to hear from you, our members, your colleagues and friends. What priorities do you see that we are not addressing? How can we reach a broader audience and what is that audience? As a former City Councilor friend once said, “talk to me!!” It won him an election and it will ensure that as the Board develops new or enhanced programs, they are in step with what our grassroots want.

Read later in this Bulletin about our new logo. Read in Bulletins to come of how we are keeping pace with societal change and aspirations and expectations.

I am reminded of the original motto of Trent University: “Nunc Cognosco Ex Parte” or “Now I Know in Part”. Our learnings about what lies ahead will be endless – and educational, productive and relevant.

I live in Guildewood Village in Scarborough and at the entrance to the village is a Tridel complex with a profound motto. It is in Latin but the translation is clear and unequivocal – “Man is the Architect of His Destiny” ... and so too are we the architects of ours.

PHS Adopts its New Logo

One year ago, the Board of Directors approved a new logo for the Peterborough Historical Society. As then President, I announced the decision in the *Bulletin* and explained the reasons for making the change. The plan was to introduce the new logo with the launch of the new PHS website that was anticipated imminently.

Alas, the development of the new website took more time than expected, partly because of the many other important reviews and reforms that demanded attention. With the beginning of the 2021-2022 season, we are introducing the new logo. Very soon, we will announce the launch of the new website, a year later than anticipated.

The old logo, a surveyor’s theodolite, could represent only the heritage of settler pioneers. It could not speak to the longer and fundamentally significant Indigenous history on this land that the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg have generously shared. Nor can a theodolite address the diverse histories brought more recently by new Canadians from all parts of the world.

The new logo, a stylized blue heron, draws inspiration from the land’s natural setting that is common to us all. We are indebted to Yoshi Aoki, Senior Producer of Vantage Point Media House in Belleville, who donated his talent and time to create this exquisite design.

Under this new banner, we will emerge from this COVID-19 pandemic together to continue the exploration and celebration of our history and heritage in all its diversity.

Dale Standen

PHS previous month's meeting "Rediscovering Hutchison House Herbal Garden with Kelly McDowell"

The Peterborough Historical Society fall lecture series began with a walk through Hutchison House Museum herb garden with Herbalist and Healing Arts practitioner, Kelly McDowell. Begun in the 1950s and maintained through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, the herb garden has become an important element in the heritage program of the Museum. Although there is no historical documentation on the presence of such a garden at the house, the use of herbs for both culinary and medicinal purposes was part of the domestic skills passed from mother to daughter.

As Kelly walked through the garden, pointing out the various plants and their medicinal benefits, she remarked that the garden was a memorial to the ancestors and the wisdom they passed to subsequent generations. Whether plants brought from Europe by early settlers or the traditional knowledge from First Nations, these plants – the petals, roots or seeds – were used to treat common ailments such as colds, fevers, digestive problems, insomnia and skin problems.

Some herbs have a long history. Angelica was used to fight the Great Plague of the 14th century. The common lemon balm mixed in a tea helped with insomnia. Even roses have medicinal value, the hips being a source of vitamin C and the petals used to treat infections. The very act of walking through a garden filled with beautiful flowers has a calming effect that brings health benefits.

Thanks to Kelly and members of the Peterborough Community Medicine Garden group, the Society is preserving this important aspect of our heritage.

Dennis Carter-Edwards

Exhibition highlights the Inuit role in the search for the Franklin Expedition

Peterborough, ON— The fate of Sir John Franklin's 1845 expedition was one of the Arctic's most enduring mysteries, until the wrecks of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* were found in 2014 and 2016. The Peterborough Museum & Archives is pleased to present **The Ones We Met – Inuit Traditional Knowledge and the Franklin Expedition**, an exhibition developed by the Canadian Museum of History and the Inuit Heritage Trust, which explores the role of Inuit oral history in solving that mystery. Presented in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English and French — the four official languages of Nunavut — the travelling exhibition will be on display at the Peterborough Museum & Archives from September 18 to December 5, 2021.

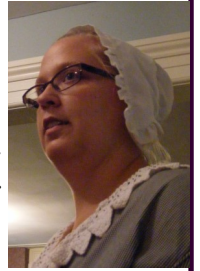
This exhibition was inspired by the Museum of History's special exhibition **Death in the Ice – The Mystery of the Franklin Expedition**, which traced Sir John Franklin's doomed attempt to navigate the Northwest Passage, and the many efforts made over the years to find out what had happened to the British explorer and his 128 crewmen.

The Peterborough Museum & Archives is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission is by donation.



Hutchison House Report

Erin Panepinto



As the leaves begin their annual change and the temperatures begin to cool down, fall is beginning to settle in here at the Museum. There are a variety of events and programs lined up for this fall, all of which are subject to ongoing changes in COVID-19 restrictions. Please see our website or call the Museum office for the most up-to-date information.

As of September 22, Hutchison House Museum will require proof of vaccination and photo identification for all events and programs that include the consumption of food. This includes our Games Nights, Heritage Luncheons, Snowflake Teas and Hearth Cooking Workshop. Proof of vaccination must be presented upon entry to the building. At this time, this policy does not include regular tours or curbside pickup. For more information or questions about our vaccine policy please contact Erin at the Museum office.

First up in our fall lineup is a new ongoing event: 'Games Night at the Museum.' Every third Thursday of the month from 6:00-8:30 p.m. enjoy a relaxed evening at the Museum. Browse our 19th century and classic games library, sample historic treats, and enjoy the ambiance of the historic house. While drop-ins are welcome, reservations are preferred as space is limited.

Next in the fall lineup is our first Heritage Luncheon on October 6. Our fall luncheons begin with an Oktoberfest-themed meal with sausage, potato cakes, roasted squash, rye bread, sauerkraut, and applesauce and plum kuchen for dessert. Sittings are at 12 noon and 1:30 p.m. and space is limited. For the first time, we will offer a limited number of curbside meals, as well. Order ahead and pick up a readymade Oktoberfest meal; just reheat when you get home. Reservations are required for both in-person meals and for curbside pickup. Please reserve your spot by Friday, October 1. Meals are \$20 each or \$22 if you would like a ginger beer or root beer.

And what October would be complete without our annual Haunted Halloween for Kids event! Join us Friday, October 29, between 5:00 and 8:30 p.m. or Saturday, October 30, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. This is a timed entry event so register early to book space.

We will host our next Heritage Luncheon on November 3, a three-day Hearth Cooking Workshop on November 6, 13 and 20 and of course our annual Christmas Market and Snowflake Tea on Saturday, November 27, and Sunday, November 28. Details and pre-order forms for the Christmas Market and Empire Cheese are included with this newsletter.



Anna serving at Peach Tea



Guests enjoying Peach Tea



Rebecca in costume at the Peach Tea

We're planning our autumn and winter programming and would like to hear from you! What types of events are you interested in seeing at Hutchison House Museum, and when would you be most likely to attend? Your feedback is appreciated. Feel free to fill out the Google form here: <https://forms.gle/w7xng4iqMrkgp9256>.



Anna and Lorna playing Crokinole at Games Night



The Paylors playing Cribbage at Games Night



Anna and Samantha—a little light reading



Socially distant tea party with summer staff Rachel, Anna, Alice, Samantha and Rebekah



PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL
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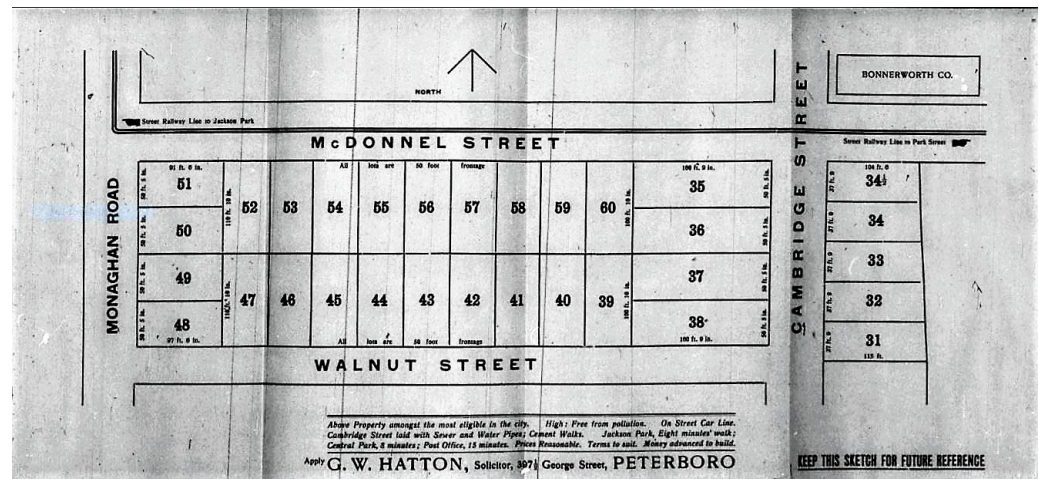
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hutchisonhouse.ca

peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca

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Voices of Peterborough's Past Land for Sale on the Outskirts: McDonnell and Monaghan, 1912



Daily Evening Review [Peterborough], 10 May 1912

Picture Charlotte Street west in the early 1940s where it curves southwest towards Sherbrooke Street. Then mostly farmland known as the “Hatton Property,” the area was situated beyond the western boundary of the city, in the township of North Monaghan.

After expropriating 27.3 acres of that property in 1942, the federal Wartime Housing Limited set down five or six streets of prefabricated homes. The area was originally part of the George W. Hatton farm, also known as “Walkerfield,” which became the name of one of the streets. (The wartime houses disappeared in the early 1950s, replaced by new houses.)

Here, much earlier, in a 1912 pullout sheet that appeared in the *Review*, the same George W. Hatton – “Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public” and later identified also as “County Crown Attorney and Clerk of the Peace” – was advertising 31 pieces of land “amongst the most eligible in the city.”

The sketch shows the Street Railway line going east-west along McDonnell St., heading for Jackson Park. It also shows the Bonnerworth Woolen Mill, established only the year before.

Especially interesting are the advertised property’s attributes. It is “high” and “free from pollution.” It is on the streetcar line and promises an eight-minute walk to Jackson Park or 15-minute walk downtown. The prices would be reasonable, with “terms to suit.” There would be “money advanced to build.” Despite these benefits, the properties did not sell. The city’s growth that year, an *Examiner* article of July 1912 commented, was towards the southwest and northeast. It would be a while before expansion moved to the west and northwest – as we can see by the 1940s move into the “Walkerfield” area.

The lots at McDonnell and Monaghan remained a forlorn place for over a decade and a half – until fall 1928, when the Peterborough Lawn Bowling Club decided to move in. At the time an *Examiner* editorial said the property was “far from being a thing of beauty” and a transformation was much needed. The club purchased the Hatton-advertised property in two parcels, the first in the fall of 1928 and the second not long afterwards, for a total of 18 lots – the ones numbered 52 to 60 and 39 to 47. It soon also built (by 1930) the beautiful 1¾-storey brick building that stood there until recent years, when it was moved to Nicholls Oval. As time went by, houses slowly popped up on the other pieces of land. Today, what was once on the outskirts is now much closer to the middle of the city.

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