



PETERBOROUGH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY | EST. 1897

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March 2022

PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

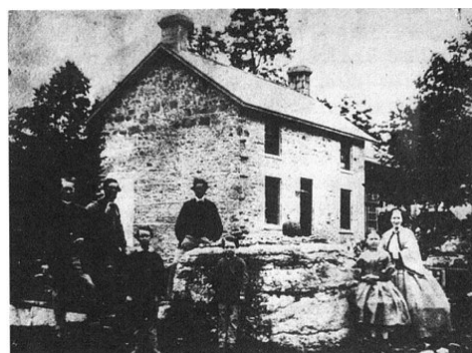
The winter and spring monthly meetings and speaker series will remain virtual and continue our regular schedule on the **third Tuesday of the month: January, February, March and May at 7:30 p.m.** The meetings will be conducted on Zoom with a question and answer period following the speaker's presentation.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

"Days from Destruction: How Public Action Saved Lakefield's Old Stone Mill House"

Michael Chappell

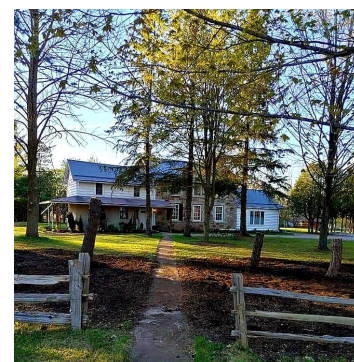
Professor Michael Chappell, the President of the Friends of the Old Stone Mill House (Lakefield) is the March presenter. He has a distinguished career as a teacher at Ryerson University, as a consulting engineer for development projects and is a registered Safety Professional. He is also an active community leader through his involvement with the United Way, the Learning Disabilities Association and as President of Lakefield Historical Society. His talk will focus on the eleventh-hour efforts to save Lakefield's historic Stone Mill House from demolition. His talk promises to be both a cautionary tale and a call to action for the preservation of our built heritage.

Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Register to attend by sending an email note to info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca with "Stone" in the subject line. Deadline to register is noon, 15 March.



Old Stone Mill House,
1858
Photographer unknown

Mill House
44 Bridge Street,
Lakefield
Photographer:
Jackie Oulette



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Peterborough Historical
Society**

**Monthly Meeting
by Zoom
Members must register**

**PHS Zoom Meeting
at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, 15 March
Speaker Michael Chappell
Tuesday, 19 April
Peterborough Historical
Society AGM
Tuesday, 17 May
Speaker Dennis Carter-
Edwards**

**Hutchison House
Museum**

**Heritage Luncheon
Wednesday, 2 March
12:00 noon sitting.
Book by Monday, 28 February**

**St. Patrick's Day
take-home meal
Pre-order by Friday, 11 March.
Curbside pick-up
Thursday, 17 March
between 12:00 noon and 4:00
p.m.**

**March Break Day Camps
March 11th, 15th, 16th, 18th.
from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

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.



Notice of Annual General Meeting of Members

In accordance with Provincial authorization, 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, 19 April 2022, at 7:00 p.m.** for the following purpose:

1. To elect Directors
2. To appoint Auditors for the Corporation and to authorize the Board of Directors to fix their remuneration
3. To receive the Financial Statements for 2021, reviewed by Tim Nicholls, Chartered Accountant
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Only paid-up members of record at the close of business on 15 April 2022 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, before 5:00 p.m. Friday, 15 April 2022.**

Members who wish to attend and participate, but who have not yet provided an email address to the Society, should do so before 15 April 2022, addressed to D. Standen, Secretary, Peterborough Historical Society: 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.phs-hutchisonhouse.ca.

Annual General Meeting Guest Speaker D'Arcy Jenish "The October Crisis: Origins and Consequences"

The October Crisis of 1970, unleashed by the kidnappings of British Trade Commissioner James Cross and Quebec cabinet minister Pierre Laporte, was a cataclysm that shook this country to the core. It continues to generate discussion and debate to this day due to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's decision to proclaim the War Measures Act.

D'Arcy Jenish is the author of *The Making of the October Crisis: Canada's Long Nightmare of Terrorism at the Hands of the FLQ*, the only comprehensive account by a writer in English Canada of the urban terrorism preceding the kidnapping crisis, the crisis itself and the aftermath.

In his address to the Peterborough Historical Society, Jenish will describe the origins of the October Crisis, the consequences of these unprecedented events and the treatment of the story by Quebec historians. He will conclude with his assessment of the very controversial decision to invoke the War Measures Act.



D'Arcy Jenish's talk will follow the Zoom business meeting of the AGM scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, 19 April 2022.

NOTICE OF BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

On **October 19, 2021**, the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 (Ontario) (the "ONCA") was proclaimed into force and replaced the Corporations Act (Ontario) (the "OCA"), which regulated Ontario's not-for-profit corporations before the proclamation of the ONCA. The new Ontario Not-for Profit Act mandates some clauses in the By-laws of Not-For-Profit organizations. To comply with the Act, the Board of Directors of the Peterborough Historical Society has approved the necessary revisions for ratification at the Annual General Meeting in April. After the March 15 Board meeting, we will post the revised Articles of Incorporation (the required new title) on our website as well as distribute them to our email distribution list.

PHS Previous Month's Meeting

"The Lakefield College School Archives: A Powerful History Teaching Tool"

Archives are more than a collection of dusty old letters and photograph albums of unknown people in unrecognizable places. They are living entities embodying the lived experiences of past generations. They are a precious record of the past and a guide to the future both in challenging and in ordinary times. Wendy Darby's engaging presentation on the Archives at Lakefield College School reinforced this notion with an informative talk on how the collection of letters, photographs and objects that form the school's treasured nearly two-century heritage are being used in today's curriculum.

Wendy spoke of the role of Dr. Gastle, medical officer at the school, in acquiring the Sauk vaccine to deal with a polio epidemic in the community; his efforts involved Prime Minister St. Laurent and he was the first to administer the vaccine in Canada. An evocative image of the doctor at work is a powerful reminder that we have been through such crises before and rose to the challenge.

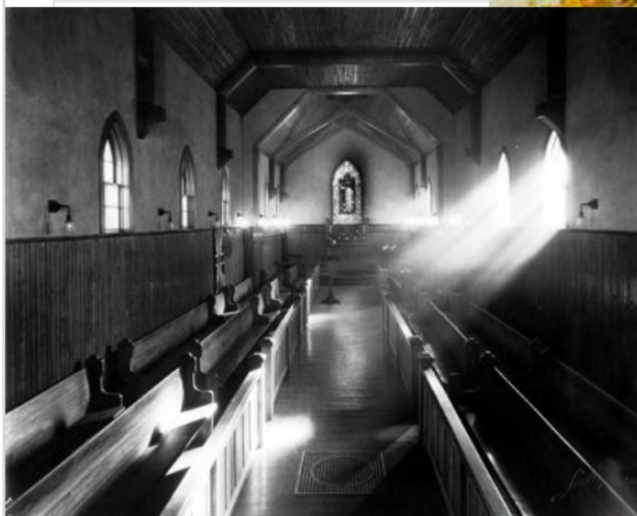
Wendy also highlighted the numerous letters from school graduates who had served in World War I and World War II; these letters have inspired students to create dramatic presentations for Remembrance Day services to honour their sacrifices.

The very property that Lakefield College School sits upon is a valued heritage resource. The school, again demonstrated with historic photos, has acknowledged First Nations and celebrated the farming practices from an earlier day that were more in tune with sustainable practices. Students are taking the practices and lessons from the past and applying them in a practical way to the gardens and orchards that are currently in use on the property. The history of Northcote Farm demonstrates how the past can inform the future and students eagerly engage in this outdoor living classroom.

Whether acquiring memorable stories from former students, undertaking archaeological excavations or managing the archive collection in a manner that makes it more accessible through digitization, promotion and rotating exhibits, the past is in good hands thanks to the work of Wendy and staff at Lakefield College School. Wendy answered questions from the audience and looked forward to engaging with the wider archival community in the future.

Dennis Carter-Edwards

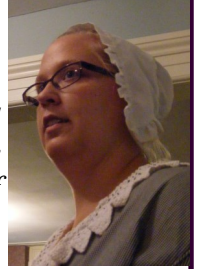
A.W. Mackenzie Chapel



Lakefield College School Chapel

Hutchison House Report

Erin Panepinto



“The day was set apart from Lenten fast so that an Irish concert could be put on in the parish hall at night. The concert was followed by a dance and the music of fiddle, accordion, tin whistle or mouth organ could be heard until the stroke of twelve. Then it was back to fasting for the rest of lent.”

A description of St. Patrick’s Day celebrations, Newfoundland
Fish and Brewis, Toutens and Tales by Len Margaret, 1980

As the museum opens up again after a brief month-long closure in January, staff and volunteers are looking forward once again to offering some great spring programming.

First up in March is the return of the Heritage Luncheons on March 2. While space is limited, there are still some available spots for the 12:00 noon sitting. Please book with the museum office by February 28th to secure a spot.

Back by popular demand: Experience a taste of Ireland from the comfort of your own home with a delicious St. Patrick’s Day take-home meal. Enjoy corned beef and colcannon with roasted carrots and Irish soda bread, followed by a scrumptious Irish apple cake with custard for dessert. Pre-order your meal by March 11th. Meals will be able for curbside pick-up between 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. on March 17th. For more information or to place your order, please contact the museum.

For the first time in nearly 3 years, the museum is looking forward to welcoming children back for March Break fun! Day camps will run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on March 11th, 15th, 16th, and 18th. Please make sure to bring a peanut-free snack and indoor shoes. All visitors aged 12 or older must be fully vaccinated to enter the museum. Each day has a different theme and different activities. Space is limited so be sure to contact the museum for more information or to book your spot. Suitable for children aged 6 to 12.

Day Camps include:

- March 11 (Friday): Wild Weather
- March 15 (Tuesday): Amazing Animals
- March 16 (Wednesday): Pleasing Plants
- March 18 (Friday): Great Games

Many of our staff, volunteers and visitors have been looking forward to our second Downton Abbey Tea this year (finally). This event was originally scheduled for December and then March. The movie release, however, and subsequently, our tea, has now been moved to the end of May. Please check our website for more details as they become available.

Staff and Volunteers are working on an exhibit on the history of the Tartan to be installed by the beginning of April for International Tartan month. If there are any members with Scottish Tartans, kilts, memorabilia, etc. willing to loan items to the museum for the exhibit, scheduled April to June 2022, please contact the museum office.

In December 2021, Hutchison House Museum gratefully accepted several items that are believed to have belonged to Jeanette Scott Matchett (1820-1878), daughter of early Peterborough resident Adam Scott. Jeanette is the first child of European descent recorded to have been born in Peterborough. The items were donated through the generosity of Kathryn Downes, Jeanette’s great-granddaughter; they include a bonnet and shawl (c.1840s) and a quadruple silver-plated calling card tray (late 18th century) that may have belonged either to Jeanette or to her son Sandy Matchett and his wife Charlotte. These items will be on display at the Museum in summer 2022.



Jeanette Scott
Matchett



quadruple silver-
plated calling card
tray (late 18th
century)



shawl
(c.1840s)



bonnet
(c.1840s)

“Ways To Give”

<https://phs-hutchisonhouse.ca/support/donate/>

Peterborough Historical Society and Hutchison House Museum, like all heritage organizations, depend upon donations to meet operating expenses in providing all their programs and events.

Thank you for your generous support!

Black History Month Reflection

To honour Black History Month in February, I look for an appropriate book to read. In last year's *Bulletin*, I reported on two: Vincent Brown's account of Tacky's Revolt in Jamaica in 1760, and Marcel Trudel's previous study of slavery in New France. Both are outstanding studies.

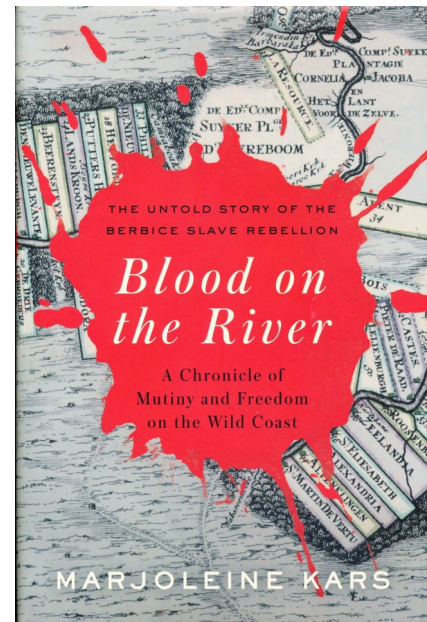
This year I turned to Marjoleine Kar's *Blood on the River*, a gripping account of the slave rebellion in Berbice in 1763-64 which complements perfectly Brown's work on Tacky's Revolt. Berbice was one of the small, riverine Dutch plantation colonies on the "Wild Coast" of South America, today within Guyana. Kar, Professor of History at University of Maryland Baltimore County, has exploited what every historian dreams of, a rare cache of neglected documents, in this case at The Hague. In addition to the colonial governor's daily journal and voluminous European correspondence, there are more than 500 pages of court interrogations of slaves after the rebellion was suppressed and letters that the rebels had written to the Dutch authorities. From these, Kar masterfully constructs both a narrative of the rebellion and a rare journey into the thoughts, feelings and experiences of ordinary African-descended people.

As was common at the time, a capitalist Company of Berbice, whose investors were guided by profit, governed the colony on behalf of the Dutch Republic. The Company operated several plantations and private owners operated others. The ratio of slaves to Dutch colonists varied from 5/1 to 15/1. In the absence of laws restricting the abuse of slaves, some private planters were notoriously vicious and not surprisingly the revolt began in February 1763 on private plantations, spreading to others. Slave revolts in the Americas were common but usually quickly suppressed. The Berbice rebellion lasted a year which, with Tacky's Revolt in Jamaica three years earlier, was exceptional. The only successful slave revolution was in St. Domingue during the Napoleonic wars, which became Haiti.

The Berbice rebellion was history at its messiest, lacking black and white issues in any sense of the expression. The institution of slavery and human bondage was universal, practiced by Africans and Indigenous Americans as well as Europeans. The initial rebel leader, Coffij, was an African-born Amina from the Gold Coast as was his second in command and military leader, Accara. Most Dutch colonists fled to the coast, including the Governor van Hoogenheim, leaving virtually all plantations exposed to the rebels. But quarrels divided the rebels, Coffij was killed (likely ritual suicide) and other leaders broke into factions and warred against each other: Fortuin, Accabiré, Bobé, Accara, Atta, Gousarie. Colonial-born slaves were reluctant to sacrifice even the paltry security that plantation life provided. A Dutch relief force of mercenaries from neighboring Suriname mutinied to join the rebels who received them by massacring two-thirds of them. Indigenous warriors – Caribs, Arawaks, Akawaio – in loose alliance with the Dutch prevented the rebels from retreating far into the forest and savanna beyond the plantations. Maroons, escaped slaves deep in the interior, often served the Dutch as bounty-hunters. The Dutch regained the colony by April 1764 due to the arrival of several hundred troops and supplies from Europe and neighboring colonies. Justice was brutal and retributive, though most lives were spared because planters depended upon their labour.

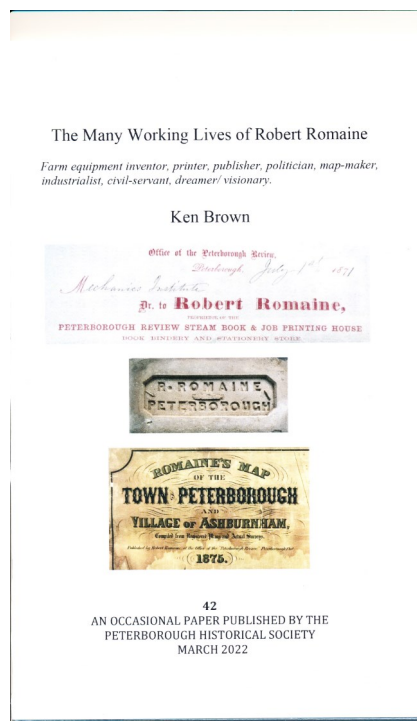
The story is not for the faint of heart. Be prepared to enter a dystopia of violence, starvation, disease, brutality, torture and many other miseries. Reflect upon the priceless privilege of human rights, equality, democracy, justice by the rule of law, and all other precious, fragile institutions that separate us from calamity.

Dale Standen



Occasional Paper now available

The PHS Occasional Paper for 2022 is now available. Author Ken Brown explores the remarkable career of Victorian Peterborough's Robert Romaine – industrialist, inventor, publisher, mapmaker and visionary. **Members paid up for 2022 receive a copy as a benefit of membership, so be sure you have renewed your membership.** For non-members, the price is currently \$6.00 plus postage. Copies may be ordered by phone (705-740-2600) or by email (info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca).



The Peterborough Historical Society Board of Directors

Are you looking for a unique volunteer leadership opportunity? The Board of Directors of the Peterborough Historical Society offers opportunities for a number of leadership skills and interests.

- governance
- community collaboration
- member engagement and recruitment
- marketing
- financial oversight
- legal oversight
- human resources
- program development
- writing, editing and publishing
- philanthropy/fundraising

The Society depends upon energetic, active people who want to do something different and interesting, and to join others in contributing to a worthwhile community enterprise. All experience and expertise are welcome: business, not-for-profit, public service, education, heritage, trades, professions, hobbies. The community's history is inclusive.

The Peterborough Historical Society is one of the oldest in Ontario. It provides a monthly speaker series, publishes a monthly Bulletin and an annual historical paper, presents annual heritage awards and engages in community outreach. It owns and operates Hutchison House Museum, an acclaimed historic house museum that offers a wide range of school and public programs and events illuminating local history.

Explore the PHS website for further information: www.phs-hutchisonhouse.ca.

Expressions of interest and further inquiries should be directed to:

Bob Taylor-Vaisey, c/o Peterborough Historical Society

Phone: 705-740-2600; Email: info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca

Postal address: 270 Brock Street, Peterborough ON, K9H 2P9.



**PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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Museum**

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Websites:
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Hutchison House:
[phs-hutchisonhouse.ca/
hutchison-house/](http://phs-hutchisonhouse.ca/hutchison-house/)

The Bulletin
Editor: **Jodi Aoki**
Publisher: **Marilyn
MacNaughton**

Bulletin (ISSN 1484-5983)

Voices of Peterborough's Past "Reflecting on Peterborough's Irish Heritage: Commemorating the "1825ers"'"

The story of the 1825 migration of some two thousand Irish to Peterborough, sponsored by the British government under the supervision of Peter Robinson, is well known. Beginning with a ground-breaking M.A. thesis (Queen's University, 1934) by Howard Pammett who drew upon original letters, ship rosters and government reports as source materials, the story of the 1825ers has been described in numerous articles, books and genealogical studies.

The Peterborough Museum and Archives has a permanent exhibit that details the organizing, transport and establishment of these immigrant families in government provided cabins with supplies of seeds, tools, rations, livestock and even medical care. Less well known is the follow up by the program's chief architect, Sir Wilmot-Horton, Under Secretary for the British Colonial Office, and other informed commentators on this pilot project of assisted immigration.

At this distant point in time, it is hard to imagine the challenges these Irish faced coming to the pioneer settlement of Peterborough and area. Being Irish Catholic subsistence farmers (and likely predominantly Gaelic speaking) and placed into an area of Anglo Protestant English-speaking merchants, tradesmen and large land-owners presented daunting challenges. Fortunately, there are various primary sources available to document the outcome. Most useful is the evidence collected by the British Government's Select Committee on Emigration of 1827-1828 and their final report. As part of his information gathering, Wilmot-Horton prepared a questionnaire that was circulated among the Irish settlers. Typical is the response of John Tobin, a farmer with seven in his family, who came from Mitchelstown, County Cork and settled in Douro. By 1828, he had about 9 acres cleared, two cows, two calves and six pigs. The family reported a diet of flour, potatoes, meat, milk and butter.

A report on the agricultural output of the 1825 settlers was compiled in November 1826 to present an overview of agriculture success. In Douro Township, for example, 60 farm plots had 245 acres cleared and produced 8,251 bushels of potatoes, 4,174 bushels of turnips and 1,777 bushels of Indian corn. Not surprisingly, Tobin stated that he was very well pleased and recommended immigration to his fellow Irishmen. The *Cobourg Star*, quoting from the *Backwoodsman*, reported in October 1832 that "the beneficial effects of the emigration experiment have exceeded beyond the expectation of the most sanguine . . . far from being penniless . . . they are in the most comfortable and . . . independent circumstances and are pursuing a peaceful and useful career in the backwoods."

With the bicentennial approaching in 2025, it is important to plan an appropriate commemoration of this "experiment" that has left such a lasting legacy on our community.

Dennis Carter-Edwards



The trauma of leaving home
(source: Cobh Heritage
Centre, Ireland)