



# PETERBOROUGH

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY | EST. 1897

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough Historical  
Society

Monthly Meeting  
September 2022  
T.B.A.

Hutchison House  
Museum

Garden Tea to honour  
Queen's Platinum Jubilee  
Sunday, 5 June  
2:00 p.m.

Scottish Teas  
Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Thursday, Saturday  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Starting Saturday, 2 July

Games Days  
Friday  
in July and August  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Issue 487

Nogojwanong — Peterborough

June 2022

### Report on PHS AGM 2022



The PHS Annual General Meeting took place virtually by Zoom on 19 April. The members elected the following nominees for Director: Linda Chandler; Bruce Clark; James Cullingham; Jim Forrester; Deborah Keay; Lou MacLellan; Kathryn Matheson; Michael Peterman; Bob Taylor-Vaisey.

The Trustees of Hutchison House Trust Funds appointed are: Dennis Carter-Edwards; Peter Darling; Marilyn MacNaughton; Dale Standen.

The several reports received and approved by the members at the AGM, and brief biographical profiles of the Directors, are posted on the PHS website: <https://phs-hutchisonhouse.ca/news-events/annual-general-meeting-documents/>.

In addition to the usual business of the AGM, the members endorsed the transfer of assets of the Hutchison House Endowment Fund and the Hutchison House Maintenance Fund to the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough and the entry into agreements with the CFGP for the CFGP to create and manage two Funds on behalf of the PHS for the support of Hutchison House. The members also approved the amendment of the Bylaw #4 to become the Articles of Incorporation as required by provincial legislation.

Following the AGM, historian and journalist D'Arcy Jenish spoke to members on "The October Crisis: Origins and Consequences." A summary of the talk was published in the May issue of the *Bulletin*.



### "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!

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.



## Voices of Peterborough's Past ARMSTRONG, Captain JOHN

Born: 1788 in Torne, King's County, Ireland  
Died: 24 April 1853 in Douro, Ontario  
Interred: Little Lake Cemetery, Peterborough, Ontario

John Armstrong was the son of Thomas Armstrong (1750-91) and Frances ("Fannie") Ann Wheeler (1747-1839), and a great-grandson of the Reverend William Beresford, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Decies, an Irish peer of County Waterford, through the marriage of the Baron's daughter Lady Catherine Eleanor and the Reverend William Armstrong in 1789.

John enlisted in the British Army, serving during the Napoleonic Wars and rising to the rank of Captain; he retired on half-pay at the end of hostilities.

In 1808, he married Elizabeth ("Eliza") Frances Massey (1793-1876). She was a daughter of the Irish peer Lord Francis Hugh Massey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron of Duntrileague (1755-1817) and was raised at the family's Suir Castle near Golden, County Tipperary. The couple had seven children in Ireland: Samuel (1809-77), Mary (1809-1900), Hugh Massey (1816-63), Wheeler Cuff Armstrong (1818-70), Thomas (1818-98), Robert Carew (1822-76), and Charles (b. 1824); they had five more children in Canada: Eliza Frances (b. 1826), William Henry (1829-48), Charlotte (b. 1832), Jane Amelia (b. 1835), Mary Letitia (1836-1912).

In 1825, the John Armstrong family left Ireland on the ship *Resolution* as part of the government-sponsored emigration to settle the Newcastle District of Upper Canada (now Peterborough County, Ontario). John's brother Robert and his family were already in Upper Canada, having settled in Ramsay Township as part of the 1823 Robinson emigration.

As well as receiving a grant of land in Douro Township, John was the Commissariat Officer for the emigrants. This position gave him the responsibility of tracking and issuing rations, tools, etc. to the settlers before they went to their assigned homesteads; he worked from an office at Scott's Plains (later the town/city of Peterborough), and for this period the family lived in the community.

After John's term with the commissariat ended, the family moved to their Douro farm (Concession 8, Lot 10) where, after some setbacks, they adjusted to their new life in "the backwoods" and prospered. In 1837, he saw active militia service during the Mackenzie Rebellion.

John Armstrong died in 1853 and Eliza in 1875. Both are buried in Little Lake Cemetery in Peterborough, along with several of their children and grandchildren.



Don Willcock



## PHS Previous Month's Meeting "100 Years of Tennis History in Peterborough"

Our May lecture featured an informative talk by Professor Christopher Dummitt on one aspect of Peterborough's rich sports legacy. The Quaker Park Tennis Club is celebrating its centennial and our speaker has researched and written about the history of the club.

Tennis can be traced back as far as the twelfth century although the sport has changed dramatically since that time. The first written reference to tennis in Peterborough is dated 1883 while the first photograph of people playing tennis was taken in approximately 1887 at the old cricket grounds (just up the embankment from the current Quaker club). As Professor Dummitt noted, however, there is also evidence of "ghost" tennis courts - courts that used to exist during this period - both on private property and in public spaces, such as Nicholls Oval.

Quaker Oats created the tennis courts on the former raceway property opposite Quaker Oats plant on the east side of the Otonabee River in 1922. They financially supported improvements and new facilities over the years including high quality clay courts and a club house. The Peterborough press gave extensive coverage of tennis including local championship matches as well as inter-city league play. The speaker remarked that Quaker's interest in promoting healthy, outdoor physical activity was both part of a broader social imperative to counter the lure of taverns and "unproductive behaviour" as well as addressing the potential for labour radicalism by corporate sponsorship of recreational activities for employees. In this respect, the Quaker Oats Tennis Club was egalitarian admitting both blue and white-collar members as well as men and women. Vigorous debates over appropriate attire, especially for women, reflected wider social issues on topics such as dress reform.

While interest in tennis has risen and fallen over the decades, the club remains active. After membership was opened to non-Quaker Oats employees during the second World War, tennis became a vital part of the local sports scene. When asked if Peterborough had a local industry supplying tennis equipment, as was the case with canoes, snowshoes and other sports equipment, Professor Dummitt replied that he found no reference to any such local business supplying rackets. The PHS will publish this history of local tennis and will sponsor a book launch. Watch the *Bulletin* for dates.

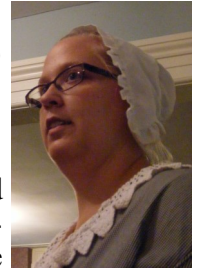
**Dennis Carter-Edwards**



Quaker Tennis Club,  
baseball diamond and  
tennis courts

## Hutchison House Museum Report

Erin Panepinto



This year, June 2nd marks a historic occasion as Britain's longest ruler (and the third longest ruler in world history) Queen Elizabeth II marks 70 years on the throne. The Queen succeeded to the Throne on the 6 February 1952 on the death of her father, King George VI. She was in Kenya at the time and became the first Sovereign in over 200 years to accede while abroad.

Queen Elizabeth II was crowned on 2 June 1953 in Westminster Abbey, the setting for every Coronation since 1066. A total of 8,251 guests attended and 129 nations and territories were officially represented. The BBC coverage was a breakthrough for the history of broadcasting as this was the first Coronation to be televised and for most people, it was the first time they had watched a live event on television. Twenty-seven million people in the UK (of the 36 million population) watched the event and 11 million listened to it on radio.

Much like any Royal celebration, there were souvenirs galore to ensure that everyone could have their very own piece of history. Souvenir mugs were given to children in schools and parishes and to babies born during the week of the coronation, including Peterborough Historical Society's own member and volunteer Marilyn MacNaughton. The image on the right depicts the souvenir mug that Marilyn received, along with a souvenir spoon marking the occasion.

Hutchison House Museum helped to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a special Garden Tea and Tour to a sold-out crowd on June 5. Thank you to all volunteers who helped to make this event special, especially our planning committee of Linda Chandler, Loretta Terry, Bob Laing and Juli Hiller.

With summer just around the corner, Scottish Teas will be resuming on Saturday, July 2, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. These will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday afternoons. Please note that there will be construction taking place along nearby Bethune Street this year. While visitors are more than

welcome to sit outside on the terrace, tables will be available in the Keeping Room in case the noise and dust are too much. For more information, please call the museum office.

For the first time, the museum will be offering Games Days every Friday in July and August, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Drop in to play board, parlour, and outdoor games! Browse our games library, relax, and enjoy. Admission is \$8 adults, \$5 students, and children under 5 are free.

Hutchison House Museum will also be hosting Summer Workshops for kids on Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Details on the different activities can be found on our website. Registration is required. Call the museum office to register a child or to ask for more details.

The museum continues to take a cautious approach to opening amongst the sixth wave of the pandemic and masks are still required for entry into the building. Please see our website for all updated information on the COVID protocols or call the office with any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you back at the museum!





## May Volunteer Meeting



Betty, Annette

Juli, Marilyn, Linda

## Getting Ready to paint



Rob  
on  
ladder

Don  
holding  
ladder







**PETERBOROUGH  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

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[phs-hutchisonhouse.ca/](http://phs-hutchisonhouse.ca/)

Hutchison House:

[pfs-hutchisonhouse.ca/  
hutchison-house/](http://pfs-hutchisonhouse.ca/hutchison-house/)

**The Bulletin**

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**Doug Williams (Gidigaa Migizi)  
Symons Heritage Award Winner for 2021**

The Peterborough Historical Society is pleased to present the Thomas H.B. and Christine Symons Heritage Award to **Douglas Williams (Gidigaa Migizi)**, Elder, Knowledge Keeper, ceremonialist, educator, former elected Chief of Curve Lake First Nation. The Symons Award is presented for an outstanding one-time or ongoing contribution to local, regional, provincial, national or international heritage causes.

**Gidigaa Migizi** is recognized for a lifetime of preserving the oral history and traditions of the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg and educating students and the public, both Indigenous and settler, of this rich heritage in the greater region of Nogojiwanong - Peterborough. As one nominator wrote, "Gidigaa Migizi adds to the history of the Kawarthas in ways that challenge the invisibility of Michi Saagiig histories and transmit a Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg view of history that was silenced through many years of settler colonial narrative-making." As a scholar in the Chanie Wenjack School of Indigenous Studies and Director of Studies in the Indigenous Studies PhD program at Trent University, he has shared his knowledge with generations of university students. Throughout the community he has responded generously and tirelessly to requests for advice and the performance of appropriate Indigenous ceremonies.

Gidigaa Migizi has employed his knowledge to rectify violations of Michi Saagiig treaty rights and thereby educate the community on a critical part of its shared history. His interpretation of Treaty 20 (1818) in court challenged the extinguishment of Aboriginal hunting and fishing rights under the Williams Treaty (1923) and led to the reclamation of rights through subsequent negotiations.

Through several published articles, and most recently by his book, *Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg: This is Our Territory*, he has interpreted Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg oral histories that expand the evidence on which the region's past is understood. As one supporter wrote, his book reveals "the extraordinary, often poetic, richness of the history of the land on which we are privileged to live."



Symons  
Heritage  
Award Winner  
Gidigaa Migizi  
with plaque