

HUTCHISON HOUSE MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Hutchison House Museum is a dynamic, interactive heritage site that offers visitors meaningful living history experiences. It operates with a strong customer-service focus that builds on its reputation as a unique cultural attraction in Peterborough.

The Peterborough Historical Society
270 Brock St, Peterborough, ON
Museum Office: 705-743-9710
Society Office: 705-740-2600

Table of Contents: Hutchison House Museum Annual Report 2022

Organization and Management	Page 2
Hours of Operation and Attendance	Page 3
Hutchison House Museum Financial Report	Page 3
Friends of Hutchison House Report	Page 4
Acquisition Committee Report	Page 4
Garden Committee Report	Page 4
Property Report	Page 5
Bookshop Report	Page 6
Visitor Feedback	Page 6
Exhibitions and Special Events	Page 7
Curator's Report on Museum Activities	Page 9
Digital Content Report	Page 13
Volunteer Report	Page 14
Training and Staff Development	Page 16

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT 2022

Peterborough Historical Society Board

Executive:

President Bob Taylor-Vaisey (January -November)
 James Forrester (December-Present)
Vice-President Kathryn Matheson (December-Present)
Treasurer Lou MacLellan(January-September)
 Deborah Keay(September-Present)
Secretary Dale Standen (April-December)
Bulletin Chair Jodi Aoki (January-September)
 Ian Ellis (September-Present)
PACAC Representative Deborah Keay

Members at Large:

Bruce Clark (April-Present) Michael Peterman Linda Chandler James Cullingham

Trust Funds Trustees:

Chairperson Peter Darling
Treasurer Marilyn MacNaughton
Members at Large:
Dennis Carter-Edwards Dale Standen

Hutchison House Management Committee:

Chair Michael Peterman (until December 2022) Linda Chandler (December-Present)
Property Don Willcock
Friends Michael Peterman
Acquisitions Linda Chandler
Members at large Bill Corbett
Recording Secretary Erin Panepinto and Rachel Kraus (beginning in November)

Staff Members:

Administrator/Curator Erin Panepinto
Museum Assistant Alice McMurtry (until July 2022) Rachel Kraus (October to present)

Summer Staff:

Scottish Tea Coordinator: Skylar Gibeault
Museum Programming Assistant: Shauna Brierley
Curatorial Assistant: Rachel Berry

Hours of Operation and Attendance

Month	Days	Hours	Volunteer	Visitor	Total People
January	7	56	11	11	22
February	19	152	35	23	55
March	22	176	76	167	243
April	18	144	28	57	85
May	18	144	91	52	143
June	23	184	76	153	229
July	21	168	123	290	413
August	23	184	131	487	618
September	21	168	69	110	179
October	20	160	84	104	188
November	26	208	91	212	303
December	19	152	47	44	91
Total	237	1,896	862	1,710	2,569

Note: Visitor attendance in 2022 was up by 359 visitors over 2021. The year started off once again with the museum in lockdown due to an uptick in COVID cases of the Omicron variant. In May of 2022 construction on Bethune St between Hunter St and Murray St began. While this did not have much of an impact on the museum initially, sporadic road closures on Brock St as well as the surrounding area made visiting the museum challenging as visitors were constantly detoured. The noise and dirt from construction also made any event on the terrace impossible. In August this became even more of a challenge as Brock St. was closed completely. This severely limited parking and eliminated any through traffic. Access in and out of the museum could also be challenging at times because of the dump trucks and other large construction vehicles going up and down the road and sometimes blocking the driveway. There were many who believed that the museum was closed because of the road closure signs and large piles of gravel and dirt piled on the road in front of the museum. Brock St. remained closed into 2023. More challenges came in the fall as the curator suffered a series of health setbacks that limited her ability to be onsite every day in October and November. Fortunately volunteers and the newly hired museum assistant stepped in to keep the museum running in her absence.

Hutchison House Financial Report

Hutchison House will have a surplus for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022.

Notwithstanding the Covid-19 and road closure challenges that plagued the museum and reduced visitations and programs, the federal MAP Grant, wage offsets from the Canadian Employment Wage Subsidy (CEWS), the Ontario Small Business Grants allowed for a productive year at the museum. The museum also saw a return of several key programs such as day camps, rentals and birthday parties. Hutchison House Museum was also fortunate to receive a supplementary grant

that paid for the work done on the bike rack as well as a sponsorship opportunity that paid for our Land Acknowledgement Artwork and Truth and Reconciliation Day speaker and refreshments.

Complete details are available in the Unaudited Financial Statements, December 31, 2022 prepared by Tim Nicholls, CA.

Friends Committee Report

This year the Friends of Hutchison House donated a generous \$6,621.52 to Hutchison House. A letter was sent out by me in June to 64 Friends replied contributing to an impressive total. The figure was strengthened by several gifts to Hutchison House from PHS members who added a figure to their membership dues and those wishing to support the museum due to COVID-19 as well as a donation in support of an upcoming exhibit change for 2023. This year additional names were added to the Friends list, and we will be looking at ways to expand that further in throughout 2023.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Peterman, Chair.

Acquisition Committee Report

Acquisition Committee: Linda Chandler; Chair, Loretta Terry, Bob Laing, Juli Hillier, Linda Lumsden, Susan Jewell and Erin Panepinto; Curator, Alice McMurtry/Rachel Kraus; Assistant Curator

Inventoried artefacts from the dresser storage in S.S. Flemings room in preparation in the redesign of the Fleming Exhibit. Received a new day bed with rope bottom, previous day bed was de-accessioned. Research was done on a 16th century Bible, and a discussion as to where it best to be stored and or displayed. A dozen new items were accepted to the collection, including book of Robert Burns, pudding molds, a chamber pot and hair wreath to name a few.

Submitted by Linda Chandler, Chair

Garden Committee Report

Work on the Gardens this year started mid-April with winter cleanup, weeding and pruning in preparation for planting. Alyssum was planted along the steps and walkway at the front of the museum and a new Dawn Climbing Rose was planted to grow up the arbour on the east side of the museum. For the first time in several years, the garden committee organized a plant sale for the Gilmour St. Garage Sale, held on the front lawn of Diane Card. Members worked hard dividing, potting, and gathering plants for the sale. The gardeners raised over \$1,000 from the plant sale.

During the spring compost was purchased and spread around the gardens, a vegetable garden was planted along the driveway and goutweed was cleared from the fence line. Gardeners

maintained the gardens over the summer, garnering many compliments even though piles of dirt and gravel from the road construction blocked the view of the front gardens. In the fall gardeners were back to rake and spread leaves and prepare the beds for winter once again.

Peterborough Community Medicine Gardeners (PCMG) continued their maintenance of the herb gardens again this year. New plants were added along with compost and wood chips to help keep the weeds down. The PCMG also held two sold out workshops on making tinctures of Echinacea in October and November.

Hutchison House Property Report

Access to the museum was challenging in 2022 starting in May when construction began along Bethune St. between Hunter and MacDonnell St. Eventually this resulted in Brock St. being closed from August until the end of the year.

There were two major projects under taken in 2022 from our five year maintenance plan:

- The old concrete between the lower and office doors was removed and a new concrete pad was poured. A new bike rack was purchased but due to the weather it will be installed in spring of 2023. Funding for this project was made possible through a City of Peterborough Service Grant. This work was done by Rob Panepinto and Mike Mitchell.
- In June Brooks Brushes came and painted all of the white exterior doors, windows, pillars and gingerbread trim. The funding for this project was raised through the houses participation with the Kawartha Bingo Sponsors Association.

In addition to the on-going weekly, monthly and annual maintenance tasks completed by staff, volunteers and sub- contractors, the following small projects were completed during the year:

- Downstairs bathroom was painted in May
- Rob Panepinto and Don Willcock reattached the acorns and trim pieces of gingerbread that had fallen into the gardens.
- Highland Trees came and trimmed up all the trees and shrubs on the property in April. They removed all of the debris that they cut down.
- On May 21st following the Derecho [large damaging wind storm] the museum lost power for 5 days which resulted in loss of food from the freezers, downed branches, a broken piece of flashing, a beeping alarm and a sink hole next to the city storm drain outside the front gate of the museum. Rob Panepinto came and took down the hung up branches and cut everything into smaller usable pieces; Trent security eventually got back to staff about turning off the beeping after 6 weeks; The broken piece of flashing was removed, but because all roofing companies in the area were overwhelmed it was not replaced before the end of the year; the City finally came and fixed the sink hole in August. It will be properly paved over when the Bethune St. Construction starts paving.

Submitted by: Don Willcock, Chair

Bookshop Annual Report

Total number of books sold: 70

Value of sales: \$ 1,029.75

Profit: \$ 732.94

End of year inventory: 1,178

Inventory value: \$ 4,554.72

Books Mailed

OP #35 Warships on the waterway was mailed to Toronto as well as Dover, United Kingdom

“New” Books

This year the museum was fortunate to receive two large donations of used books that included a variety of local history or other thematically appropriate history books.

Visitor Feedback

The majority of the visitor feedback for 2022 was once again verbal and overall positive given the situation. Restrictions on the number of visitors were put in place because the Scottish Teas were held in the Keeping Room this year. Due to construction the terrace was noisy and dirty making it difficult to have an enjoyable visit. Tables were set up inside so that visitors could have a quieter cleaner visit. The year began with the museum closed due to the Omicron variant and as a result it maintained stricter measures when it came to safety than the province required. The majority of the visitors were from Peterborough and the Kawartha's or the Greater Toronto Area. The visitor guest book and feedback surveys will return in 2023.

Hutchison House currently holds a 4.5/5 star on Google Reviews. Some comments from Google in 2022 have included:

- “We were served by the most adorable boys. Not large portions but for \$12 which included a tour of the historic house, it was well worth it.”
- “Had tea & scones outside on their shaded patio. Even in the heat it was pleasant though warm. The tour was good especially because the house is air conditioned & masking is required. They had an exposure the previous week so their protocol helped to keep the museum open. Well done Hutchinson House for keeping us safe while giving us a pleasant experience!”
- “It's an historical house and was the home of Sir Sandford Fleming. A most interesting tour. The volunteers also make very good jams.”
- “Had tea and a tour here on Wednesday. Alexa was a delightful and most attentive server. Tea was inside due to road construction in a delightfully cool period room. Scones,

preserves, tea and ice tea were all very enjoyable. Afterwards we had a tour led by Ray... who was enthusiastic and informative. A great experience!”

- “Nice little piece of local history. Guided tours help tell the story. We showed up just before the tea setting so there was a bit of commotion. A lot of artifacts are of time period but not authentic to the house. Everything is in good condition considering the age. It's hard to believe that a doctor so engaged in the area there is so little knowledge of his presence. Tour guides answer your questions and provide a unique perspective on Peterborough history. I found the admission price to be a little high, but worth the look regardless.”

Exhibitions and Events

Christmastide

November 2021 to February 2022 and November 2022 to January 2023

This exhibit was curated by Linda Chandler and Loretta Terry with help from Juli Hillier and Erin Panepinto. This exhibit explored the traditions of Christmastide or the 12 Days of Christmas. This period runs from Christmas Day (the day of Jesus’ birth) until January 6 or Epiphany (when the wise men arrived in Bethlehem). The exhibit explores the traditions around Boxing Day, St. Stephen’s Day, the Twelve Days of Christmas Song and Epiphany. Artefacts included a donation box for Boxing Day, representations of each of the twelve days of Christmas, wise men and a star. Because of rising Omicron numbers in 2021 the exhibit was remounted for Christmas 2022.

Traditionally Tartan

April 2022 to September 2022

This exhibit was curated by the museum exhibit team which includes Linda Chandler, Loretta Terry, Linda Lumsden, Susan Jewell, Don Willcock, Juli Hiller and staff. This exhibit explored the history and tradition of the Scottish Tartan. The tartan went from a function of fashion to a symbol of National Scottish pride and clan identity. This exhibit included clan maps and associated symbols, example of full male and female tartan outfit, a Scottish broadsword and more. Artefacts were loaned from the Peterborough Museum and Archives, Joan and John Reeves, Pat Rattenbury, Phyllis Nelson, Betty Hinton, Linda Lumsden, Loretta Terry, Bob Laing, Juli Hillier, Don Willcock and Linda Chandler. This exhibit was well received by the public and visitors had fun trying to find their names on the maps and figuring out which clan they would belong to.

The Queen's Jubilee Celebration

June 2022

This mini exhibit was curated by staff, Linda Chandler, Loretta Terry, Juli Hiller, Linda Lumsden, Bob Laing and Don Willcock. The exhibit highlighted the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952 and her historic 70 years on the throne. The Queen's Jubilee celebration was held the weekend of June 4 and the exhibit was left up for the month in its honour. Artefacts included a commemorative cup, saucer and spoon that were given to children born the week of the coronation in 1952, invitations to tea at Buckingham Palace from the year of the coronation, souvenir coronation books and pamphlets and two portraits of the queen, from both the coronation and the one done for her platinum jubilee.

Peterborough Photographic Society

September 2022 to November 2022

Members of the Peterborough Photographic Society curated an exhibit showcasing their member's artwork as part of a community group exhibit initiative. This display featured photographs and photorealism on a variety of subjects from still life, landscape and wildlife.

Virtual Exhibits

While no new virtual exhibits were created in 2021, due to COVID-19 and everyone's thirst for online material, the museum promoted our two existing virtual exhibits: Growing up in Peterborough: A Century of Stories (2006) and The Life and Times of Dr. Hutchison in the Backwoods of Upper Canada (2011).

Research has continued for an exhibit on immigration that the museum hopes to put on display in person at the museum as well as create virtual content including an exhibit for 2025.

Special Events including Demonstrations

Hogmanay- Curbside Pick Up

Date: December 31, 2021

Meals Sold: 44

Following Christmas 2021 and a rise in the Omnicron variant Ontario returned to lockdown. Because of on-going health restrictions our Hogmanay Curbside Pick was on New Year's Eve rather than the traditional January 1st. In order for visitors to 'share' in our celebration of the Scottish New Year, museum staff and volunteers created a curbside pickup meal out of many of the delicious treats we would normally have at our in-person event. This meal included: a Scotch Egg, Neeps and Tatties (potatoes and turnips), Potted salmon, cheese, oatcakes, cloutie dumpling, shortbread and for an extra \$5 a piece of Haggis.

Haunted Halloween for Kids

Date: Saturday October 29, 2022

Visitors: 75

Volunteers: 8

Our annual Haunted Halloween for kid's event began to look more traditional this year. Kids could tour the decorated 'haunted' house and get some holiday treats, create a spooky craft in the Keeping Room, have their fortune told in the parlour, fish for candy on the top floor and participate in a scavenger hunt to find all of the skeleton animals hidden around the museum.

Truth and Reconciliation Day

Date: Friday, September 30, 2022

Visitors: 27

Volunteers: 5

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation the museum has created a permanent wall display of the Land Acknowledgement along with a piece of original artwork by local Curve Lake resident and residential school survivor Fred Taylor. The museum unveiled this display and invited Fred Taylor to speak about his experiences at a special event for Truth and Reconciliation Day. This display and event was organized by Linda Chandler, Don Willcock and museum staff. The project and event was sponsored by Stockdale Masonry.

Curator's Report on Museum Activities

In-House Annual Special Events

Hogmanay, Scottish New Year's celebration-curbside pick-up (December 31, 2021)

6 Heritage Luncheons (March, April, May, June, November, December)

St. Patrick's Day Meal-curbside pick up (March)

Truth and Reconciliation Day (September)

Haunted Halloween (October)

Workshops

Peterborough Community Medicine Gardeners- The Peterborough Community Medicine Gardeners developed, promoted and ran two workshops in the Keeping Room at Hutchison House (September and October). These workshops were free and had a maximum of 10 people and filled up quickly.

This year saw the return of our in person day camps with children for the first time since COVID. Camps were limited to 10 children and tables were set up in the Keeping Room so that

children could spread out more. PA Day camps included Fairy Gardens and a Youth Curator Camp. March Break included 5 days of themed activities such as wild weather, amazing animals, pleasing plants and great games.

Summer Workshops included 5 days of themed activities such as bookbinding, hearth cooking, marionettes, teddy bears and kaleidoscopes.

Educational Programs

2022 was another difficult year for school programs. The museum transitioned back to in person programming in September. In November we had our first program at the museum. A Brownie troop that participated in a Daily Life program

In-house Activities

Community Outreach

Hutchison House Museum donated Gift certificates to our Scottish Tea to two different local organizations. The first in the Jukebox Mania fundraiser to support the Community Counseling and Resource Centre and the second was St. Anne's Elementary School.

Once again this year the museum was fortunate enough to have a group of Museum Management and Curatorship Students from Sir Sandford Fleming College design a program for us as part of their course. This intrepid group of students created several videos on the history of Cross stitch and designed a sampler for viewers to follow along at home. Patterns and instructions can be downloaded from our website at <https://phs-hutchisonhouse.ca/hutchison-house/virtual-programs-and-resources/>. They also created lesson plans for grades 3, 6, 8 and 10 for teachers to use in their classrooms.

There were Group Teas for the MG Car Convention over two days as well as Kawartha Retirement Home and Community Living.

The museum was toured by several groups including: visited a Youth Cadet Group who were geocaching locally; English as a Second Language (ESL) students from Sir Sandford College; and a group of friends on a 'Mystery Tour'.

An Exhibit Task for Committee was created with members of local museum organizations to brainstorm possible options for programming and exhibit opportunities for the museum. The Committee report was submitted in December.

The museum opened itself up for community rentals again and hosted several birthday parties in the fall for both adults and children.

The museum participates in the Peterborough Kawartha Northumberland Museum Network.

Conservation

To help control the humidity levels in the building we made use of dehumidifiers on each floor when necessary, during times of high humidity. In cases of low humidity portable humidifiers were used when needed. Basins of water were also placed near the radiators to add moisture to the air where possible during the winter season when indoor humidity levels drop significantly.

Readings throughout the house of temperature and humidity were taken twice daily (except when the museum was in lock down.)

When Rachel arrived, a brief assessment was done of some of the main area artifacts to identify any potential items in need of treatment or attention, as is her area of specialty. The yarn swift in the Keeping Room was highlighted, as it was being held together with wire twine and the wood was straining in a way that encouraged potential breakage due to the wire digging into the wood spokes. Minor treatment in the way of surface cleaning, wire removal and replacement with cotton twill in the spoke ends and plans to enforce the ribs with better braces, in time as needed, are detailed in a condition report. With this project, Rachel made a preliminary assessment of the Stagecoach toy in the Connal Nursery and ordered some conservation supplies in order to undertake some of this work in the coming year.

This summer we were fortunate to have a volunteer from the Heritage Conservation program at Sir Sandford Fleming College. Allison worked on a variety of collections projects over the summer including an inventory of the textile collection and some light conservation work removing tape residue from old labels and cleaning.

Research

Staff and volunteers conducted exhibit research into the history and variations of the Scottish Tartan, the clan system, the history of the MacDonald (Hutchison/Connal) and Murray (Fleming) clans, Queen Elizabeth II, her coronation and her Jubilee celebrations, upcoming exhibit on Peterborough Past-times.

The Assistant Curator researched for aspects of social media to encourage more interaction with visitors. This included researching historic recipes, showcasing items from the collection, researching social media holidays and associated facts, and creating content. Research was also completed for the heritage luncheons, which included gathering facts for menu cards.

Promotions

Paid advertising included ads placed in a variety of local tourism publications, Cottage Country Connection and Kawartha Visitors Guide.

Peterborough This Week Creative Ad Program– This year Hutchison House participated in an advertising contest for children through Peterborough This Week. Students from various local public schools submitted their advertisements for the museum and museum staff and volunteers were asked to pick their favourite. There were a lot of really great submissions and volunteers had a hard time picking just one.

Interviews were held with Emily McPhail for the Durham College Paper as well as a filmed interview with Peterborough Today which featured the museum for its weekly spotlight on community organizations.

Hutchison House Museum was nominated for a Business Excellence Award in Tourism through the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce. The committee filmed a small clip at the museum to be shown in advance of the awards ceremony.

Press releases were sent to local media publicizing all events, workshops and fundraisers that we were able to hold throughout the year.

Hutchison House reports and upcoming events were included in all publications of the PHS Bulletin published 10 times per year.

Museum events were promoted across all our social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Grants

CMOG - Community Museum Operating Grant, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Hutchison House was able to retain the same amount of funding from the previous year receiving \$15,090.00

YCW - Young Canada Works in Heritage, Heritage Canada
This federal program is administered through the Canadian Museums Association. In 2022, Hutchison House received funding for two summer students in the amount of \$10,185.34 toward summer staff wages.

CSJ- Canada Summer Jobs
We were fortunate to acquire funding for one summer student through this program in 2022 receiving \$ 3,788 to help with student wages.

City of Peterborough – Municipal Capital Facilities funding
In 2022 Hutchison House received \$ 43,994 as part of their Municipal Capital Facilities funding program. The Museum also received an additional \$1,958 in funds from the City to go towards a community geared project/program. The Museum used this to create a concrete pad and bike rack for staff and visitors.

CEWS- This federal wage subsidy program was created to help qualified organizations retain their staff throughout the pandemic. Hutchison House received \$19,636.66.

OSB- Ontario Small Business Grant. This grant was a COVID relief grant available for businesses, including museums, with staff of less than 100 that had to close as a result of public health regulations. We received \$10,000 in February.

MAP- Museum Assistance Program COVID Relief fund- The museum received \$10,682.

Digital Content

Staff and volunteers continued to meet virtually through zoom over the majority of 2022.

The Facebook page is utilized and is continually updated as to what is happening at the museum. The Facebook page can be viewed at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Hutchison-House-Museum/120961071272046> and is linked through the museum homepage. Visitors do not need to be a member of Facebook in order to view the page. As of the end of 2022 Hutchison House had 771 visitors who like our page and 888 who follow us on Facebook. Our page was viewed over 15,512 times over the year and had visitors engaged about 4,867 times. The Hutchison House Facebook page also features mystery objects, holiday trivia, local or relevant historical trivia, on this day in history... ‘or did you know?’ that continually brings followers back to our page. There were 1,411 visits to the Facebook page in 2022.

The Hutchison House Museum Twitter account currently has 167 followers and 106 following and is linked to our Facebook page, so that any post on Twitter also appears on Facebook. Check us out at <https://twitter.com/HutchisonHouse>. @HutchisonHouse.

Hutchison House Museum Instagram account currently has 469 followers and 28 following. The Instagram reach is approximately 1,105. There were 114 new followers this year. To date Hutchison House has created 599 posts and 615 profile visits. Check us out at <https://www.instagram.com/hutchisonhousemuseum/> to follow @hutchisonhousemuseum.

Hutchison House Museum YouTube channel has 277 subscribers to our channel- more than double 2021-and combined our 39 videos have been viewed 39,036 times-more than 5 times the year before. The video with the most views continues to be the tutorial on making Teddy Bears with 36K views. The second most viewed video was ‘PHS Talks: Packed to the doors: The Electric City goes to the movies’ with 370 views. You can view our channel here https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvUNc56VBwk9xVqN_Lqnyg.

Hutchison House uses Google Analytics to track visitors to our website. Hutchison House currently has a 4.5 star google rating. In 2022 Hutchison House was found on google **35883** times. Directions were requested 842 times. Visitors went to our website from google 1619 times. Hutchison House was contacted 144 times through google.

Volunteer Report

Adult Volunteers: 21

Junior Volunteers: 28

Volunteer Hours: approximately hours: 4,100

Volunteer Fundraising: Total funds raised by Volunteers: \$ 18, 694.93

1. Christmas Market: \$3,086
2. Snowflake Tea and Dessert: \$494
3. Bingo: \$12,876.03
4. Jubilee Tea: \$515
5. Plant and Yard Sale: \$1,723.90

Volunteer Activities in 2022

There were four meetings in 2022, including the Volunteer pot luck at Christmas. The volunteers met in June to discuss the coming season as to who would be available to help with tours. The volunteers met again in the fall to make plans and discuss the Christmas Market and Snow Flake tea. We have added three new volunteers to our roster.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda Chandler, Volunteer Chair.

Linda Chandler, Loretta Terry, Bob Laing and Juli Hiller worked hard to plan, and execute two days of Snowflake Tea and Desserts in the afternoons that we held the Christmas Markets in November. The Keeping Room was decorated with white Christmas Lights and sparkly snowflakes. There were 4 sittings over two days. Desserts and a light tea were served out of the kitchen, and visitors enjoyed them by the fire in the Keeping Room.

Linda, Loretta, Bob and Juli also worked hard at organizing and executing an afternoon tea as part of the celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee. The terrace was set up with lace table cloths and three tiered plates, bunting was put up around the porch and terrace and visitors were given a commemorative pin honoring this milestone. Visitors dressed up in their Sunday best with one couple coming as far away as Ottawa for the occasion. In conjunction with this event a small mini exhibit on the Queen's Jubilee was set up for the month of June on the board of the hallway and the Victorian cabinet in the Harvey Connal Room. The event was sold out and well received by visitors.

Volunteers also assisted with the following:

Cooking and food preparation; assisting with, organizing and running events; prepping material for the Day Camps and March Break; exhibit research, set up and take down; Property Maintenance such as building & grounds upkeep, gardens, house cleaning; Sitting on Management Committee and other committees such as: Garden Committee, Costume Committee, Property Committee, Acquisitions, Friends of Hutchison House and Finance; Guiding; And so much more!

Volunteer Recognition:

Ontario Volunteer Service Awards: Recognition was given to several of our volunteers for their many years of service. The 2022 recipients were:

Bob Laing-15

Doreen Jones-30

Linda Lumsden-10

Paul Lumsden-10

Lois Scott-5

Michael Peterman-35

Youth- Avery Pacheco-5

Youth- Sarah Lawton-4

Youth- Fiona Connolly-3

Volunteer Appreciation:

While we were unable to have our traditional summer volunteer appreciation tea, the museum was able to hold our Christmas Potluck for the first time since 2019. Despite the threat of poor weather volunteers came out to celebrate the end of another successful and challenging year and visit with each other.

Junior Volunteers:

Applications for Junior Volunteers were sent out the end of April and we had 28 children participated in the Junior Volunteer program this summer. This summer, while trying to be more 'normal', was also challenging due to the construction on Bethune St and eventual closure of Brock St. Orientation for the juniors was held the end of June in person for the first time in 3 years. This gave juniors a chance to find their costumes, meet the staff and learn the adjusted routine for teas. For many of the juniors this year, this was their first summer serving and for the first time since COVID, we scheduled more than one junior per shift, four out of the 5 days a week. We continued to use the accessible door as the primary entrance for visitors and teas were served in the Keeping Room. Juniors would work on activities with the Museum Programming Assistant in the Harvey Connal Room between visitors. We also had juniors who interpreted the museum as well as help in the kitchen. For all of their hard work this summer, staff held a Pirate

themed Thank You Party at the end of the summer. Each junior was given an eye patch and a brief bio of a real or fictional pirate (ie. Captain Jack Sparrow, Blackbeard etc). This eye patch held the first clue to a treasure hunt that took them around the lower level of the museum. Cora Davies was first to the treasure chest full of gold coins (chocolate) and everyone else enjoyed consolation chocolate bars. After a pizza lunch with a walk like a pirate contest, the juniors enjoyed ice cream sundaes and a showing of pirates of the Caribbean in the Harvey Connal Room.

Staff Training and Development

Summer Staff: In-house training for position, interpretation techniques, data entry, supervising junior volunteers, care and handling of artifacts, kitchen orientation, customer service, on-site safety, orientation to new COVID-19 protocols.

Erin Panepinto: Supervising volunteers and summer staff, continued improvement with customer service and interpretation.

Webinars: Because of the pandemic there were a variety of free webinars that staff and volunteers took advantage of through Cuseum, the Ontario Museum Association, the National Trust and other Non Profit organizations. Some of these webinars included:

- B/A speaker series: Navigating Risk in 2022
- Living History to Living the History
- Destination Ontario Presents Know your target Audience by Tourism product session 2
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Reconciliation in Heritage
- The Digital Trust: Intention through application
- Asynchronous Virtual School Program Workshop
- Synchronous Virtual School Program Workshop
- Gathering of Heritage Sector: Insurance and Heritage Properties Review of survey findings and next steps.
- Community Services Recovery Fund Information
- Building Community through Diversifying partners and audience representation.
- How to find and secure grants for your heritage project.

OMA Conference November 7/8 2022

This year Rachel Kraus attended the OMA conference in Hamilton on behalf of the museum. She thoroughly enjoyed her first conference and enjoyed the Study Tour that took her to several of Hamilton's Civic Museums including the Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology, Whitehern Historic House and Garden and Dundurn Castle. Here is a summary of the various sessions that Rachel attended:

Session	Major take away
<p>Keynote speaker: Leadership and uncertainty – Supporting our Teams and Ourselves through Uncharted Territory (Dorota Blumczynska)</p>	<p>-The important of purpose is being an active member within an organization. -Duality of museums as an opportunity; institutions of the past and vehicles of future communities. Willing discomfort is courage -Offer your best and be humble in expecting return -the 3 C’s of leadership: Capacity, Commitment and Care. (Capacity; boundaries are more important than balance. Commitment: vulnerability allows you to be seen, and allow yourself to be wrong. Be committed to making the most genuine efforts. Care; Care about your space, the people, the community, etc)</p>
<p>Engaging in Mental Health and Wellness Respectfully (Rebecca Hicks, Michelle Bartlett)</p>	<p>-as trusted sources of information, museums are an option for nonclinical and destigmatized discussion of mental health and other difficult topics -prepare staff with resources to support guests/provide resources after the visit (pamphlets, websites for further discussion, where to reach out if content was triggering) -realize that staffs are not trained mental health professionals; they are conduits of the information. CAMH as a resource for content and further support. -In the workplace; Build resource library to support exhibits, incorporate mindfulness in staff meetings, and provide appropriate staff training (mental health first aid), recognizing psychological health and safety.</p>
<p>Living in Relation; Indigenous Partnership and a Process of Decolonizing (Amber Holmes) Any Hutchison House hosted event we need to be doing our Land Acknowledgement</p>	<p>Truth – focus on the history of unlearning and the efforts of a more accurate and fully rounded retelling -before trying to ‘check off a box’, really think about the authenticity and relationship you are trying to build by reaching out (intention) -what might museums represent to Indigenous communities, and how do we reconcile that in our communities? Create a space of elevation, not just a ‘feature’ space -Reciprocity vs unilateral -Be flexible and open</p>
<p>Prioritizing Relationships: Practical Strategies for community Building in Museum Management, Exhibitions, Policy and Programs (Armando Perla, Heather George, Raven Spiratos, Sam Cronk)</p>	<p>-It is an imperfect process; that is okay, accept that, but at least start the process! -decolonizing labels, language in database, etc, can take time as It’s found during search etc. Takes process! Decolonizing work centers on people, loyalty to community, not institutions. Immediate benefits for those we are hoping to serve.</p>
<p>Study tour: It’s the Little Things- Small Steps Towards Continuous Improvement at the</p>	

Hamilton Civic Museums	<p>Accessibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Physical; historic houses are limited and accept that! Creative solutions result in immersive experiences for more diverse and expansive audiences -Visual/auditory impairments; having specific training or awareness for guides, empowered language or tools available. (Ipad example) -Livestreamed tour pilot – less static, more up to date, could happen as the guests are here -Try to be proactive, not reactive; consult with folks and ask how best to accommodate, don't broad brush stroke solution
------------------------	--

Online sessions of the OMA were held on November 21. Staff attempted to attend several of the sessions throughout the day but technical difficulties kept staff from hearing all of any given presentation.