



PETERBOROUGH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY | EST. 1897

NOGOJIWANONG - PETERBOROUGH



Annual Report 2022

Prepared for the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2023
3 PM, Bagnani Hall, Catharine Parr Traill College

Board of Directors, 2022

Bob Taylor-Vaisey, President
Deborah Keay, Treasurer pro tem
Lou MacLellan
Dale Standen, Past President, Secretary, (ex officio, non-voting)
Jodi Aoki, Recording Secretary pro tem
Linda Chandler
Bruce Clark
James Cullingham
Michael Peterman
James Forrester
Erin Panepinto, Curator/Manager (ex officio, non-voting)

Hutchison House Management Committee 2022

Michael Peterman, Chair
Erin Panepinto, Curator/Manager (ex officio)
Don Willcock, Property Management (Co-chair with Paul Lumsden)
Bill Corbett, Member at Large
Linda Chandler, Acquisitions/Conservation, Exhibits & Volunteers/Events .
Dale Standen, PHS Past- President

Trust Fund Trustees

Peter Darling, Chair
Marilyn McNaughton, Treasurer
Dennis Carter-Edwards
Dale Standen
(Financial Advisor: Susan Young)

President's Report

2022 continued to be a year of transition. This has been the norm for most arts and heritage organizations. Changes to provincial legislation, impacts of new official plans and the continuing impacts of COVID19, have affected most of the activities of the Society. In other words, it has been a challenging period. The antidote is adaptation, and the Board, and the Hutchison House Management Committee remain vigilant in ensuring the long-term sustainability of both Society and Museum

The PHS Board and Hutchison House accomplished a lot in 2022:

- a land recognition plaque and display initiated by Hutchison House in conjunction with an event organized by Erin Panepinto and Linda Chandler.
- continued proactive programming by Hutchison House, supported by a strong cohort of volunteers.
- participated on Remembrance Day with the laying of a PHS wreath.
- transfer of the endowment funds to the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough for fund management, with thanks to Dale Standen for his efforts.
- policy development, survey, human resources, signing authorities, records management, fundraising, privacy, occasional paper editing.
- an important submission commenting on the Trent Severn Waterway draft Master Plan.
- a continuing strong relationship with the City of Peterborough.

At the same time, we saw some changes. First and foremost, the retirement of our bookkeeper, Diane Ostrom. Diane was a pleasure to work with for all, efficient and thorough. She was instrumental in assisting in the development of a financial procedures manual. Second, a new Chair of the Hutchison House Management Committee, with Linda Chandler assuming the mantle from Michael Peterman. Michael has been an important resource and leader for PHS and Hutchison House for over 40 years. Third, a new *Bulletin* editor. Ian Ellis is a graduate student at Trent, and he took over – with great enthusiasm and gusto from the eminently capable Jodi Aoki. And finally, a change in the Presidency, with James Forrester taking over from me when I needed to step down unexpectedly in late November.

For me, personally, I have had a really stimulating 5 years on the Board. And for that, I need to thank the following: Wayne Godward, Kathryn Matheson, Michael Eamon, Dale Standen, Deb Keay, Lou McClellan, Peter Eatson, Jodi Aoki and the late Tom Symons.

Bob Taylor-Vaisey,
President (January-November)

Financial Report

In 2022, there were still reduced revenues due to the lingering effects of COVID-19 restrictions as well as the Bethune Street reconstruction including the closure of Brock Street in front of Hutchison House. Fortunately, losses continued to be offset by special federal and provincial government grants and the federal government wage-subsidy. On another positive note, the PHS membership made donations that exceeded what was anticipated in the budget. Neither the Maintenance nor Trust funds were drawn on in 2022, although they are expected to be drawn on to achieve a net surplus budget for 2023. Hutchison House ended 2022 with approximately \$18,500 in net revenue. The anticipated expense for a new Heat Pump and Air Handler were deferred to 2023 and will be covered by the surplus from 2022.

The Peterborough Historical Society experienced a net revenue of \$5,000, mostly from significantly higher income from donations as well as the bulk sale of Occasional Papers to the Quaker Tennis Club.

To review the exact details of the PHS financial position please see the **Peterborough Historical Society Unaudited Financial Results at December 31, 2022** prepared by Tim J. F. Nicholls, Chartered Accountant.

Deb Keay,
Interim Treasurer

Program Committee Report

The Society began the 2022 lecture series with a tale of romance and intrigue with Ken Brown's presentation of John A. Macdonald's real estate dealings as executor of George Baker Hall, a prominent Peterborough figure and owner of a tract of land around present day Beavermead Park. Along with Sir John's various attempts to sell the land for development -- both residential and commercial, -- there was the tantalizing hint of a possible romantic association between Baker's widow and Macdonald. Ken referenced the letter from Elizabeth to Macdonald which she signed off as "love from loving Lizzie" and examined the possible romantic entanglement, concluding there was insufficient evidence of a relationship and hinted it may have been merely one sided as Macdonald was fully occupied with matters of state.

In February Wendy Darby, Archivist at Lakefield College School, gave an informative overview of the archival holdings of the College and the role they continue to play in the current day curriculum, whether it be for Remembrance Day services or class research projects.

In March the presentation by Michael Chappell on the Old Stone Mill House in Lakefield and the last-minute efforts to save this important structure from demolition for strip mall development was a timely reminder of how vulnerable our built heritage is and the ever-present need for diligence, especially in light of recent changes to the Ontario Heritage Act which makes irreplaceable built heritage assets even more at risk.

For the AGM in April, noted author D'Arcy Jenish, whose publications include the 50th anniversary history of Trent University, spoke about his research and writing on the October Crisis of 1970 – a pivotal moment in our nation's history. While many of the audience will remember those dark day with the kidnapping of James Cross and the assassination of Pierre Laporte, Jenish shared his extensive interviews with security officials that set the stage for the events of October 1970.

The Fall session of lectures commenced with a panel discussion on Jackson Park, the subject of much controversy in the ongoing Parkway debate. Karen Carter-Edwards gave an historical overview of the park's development from early lumbering at the Dixon's mill to active recreational use by community groups such as the Street Railway Company, the Board of Health and later the Kiwanis Club. Robert Clarke spoke about the introduction of outdoor films and other attractions in the early twentieth century. Terry Hawkins shared his amusing recollections of growing up on Bonaccord Street and the antics his "gang" got into in the park. Richard Scott, a retired urban park planner provided notes on the significant natural and cultural assets of the park, the risks they face and the need for sound management planning to insure the long-term viability of the park as urban growth puts greater pressure on these precious community assets.

In October, Jennifer Guerin, the Heritage Research Officer in the Heritage Preservation Office spoke about a little known or appreciated feature of the built landscape in the city – the garage. This functional aspect of the built environment has an intriguing and important history in the evolution of domestic architecture and Jennifer highlighted early examples of this important built form and efforts to identify and protect surviving examples.

Finally, in November Sean Scully presented his documentary "Playing with Fire" which told the story of the massive munitions explosion in Trenton at the end of World War I. During the Thanksgiving weekend in 1918 a series of explosions occurred at the British Chemical Company's plant in Trenton where dangerous materials such as oleum, gun cotton and nitrate were mixed to provide the propellant for artillery shells. A catastrophe of the scale of the Halifax Explosion was narrowly avoided by the heroic action of three staff members to move box cars loaded with TNT to safety. The source of the explosions is shrouded in mystery and Sean speculated on the actions of the company who collected some \$4,000,000 in insurance.

On behalf of the members, thanks to the many speakers who shared their knowledge and passion for our history and especially to Dale Standen for his technical support for the virtual presentations via Zoom.

Dennis Carter-Edwards, Chair, Program Committee

Trustees Report

The Trustees met on February 14th and May 13th in 2022. At the February meeting the reinvestment of several Guaranteed Income Certificates that were about to come due were

approved. Dale Standen went over the details of the proposed transfer of funds to the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough which had been approved by the Board and which would be up for approval by the members at the Annual Meeting in April.

At the May meeting it was noted that at the AGM the members had approved the transfer of funds to the CFGP. Dale Standen circulated draft copies of the agreement with CFGP and noted that language had been included to clarify that should the City ever take over Hutchison House Museum, the Trust Funds would continue to support the museum.

Agreements were signed with the CFGP to create two new funds, the Hutchison House Trust Fund and the Hutchison House Maintenance Fund. The HHTF is an endowed fund intended to provide annual income in perpetuity. The HHMF is an expendable fund to support the maintenance of Hutchison House. The Board approved the transfer of available funds from the PHS Trust Funds to begin in June 2022. As existing GICs mature over the next three years, the capital will be transferred to the Hutchison House Trust Fund in the CFGP.

The transfer of the Trust Funds to the CFGP will provide professional management and the prospect of improved returns on investments.

Peter Darling, Committee Chair
Chair of the Trustee Committee

Membership Report

Membership for 2022 in the Peterborough Historical Society was 129, a slight increase over 2021.

- 17 lifetime members (no longer an option)
- 108 individual and family members
- 4 institutional members

Membership is for the calendar year, January to December, which provides a seasonal cycle for renewals. After receiving a notice to renew in September, many of us still forget and require a gentle reminder in the following month or so. The new PHS website launched in November 2021 now allows members to renew online and we hope that this will make renewing easier.

The PHS Board is currently seeking someone to chair a membership committee to review membership policy with a view to publicizing the work of the Society and recruiting new members.

Dale Standen, Past President

Publications Committee Report

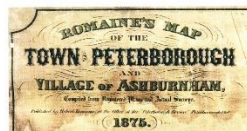
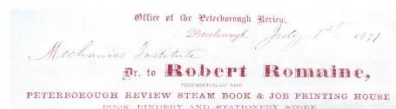
In 2022 the Publications Committee produced its 42nd consecutive yearly Occasional Paper, which must be a record of some sort among Canadian Historical Societies. It was entitled “The Many Working Lives of Robert Romaine: Farm equipment inventor, printer, publisher, politician, mapmaker, industrialist, civil-servant, dreamer/visionary” and was written by Ken Brown.

As well, in cooperation with the Quaker Tennis Club, the Publications Committee produced “Tennis on the Otonabee: A History of the Quaker Park Tennis Club” by Professor Christopher Dummitt, a member of Trent’s History Department. It was sold to all current Quaker Park members. Though not listed as a yearly PHS publication, PHS members were able to purchase a copy if they wished.

The Many Working Lives of Robert Romaine

Farm equipment inventor, printer, publisher, politician, map-maker, industrialist, civil-servant, dreamer/visionary.

Ken Brown



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AN OCCASIONAL PAPER PUBLISHED BY THE
PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MARCH 2022

Tennis by the Otonabee

A History of the Quaker Park Tennis Club

Christopher Dummitt



A PUBLICATION OF THE
PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE QUAKER PARK TENNIS CLUB
MAY 2022

Our busy year also included reprints of #35 Mae Whetung-Derrick’s *Oshkigmomg: The Curve in the Lake--A History of the Mississauga Community of Curve Lake: Origins of the Curve Lake Anishnabek* (2015) and #39--Mark Jokinen’s “Another Day in Paradise: Reflections of a Peterborough Bookseller” (2018). Both OPs have sold well respectively at the Curve Lake Store and Mark Jokinen’s bookstore, and in each case, we printed 100 new copies for continuing sales.

The Publications Committee members are Michael Peterman (Chair), Elwood Jones, Jodi Aoki, and Bill Corbett.

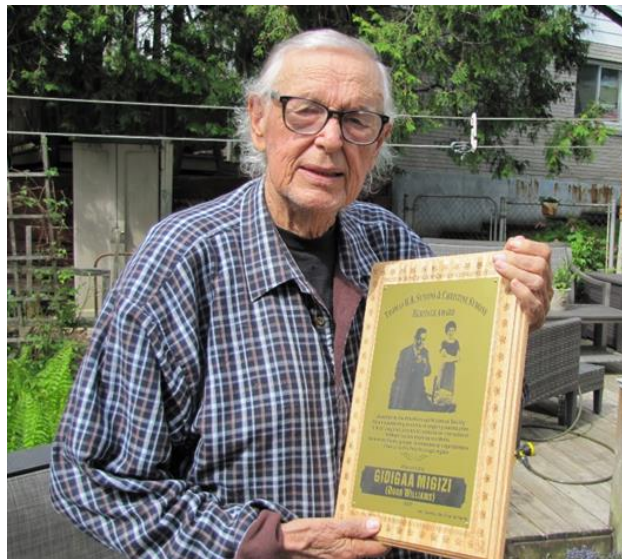
Michael Peterman,
Chair, Publications Committee
Professor Emeritus, Trent University.

Heritage Awards Report

The disruption of the pandemic led to the collapsing of three years of heritage awards into two. In 2022 awards were presented for projects completed in both 2020 and 2021. Despite the pandemic, the community benefited from many worthy heritage projects. Nominations were received for all seven award categories. The full description of the awards and commendations are posted on the PHS website: <https://phs-hutchisonhouse.ca/about-us/awards/recipients/>

Thomas H.B. and Christine Symons Award

Awarded to Douglas Williams (Gidigaa Migizi), Elder, Knowledge Keeper, ceremonialist, educator, former elected Chief of Curve Lake First Nation for a lifetime of preserving the oral history and traditions of the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg.



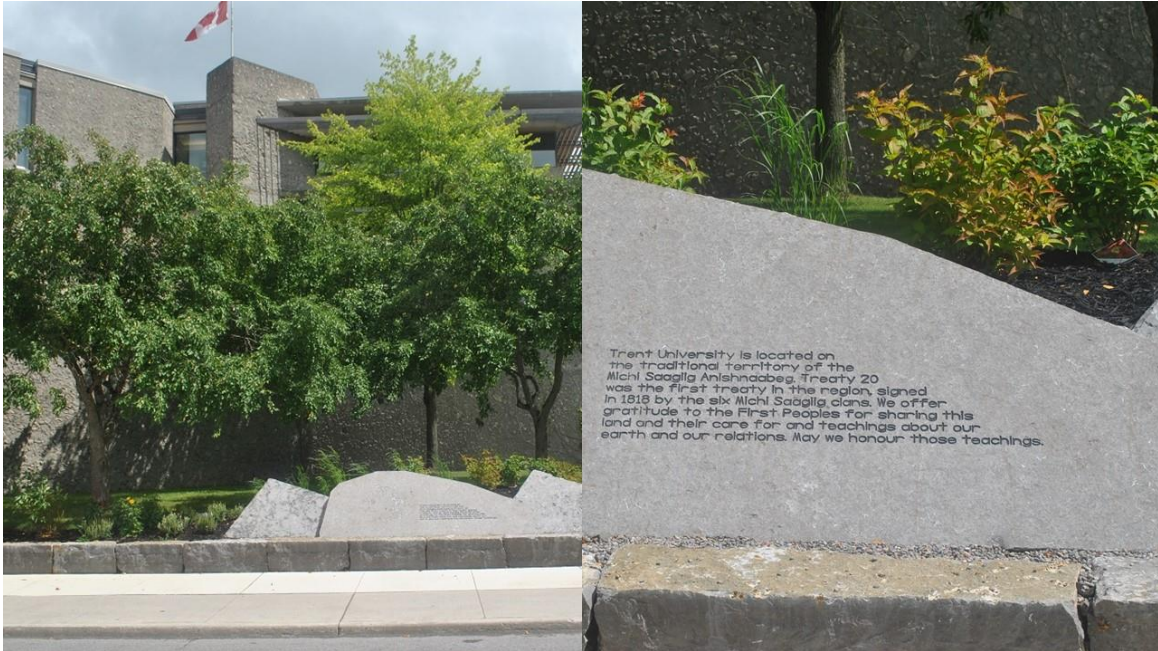
Samuel Armour Award

Awarded to Trent Valley Archives and YourTV for the documentary video, "Spanning 100 Years: Building the Ashburnham/Hunter Street Bridge," on the bridge's 100th anniversary.



J. Hampden Burnham Award

Awarded to Trent University and the local Michi Saagiig First Nations for the “Treaty Rock” Project at Trent University, acknowledging that the Symons campus is located on Michi Saagiig traditional territory.



Don Willcock (PHS) and David Newhouse
(Trent University, Chair, Chaney Wenjack School of Indigenous Studies)

George A. Cox Award

Awarded to Atria Development Corporation in recognition of the sympathetic redesign and expansion of the former YMCA building for residential apartments in downtown Peterborough.



Dale Standen (PHS), Hitesh Gaiiwala, Hans Jain (Atria)

F. H. Dobbin Award

Awarded to Bruce & Frances Gravel, authors of *Rotary Club of Peterborough: Investing in Community, 1921-2021*, to celebrate the Club's centennial year.



Martha Kidd Award

Awarded to the Friends of the Old Stone Mill House Committee for saving from demolition Lakefield's historic landmark building at 44 Bridge Street.



Valerie Kuch, Michael Chappell (LHS), Don Willcock (PHS), Lizzie Shanks and Tom McAllister

Charlotte Nicholls Award

Awarded to Bryan P. Davies & Andra Takacs for establishing a new endowment fund to support the original Ron Thom architecture and furnishings of Trent University.



Don Willcock (PHS), Bryan Davies with Michael Eamon (Traill College Principal) in SCR

July 2022

High School History Awards

For several decades the Peterborough Historical Society has been presenting a certificate and prize to High School students who achieve the highest mark in History.

Sadly, today not all secondary schools offer History courses, and some offer them only every other year.

The winners in 2022 were:

Beth Slepko	Adam Scott Collegiate
William Partridge	Crestwood Secondary School
Kieran Comeau-Parrington and Warren Cao (IB)	Kenner Collegiate
Abigail Auger	St. Peter Secondary School
Adrienne Gilmoure	Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School

Linda Lumsden, Coordinator

PHS *Bulletin* Report


Throughout 2022 the Peterborough Historical Society published ten issues of the *Bulletin*. It is produced by Marilyn MacNaughton. Edited by Jodi Aoki from January – October, Ian Ellis began editing the publication in October. The *Bulletin* reaches most readers digitally, but print numbers remain steady. No matter the format, the *Bulletin* continuously published vital President's Reports, the energetic happenings of Hutchison House Museum, and notices of intriguing community history. Every issue features a report on the ongoing PHS Talks series, which has been a staple of the PHS since 2020. In December 2022, plans were finalized for Trent University History M.A. students to begin contributing under the "Research Notes" section. Look for these in various future 2023 issues!

The *Bulletin* column, "Voices from Peterborough's Past," was published in several issues in 2022; articles of local historical interest were submitted by various contributors:

- January 2022: Audio-Visual Education arrives at PCVS / Robert Ganton Clarke
- February 2022: A Reminder of Peterborough's Industrial Past / Ken Brown
- March 2022: Reflecting on Peterborough's Irish Heritage: Commemorating the '1825ers' / Dennis Carter-Edwards
- April 2022: 'WE-Peterborough' and issues of global concern / Jodi Aoki
- May 2022: Charles Ackerman and the Miller Bros Cowboys in Paris, France / Robert Ganton Clarke
- June 2022: Armstrong, Captain John / Don Willcock
- September 2022: Nuclear Warfare Threat Redux / Dale Standen


- October 2022: The End of a Historic Francophone Building in Peterborough / Dale Standen

Ian Ellis, Editor



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UPCOMING EVENTS	Issue 482	January 2022
<p>Peterborough Historical Society</p> <p>Monthly Meeting by Zoom Members must register</p> <p>PHS Zoom Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, 18 January Speaker Ken Brown Tuesday, 15 February Speaker Wendy Darby Tuesday, 15 March Speaker Michael Chappell Tuesday, 19 April Peterborough Historical Society AGM Tuesday, 17 May Speaker Dennis Carter-Edwards</p> <p>Hutchison House Museum</p> <p>See our website and social media channels for all up to date information regarding the museum's COVID-19 regulations and events.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“John A. Macdonald, Elizabeth Hall and Beavermead Farm” Ken Brown</p> <p>On 21 December 1860, the prominent Peterborough widow, Elizabeth Hall, wrote to John A. Macdonald, beginning, “My loved John,” and closing, “Goodbye my own darling, Love your loving Lizzie.” Historians have long known of this letter, but until now, not much of the back story. Ken Brown sheds new light on the financial challenges of Elizabeth, the fate of the George Barker Hall estate, and Macdonald's activities in developing and selling Beavermead. And what of John A's relationship with Elizabeth Hall? By inserting himself into Mrs. Hall's affairs, Macdonald accepted considerable financial risk with no prospect of return other than the goodwill of the very friendly sounding Elizabeth Hall. Ken Brown has written extensively about the history of businesses and businessmen in the Peterborough area.</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  <p>Elizabeth Hall (Hall-D'Olier fonds, 2021-020, Peterborough Museum and Archives)</p> </div>	

2022 Annual Report

Dale Standen, Past President

James Forrester, President (layout/design)

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