



# PETERBOROUGH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY | EST. 1897

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Peterborough Historical Society General Meeting**  
To resume in September

**Hutchison House Museum**

**Heritage Luncheons**  
Wednesday, 7 June  
12:00 and 1:30 p.m. sitting

**Scottish Teas**  
Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Thursday, Friday  
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Starting Tuesday, 4 July

**Annual Peach Tea**  
Thursday, 17 August  
Noon to 4:00 pm

**Doors Open Peterborough**  
Saturday, 16 September

Issue 497

Nogojiwanong — Peterborough

June 2023

Come for a tea and tour this summer



The Peterborough Historical Society acknowledges  
with thanks our partners and supporters



## PHS Previous Month's Meeting

### Panel discussion on the challenges and opportunities for historic buildings

The May meeting featured a panel discussion with two experts on the very topical subject of finding new uses for heritage properties.

Moderated by Dennis Carter-Edwards, the presentation began with three key questions on the challenges and opportunities of managing, in a respectful but viable way, the repurposing of historic buildings: what criteria determine a historic building; how to convey the particular values that give historic significance to an asset and how to improve the communication between the development community and city staff responsible for our historic buildings in a more efficient, collaborative and effective manner.

The panelists, Roy Turner and Deb Keay, both have professional training and practical experience in dealing with the many challenges that confront developers and city staff in negotiating and implementing design changes for historic properties. Citing examples from their own work experience, they highlighted both successes, such as the conversion of the old Y building in Peterborough and challenges, such as the current discussion over the Montreal House. One overriding principle that emerged is the importance of having clear guidelines and expectations long before a trowel or hammer starts working. Nothing can frustrate the whole process more than changing the rules/expectations mid-project. That is why a clear understanding of the designation brief and subsequent designating by-law is so essential.

The city's heritage community has worked to build a culture of understanding and support for good conservation practice through such initiatives as the annual scavenger hunt and the many guided walking tours through historic neighbourhoods. Members of the audience took an active part in the discussion, raising important points of discussion, including comments from an owner of a designated property and the challenges she faces in maintaining her building. The President thanked the speakers for their valuable contribution to the ongoing discussion, particularly in light of major changes by the provincial government to heritage legislation and the urgent need for education on the threat to our built environment.

**Dennis Carter-Edwards**



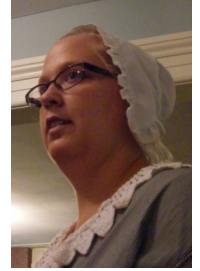
Dennis Carter-Edwards(PHS), Deb Keay (panelist), Roy Turner (panelist)  
photo credit: Don Willcock

The Panel and Moderator  
photo credit: Don Willcock



## Hutchison House Museum Report

Erin Panepinto



It's been a busy start to our spring/summer season at the house, with the returns of school programs, birthday parties and house rentals in April and the launch of our Silent Auction fundraiser at the beginning of May. We've raised \$2,600 total so far for this exciting new exhibit opportunity! Thank you to all the staff, volunteers, and visitors that donated items. As well as those who purchased items in support of our Fleming Room Exhibit project.

Volunteers have also been hard at work running a sold-out Mother's Day tea on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Linda Chandler for organizing the event, as well as Bob Laing, Don Willcock, Susan Mathews and Rachel Kraus for volunteering with the serving, food prep, and clean up. It was a beautiful event and brought in a lot of new faces to the museum.

Last up in May was the annual Gilmour St. Garage Sale. Thank you to the various volunteers and staff who donated items, helped to price everything, and worked both the plant and yard sale. We have had another very successful year, so thanks to everyone for their hard work!

Happy Birthday Martha Hutchison! This year we celebrate the 217<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Doctors wife with the start of our Scottish Tea season on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and continuing daily (except Monday) until labour day. Scottish Teas will be available from 1-4 pm at Hutchison House Museum, 270 Brock Street, Peterborough. Scottish Tea, served on the terrace in the period garden, includes freshly baked scones, preserves, whipped cream, oatcakes, and tea, lemonade, or iced tea. Complimentary tours of the 1840s restored stone house are included with the teas. Tea costs \$10.00 for adults/youth and \$5.00 for children under ten years of age. This year Hutchison House Museum would like to give a big thank you to LLF Lawyers for their generous sponsorship of our Scottish Tea season.

And what summer would be complete without our annual Peach Tea on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 4 pm. Enjoy the feeling of an old-time summer social as you indulge in an afternoon of home-baked scones served with fresh peaches and whipped cream or ice cream topped with blueberries. Tea, iced tea, or lemonade will add a refreshing compliment to this delightful summer repast. Tickets for the Peach Tea must be booked in advance at a cost of \$14.00 for adults/ \$10.00 for children. There will be NO drop-in seats. Sittings are 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm and 3 pm. Space is limited. For information or to make a reservation, please call the museum office at (705) 743-9710 or email us at [info@hutchisonhouse.ca](mailto:info@hutchisonhouse.ca)

Hutchison House Museum will be featured on Doors Open on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Look for more information about this, as well as our upcoming Sir Sandford Fleming Exhibit Opening later this summer, on our website as well as our Social Media channels. We hope to see you this summer!



Hutchison House Museum  
Mother's Day Tea Sunday 14 May

## Birch Bark Basket Heritage

In April 2023, quilled birch bark makakoon (baskets) made by women of Rice Lake Village (now Hiawatha First Nation) arrived at the Peterborough Museum & Archives (PMA) for an extended loan visit from the Royal Collection Trust in England, where they have been cared for since they were given to the young Prince of Wales in 1860. The makakoon is the focus of an exhibition titled “To Honour and Respect: Gifts from the Michi Saagiig Women to the Prince of Wales, 1860”.

This exhibition unpacks the meanings carried by the baskets: the cultural knowledge that went into their making and presentation, the cross-cultural diplomacy and expectations of Nishnaabe gifting, and the love, respect and hope that went into these gifts.

By 1860, the women of Hiawatha First Nation were known for their skills as quillworkers, having won prizes at the local county and provincial fairs. Early in the summer of 1860 – in anticipation of the Royal visit – the Superintendent of Canada West, Central District, W.R. Bartlett, visited most of the bands within his district to rally support for the occasion and to inform each community on what to prepare. Bartlett likely asked the women at Rice Lake to create quilled birch bark gifts for the Prince of Wales.

The baskets are decorated with both floral and geometric motifs, bringing together old and new designs, which reflects the changing experiences of the Mississaugas people of Rice Lake and, more widely, the Great Lakes region. The designs on the makakoon displayed the women’s own Anishinaabek traditions.

In all accounts of the Prince of Wales’ visit, women were absent from all official presentations. They were present as spectators, workers preparing luncheons and dance partners at the public balls, but they were never at centre stage. Quite often, credit for Indigenous women’s work is unidentified in museum collections representing this period. It is, therefore, extraordinary to know the names of the women who created the quilled makakoon as gifts for the royal visitor. We know this because the baskets were preserved with the names written directly on them, on a piece of paper, or in some instances, quilled onto the birch bark. To learn more about them, we have used census records, village history, settler letters, and community consultation. We now know how old each woman was in 1860, allowing us to consider them as practicing artists with the benefit of life experiences, skills acquired over time and the recognition that they were passing on their knowledge to other women.

“To Honour and Respect: Gifts from the Michi Saagiig Women to the Prince of Wales, 1860” will be on display through mid-November 2023 at the Peterborough Museum & Archives. For more information about the PMA’s upcoming programs, exhibitions, and events, visit [www.peterborough.ca/museum](http://www.peterborough.ca/museum) and follow along on their social channels.

**Dustin McIlwain, Peterborough Museum & Archives**

## Hutchison House Museum at Gilmour Street Yard Sale 27 May



### Hutchison House Museum Yard Sale 27 May



### Hutchison House Museum Plant Sale 27 May





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## DEVELOPMENT

# Sewer hookup comes with a price

## Simons neighbours worry \$100,000 cost too high

“...some homeowners told city councillors at a committee meeting Monday that the cost to them is too much..., leaving some people “priced out” of the subdivision by the city and its policies.” [*Peterborough Examiner*, 11 May 2023]

Current municipal issues echo those in the past. A story in the *Peterborough Examiner* describes the concern of property owners in the Simons subdivision that an impending sewer hookup will be too costly. The subdivision, annexed from Smith Township in 2008, is still using septic systems and wells.

A century ago, the City faced the same response to its construction of the initial sewerage network on residential streets. The City installed the sewers on the streets, but property owners bore the cost of connecting their houses to the sewer. Sewerage was a public health matter. Although the City ordered hookups when the sewers became available, many owners did not comply either because they could not or would not afford the cost. Eventually, following the First World War, the City enticed owners by offering an installment plan of payments over several years, the

payments being added to tax bills. Addressing the barrier of capital cost, the policy worked. The practice was widespread among municipalities across the country until later in the century when municipalities began requiring developers to install sewers and provide the hookups, embedding the cost in the initial price of the house.

**Dale Standen**

## HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

If not, renew directly online at <https://phs-hutchisonhouse.ca/support/become-a-member/new-and-returning-members/>, or download and complete the PDF form and mail it with your payment. Don't miss receiving the *Bulletin*, this year's Occasional Paper, and all the other benefits of PHS membership!

## 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!