



PETERBOROUGH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY | EST. 1897

NOGOJIWANONG - PETERBOROUGH



Annual Report 2023

Prepared for the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, April 16th, 2024
at 7 PM, Lions Community Centre, Ashburnham



**PHS Board of Directors
2023—2024**

Amber Johnson, Erin Panepinto,
Linda Chandler, Don Willcock, James
Forrester, Marilyn MacNaughton, Paul
Lumsden
missing Susan Matthews

Photo credit Rachel Kraus

Peterborough Historical Society Board Executive:

President: James Forrester
Vice-President: Kathryn Matheson (January-April)
Don Willcock (April-Present)
Treasurer: Deborah Keay (January- April)
Paul Lumsden (April-Present)
Secretary: Susan Mathews (April-Present)
Bulletin Chair: Ian Ellis
Membership Chair: Amber Johnson (April-Present)

PACAC Representative: Deborah Keay (January-April)
Susan Mathews (April-Present)

Members at Large:

Bruce Clark (January-April), Michael Peterman, Linda Chandler (HHMC Chair)
Marilyn MacNaughton (April-Present)

Trust Funds Trustees:

Chairperson: Peter Darling
Treasurer: Marilyn MacNaughton
Members at Large: Dennis Carter-Edwards, Dale Standen (January- April)
Doug Lavery (April-Present)

Hutchison House Management Committee:

Chair: Linda Chandler (December 2022-Present)
Property: Don Willcock
Friends: Michael Peterman
Financial: Paul Lumsden
Acquisitions: Loretta Terry
Gardens: Diane Card
Members at large: Bill Corbett Susan Matthews
Recording Secretary: Rachel Kraus (January-August)
Hailey Lansley (August-Present)

Staff Members:

Administrator/Curator: Erin Panepinto
Museum Assistant: Rachel Kraus (October 2022 to August 2023)
Hailey Lansley (August 2023-Present)

Summer Staff:

Scottish Tea Coordinator: Ewan Sutherland
Museum Programming Assistant: Ellen Miller
Curatorial Assistant: Caroline Priddle

President's Report

2023 was a year of transition, as we finally exited the Pandemic and returned to a more normal comfort with in-person meetings and events. Changes to provincial legislation, including Bill 23, affected the entire heritage sector, including museums, municipal heritage committees, and all agencies bounded by the Ontario Heritage Act. The PHS Board, and the Hutchison House Management Committee are continuing to evaluate how this heavy-handed and misdirected legislation will affect the long-term sustainability of both the Society and the Museum.

The PHS Board and Hutchison House accomplished a lot in 2023:

- first in-person AGM at Traill College Bagnani Hall following three years of the Pandemic.
- celebrated Sir Sandford Fleming's connection to Peterborough, with the opening of a new room in Hutchison House dedicated to him with an event organized by Erin Panepinto and Linda Chandler, supported by Volunteers, Friends of HH, the Exhibit Committee, plus Canadian Heritage Department, Historica Canada and private donations.
- for the first time we joined the Architectural Conservancy Ontario (ACO) as an "Affiliated Incorporated Member."
- continued proactive programming by Hutchison House staff, supported by volunteers.
- participated in a Video Contest sponsored by McDougall Insurance.
- continued transferring endowment funds to the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough for fund management.
- continued our solid relationship with the City of Peterborough.

At the same time, there were gains and losses:

Long-time PHS member and Hutchison House volunteer Carol Koeslag made headlines last summer when, at 92, her self-published debut book *Spice of Life: A Variety of Reflection* went viral on TikTok thanks to the owner of Modern Makers Market in Peterborough, Chantel Coyle. Chantel created a TikTok video promoting the publication that was viewed over 250,000 times. Carol described her short stories as "Fictionalized Reality." Sadly, Carol passed away in November. We all said goodbye to the long-time PHS and Hutchison House member and volunteer. Carol and her late husband Peter (who many remember) both volunteered at the museum and PHS since 1991. At one time Carol was both President of the Society and Chair of the museum Management Committee. (Details provided by the *Bulletin*).

I became President unexpectedly, when Bob Taylor-Vaisey needed to step down in November 2022. It's been a steep learning curve for me, and I want to thank all the previous PHS Presidents for their efforts to grow and expand the community's interest in heritage, through all its various channels. I have faith that the PHS will continue to do so in the future.

James Forrester,

President

Financial Report

The Peterborough Historical Society produced a deficit in 2023 primarily due to reduced membership fees and donations plus the inclusion of wages paid to the Assistant Curator for duties completed for the Society throughout the year.

Hutchison House produced a substantial surplus in 2023 due to increased revenue from House Events, and increased funds raised by the PHS/HH BINGO involvement. To review the exact details of the financial position of PHS and Hutchison House please see the **Peterborough Historical Society Unaudited Financial Statements** at December 31, 2023 prepared by Tim J.F. Nicholls, CPA, CA, Licensed Public Accountant.

Paul T. Lumsden, Treasurer

Program Committee Report

January 2023 (via Zoom)

“100 Years of Rotary in Peterborough” Bruce Gravel shared research into the history of the Rotary Service Club in Peterborough as it celebrated its 100th anniversary. A graduate of McGill University, Bruce has lectured extensively on tourism policy. His talk provided insights into the work of this vital community organization. Tuesday, 17 January 2023.

February 2023 (via Zoom)

“The History of Lacrosse in Peterborough” Don Barrie has a long and intimate connection with lacrosse. The first lacrosse game was played in Peterborough in 1872. In 1892 the *Daily Examiner* gave a history of the origins of lacrosse, also noting the “retirement” of the Peterborough Lacrosse Club's prominent player Joe Phelan. Don Barrie, the author of *Lacrosse the Peterborough Way*, presented his extensive research on what he describes as “Peterborough’s winningest sport.” Tuesday, 21 February 2023.

March 2023 (via Zoom)

“Police Response to First Nation Occupations and Protests: An Ontario Perspective” Dr. Armand La Barge Responding to First Nation occupations and protests is one of the most challenging duties that police officers in Canada undertake. After the 1995 shooting death of an unarmed Indigenous protester by police at the Ipperwash occupation, the Ontario Provincial Police developed a new operational policy known as the OPP Framework. Dr. Armand La Barge examined the subsequent application of the Framework in the resolution of more than 700 Indigenous critical incidents since 2007. Dr. La Barge is a former Chief of York Regional Police, past President of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, former associate member of the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association, recipient of the Order of Ontario, and numerous other honours and awards. Tuesday, 21 March 2023

April 2023 AGM (in-person, Bagnani Hall & via Zoom)

The 2023 PHS Annual General Meeting was held in Bagnani Hall on the Traill College campus on Tuesday, April 18th as an afternoon event. The meeting consisted of a celebration of

Hutchison House during the Pandemic, followed by a brief business meeting. Our special guest speaker was LHS President Michael Chappell who was also active with the Friends of the Old Stone Mill House in Lakefield, which received the PHS Martha Kidd Award. Michael's talk was entitled "Days from Destruction," which examined how this group rescued the heritage building at 44 Bridge Street in Lakefield from demolition in January 2021. During the Question-and-Answer session, there was a spirited discussion of Bill-23 and its effects on built heritage structures. It was interesting to hear Michael's comments about the motivation and methods of the development industry based on his own experience working for developers before he became a professor at Metropolitan Toronto University.



May 2023 (in-person panel discussion, Bagnani Hall)

A panel discussion on the challenges and opportunities for historic buildings took place at the May meeting which featured two experts on the topical subject of finding new uses for heritage properties. Moderated by Dennis Carter-Edwards with panelists, Roy Turner, and Deb Key, who both have professional training and practical experience. They highlighted successes, such as the conversion of the old Y building in Peterborough and challenges, such as the current discussion over Montreal House. One overriding principle that emerged is the importance of having clear guidelines and expectations long before a trowel or hammer starts working.



Dennis Carter-Edwards, Deb Key & Roy Turner (Photos by Don Willcock)

September (in-person at Lions Centre Ashburnham)

“Entertaining the Prince of Wales, Cobourg 1860” presented by George Parker
A graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University with a Bachelor of Technology in Architectural Science, Mr. Parker retired to Cobourg, where he plays an active role in the heritage community. An expert on the Peterborough – ‘Cobourg Railway, he has turned his research interests to the visit of the Prince of Wales to Cobourg in 1860 and the elaborate entertainment provided by the community for the Prince at the official opening of the architecturally stunning Victoria Hall. Come and learn about the controversy surrounding the Prince’s visit to Canada West and his time in Cobourg and the surrounding region. 19 September 2023.



George Parker on the Prince of Wales in Cobourg, 1860 (JAF photo)

October 2023 (in-person, Lions Centre, Ashburnham)

“Peterborough Waterworks” Dennis Carter-Edwards
Two late 19th century innovations in Peterborough were the focus of the October meeting of the Society. Using many new images and documentary sources, Mr. Dennis Carter-Edwards gave an illustrated lecture on the introduction of water and sewer systems in Peterborough. These improvements were often the subject of contentious public meetings and endless debate at town council as arguments over what was needed and who would pay. Community leaders debated the merits of private versus public ownership of these essential services. Outside experts were brought in to advise the council, often with a highly critical response from local experts. In the end, Peterborough acquired a waterworks system and sewer system that put Peterborough at the forefront of municipal progress and development. Vice-President Don Willcock thanked the speaker for an entertaining and informative lecture. 17 October 2023.



Jim Maloney, Peterborough Utilities Group and Dennis

November 2023 (in-person, Lions Centre, Ashburnham)

“Peterborough and County Military Museum” by Don Willcock.

In keeping with the November military theme, Don Willcock presented an update on the formation and operation of Peterborough’s newest museum, the Peterborough and County Military Museum. Building on the principle of Bringing History Home, Don spoke about the origin of the collection and its current housing in the Peterborough Armories. Originally part of the Hastings Prince Edwards military collection in Belleville, it was relocated with the help of volunteers moved to its new home. Consisting of various artifacts, including uniforms, badges, medical equipment, prints and other assorted military items, the volunteers have mounted an informative and engaging series of exhibits that help tell the story of Peterborough’s rich military past. The volunteers are also developing an outreach program to take to the various local schools so students may learn of the sacrifice so many men and women have made over the decades to preserve our freedoms and way of life. 21 November 2023.



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 (2023) & Bulletin Notes
The new Chair of the Program Committee is David Wesley.

Trustees Report

The trustees met once this year, July 4, 2023, with Board members to explain the transfer to GFCP (Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough). The GICs which matured in July (\$17,000) and October (\$18,000) were transferred to the Hutchison House Trust Fund at GFCP. In June the GFCP sent to Hutchison earnings for 2022 from this fund of \$1,800. As of now Trust committee will be transferring GICs as they mature until 2026.

Marilyn MacNaughton
HH Trust Treasurer.

Membership Report

Membership during 2023 for the Peterborough Historical Society was 135, a slight increase.

- 20 lifetime members (no longer an option)
- 109 individual and family members
- 6 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 PHS website allows members to renew online which makes renewal easier.

Dr Amber Johnson & Membership Committee

Publications Committee Report

The Publications Committee of the Peterborough Historical Society produced its 45th consecutive Occasional Paper this year. We think this is an Ontario record for historical societies and one worth celebrating. This year's paper is quite a path-breaker—Robert Ganton Clarke's "Moonlight, Music and Motion Pictures under the Pines: Jackson Park, 1905-08." PHS members receive a copy of the paper as part of their annual dues. Plans are now afoot to arrange for OP 46 for next year.

Moonlight, Music, and Motion Pictures under the Pines:

Jackson Park, 1905-08

Robert Ganton Clarke



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AN OCCASIONAL PAPER PUBLISHED BY THE
PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 2024

Committee members are Prof. Michael Peterman (Chair), Prof. Elwood Jones (design), Jodi Aoki, Bill Corbett, and Don Willcock. Jodi Aoki has moved to Alberta but will continue as an advisor while the Committee seeks a new member for 2024-25.

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/>

High School History Awards

Every year PHS provides a certificate and prize to each secondary school to the graduating student who receives the highest mark in history.
(Sadly today, not all secondary schools offer courses in history each year.)

This year's winners were:

Adam Scott Collegiate Vocational Institute	Asha Worsema
Crestwood Secondary School	Kayden Jakopic
Kenner Collegiate Vocational Institute	Atticus Sikma and Lucy Shartner (IB)
Norwood District High School	Isaac Plumley
St. Peter Catholic Secondary School	Brian Gay-Hernandez
Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School	Chloe Shaw and Taryn Setka

Linda Lumsden, Coordinator

PHS *Bulletin* Report

The Peterborough Historical Society continued publishing its flagship *Bulletin* throughout 2023, publishing ten issues over the year. Marilyn MacNaughton produces the series, which is edited by Ian Ellis. The *Bulletin* continued to provide monthly reports on the PHS Talks series, a mainstay since 2020, the invaluable Hutchison House Museum Report written by Erin Panepinto, illuminating President’s Reports, with occasional book reviews, Voices from Peterborough’s Past, and local history vignettes. In 2023, the *Bulletin* expanded its catalogue with new types of media and points of interest.

In February 2023, Trent University Masters of History student Alexis Johnson provided a piece on how medieval English feasts could provide context for today’s rise in food scarcity—establishing a direct connection between Trent’s History Department and the PHS.

March and May saw PHS cooperating with the Peterborough Museum & Archives to promote its “To Honour and Respect: Gifts from the Michi Saagiig Women to the Prince of Wales, 1860” exhibit. Dustin McIlwain of the Peterborough Museum & Archives then contributed a full piece on the exhibit for the June *Bulletin*. We sincerely hope all who had a chance to visit the exhibit enjoyed it.

For those unable to attend the monthly PHS Talks series, each *Bulletin* provided a wonderful summary of the previous month’s meeting. The talks included:

- January: *100 Years of Rotary in Peterborough* by Bruce Gravel
- February: *The History of Lacrosse in Peterborough* by Don Barrie
- March: *Police Response to First Nation Occupations and Protests: An Ontario Perspective* by Dr. Armand La Barge
- April: *Days from Destruction* by Michael Chappell
- May: *Challenges and Opportunities for Historic Buildings* Panel discussion moderated by Dennis Carter-Edwards. Panelists Roy Turner and Deb Keay.
- September: *Entertaining the Prince of Wales, Coburg 1860* by George Parker
- October: *Peterborough Waterworks* by Dennis Carter-Edwards

- November: *Peterborough and County Military Museum* by Don Willcock

Thank you to all readers who continue to support PHS and the *Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* released its 500th issue in November 2023, which would not have been possible without all your support. Because of you, the *Bulletin* has continued strongly into 2024.

Many thanks,

Ian Ellis

2023 Annual Report

James Forrester, President (layout/design)

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