



# PETERBOROUGH

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY | EST. 1897

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough Historical Society  
Lion's Community Centre  
Tuesday, 16 April 7:00 p.m.  
Annual General Meeting  
Speaker John Boyko

Keeping Room Hutchison House  
Pairings  
from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
3 April Cahill Furs and  
Black Honey Bakery  
10 April Restwell Upholstery  
and Buttermilk Factory  
17 April The Conservation Clinic  
and Tragically Dipped Donut  
24 April Peterborough Medicine  
Gardeners  
and The Chocolate Rabbit

Hutchison House Museum  
Heritage Luncheon  
Wednesday 3 April  
12:00 and 1:30 p.m. sitting

Solar eclipse-themed  
PA Day Camp  
Friday 8 April  
from 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Issue 505

Nogojiwanong — Peterborough

April 2024

The Peterborough Historical Society monthly speaker series takes place on the third Tuesday of September, October, November, January, February, March, and May. The meetings are being held at the Lions Club Centre on Burnham Street, starting at 7:30. Members, guests, and the general public are welcome.

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024**  
**Lion's Community Centre,**  
**347 Burnham Street,**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Speaker John Boyko**

**“Last Steps to Freedom: The Evolution of Canadian Racism”**

The meeting, begins at 7:00 pm with the Annual General Meeting. Then John Boyko will present the story of Ukrainian Canadian settlement. John's presentation is based on his research. A reception with light refreshments will follow

The Peterborough Historical Society acknowledges  
with thanks our partners and supporters



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**Community  
Foundation**  
of Greater Peterborough



## From the President

James Forrester



### Spring Greetings

Our most recent presentation by Allan Kirby, musician, historian, and song researcher, was very well attended. Dr. Kirby sang three local tunes and accompanied himself on the banjo. I regret that I was unable to attend myself, but photographs taken by Stephanie are included below. Copies of the TVA publication *Fowke Songs: Edith Fowke's Search for Canadian Folk Songs* were available. (Please see David Wesley's full report in this issue.) Copies of the latest Occasional Paper # 45, "Moonlight, Music, and Motion Pictures under the Pines, Jackson Park, 1905-08," by Robert G. Clarke, were distributed to members. Thanks to our new program committee member, Amelia Takacs, for her efforts at the publications table.

I encourage you to attend our Annual General Meeting (**Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM**) at the Lions Centre in Ashburnham. Lakefield author/historian John Boyko will be our guest speaker, and a reception with light refreshments will follow. John will present the story of Ukrainian Canadian settlement, a story which is not well known. John's presentation is based on his research for a groundbreaking publication, *Last Steps to Freedom: The Evolution of Canadian Racism*, published in 1995. It was updated and reprinted in 1998 and again in 2000, 2008 and 2012.

A polite reminder to renew your membership in advance of the meeting and to invite new community members to attend.

It has been a pleasure to be the PHS President over the last year.



Audience at PHS General Meeting March 20, 2024



## PHS Previous Month's Meeting "Early Folk Ballads"

It was a packed house at the Lion's Club on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, for the monthly Peterborough Historical Society speakers night, and those in the audience who heard Dr. Al Kirby's talk and performance did not go home disappointed.

Al is the foremost expert in the work of Edith Fowke, a musicologist and social activist who, from the 1930s to the 1970s, dedicated herself to collecting and arranging recordings of the early folk music brought here by 19th immigrants, mostly Irish, Scottish and English. Al follows her lead in claiming the Peterborough area has a music history and legacy as unique and lively as that of Cape Breton or the Ottawa Valley - even though it's more appreciated and studied in the U.S. than here at home.

Al talked about how the working class and agrarian music of the British Isles found its way to Canada and was adapted and transformed to reflect the experiences of early settlers, navvies and loggers, particularly those in this area. Fowke, too, recognized this, and her endeavours caught the attention of musicologists and musicians south of the border. Famous musicologist Charles Louis Seeger Jr, the father of folk legend Pete and musicologist Peggy, took a special interest in her work, as did Folkways, the esteemed New York folk song label.

Al detailed how Fowke, aided by Peggy Seeger, set up a 'pop-up' recording studio in P. G. Towns' General Store in Douro, where they recorded songs performed and remembered by the families of those early settlers, families with names like Leahy, Heffernan and others. All the material was sent back to the U.S. (no interest here at the time). To this day, the largest and most comprehensive collection of materials, reminiscences, and recordings of Peterborough's music history resides not here but in the Smithsonian in Washington.

Al Kirby is determined to rectify this situation. Largely on his own dime, but with the help of Elwood Jones and the Trent Valley Archives, he continues the research work which led to his Ph.D. from Carleton University, though he is hampered by lack of funding (Trent U. Where are you?). He is also a talented musician who, after working in factories, paid his way through university playing the dobro and pedal steel guitar in rock-a-billy bars and taverns of the early 1960s, eventually becoming one of Canada's most sought-after studio musicians. He performs regularly at the Black Horse pub and at the Honky Tonk in Bridgenorth. Al delighted Tuesday's audience with his banjo - singing several of those early Peterborough folk songs.

**Dave Wesley**

Al Kirby playing folk songs with his banjo

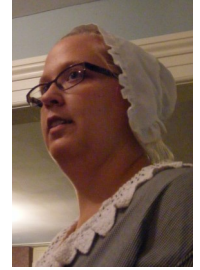


Al Kirby signing his book for Elwood Jones



## Hutchison House Museum Report

Erin Panepinto



The last few weeks here at the museum have been busy and full of laughter, from the Trivia Night hosted by the Museum Management Students here on March 7<sup>th</sup> to the sounds of children laughing and being creative during five sold-out March Break programs. March Break ended with our annual St. Patrick's Day pick-up meal; the smell of corned beef permeated invitingly throughout the building. Thank you to the students for a delightful evening! The night went so well that plans are being made for a potential themed trivia night in the late fall or early winter this year, so stay tuned for more details. Thank you also to the volunteers who helped with our popular March Break programs. This year, children made bowls using papier-mâché and balloons, mandrakes and monster spell books, tie-dye shirts, bookmarks, learned to knit and created two different types of slime! A big thank you as well to Don Willcock, who ran the knitting workshop. Also, a big thanks goes to Linda Chandler, Susan Matthews, and Bill Corbett for their help with cooking and packaging the St. Patrick's Day meals. It's thanks to the help of our volunteers that we are able to run so many great programs.

Coming up in April to the museum, the Peterborough Historical Society will be hosting four Pairings events. These are a series of exclusive evenings with local businesses held in the Keeping Room. Learn about exciting topics from local businesses and sample some of Peterborough's finest treats and sweets. Join us every Wednesday evening from 7 PM - 8:30 PM in April. A limited number of tickets will be sold for this event. Priced at \$10, you will want to reserve your seat by calling Hutchison House at (705) 743-9710 or emailing [info@hutchisonhouse.ca](mailto:info@hutchisonhouse.ca).

Wednesday, April 03, 2024, Cahill Furs and Black Honey. Perhaps you have an old fur in your closet that you are no longer wearing. If you would like to know what can be done with your heirloom or vintage furs, come and learn how Cahills is changing the way you see and enjoy your furs. Bring your old furs to the evening and listen to Rob Cahill discuss what can be done in 2024 to further the life of your items. While listening to Rob, Black Honey Bakery will share some samples of the treats you can buy at their store, and Hutchison House will provide tea and coffee.

Wednesday, April 10, 2024, Restwell Upholstery and Kawartha Buttermilk Factory. Come and learn about custom upholstery and the steps in the process, with a focus on antiques. Learn about methods, tools, and supplies while looking at some of the samples Restwell has to offer. Come with specific questions regarding your own projects, and Restwell will answer them. Our tea and coffee pairing this evening will be Kawartha Buttermilk Factory. They will have mini tarts to enjoy with your tea and coffee, as well as some of their tasty, mouthwatering items for you to buy. Please bring cash for their purchases. Join us to sample their delicious baking while learning about the art of upholstery.

Wednesday, April 17, 2024, The Conservation Clinic as well as Tragically Dipped Donut. Learn how to keep your precious family documents, artwork, and heirlooms in their best condition for future generations. If you have a document or small object that is in trouble, bring it with you, and Basia will tell you how best to care for it. Our tea pairing will be with Tragically Dipped Donuts. Samples of their sumptuous desserts will be available to have with your tea.

Wednesday, April 24, 2024, Peterborough Medicine Gardeners as well as The Chocolate Rabbit. Kelly McDowell will be looking at plantings for the spring garden, plants that are native to the area, and some herbs that you may wish to include in your garden this year. Kelly is responsible for the Medicine Garden at Hutchison House. Bring your questions for Kelly to answer. Our tea pairing will be with The Chocolate Rabbit. They are the home of the Mud Bugs and are a family-owned Swiss chocolate factory that will be sharing their truffle samples. Indulge in the Extraordinary with us. The Chocolate Rabbit will have items for sale on April 24th.

Hutchison House Museum will host a solar eclipse-themed PA Day Camp on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 9:30 AM – 12 PM. Children will create a variety of eclipse-themed crafts and decorate a pair of solar eclipse glasses that meet the international ISO 12312-2 standard and are approved by the American Astronomical Society. Children can then use these glasses to view the solar eclipse later in the afternoon. The cost per child is \$25. Registration is required. This workshop is appropriate for children ages 6-12. For more information or to register a child, please contact the museum at 705-743-9710.



## March Break at Hutchison House Museum



Bob and Don teaching everyone how to knit



Breanne learning to knit



Rocky making a papier-mâché bowl



Charlotte learning how to tie dye



and Hazel learning how to tie dye



Rilynn with her Monster Book of Spells



Bash and his Mandrake



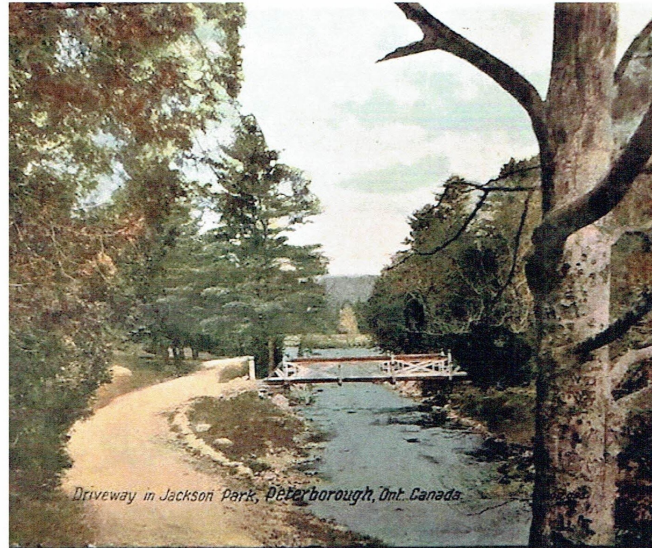
Rose and her Mandrake



Moonlight, Music, and Motion Pictures under the Pines:

Jackson Park, 1905–08

Robert Ganton Clarke



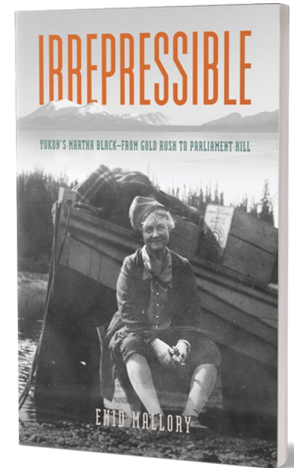
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AN OCCASIONAL PAPER PUBLISHED BY THE

PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 2024

Peterborough Historical Society  
Occasional Paper #45  
Jackson Park 1905—08



**Irrepressible by Enid Mallory** - At the age of 32, the unconventional spirit expressed in that statement took Martha to gold-rush-era Yukon. Pregnant, and exhausted, she struggled over the legendary Chilkoot Pass, she fell in love with northern Canada. Facing down despair during that first long, dark winter, she gave birth in a tiny Dawson cabin in January. She cooked in a mining camp, managed a sawmill, and went on to marry lawyer-politician George Black. George became Commissioner of the Yukon, making her chatelaine of Government House. In 1916, she headed off to war with the troops, serving as 'Mother Yukon' to soldiers in London.

After George was elected to Parliament and named Speaker of the House, she took on the role of grand hostess for Ottawa's political scene. When George turned ill, Martha stepped in and got herself elected for Yukon, becoming only the second woman to take a seat in the House of Commons.

One of the North's most tenacious and persevering women, Martha Black was truly irrepressible. Through her story of vulnerability, despair, comedy, joy and tragedy pulses the "Yukon spirit -Mush On!"

## 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!

## PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## Hutchison House Museum

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