



PETERBOROUGH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY | EST. 1897

UPCOMING EVENTS May is Museum Month

Peterborough Historical Society
Lion's Community Centre
Tuesday, 21 May
7:30 p.m.
Speakers
Stephanie Ford Forrester,
Gale Fewings & Erin Panepinto

Hutchison House Museum
Heritage Luncheon
Wednesday 1 May
Wednesday 5 June
12:00 and 1:30 p.m. sitting

Mother's Day Tea
Sunday 12 May
Sold out

Gentlemen's Tea
for Father's Day
Sunday 16 June
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Spring Plant and Yard Sale
Saturday 25 May
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
at Gilmour Street Garage Sale.

Issue 506

Nogjiwanong — Peterborough

May 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, May 21, 2024
Lion's Community Centre,
347 Burnham Street,
7:30 p.m.
Speakers Stephanie Ford
Forrester, Gale Fewings &
Erin Panepinto
“May is Museum Month: A
look behind the scenes with
Hutchison House Museum
Curators ”



As we celebrate May is Museum Month across Canada, this month, the PHS invites you to a panel discussion with past and present curators of Hutchison House Museum: Stephanie Ford Forrester (1991-1998), Gale Fewings (Interim Oct-Dec 1998, Curator 1999-2020) and Erin Panepinto (Interim June- Dec 2020, Curator 2021 to present) for a behind the scenes peek at managing this piece of Peterborough's history, favourite memories, challenges and successes and so much more. Listen to former and current volunteers, their experiences, and what motivated them to give their time to Hutchison House Museum.

The Peterborough Historical Society acknowledges
with thanks our partners and supporters



From the President

Don Willcock



I am pleased and honoured to be president of the Peterborough Historical Society for another term. I wish to thank my predecessor, Jim Forrester, for his work in that capacity – and I look forward to his continuing activities with the Society. Thanks also to continuing and new PHS Board members – I look forward to working closely with you for the benefit of PHS, Hutchison House Museum, and the Peterborough community.

The Canadian heritage community, including Hutchison House and the PHS, was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic – with legislated closures and restrictions, public reluctance to attend sites and events, and such. Hutchison House, via its staff's creative and adaptive thinking and programming supplemented with some supplemental pandemic government funding, was able to weather the storm fairly well and seems to be bouncing back steadily.

The Historical Society, however, lost much of its public profile because of the restrictions on events and gatherings – for example, “public” presentations over Zoom do not always have the same draw and impact as live ones. Therefore, the main task of the PHS Board in the immediate future will be to rebuild the Society's community presence and to “grow” its financial position – both by increasing membership and holding public events, presentations, and activities. I have some ideas, and I'm sure the other Board members do as well. We would also very much welcome suggestions and proposals – and, importantly, participation – from the PHS membership and friends.

Thank you all in advance. If we all put our heads together and our shoulders to the wheel (sorry about the cliches), the futures of both the Peterborough Historical Society and Hutchison House Museum can be assured.

PHS Previous Month's Meeting

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

After the usual formal business was concluded at the Peterborough Historical Society Annual General Meeting on April 16th, those in attendance were treated to an engaging and informative talk by John Boyko about the historical relationship between the Ukraine and Canada and the reception Ukrainian immigrants received here when they arrived. Boyko, an author, teacher, historian and Selwyn councillor, reminded us that the current invasion of Ukraine by Russia is only the latest chapter in a long story of the Ukraine being invaded and controlled by outsiders.

The resulting oppression and famines drove many Ukrainians to leave for a better life in other parts of the world, certainly here in Canada. However, when they arrived here, they were often looked down upon by the Canadian elite and referred to by some editorialists and politicians as little better than animals. Boyko said while not excusing the terrible injustices done to Indigenous people by settlement, he was just concentrating on the Ukrainian experience. His own ancestors came to Hamilton, where many Ukrainians toiled in the steel mills. Others continued on out west and farmed the Prairies. Both groups were instrumental in building settler Canada (for better or worse, from an Indigenous perspective) into what it is today.

In reference to the present crisis in Ukraine, Mr. Boyko noted a difference between “state” and “nation.” While the state may be controlled by others, regardless of how the present war plays out, the nation and its rich culture will always survive—even among Ukrainians here in Canada



Dave Wesley

Peterborough Historical Society Annual General Meeting, 16th April 2024 Lions Centre Ashburnham

This year, there was an enthusiastic response to the PHS AGM. We initially hoped to have dinner in the Keeping Room of Hutchison House, but the space limited the number of attendees. Instead, the meeting was held at the Lions Centre in Ashburnham, where PHS presentations take place. There was the traditional business meeting, which introduced the PHS Board of Directors. The new PHS logo was also unveiled, illustrating the fact that Catharine Parr Traill was designated as Honorary PHS President in 1896. Thanks to Amber Johnson for her graphic design.

I had the pleasure of introducing our speaker for the evening, John Boyko, who is a published author of eight exceptional non-fiction titles, and he also contributed over 100 articles to the *Canadian Encyclopedia*. John is a frequent speaker who appears on television and radio to discuss his books and political events. Currently, he is the Lakefield Ward Councilor on Selwyn Township Council and the Chair of the Lakefield Literary Festival.

Ukraine as a nation was the focus of John's animated talk, with an overview of the long history of invasion and domination by empires and principalities over centuries. He was able to personalize the history through his own family's emigration to Canada and settlement in Hamilton. There was an emphasis on the role of Sir Clifford Sifton, who was Minister of the Interior under Laurier, attracting Eastern European settlers to the Last Best West of Canada. Sifton summarized his ideal settler in a 1922 Maclean's article: "A stalwart peasant in a sheep-skin coat, born on the soil, [...] is good quality."

The terrible treatment of Ukrainian male settlers who were interned during WWI in concentration work camps by the Canadian government is not widely known. However, that event was explored in a chapter of John's 1995 publication *Last Steps To Freedom: The Evolution of Canadian Racism* (reprinted in 2012). Ukrainian settlers enticed to open the Canadian West were mistakenly identified as "enemy aliens." During WWI, Ukraine was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which were allies of Germany, so these Canadian citizens were interned.

The evening concluded with light refreshments and Ukrainian Honey cookies baked by Linda Chandler. Thanks to all who were involved in organizing the meeting.

James Forrester



Ukrainian Honey cookies



Speaker John Boyko, PHS President Don Willcock

Hutchison House Museum Report

Erin Panepinto



Spring has finally arrived at Hutchison House! The daffodils and tulips bring colour and life back to the gardens, and the sounds of chirping can be heard from the recently hatched baby wrens in our front porch light. Staff have been kept busy this month with luncheons (both heritage and group bookings), Day camps, School Programs, and so much more! Hutchison House has been the venue for a series of workshops put on by the Peterborough Community Medicine Gardeners, as well as four successful Pairings events organized by the Peterborough Historical Society.

At the beginning of the month, staff and volunteer driver Rob Panepinto took a trip to the Legislative Assembly to put together our mini-exhibit, *'A Day in the Life of a Doctor's Wife.'* This exhibit is part of the Community Museums Exhibits in the main hall of the Legislative Assembly building at Queen's Park and will be on display until the end of 2024. Be sure to see it and other great community museum exhibits if you find yourself in downtown Toronto.

As our summer season gets started, we have a SOLD OUT Mother's Day tea coming up in May. If you were unable to purchase tickets for this event, be sure to call early for our Gentlemen's Tea for Father's Day (registration open for everyone now) on Sunday, June 16th, from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. A hearty lunch of delicious savouries, sweets and tea will be served in the historic Keeping Room by firelight. Tickets for the event are \$30 each, and pre-registration is required as seating is limited. Please register by June 12th at 5:00 PM. For more information or to reserve your seat, please contact the museum office at 705-743-9710.

The Hutchison House volunteers will host a Spring Plant and Yard Sale on Saturday, May 25th, 2024, from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM as part of the Gilmour Street Garage Sale. We will offer a wide selection of perennials, rock garden plants, and house plants just in time for spring planting! Be sure to come early for the best choices. Also, this year, the volunteers are hosting a Yard Sale. Household items and perhaps even some attic treasures will be on sale. Donations of plants, household items and attic treasure are welcome. Anyone wishing to donate items for the yard sale or plants, roots, tubers, etc., is asked to please label them and bring them to Hutchison House between May 21st – 24th so they can be priced on Friday prior to the sale. For assistance transporting plants or more information, please call the museum office at 743-9710. **** The sale will occur on Gilmour St, NOT at the museum, on May 25th****

The Museum will also be hosting a Friends of the Museum event on May 26th from 1:00 -3:00 PM as a thank you for all of their support. We appreciate all of the donations and memberships from our Friends for vital maintenance and programming at the museum that helps to keep Hutchison House an important part of our community. If you are a Friend of the Museum consider bringing a 'new' friend with you and enjoy tea on the terrace and music by Michael Ketemer. Friends of Hutchison House Museum can RSVP by May 22nd. For more information on the Friends of Hutchison House program, please contact the museum office.

The last Heritage Luncheon of the season will be held on June 5th, with sittings at 12:00 PM and 1:30 PM. Reservations are required. Please contact the museum office for menu details or to reserve a table.

For more information on these and other events, please visit us online at www.phs-hutchisonhouse.ca or contact the museum office.

Exhibit at Queen's Park





Restwell Upholstery



Pairings:

Butter Tart Factory



Pairings

Cahill Furs

Black Honey



**PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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**Solar Eclipse PA Day
Hutchison House Museum
April 8, 2024**

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

If not, renew directly online at <https://pjs-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://pjs-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!