



PETERBOROUGH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY | EST. 1897

UPCOMING EVENTS

Peterborough Historical Society
Lion's Community Centre
Tuesday, 15 October
Speaker: Peter Lillico
Tuesday, 19 November
Speakers: John and Nicola
Jennings

Pairings

Keeping Room Hutchison House
from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
2 October Johnson's
Green House and
The Chocolate Rabbit
9 October The UK Shop and
The Black Honey
23 October Nutrition Consult-
ant Kathryn Matheson and
The Food Shop
30 October at the Publican
House

Hutchison House Museum

Heritage Luncheon
Wednesday, 6 November
Wednesday, 4 December
12:00 and 1:30 p.m. sitting

Christmas Market
Saturday 23 November
from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Snowflake Tea
Sunday 24 November 1:00 p.m.
and 2:30 p.m.

Issue 509

Nogjiwanong — Peterborough

October 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, October 15, 2024

**Lions' Community Centre,
347 Burnham Street,
7:30 p.m.**

**Speaker Peter Lillico
"The Oriental on Hunter Street"**

Local lawyer Peter Lillico hosts a haunting and rare virtual tour of the remains of what was Peterborough's most elegant 19th-century hotel - the Oriental on Hunter Street.

Who knows what mysteries await in the long-locked, hard to access but still surviving rooms in the upper floors above his law office? Who knows what dramas unfolded behind the hallway doors – do long dead guests still return to the scenes of past tragedies, ecstasies – or maybe just a good night's sleep?

If you are brave enough, come to the Peterborough Historical Society's October Speakers Series meeting – Halloween edition.

Peter Lillico Peter grew up in Peterborough attending Queen Mary School and PCVS. He was called to the bar in 1979 after attending Queens University and McMaster University where he graduated with a degree in History, going on to Law School at the University of Windsor. He has since practiced law with Lillico Bazuk Galloway Halka, one of the city's oldest law firms, specializing in estate planning law and known as Canada's foremost expert in cottage succession law. He has taught at Sir Sandford Fleming College, has written columns on estate planning for Peterborough This Week and for Cottage Life -- appearing on camera in Cottage Life TV. Active in the Ontario Humanist Society, Peter probably does not believe in ghosts – yet.

The Oriental Hotel The Oriental Hotel was built on Hunter Street west of George in 1875 and was Peterborough's largest and most elegant hotel. The western portion of the building was demolished in 1974 when it housed the second Trent University bookstore. To find out what happened in between, you'll have to join us on Oct. 15!



1904—Oriental Hotel Logo

Photo Credit: Peterborough Museum & Archives

Oriental Hotel circa 1914



From the President

Don Willcock



With the passing of summer many people may consider their opportunities to take in cultural, heritage, and historic sites and events at an end. In some cases, this may be true – there are seasonal sites that close at Labour Day and do not reopen until Victoria Day or Canada Day – but many museums remain open year-round, often with hours adjusted to better accommodate local visitors, school classes, etc., instead of tourists and travellers.

If summer time is the popular season for travelling and visiting museums in other communities, fall, winter, and spring may be seasons to consider volunteering for hometown ones. Hutchison House, the Peterborough Museum & Archives, the Canadian Canoe Museum, and Lang Pioneer Village all host school classes and other groups for programs and tours throughout the year, as well as other public events. It would be difficult, or even impossible for these sites to run such activities without volunteer assistance. Volunteers may take on all sorts of tasks and projects at museums -- both “front of house” (greeting, guiding, presenting, educating, etc.) or behind the scenes (preparing for events, administration, data entry, collection care, site maintenance, researching, gardening, developing programs and exhibits, etc.). Some volunteers have skills and interests that they bring to sites, others are looking to develop new abilities and talents via their museum experience; either way, both the volunteer and their chosen sites win.

I have enjoyed my many years of volunteering with Peterborough area heritage groups and sites. Volunteering has given me the chance to meet lots of interesting people – both locals and from all over the world – and to help teach visitors, residents, and newcomers some of the history and stories of this community. So ... please consider contacting a local museum or heritage organization to see what volunteer opportunities they have. I'm sure you would be most welcome and appreciated.

August 29, 1859: John A. Macdonald disembarked from the Cobourg train at the Ashburnham train station, across the street from Peterborough's current Ashburnham Alehouse. He strolled south along the tracks to the shores of Little Lake past the new Canoe Museum building location, then hiked east up a path to the Beavermead Farm House.

He was in town to meet with lawyer Robert Dennistoun and young widow Elizabeth Hall, owner of Beavermead Farm. His mission: to take over and develop the Beavermead lands to save Elizabeth and her four young children from destitution.

This book tells the multi-year story of that enterprise on behalf of the appreciative widow who, a couple of years later, wrote to “My loved John ... love from loving Lizzie.” It is a story that connects the history of an important Peterborough property with a little-known and extraordinary personal relationship on the part of Canada's most prominent historical figure.



Macdonald and Mrs. Hall
Brought Together by Beavermead Farm, Peterborough
 Ken Brown

New Book by Ken Brown

Hutchison House Museum Report

Erin Panepinto



"In the entire circle of the year there are no days so delightful as those of a fine October, when the trees are bare to the mild heavens, and the red leaves bestrew the road, and you can feel the breath of winter, morning and evening—no days so calm, so tenderly solemn, and with such a reverent meekness in the air." — Alexander Smith

Following our Silent Auction, the museum will host a next exhibit 'My Favourite Things.' This exhibit will include examples of our volunteer's favourite items or things they personally collect. If you are a volunteer and would like to contribute to the exhibit please email the museum office. The exhibit will be on display until March 2025.

Once again this year Hutchison House Museum participated in Doors Open Peterborough. Over the course of the day over 217 visitors went through the museum. Thank you to all of our volunteers and interpreters as well as Debra Northey and her friend for the beautiful Celtic music.

The month of October would not be complete without the Halloween tradition. Look out for young ghostly ghouls and goblins on Saturday, October 26th from 12pm - 4 p.m. when Hutchison House Museum will host Halloween tours of the museum. Admission \$8 per person children under 3 is free. For more details see our website.

The Christmas Season is upon us, and Hutchison House Museum volunteers will host their annual Christmas Market on Saturday November 23 from 9am-12pm. Home baking, shortbread, fruit pies, jams, jellies, preserves and Attic Treasures will be featured, along with other special seasonal treats. In addition to the Empire Cheese orders, we will be offering some of our most popular items for pre-ordering as well including greenery and shortbread. Be sure to order ahead to ensure that you get the items you hope for. The Deadline for all advance orders is Wednesday November 13, 2024. Any donations of Attic Treasures or baked goods can be dropped off at the museum the week of November 18, 2024.

In addition to the Christmas Market is our annual Snowflake Tea on Sunday November 24 with sittings at 1pm and 2:30pm. Enjoy a light tea with Christmas treats by the Fire in the Keeping Room for \$15 each. There is limited seating and pre-registration and payment is required. Items for sale at the Christmas Market will be available during the tea. This event is organized by the volunteers of Hutchison House Museum.

Heritage Luncheons will be held on October 2, November 6 and December 4, with sittings at 12pm and 1:30. Reservations are required.

For more information on these or any events at the museum or to reserve your spot for the Heritage Luncheons and Snowflake Teas please contact the museum office at 705-743-9710 or [in-fo@hutchisonhouse.ca](mailto:info@hutchisonhouse.ca).



Junior Volunteer Rose by the fire

Doors Open at Hutchison House Museum September 14, 2024



Celtic Music



Sarah



Caroline

PHS Previous Month's Meeting "The Right Thing to Do"

The Fall lecture series for the Peterborough Historical Society began with a moving presentation by Ken Doherty, former Director of the Peterborough Museum and later Director of Community Services before retiring. Titled, "It's the Right Thing to Do", Mr Doherty described his role in the repatriation of the human remains that were found at what is known as the "Brock Street Burial." This was not his first experience with human remains in Peterborough. When visiting the Peterborough Museum in the 1980s he was taken aback by the display of those same remains in an exhibit. He was disturbed by the display, wondering how he would react if those were his ancestors' remains on display. In 1988 he was appointed Director of the Peterborough Museum and shortly after initiated discussions with representatives of Curve Lake on a process to repatriate the remains. It was a long process with many meetings but three years later Chief Mel Jacobs and Mayor Sylvia Sutherland signed a formal Repatriation Agreement. The remains were respectfully transferred to Curve Lake and reburied with traditional rituals. In June of that year Chief Jacobs and Ken presented their story at the Canadian Museum Association's Museums and First Peoples Conference. Not everyone in the Museum and Archaeological field was in support of the notation of returning objects, one person declaring it would be the end of Pre-Contact archaeology. Ken described additional experiences of repatriation and joint exhibit development and the challenges and rewards for what he termed Doing the Right Thing. He concluded by offering challenges to the members of the Society to embrace Reconciliation, whether in large matters like returning aboriginal material when a First Nation is ready to curate it or to call out inappropriate remarks that disparage First Nations. President Don Willcock thanked the speaker and presented a token of appreciation on behalf of the Society.

Dennis Carter-Edwards



Speaker Ken Doherty and President Don Willcock



**PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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MacNaughton**

From The Bulletin—October 2008



Ann Baker 3rd year Forensic Science major at Trent University. Ann was the Program Coordinator for the summer Programs. She is now on a field placement with Hutchison House working one day a week on the transcribing of the Doctor's patient ledger book

Erin Lewis- a recent graduate from the Museum Management program and also a graduate from Sir Wilfrid Laurier University. Erin is the Program and Volunteer Coordinator for the next five months under a Community Futures Development Corporation grant.



Photos credit—Douglas Lavery

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

If not, renew directly online at <https://peterboroughhistoricalsociety.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://peterboroughhistoricalsociety.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!

The Peterborough Historical Society acknowledges
with thanks our partners and supporters



Ontario



**Community
Foundation**
of Greater Peterborough

