



HUTCHISON HOUSE MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

Hutchison House Museum is a dynamic, interactive heritage site that offers visitors meaningful living history experiences. It operates with a strong customer-service focus that builds on its reputation as a unique cultural attraction in Peterborough.

The Peterborough Historical Society
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Table of Contents: Hutchison House Museum Annual Report 2024

Organization and Management	Page 2
Hours of Operation and Attendance	Page 3
Hutchison House Museum Financial Report	Page 4
Friends of Hutchison House Report	Page 4
Acquisition Committee Report	Page 4
Garden Committee Report	Page 5
Property Report	Page 5
Bookshop Report	Page 6
Visitor Feedback	Page 7
Exhibitions and Special Events	Page 7
Curator's Report on Museum Activities	Page 13
Digital Content Report	Page 17
Volunteer Report	Page 18
Training and Staff Development	Page 20

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

Peterborough Historical Society Board

Executive:

President	James Forrester (January- April) Don Willcock (April-Present)
Vice-President	Amber Johnson (April-October) Don Willcock (January-April)
Treasurer	Paul Lumsden
Secretary	Susan Mathews (until October) Hailey Lansley (October-present)
Bulletin Chair	Ian Ellis (until September) Don Willcock (September-present)
Membership Chair	Amber Johnson (until October)

PACAC Representative Susan Matthews (until October)

Members at Large:

Debbie Johnson(April-October)	Michael Peterman	Linda Chandler (HHMC Chair)
Marilyn MacNaughton	Dave Wesley (April-present)	

Trust Funds Trustees:

Chairperson	Peter Darling
Treasurer	Marilyn MacNaughton

Members at Large:

Dennis Carter-Edwards	Doug Lavery
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Hutchison House Management Committee:

Chair	Linda Chandler
Property	Don Willcock
Friends	Michael Peterman
Financial	Paul Lumsden
Acquisitions	Loretta Terry
Gardens	Diane Card
Members at large	Bill Corbett Susan Matthews (until October)
Recording Secretary	Hailey Lansley

Staff Members:

Administrator/Curator	Erin Panepinto
Museum Assistant	Hailey Lansley
Co-op Student (February-June)	Zaynah Gordon-Loussier

Summer Staff:

Scottish Tea Coordinator: Zaynah Gordon-Loussier

Museum Programming Assistant: Caroline Priddle

Hours of Operation and Attendance

Month	Days	Hours	Volunteer	Visitor	Total People
January	23	184	110	192	302
February	20	160	62	98	160
March	21	168	77	246	323
April	21	168	73	309	382
May	25	200	95	157	252
June	26	208	111	142	253
July	26	208	177	366	543
August	28	224	214	593	807
September	22	176	90	315	405
October	24	192	78	252	330
November	22	176	112	277	389
December	18	144	66	135	201
Total	276	2,416	1,265	3,082	4,347

Note: Visitor attendance in 2024 was up by 547 visitors over the previous year. The museum was closed in January for some maintenance that was easier to do without the visiting public coming into the museum. Despite being closed to the public the museum was open for a PA Day Camp, Hogmanay and Robbie Burns Day Pick up Meal. March, November and December were the only three months that saw small decreases over 2023. This was in part due to the decrease in school programs in November and December in 2024. Every other month saw an increase in attendance. January and April saw the biggest increases in attendance with the return of our in person Hogmanay and the introduction of PHS series of Pairings events. Other monthly increases can be accounted for by an increase in event attendance.

Hutchison House Financial Report

Hutchison House Museum

The operation of the Museum produced a deficit for 2024 due to the following circumstances:

- Increased costs of a new bookkeeping company.
- The reduction of donations to the operation of Hutchison House.
- The increased cost of retaining the Assistant Curator for an additional day per week in order to take on further duties.
- The lower furnace was replaced with no help from grants.
- For more precise financial results please see the 2024 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS completed by Gauvreau Associates.

Submitted by Paul T. Lumsden, Treasurer, Peterborough Historical Society

Friends Committee Report

The Friends of Hutchison House raised \$2,740 in 2024. There were 19 donors to the House. The falloff in donations this year is related to the deaths of several generous donors over recent years. A fundraising letter was sent out in May and a thank-you letter was sent to all donors. A Friends Thank you tea was held in May with 18 Friends in attendance. Michael Ketemer played in the Keeping Room for friends while they enjoyed their tea.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Peterman,
Chair of the Friends of Hutchison House

Acquisition Committee Report

Acquisition Committee Members: Linda Chandler, Juli Hillier, Loretta Terry, Don Willcock, Susan Jewell, Linda Lumsden, Susan Matthews (January to August), Erin Panepinto, Hailey Lansley, Bob Laing

Meetings were held February 28, June 18, July 25 and September 3, 2024.

Many items from the February 28th meeting were accepted into the permanent and education collections. This includes the *Complete Works of Robert Burns*, a slate chalkboard, a glass pharmacy bottle with stoppers, and a shawl that had been found in the collection. A candlestick was deaccessioned from the collection.

Items accepted from the June 18th meeting were found in collections storage that had not been properly accepted into the collection. The staff checked for records on these items and found none. These items include an apple peeler, two tams, a table runner, a pudding basin, a Fleming commemorative coin, and a framed map of Peterborough.

Several books and works of art were deaccessioned at the July and September meetings. This was due to either a poor fit to the collections mandate or poor condition requiring extensive conservation. Some books, as well as art that were in poor condition but had a strong connection to the house, were kept and will be a conservation focus moving forward. Deaccessioned works were offered to other institutions via OnMuse and CanMuse.

Garden Committee Report

This year was a great year for gardens. We had lots of sun and enough rain to avoid watering until August.

We have been lucky to have annuals that seed themselves so we try to give them a chance to show themselves before disturbing the soil.

The verbenas and cosmos especially attracted droves of butterflies and bees. We plan to save this small area at the top of the bank for nature and beauty.

Erin's husband Rob Panepinto and Burke Lush did a good job clearing the little bank in front of the fence and Tammy prepared the area and planted grass seed and it grew well.

Mainly, the garden needed maintenance last year and again Tammy came through for us. We had a couple of volunteers but they didn't have the time.

We will be starting to think about the street sale soon.

Submitted by Diane Card, Garden Chair

Hutchison House Property Report

Once again the museum closed for the month of January in order to complete some major maintenance work. This included removing everything from the back storage room, installing new shelving, painting old shelving and adding a new wall to create a dressing area with the costumes. The contents of the storage room were removed and sorted and either reorganized to go back into the room, discarded or donated to St. Vinnies.

Work was done throughout the year on the security system by Trent Security. This included changing batteries, resetting the system and replacing the north facing camera on the east side of the building.

After the storm windows were removed in the spring, they were taken to Peterborough glass and had the lexan replaced.

In the spring a new volunteer, Burke Lush, made a new open sign to hang off of the main Hutchison House Museum sign on the boulevard to indicate when the museum was open. He also repainted and sealed the museum and historical society office signs and sealed the exterior

directional signs. Burke also created two new chalk sign boards that can be used to advertise events or help with entrance directions. Thank you goes to Burke for his efforts.

The dawn to dusk light was replaced on the terrace to deter after hours activities. A new track light was wired into the Sir Sandford Fleming Exhibit Room to allow for better light in that room during after-hours programming.

The row of buckthorn bushes along the picket fence was cut back and removed with an excavator to minimize the chance of growing back again. New grass was planted in the area in front of the fence. A red oak tree was planted on the lower lawn as a replacement for the tree that was cut down in 2023.

In October, the 20-year-old lower furnace was replaced.

The eaves on the west side of the building were scheduled to be replaced in December. Unfortunately due to poor weather they had to be pushed to January of 2025.

The regular “summarization” and “winterization” of the House and grounds was performed.

Don Willcock, Property Committee Chair

Bookshop Annual Report

Total number of books sold: 102

Value of sales: \$ 1,806.24

Profit: \$ 728.37

End of year inventory: 1,215

Inventory value: \$ 4,493.63

New Books:

Irrepressible: Yukon's Martha Black

By Enid Mallory

At the age of 32, the unconventional spirit expressed in that statement took Martha to gold-rush-era Yukon while her first husband went off to Hawaii. Pregnant, and exhausted, she struggled over the legendary Chilkoot Pass; she fell in love with northern Canada, “this great big land” with its profusion of wildflowers, its midnight sun, and its northern lights. 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!”

MacDonald and Mrs Hall

By Ken Brown

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, the following year 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.

Visitor Feedback

The majority of the visitor feedback for 2024 was once again verbal and overall positive. Scottish teas were held every day with the exception of Sundays and Mondays this season. The visitors, once again, were usually from Peterborough and the Kawarthas or the Greater Toronto Area according to the visitor guest book and feedback surveys returned in 2024.

Hutchison House currently holds a 4.6/5 star on Google Reviews. Some comments from the guest book and feedback surveys in 2024 have included:

- “Love the curiosity it sparks in my daughter! Lots of good questions.”
- “Looks very nice from the outside, wanted to see the inside too!”

- “We visited this beautiful museum with our Discovery & Me field trip class this morning. What a beautiful experience! The staff were so friendly and accommodating to our little adventurers! Thank you so much for having us!”
- “Great little gem in Peterborough. The tour guide was very knowledgeable in Peterborough and area history. Best part was the tea, the volunteer server was excellent, the scones and jams were great”
- “Thank you! Lovely waitress and enjoyable sitting on the veranda near the flowers!”
- “Enjoyed the tour, our guide was very knowledgeable and explained very well. The staff is cordial and very warm and friendly. Definitely a must recommend to others. God bless you guys! Thank you. ”
- “Wonderful tour, guide was very informative, friendly & engaging! Tea in the garden was delicious & Riley was a great server! Will definitely return & recommend to others”

Exhibitions and Events

The Art of Miniatures

November 2023- May 2024

This exhibit was curated by museum staff around a piece on loan from community member, Kerry Corp. Her late mother Jennifer Brooks had begun creating miniatures in 1/12 scale upon her retirement. Everything including their clothing, furniture, props and food were made by hand. One of her many creations included a Victorian Christmas Marketplace with a variety of different market stalls and over 20 different characters including stall managers, carolers, Scrooge, Vincent Van Gogh and his brother, Monet, The Artful Dodger, Fagin and a Police Bobby. Also on loan are several of Jennifer’s tools for making miniatures and smaller samples of clothing that she had been working on before she passed. Also on display is a hand painted Christmas Village, a homemade doll house from the 1950s, miniature woodstove and tea set and two shelves of assorted miniature items. Artefacts on display were part of the museum collection as well as on loan from Kerry Corp, Erin Panepinto, Linda Lumsden, Juli Hillier and Hailey Lansley.

Ontario Legislative Assembly Exhibit: A Day in the Life of a Doctor’s wife

April 2024 to December 2024

This year Hutchison House Museum participated in the Ontario Legislative Assembly’s Community Exhibits program. This program provides an exhibit case to several Ontario Museums to showcase their collection for visitors to Queen’s Park throughout the year. The museum chose to highlight the life of Martha Hutchison and what her role was as the doctor’s wife. Artefacts on display included a small spinning wheel, sampler, slate and chalk, cook book, the bonnet found in the house restoration, iron, glass baby bottle, a copy of the legal work in

which Martha gave up her Dower rights to Hutchison House Museum and more. After being removed from the Legislative building in December it was decided to expand on the exhibit and re-mount it in the Harvey Connal Room in February-March of 2025.

Drink it up!

June 2024 to September 2025

This exhibit was curated by museum staff to highlight the history of various drinks in Peterborough and Canada. Some of the topics explored included the history of tea, coffee, wine, hot chocolate, water, milk, cider, beer, whiskey and the Temperance movement. The display included recipes from various settler authors such as Catharine Parr Traill and Mrs. Beaton for different teas, coffees, beers/ales and more. Artefacts included: milk bottles, coffee set, espresso set, hot chocolate set, wine/cider press, wine and beer bottles, hops, a tea box, tea tins, a coffee bag from James Harvey Connal and more. Artefacts on display were primarily part of the museum collection but also on loan from Loretta Terry, Bob Laing, Erin Panepinto, Linda Chandler and Linda Lumsden.

My Favourite Things

October 2024-January 2025

This exhibit was curated by the volunteers of Hutchison House Museum. Staff and volunteers were asked to bring in a favourite item or samples of what they like to collect along with text explaining their choices. Stephanie Ford Forrester chose an antique bird cage she inherited from her mother in law. Don Willcock and Erin Panepinto both chose items that they collect on their travels (or that others bring back for them as souvenirs from their travels). Don collects book marks and Erin collects shot glasses and postcards. Bob Laing, Linda Chandler and Doreen Jones collected types of ceramics or glassware. Bob collected hand painted antique pottery, Linda collected Roseville pottery and Doreen collected pressed glass. Loretta highlighted her love of fashion with a collection of pieces from one of her favourite designers: Ralph Lauren. Betty Hinton collected antique souvenirs of Peterborough and brought in a variety from mugs, spoons, plates and more. Hailey does cross stitch to relax and brought three of her finished pieces of Slavic folklore to highlight her love of cross stitch and Slavic history and folklore. Susan Jewell brought in examples from her record collection and her 1920s detective novel collection. Juli Hiller collected Salt and Pepper shakers, starting with a set she inherited from her grandmother. Museum Management students and volunteers Sylvia Van Berlo and Gabannette Woollorton also participated. Sylvia brought in samples of her collection of pink gaming systems and Gabannette brought in two items from her collection of full sized flags.

Upcoming Exhibits

Immigration 2025 Exhibit

Museum Management and Curatorship Students from Sir Sandford Fleming College began work for the museum on an exhibit on Immigration in Peterborough in honor of the 200th anniversary of the Peter Robinson Immigration in 2025. As part of their program students create a full exhibit for a community partner over the course of their year culminating with an installation in the spring with an opening to follow. There were several meetings between students and staff over the course of the fall semester to ensure that students were on the right path and that they had the resources they needed from the museum. This exhibit is set to be installed in March of 2025 and will remain on display until mid-October.

Virtual Exhibits

While no new virtual exhibits were created in 2024 the museum has continued to promote our two existing virtual exhibits: Growing up in Peterborough: A Century of Stories (2006) and The Life and Times of Dr. Hutchison in the Backwoods of Upper Canada (2011).

Events

Hogmanay

Date: January 1, 2024

Visitors: 86

Volunteers: 37

Income: \$1,196

For the first time since COVID limited in person programming, a full in person Hogmanay was held. Our Hogmanay event included: demonstrations of Scottish traditions included the 'First Footer' and Burns' Address to the Haggis; Food sampling of traditional sweets and savouries with items such as haggis, Scotch eggs, potted salmon, oatcakes, cheese, marmalade cake, cloutie dumpling, and shortbread; Highland dance demonstrations, fiddle playing, bagpipes and drums rounded out the live music component; and costumed interpreters provided tours of the House. We were fortunate this year to have the haggis donated by the UK Shoppe on George St. in Peterborough.

Robbie burns Day Curbside Meal

Date: January 25, 2024

Meals Sold: 40

Volunteers: 8 (over three days)

Income: \$1,295

After the popularity of the take home meals that were put together during COVID for Hogmanay, it was decided that since we had returned to that event in person, we would continue to offer these meals to celebrate Robbie Burns Night. The meals were the same that were previously offered for Hogmanay and included a full Scotch Egg, neeps and tatties, potted salmon, oat cakes, cheese, shortbread, cloutie dumpling and an optional slice of haggis for an extra \$5. Staff included the Address to the Haggis, the recipe for Atholl Brose and Robbie Burns Trivia in each of the take out bags.

Heritage Luncheons

Dates: February 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, October 2, November 6, December 4

Visitors: 234 + 48 private lunch rentals

Volunteers: 56 (average of 7 per event for prep and day of)

Income: \$7,821.50

Started as a fundraiser for Heritage week almost 30 years ago, the Heritage Luncheons have become a staple of the 'off' season at the museum and have a loyal following that come almost every month, with additional new visitors to the museum. Visitors enjoy a full meal by the fire in the Keeping Room, including coffee, tea, an entree and dessert, served by costumed interpreters. Tours of the museum are available for guests after they have finished their meals. The meals vary by month, focusing on what is seasonal and occasionally inspired by an historical event that happened on that day, a holiday, Scottish or Irish fare or simple heritage recipes that would have been available to the Hutchison family. Heritage Luncheons occur the first Wednesday of every month with the exception of January, July, August and September.

St. Patrick's Day Curbside Meal

Date: March 15, 2024

Meals Sold: 24

Volunteers: 7 (over three days)

Income: \$720

This event started during COVID as a way to replace the Heritage lunches when visitors were not allowed to come to the museum and it was difficult to hold events with food indoors. The event was so popular that it has continued on as an annual celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The curbside meals include: Corned Beef, colcannon, roasted carrots, Irish soda bread and Irish apple cake with custard sauce and fake chocolate coins. Staff include a trivia sheet on the origins of St. Patrick's Day with every meal.

Scottish Tea:

Dates: July 2- August 31, 2024

Visitors: 484

Volunteers: 7 interpreters and 37 junior volunteers

Income: \$4,793

The museum is most well-known for its Scottish Tea event that runs daily (except Monday and Sunday in 2024) in the summer time. Tuesday to Saturday the museum offers Scottish Tea on the terrace from 1-4pm served by our junior volunteers. Juniors dress in costume and serve visitors scones and oatcakes with their options of homemade jam, whip cream, butter, tea, iced tea or lemonade. Senior and junior interpreters greet guests at the front door in costume and offer tours for first time (and event repeat) visitors. We were fortunate to have the sponsorship of LLF lawyers for our Scottish Tea Program this summer.

Peach Tea

Date: August 15, 2024

Visitors: 78

Volunteers: 15 senior and 12 junior

Income: \$950

This year marked the 32nd annual Peach Tea event for Hutchison House Museum. Visitors enjoyed homemade scones, with fresh peaches, blueberries, whip cream or ice cream on the terrace on a beautiful sunny day. Juniors in costume served visitors and interpreters in costume offered tours of the museum for those who were interested.

Doors Open

Date: Saturday, September 14, 2024

Visitors: 218

Volunteers: 12

Income: Free Admission

Once again this year the museum participated in Peterborough's annual Doors Open event. This is a free event that occurs every year and is organized and promoted by Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (PACAC). Volunteers for this event included Hutchison House volunteers and PACAC volunteers that were set up out front for two walking tours occurring throughout the day. In addition to tours of the museum, Debra Northey and her

friend played the Celtic Harp and flute to the delight of visitors, some of which came just to see them. Items for this year's Silent Auction were on display in the Harvey Connal Room and lower hallway boards.

Haunted Halloween for Kids

Date: Saturday October 26, 2024

Visitors: 99

Volunteers: 7

Income: \$594

Our annual Haunted Halloween for kid's event continued to be a popular event this year. Kids could tour the decorated 'haunted' house and get some holiday treats, create a spooky craft in the Keeping Room, have their fortune told in the parlour, fish for candy on the top floor and participate in a scavenger hunt to find all of the skeleton animals hidden around the museum. Children also played the apple snatch game trying to catch the apples hanging from the witches broom stick with their mouth without the use of their hands.

Curator's Report on Museum Activities

Workshops

Peterborough Community Medicine Gardeners- the Peterborough Community Medicine Gardeners developed promoted and ran six workshops in the Keeping Room at Hutchison House (one in January and October and four in April). These workshops were free and had between 10 and 15 people and filled up quickly.

This year the museum hosted 5 PA Day Camps: Slime, Teddy Bears, Eclipse crafts, Make your own journal and Halloween crafts. March Break included 5 days of themed activities such as Harry Potter Crafts, Balloon Bowls, Tie Dye, Slime and Knitting.

Summer Workshops included 6 days of themed activities such as aquariums in a jar, pirate treasure, puppets, and musical instruments, pocket sized picnics and flower crowns.

Educational Programs

This year saw an increase in the number of school programs with the public schools. There were 7 classes that participated in 19th Century Daily Life, Roles and Responsibilities and the 19th Century Christmas programs. There was an eighth program booked that had to be cancelled the morning of due to freezing rain. There was an ESL (English as a Second Language) class from

Fleming College that came for a tour in the summertime. There were 2 programs for daycare groups that came in the summer for tours and activities. The museum also had a Girl Guide troupe that participated in a 19th century Christmas program. Overall there were 11 programs with 173 students and 47 teacher and parent volunteers that attended educational programs in 2024.

In-house Activities

Community Outreach

Hutchison House Museum donated Gift certificates to the annual Jukebox Mania fundraiser to support the Community Counseling and Resource Centre.

Once again this year the museum was fortunate enough to have a group of Museum Management and Curatorship Students from Sir Sandford Fleming College design a program for us as part of their Education course. This year's group of students designed a Trivia Night that ran in March. The event had teams of 3 or 4 participate with 21 visitors participating all together. Students developed a variety of historical questions and split them up into several sections so there were breaks with refreshments. There were prizes for the winners and everyone had a good time.

The museum hosted several community rentals throughout the year including a high tea for a bridal shower, a tea and tour for the Beta Sigma Thi Senior Sorority Group as well as other private groups throughout the year, luncheon for the Rotary Curling Club Championship and community living, meeting space tea and tour for the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport and a Christmas dinner prepared by the volunteers and staff of Hutchison House for a private group. We also hosted several children's birthday parties throughout the year.

There was a private rental for Don Willcock for his 65th party celebrations. In lieu of presents guests were asked to make a donation to Hutchison House Museum. The museum thanks Mr. Willcock for his generosity.

The museum participates in the Peterborough Kawartha Northumberland Museum Network.

Hutchison House Museum was invited to sell goods and talk to patrons at Market Hall during one of their Christmas plays in December. Don Willcock in costume and Marilyn MacNaughton did this on behalf of the museum talking to visitors as well as selling a few books and soaps from the bookshop.

The museum provided monthly meeting space for the community group Nine Ships. They are a volunteer organization in charge of organizing the celebrations for the 200th Anniversary of the Peter Robinson immigration in 1825. The museum will also be part of these celebrations as they unfold in August of 2025.

Hutchison House curator Erin Panepinto and former curators Stephanie Ford Forrester and Gale Fewings were asked to do one of the PHS monthly speaker talks for May is museum month. Gale, Stephanie and Erin had an informal conversation moderated by Michael Peterman about their experiences working at the museum, highlights of their times at the museum and challenges and success' that they faced.

Hutchison House Museum was fortunate to have a full time co-op student, Zaynah Gordon-Loussier, from St. Peter's Catholic High School who helped daily at the museum from February till mid-June. Zaynah helped with collections work, social media content, event prep, cleaning, giving tours and whatever other help was needed.

The Museum had a booth at the Northumberland Highland Games and Scottish Festival in Port Hope in June. Hailey and Erin attended in costume and spoke with visitors as they went through the clan booths. They provided brochures and calendar of events as well as membership forms for adults and stickers and colouring sheets for children. The games were well attended and staff spoke with a variety of people throughout the day. As a result of this participation the museum was invited to become a member of Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC). As a member the museum is able to promote events through their network and apply for event funding that has to do directly with Scottish Heritage.

The Museum continues to participate with the Peterborough Welcome Pass (City of Peterborough). This allows participants free admission for regular tours of the museum when they present their pass.

This year the museum participated in a new program called CANOO, which allows new Canadians free admission or discounted access to a variety of institutions across Canada for their first year in the country. This program runs on an App on your phone and replaced the previous New Canadian Pass for the federal government.

Conservation

To help control the humidity levels in the building, we made use of dehumidifiers on each floor when necessary, during times of high humidity. In cases of low humidity, portable humidifiers were used when needed. Water basins were also placed near the radiators to add moisture to the air where possible during the winter season when indoor humidity levels drop significantly.

Readings throughout the house of temperature and humidity were taken twice daily by Zaynah.

Zaynah, our co-op student, created mylar barriers for various artifacts on display. Barriers provide better protection from material interactions, and Mylar is a clear, archival-safe plastic that is better for display. To help the artifacts last longer, all carpets and rugs, except for the Doctor's Bedroom, were given polyethylene foam barriers underneath.

Early in the year, artifact storage was rearranged. Artifacts were evaluated based on condition and whether or not they had been properly accessioned. Several books and artworks were brought to the acquisition committee. Books or art with poor condition and a weak connection to the history of the House, the Hutchisons, or the Harveys were deaccessioned and offered to various institutions. Some artifacts in poor condition were kept and will be a conservation priority moving forward. The shelving in artifact storage was cleaned, labeled with a bay and shelf number, and lined with polyethylene foam to protect the artifacts. The south and west walls still need to have labeling and lining completed.

Several volunteers have been assisting with the manual migration of entries from the old database to the new one. This has included updating and correcting artifact entries to include more accurate details and research and providing updated conditions of the artifacts. The Parlour has been completed, and the Doctor's Bedroom is currently being imputed. Due to the change in the database, new collections forms, including cataloging worksheets, condition reports, deaccession forms, and loan forms, were created to better match the new database.

Consultation was conducted with conservator Basia Baklinski on the conservation, glass replacement, and reframing of the Fleming Map. The letter from Queen Victoria informing Sandford Fleming of his knighthood was sent for conservation to Jillian Maservey at Fleming College. The letter arrived back at the end of January.

Research

Staff and volunteers conducted exhibit research into the history of several forms of drinking for the summer temporary exhibit. Topics included temperance, beer and whisky making, milk, hot chocolate, coffee, tea, wine, cider and more. While the research included global, the focus for these topics was their history in Upper Canada and Peterborough in particular.

The Assistant Curator researched for aspects of social media to encourage more interaction with visitors. This included researching Hogmanay, showcasing items from the collection, researching social media holidays and associated facts, and creating content. Research was also completed for the heritage luncheons, which included gathering facts for menu cards. Research was also done on how other similar organizations to Hutchison House do their social media to better inform the Social Media plan for 2025.

Staff utilized the archives and resource library to answer questions for several researchers over the course of the year including students from Trent University.

Promotions

Paid advertising included ads placed in a variety of local tourism publications, Cottage Country Connection and Kawartha Visitors Guide and Kids Race for Autism Awareness. An article for Cottage County's summer issue was written on behalf of the museum by Don Willcok with images provided by the museum.

Interviews were held with Global TV Peterborough during our first in person Hogmanay event.

Press releases were sent to local media publicizing all events, workshops and fundraisers that we were able to hold throughout the year.

Hutchison House reports and upcoming events were included in all publications of the PHS Bulletin published 10 times per year.

Museum events were promoted across all our social media platforms including Facebook and Instagram. Due to controversy with X (formerly Twitter) the museum, like many organizations, stopped posting on this platform.

The radio cruiser from local station 96.7fm sat at the museum on three separate afternoons as promotion for the museum and a summer contest they were holding.

Digital Content

The Facebook page is utilized and is continually updated as to what is happening at the museum. The page can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/HutchisonHouse> and is linked through the museum's homepage. Visitors do not need to be a member of Facebook to view the page. As of the end of 2024, Hutchison House had 865 people who liked our page and 1,028 people who followed it. Our Facebook reach, which measures page visits, and distribution of posts, stories, reels, etc., in social feeds through both organic distribution was 16,570. This number has increased from last year's reach of 11,572. The total number of page visits was 5,362 which is a 59.8% increase from last year. The Facebook page features content including artifact and historical figure spotlights, seasonal and relevant trivia, throwbacks, and other content that brings followers back and encourages new ones. In January, a social media spot the difference contest was run on both Facebook and Instagram across 10 weeks. A winner from each platform received a prize containing a mug, bookmarks, and a certificate for Scottish Tea for Two.

The Hutchison House Museum X account (formerly known as Twitter) currently has 169 followers and is following 106. Due to the changes in the corporation's ownership and business model, there has been frequent discussion about whether to remain on the platform.

The Hutchison House Museum Instagram account currently has 637 followers and is following 39 similar or local accounts. The current Instagram reach is 1,985. To date, Hutchison House has created 1,181 posts on the site. Content posted on Facebook is automatically cross-posted onto Instagram. Our Instagram can be found at <https://www.instagram.com/hutchisonhousemuseum/>.

The Hutchison House YouTube channel currently has 282 subscribers, and the total of views to our 39 videos is 40,712. There were no videos posted this year and the top two videos posted by the account are still "Teddy Bear Tutorial" and "Early Settler Camp: Make a Log Cabin". The account can be found at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvUNc56VBwk9xVqN_Lqnyg.

Social media procedures and plans were updated to better reflect the increased use of social media and to guide behaviours and interactions on behalf of the museum. These procedures were based on various existing museum policies and procedures. The media permission form was updated as well.

Grants

CMOG - Community Museum Operating Grant, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Hutchison House was able to retain the same amount of funding from the previous year receiving \$15,090.00

YCW - Young Canada Works in Heritage, Heritage Canada
This federal program is administered through the Canadian Museums Association. In 2024, Hutchison House received funding for one summer student, Museum Programming Assistant, in the amount of \$ 6,308.05 toward summer staff wages.

CSJ- Canada Summer Jobs
We were fortunate to acquire funding for one summer student through this program in 2024 receiving \$ 4,303 to help with student wages for the Scottish Tea Coordinator position.

City of Peterborough – Municipal Capital Facilities funding
In 2024 Hutchison House received \$ 45,325 as part of their Municipal Capital Facilities funding program. Changes were being developed throughout 2024 for this program to take effect in 2025 including a name change.

Volunteer Report 2024

Adult Volunteers: 31
Junior Volunteers: 37
Volunteer Hours: approximately hours: 5,060

Volunteer Fundraising: Total funds raised by Volunteers: \$ 27,172.86

1. Christmas Market: \$ 3,360.70
2. Snowflake Tea and Dessert: \$ 750
3. Bingo: \$ 19,441.41
4. Mother's Day Tea: \$ 690
5. Nutcracker Workshop: \$ 350
5. Plant and Yard Sale: \$ 2,160.75
6. Fireside Stories: \$420

Volunteer Activities in 2024

Linda Chandler, Loretta Terry and Bob Laing worked hard to plan, and execute two sittings of Snowflake Tea and Desserts in the afternoons of the second last Sunday in November. The Keeping Room was decorated with white Christmas Lights and sparkly snowflakes. There were

2 sittings on a Sunday afternoon. Desserts and a light tea were served out of the kitchen, and visitors enjoyed them by the fire in the Keeping Room. Items from the Christmas Market that were left over were available for purchase.

Linda, Loretta, Bob and Juli also worked hard at organizing and executing a Mother's Day afternoon tea in May. Guests were treated to a delightful tea of small sandwiches and desserts in the Keeping Room.

Linda and Loretta worked with staff to plan a Paint and Sip Nutcracker Workshop. With the help of Bob Laing and Juli Hiller, guests painted and decorated their own wooden nutcracker in the Harvey Connal Room and enjoyed tea and desserts in the Keeping Room.

For the first time since COVID, the volunteer events committee ran the popular Dickens and Dessert [Fireside Stories] event. This sold out event had visitors sitting in the Keeping Room by the fire listening to the 1939 radio play of Dickens 'A Christmas Carol' as read by Orson Wells and Lionel Barrymore. At intermission visitors were treated to a variety of treats created by the museum volunteers.

Several volunteers helped staff in organizing and executing the Silent Auction that raised money towards the replacement of the lower furnace.

Volunteers also assisted with the following:

Cooking and food preparation; assisting with, organizing and running events; prepping material for the Day Camps and March Break; exhibit research, set up and take down; Property maintenance such as building & grounds upkeep, gardens, house cleaning; Sitting on Management committee and other committees such as: Garden committee, Property committee, Acquisitions, Friends of Hutchison House and Finance; Guiding; Cooking; And so much more!

Volunteer Appreciation:

Staff and summer students held their annual Summer Volunteer Appreciation Tea on the terrace ahead of the summer Scottish Tea season starting. Volunteers enjoyed fresh scones and strawberries and mingled with each other and introduced themselves to the summer staff.

Staff and volunteers held their annual Christmas Potluck in the Keeping Room in December. Recognition was also given to the volunteers throughout the year in the Bulletin and on social media for all of their hard work. We had a very successful year at the museum and our volunteers are a big part of its success.

Volunteer Resources:

Because of many changes to the museum, including the new Fleming exhibit room, new artefacts to the collection on display, and artefacts that had been moved around over the years, the previous volunteer manual was out of date. Work began over the course of the summer to correct this and with input from the volunteers, who interpret the house, we looked at the other

information gaps and the new manual will be completed and available for interpreters ahead of the 2025 summer season. New sections will include popular settler sayings, holiday traditions for Christmas and Halloween, frequently asked questions and more.

Summer Student and Junior Volunteer Program:

Applications for Junior Volunteers were sent out the end of April and we had 37 children participate in the Junior Volunteer program this summer. Orientation for the juniors was held the end of June. This allowed new volunteers the chance to get familiar with the museum, the routine of teas and find their costumes. For returning volunteers orientation acts as a refresher course and allowed them time to practice, find their costumes, get their schedules and meet the new summer staff. This year Caroline Priddle acted as our Museum Programming Assistant for the summer. As part of her duties she oversaw, scheduled and trained the juniors and created different activities for them to work on during the slow parts of the day in the summer. This included sewing crafts and the start of the SNART (Snail art). Juniors began drawing or creating a variety of art involving snails throughout the summer. They had so much fun and so much art that staff put it on display on the wall board for their party and left it up until the end of the teas. Snails became part of their theme at their year-end party. Zaynah Gordon-Loussier was hired as our Scottish Tea Coordinator this summer. Zaynah did all of the baking for the teas, maintained a grocery list and kept the kitchen and lower level clean. Zaynah also oversaw any of the junior volunteers that were helping in the kitchen. Caroline and Zaynah worked with staff to create a fun year end party for the juniors paid for by the children's tip money. A variety of themes were floated as possibilities and in the end the juniors voted for a red carpet themed party. Juniors were invited to dress in their fanciest most creative clothing and walk the red carpet to get their photos taken. Awards were given in a variety of categories including: best dressed, most creative costume, most purple, fan favourite, most sparkle and weirdest outfit. Children who won received a golden snail statue and a large bag of candy. After the awards ceremony the juniors had ice cream and popcorn and watched Night at the Museum. Before the children left they participated in a scavenger hunt to find the golden snails outside around the museum. Whoever found the most snails won a larger golden snail and bag of candy. As a thank you for all their hard work this summer junior volunteers received a certificate of achievement as well as a \$10 gift card to Indigo and a bag of candy.

Staff Training and Development

Summer Staff: In-house training for position, interpretation techniques, data entry, supervising junior volunteers, care and handling of artifacts, kitchen orientation, customer service, on-site safety. Scottish Tea Coordinator had an up to date completed Safe Food Handling Certificate through St. Peters Catholic School Co-op training program.

Erin Panepinto: Supervising volunteers and summer staff, continued improvement with customer service and interpretation.

Volunteers: Members of the Acquisition committee, many of whom are also interpreters, watched a several videos created by the University of Victoria in Australia on how to properly handle artefacts as a refresher.

Webinars: There were a variety of free webinars that staff and volunteers took advantage of through the Ontario Museum Association, the National Trust and other Non Profit organizations. Some of these webinars included:

- Facebook for Small Museums
- Intro to the Tourism Growth Program with Fed Dev. Ontario
- Ontario Trillium Foundation Capital Grant Webinar
- Finding Connections between medical history and everything else
- Upgrading your collections storage