

HUTCHISON HOUSE MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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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ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

Peterborough Historical Society Board

Executive:

President Don Willcock
Treasurer Paul Lumsden
Secretary Hailey Lansley
Bulletin Chair Marilyn MacNaughton
HHMC Chair Linda Chandler
Programming Chair Dave Wesley
PACAC Representative Marilyn MacNaughton
Members at Large: Michael Peterman

Trust Funds Trustees:

Chairperson Peter Darling
Treasurer Marilyn MacNaughton
Members at Large:
Dennis Carter-Edwards Doug Lavery

Hutchison House Management Committee:

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

Staff Members:

Administrator/Curator Erin Panepinto
Museum Assistant Hailey Lansley
Co-op Student (February-June) Antonio Salfie
(September-February 2026) Ollie Jones
Trent Education Co-op (September-November) Kaitlin Pinch

Summer Staff:

Scottish Tea Coordinator: Kaitlin Pinch
Museum Programming Assistant: Emma Hammers
Collections Assistant: Avery Larmer
Historic Interpreter: Zoey McEwen

Hours of Operation and Attendance

Month	Days	Hours	Volunteer	Visitor	Total People
January	23	184	100	98	198
February	17	136	54	95	149
March	20	160	120	181	301
April	16	128	124	171	295
May	22	176	69	126	195
June	23	184	114	197	311
July	26	208	164	522	686
August	29	232	232	985	1,217
September	22	176	160	240	400
October	26	208	109	228	337
November	22	176	88	251	339
December	19	152	45	159	204
Total	265	2,120	1,379	3,224	4,632

Note: Visitor attendance in 2025 was up by 142 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. January, March, April, September and December were the months that saw small decreases over 2024. Much of the decrease in attendance, especially in the first half of the year, was due to poor weather. An ice storm closed the museum for a week in April and there was only one Pairings event that month. Several school programs that were booked in the winter were moved to the spring. Visitors to Hogmanay in January were fewer and there were not as many rentals in September in 2025 as there were the year before. Every other month saw an increase in attendance. This summer saw the biggest increases in attendance during our Scottish Teas. This may have been in part due to the 200th Anniversary celebrations for the Peter Robinson Immigration that were being held in town and around the county. There were a lot of people from out of town that were travelling to the Peterborough area over the course of the summer. A week-long celebration that was organized by the Nine Ships

committee was held the first week of August which included tea and tour at the museum. Other monthly increases can be accounted for by an increase in event attendance.

Hutchison House Financial Report

The operation of the Museum produced a deficit in 2025.

The following grants and fundraising activities helped to support the museum:

- City of Peterborough Grant
- Revenue raised from Delta Bingo
- Receipt of revenue from the Community Trust Fund of Greater Peterborough
- Provincial CMOG Grant
- Yearly fundraising activities
- Donations

For a detailed analysis of these financial results, please refer to the 2025 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS completed by Patrick Sweeney of Gauvreau Associates Accounting.

Respectfully Submitted, Paul Lumsden, Treasurer

Friends Committee Report

The Friends of Hutchison House raised \$4,710 in 2025. There was \$480 in memberships and \$4,230 in donations that came through the Friends program. There were 29 donors to the House. A fundraising letter was sent out in May and a thank-you letter was sent to all donors. Suggestions were made to some changes to be made to the Friends program which will be implemented in 2026.

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

Acquisition Committee Report

Acquisition Report Annual Report 2025

Acquisition Committee Members: Linda Chandler, Juli Hillier, Loretta Terry, Don Willcock, Susan Jewell, Linda Lumsden, Erin Panepinto, Hailey Lansley, Bob Laing

One meeting was held on June 11, 2025.

As the museum continues to have a moratorium on new items, only a select few items deemed necessary are added to the collection. Seven items in total were added in 2025. This consisted of a fleam, a porringer, a lancette, a candle snuffer, a lantern, a print, and a comb box.

Several items were deaccessioned this year. Some were deaccessioned due to poor condition, or conditions like red rot and bronze disease, which put the rest of the collection at risk. This included a medical bag, a brass lamp, and a butter mould. 22 pieces of China were deaccessioned from the collection that had been in storage permanently. These pieces were unable to be displayed either due to belonging to an incorrect time period, lack of context, fair to poor condition, or they did not belong to a large enough set. These pieces were offered to other museums.

The Branscombe Glass Collection was also considered for deaccession, as it does not fit the museum collection's timeframe. Due to uncertainty regarding the legal status of the collection, it was pushed to be relooked at on a later date. The legal status has been clarified and will most likely be deaccessioned in 2026, and offered to Lang Pioneer Village Museum or the Peterborough Museum and Archives first, as stipulated in the legal agreement.

Garden Committee Report

It is with a heavy heart that I pen the Hutchison House Garden Report for 2025.

Spring was of course a busy time for Diane, Marjorie and I. No big projects were planned; just continue maintaining Diane's vision and a very successful plant and yard sale.

Summer brought lots of watering to the garden but that manifested into a great display. The alyssum truly shone this year. Visitors were very complementary on the gardens right up until the leaves had fallen and gardens were put to bed for the winter.

Unfortunately in September Diane Card passed away after a sudden and brief illness. Diane had worked hard for the previous five years in restoring and maintaining the gardens

We as caretakers will endeavor to maintain the quality that Diane set. She was so dedicated to the gardens.

Submitted by Garden Committee member Tammy MacFarlane

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 Keeping Room for the ceiling to be painted. Brooks Brushworks was contracted to come in and tape off the keeping room and to put plastic over the openings walls and furniture that couldn't move. They had the arduous task of scraping the old paint off the beams and floor boards, sand and paint (several coats) of white paint on the ceiling. In advance of this Hailey and Erin and volunteers removed everything with the exception of the corner cupboard, green dish dresser (although everything on the cupboard

was moved) and the wood box. Furniture in the rooms on the main floor directly above the Keeping Room was also moved and the cracks taped off so that the paint didn't come up through on to the underside of the carpeting and furniture. Once the job was completed, Hailey and Erin scrubbed the Keeping Room floor and volunteers helped to clean and move the furniture back.

Work was done throughout the year on the security system by Trent Security. This included having to change the hard drive for the system to something that could be updated. The new hard drive also makes it easier for staff to pull footage off of the cameras as needed.

After the ice storm in April there was damage to several trees around the property. Fortunately preventive maintenance on the trees as well as the removal of the maple tree off of the terrace prevented there being any damage to the building as a result of the storm. Staff and volunteers did their best to clean up and prune back the broken branches that were closest to the ground. A company came in the fall to clean up branches that broke and needed to be trimmed back in the larger trees.

The old fluorescent lights in the artefact store room, lower storage area and above the sink and under the cupboards in the kitchen were replaced with LED lights.

The lower lawn, which had become overgrown during COVID, was cutback in August to prevent people from hiding in the overgrowth or leaving trash.

The fence along the property line and the trail was finally replaced by the City after it was removed for the Bethune St. construction and not put back. The City was on site to see the deficiency list that the construction company neglected to fix. The curb for the lower parking also needs to be fixed but will have to wait until the spring 2026.

There were several issues with the toilets at the end of the summer which resulted in the plumber coming twice to fix the ballcocks on two of the toilets, fix the shut off valve on the third toilet and to clean out the sewage pail as well as to replace the float in the sewer pail.

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

Bookshop Annual Report

Total number of books sold: 103

Value of sales: \$ 1,481.14

Profit: \$ 951.48

End of year inventory: 1,299

Inventory value: \$ 4, 887.57

New Books:

Alderville First Nation: a history

By Brian Beaver

"A timely and informative history of our First Nation through the years. Brian Beaver has presented our story in a clear and concise manner. This is recommended reading for anyone interested in the history of Alderville First Nation"--back cover.

Ketchecum Hunt Club; One hundred years on Catchecoma Lake

By Catherine Dibben and Barbara Laperriere

The Ketchecum Hunt Club is one of the longest continuously-running hunt camps in North America. Being able to trace its roots to the early 1860's, the book concentrates on the Club's time on Catchacoma Lake where the heart of the Club was a rustic cabin on a prominent point overlooking the most beautiful beach in a 5-lake chain north of Buckhorn, Ontario.

In addition to the members who included prominent businessmen and professionals, a frequent guest was Fred Roy, Peterborough's superb photographer in the early 1900's, whose photos add charm to this book.

Peterborough: Spirit of Place

By John McQuarrie

Nobody captures the spirit of Ontario communities like photographer John McQuarrie. The perfect addition to any Peterburian's coffee table, this 150+ page book features dozens of McQuarrie's gorgeous full colour photographs of Peterborough and the surrounding area paired with articles written by local authors and historians, including, Elwood Jones and Don Willcock.

Nine Ships; A Bicentennial Souvenir Book

A stunning 60-page full-colour Bicentennial Souvenir honouring the 1825 Peter Robinson Immigration. Includes historical insights, passenger listings from the Nine Ships, and a guide to August events

Occasional Paper #46 From Tap to Toilet

By Dennis Carter-Edwards

The latest occasional paper put out by the Peterborough Historical Society based on the previous presentation on the history of Peterborough's water and sewer systems made by Dennis Carter-Edwards.

Visitor Feedback

The majority of the visitor feedback for 2025 was once again verbal and overall positive. Scottish teas were held every day with the exception of 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:

- “Our server was excellent. The food was delicious. Very relaxing atmosphere. The gardens were lovely, and the cottagey & rustic feeling was astoundingly done. I feel like I really am in a fairy tale!”
- “Delightful, attentive servers. Charming! Such a pleasure always to come to HH for summer teas!”
- “Amazing tour! Thanks it was incredible Hazel and Zoey! The little server was amazing! We loved the experience! Highly recommended!”
- “Excellent ambience, beautiful gardens. Charming staff. Please advertise more; this place is a hidden gem.”
- “The tour guide was very informative and adjusted our tour to take into account our knowledge of history!”
- “Great experience. Thank you. ”
- “Thank you! Been before many years ago. Moved back after 35 years! What a delightful experience! Both our tour guide and our server added to the charm and excellent experience!”

Exhibitions and Events

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 collected book marks and Erin collected 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 collection. 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 Wooltorton also participated. Sylvia brought in samples of her collection of pink game systems and Gabannette brought in 2 items from her collection of full sized flags.

Together from Apart: Stories of Immigration

March 2025-October 2025

Beginning in September of 2024 Hutchison House Museum staff and students of the Museum Management and Curatorship program met to discuss the exhibit project the students would curate for the museum. Students were given the topic of Immigration, given the 200th Anniversary celebrations for the Peter Robinson Immigration that would be happening in the summer of 2025. Students were challenged to curate an exhibit that explored the history of immigration to Peterborough, including Peter Robinson, as well as modern immigration. The students had the extra challenge of utilizing the limited temporary exhibit space here at the museum as well as the small exhibit budget. They worked hard all fall, and by the start of 2025 they had accumulated tons of research, come up with a storyline as well as ideas for artefacts that would be included that staff approved. The winter semester passed quickly with design and text, mount making and hands on activities. Students installed their exhibit at the end of March and organized an Opening Reception for early April that included speeches, a first look at the exhibit and hands on activities, and treats that represented the diverse culture of Peterborough and take home bags for visitors.

Topics in the exhibit included: Travel, Opportunity, Community and the Peter Robinson Immigration. Artefacts included in the exhibit include: a model birch bark canoe, a carriage light, conductor hat, cross cut saw, dolls, fur gloves, Dr. Hutchison's ledgers, moccasins, children's shoes, medical kit and more!

Interactives included a ticket scavenger hunt that took kids around the museum, exhibit stickers, an interactive wall to post pictures, a website that allowed visitors to share their own recipes and a video provided by the New Canadian Centre.

Homage

October 2025- March 2026

This exhibit is on loan from jewellery artist Don Stuart. Homage is a collection of necklaces created and inspired by Canadian Women in history. The 41 women honored range from politicians, athletes, entertainers, literature, historical figures and more. Symbolism can be found through the design as well as materials used. Some of the women include: ballerina Karen Kain, cartoonist Lynn Johnston, singer song writer Anne Murray, Olympian Hayley Wickenheiser, early settler Laura Secord, Canadian Governor General Mary Simon, musician Diana Krall, actress Mary Pickford, Inuit artist Malaya Akulukjuk, fashion icon Elizabeth Arden, author Margaret Atwood, business women/philanthropist Sonja Bata, co-founder of Canadian Tire Martha Billes, astronaut Roberta Bondar, opera singer Measha Brueggergosman-Lee, publisher Elizabeth Bushell, former Prime Minister Kim Campbell, painter Emily Carr, arts activist/philanthropist Joan Chalmers, civil libertarian Viola Desmond, Betty Fox, native poet Pauline Johnson, speed skater Catriona Le May Doan, brewer Susannah Oland, Paralympian Chantal Petitclerc, inventor Olivia Poole and many more! Exhibit catalogues were on sale to go along with the exhibit.

Virtual Exhibits

While no new virtual exhibits were created in 2025 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, 2025

Visitors: 50

Volunteers: 54

Income: \$433

Once again Hogmanay was held in person at the museum, and while the numbers weren't as good as the year before, everyone still had another really good time. 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, black bun, 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. This event was also sponsored by CASSOC (Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada) who helped with the expenses.

Robbie burns Day Curbside Meal

Date: January 23, 2025

Meals Sold: 31

Volunteers: 6 (over two days of prep)

Income: \$1,055

Robbie Burns take home meals continued to be popular even with the return of an in person Hogmanay. The meals 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 5, March 5, April cancelled because of ice storm, May 7, June 4, October 1, November 5, December 3.

Visitors: 156

Volunteers: 32 (average 5 volunteers per luncheon)

Income: \$4,041

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 14, 2025

Meals Sold: 29

Volunteers: 6 (over 3 days)

Income: \$870

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, 2025

Visitors: 768

Volunteers: 3 senior volunteers, 34 junior volunteers, 1 dedicated Historic Interpreter summer student.

Income: \$9,720.15

The museum is most well-known for its Scottish Tea event that runs daily (except Monday) 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

Visitors: 105

Volunteers: 2 senior volunteers, 9 junior volunteers, 4 summer students

Income: \$1,495

This year marked the 33rd 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 13, 2025

Visitors: 161

Volunteers: 10

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). The museum offered tours of the museum as well as hearth cooking demonstrations.

Haunted Halloween for Kids

Date: Saturday October 25, 2025

Visitors: 45

Volunteers: 10

Income: \$376

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 flying bat 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

In-House Annual Special Events

Hogmanay, Scottish New Year's celebration (January 1, 2025)

Robbie Burns Day Pick Up Meal (January 24, 2025)

8 Heritage Luncheons (February, March, April (cancelled due to weather), May, June, October, November, December)

St. Patrick's Day Meal-curbide pick-up (March 14, 2025)

Scottish Tea (July 2-August 30, 2025)

Peach Tea (August 14, 2025)

Doors Open (September 13, 2025)

Haunted Halloween (October 25, 2025)

Workshops

This year the museum hosted 4 PA Day Camps: Fairies and Elves, Kaleidoscopes, Dino Digs and Halloween ghosts. March Break included 5 days of themed activities such as Maple crafts, Mask Making, Snow day crafts, Feed the Birds and Intergalactic crafts.

Summer Workshops included 6 days of themed activities such as Christmas in July, Under the sea, Rock Art, Tie Dye, Pioneer Day and Bugs.

Educational Programs

This year had the same number of school programs as 2024. The museum had 7 public school groups that participated in 19th Century Christmas programs, 19th Century Daily Life, Roles and Responsibilities and Let's Have Lunch. There were also 4 Girl Guide and Sparks groups that participated in the 19th Century Daily life and 19th Century Christmas programs. There were 207 students and 53 supervisors.

In-house Activities

Community Outreach

Once again Hutchison House Museum donated a gift certificate to our Scottish Tea Jukebox Mania fundraiser to support the Community Counseling and Resource Centre as well as for a prize for our social media contest.

This year the museum was fortunate enough to have a group of Museum Management and Curatorship Students from Sir Sandford Fleming College design a temporary exhibit for us: Tales from Apart: Stories of Immigration. For more information on this exhibit please read Exhibit in our annual report.

There was a group tea for the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough for their annual grant meeting and check presentation.

There was also a group tea as part of the 200th Anniversary of the Peter Robinson Immigration that was put together by Nine Ships, a group of local volunteers charged with coordinating events in Peterborough as well as acting as a liaison for the sister group organizing events for the 200th Anniversary in Ireland. The museum allowed the Nine Ships group to use the board room as a meeting space for their meetings. The Nine Ships group put together an Anniversary Book on the history of the Peter Robinson Immigration that is available for sale in the bookshop. Several committees that ran events for the Peter Robinson celebrations also borrowed costumes for their events. These included the Nine Ships event on the Otonabee, a group from Ennismore as well as others.

There was a group tea in August for members of the Bird Species at Risk group through the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The museum opened itself up for community rentals including a family Christmas party, a party for a first birthday and the Christmas/Retirement Party for members of the Kawartha Land Trust. The museum hosted several birthday parties throughout the year.

The museum participates in the Peterborough Kawartha Northumberland Museum Network.

For the second year in a row the museum had a booth at the Northumberland Highland Games and Scottish Festival in Port Hope in June. Hailey, Erin and Emma 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 for children. The games were well attended and staff once again renewed their membership of Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC). As a member the museum is able to promote our events through their network and we were able to apply for and receive funding towards the expenses for our annual Hogmanay event.

In an effort to recruit more volunteers for the museum, Hutchison House had a booth at the annual Trent volunteer fair in September. Staff were able to speak with a variety of students from various programs who were looking to volunteer in the community. Staff created flyers for each of the many volunteer positions offered by the museum, many of which were taken. As a result of this fair there were several students who left with applications, two of whom handed them back to staff at the fair, as well as several emails that came in over the course of the week. There were 5 Trent students that volunteered for the museum during the Fall Semester. Students primarily worked on database entry as well as some event prep.

Hailey attended the introduction week of the Museum Management and Curatorship and Conservation programs through Sir Sandford Fleming College at the Peterborough Museum and Archives. During this panel Hailey highlighted the volunteer opportunities that the museum had to offer both with the collection as well as a variety of events. As a result the museum had 3 Museum Management Students and 3 conservation students that volunteered throughout the fall semester with collection work. The Museum Management students mostly worked with the database and the Conservation students worked with the archival collection. There were several other students who helped once with events such as both fall PA Day Camps, Halloween, Christmas Market and the Snowflake Tea.

The museum was fortunate enough to have two Co-op students in 2025. Students were at the museum for just over an hour each day. Antonio Salfi, from St. Peter's Catholic High School, was at the museum from February to June. He helped with collection work, research, inventory and data entry.

Ollie Jones, was from Kenner High School and participated in the Co-op program between September of 2025 and February of 2026. Ollie helped with whatever was needed at the museum including event prep, office help, temperature/humidity readings, exhibit research, social media, cleaning and more.

The museum was fortunate enough to have two students from the Trent University Education stream do placements with the museum in 2025. Hayden MacNeil did an alternate education placement from February to April. He helped with programing including prep work and material lists for March Break and the some upcoming school programs. In the fall semester we had Kaitlin Pinch as a placement student. Kaitlin had been our Scottish Tea Coordinator over the

summer. Kaitlin helped with some database work as well as research for 2026 children's programs. She helped with prep for the Halloween event and Day Camp as well as the Christmas Market in November.

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.

The Museum continues to participate in the CANOO pass. This 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 daily by Co-op Students Antonio and Ollie, as well as summer students Emma and Avery.

Several pieces of China were deaccessioned due to poor condition, lack of historical context, or were not usable for display.

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 and the Doctor's Bedroom have been completed, and the Doctor's Office is being input into the database currently. A Manual was created to help assist volunteers with using the database and filling out collection forms.

The doll donated by Alison Mackay, which once belonged to Alice Mary Hall arrived in May. The doll needed quite a large amount of conservation, which was simple enough to do in house. Hailey dry-cleaned and repaired the doll. She also wet-treated her dress and constructed a mount to properly display the doll. As the doll's head is wax she was monitored by staff during the summer, and on days where the temperature or humidity was too high, the doll was kept in artifact storage to prevent melting or cracking.

Three Fleming conservation students have been working on encapsulating the museum's archival documents in mylar to provide better longevity and protection.

Research

Staff did research into Victorian mourning practices, both for the volunteer manual update as well as to put the house into mourning for the month of October. Hailey also used the information learned to create a tour of the museum that highlighted these practices as well as made changes to the physical space. Other topics that were researched and added to the manual update included 19th Century Christmas practices, 19th Century Halloween traditions and the origins of some of the more common settler sayings that are featured in the tour.

Author and Historian John Boyko used the museum files and archival records on Sir Sandford Fleming as research for an upcoming book he is writing on Fleming. A book launch for this book will be held in 2026 as part of the PHS AGM.

The Assistant Curator researched for aspects of social media to encourage more interaction with visitors. This included 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.

Promotions

Paid advertising included ads placed in a variety of local tourism publications, Cottage Country Connection and Kawartha Visitors Guide. A feature was written and included in the Cottage Country Summer Issue.

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, Instagram and Twitter.

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 2025, Hutchison House had 865 people who liked our page and 1,028 people who followed it. Our Facebook views, which measure the number of times that our content has been played or viewed through both organic and paid distribution, were 212,484. The total number of page visits was 4,026, which is a 19% decrease 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 "Three Picks" 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 742 followers and is following 45. The current Instagram reach is 9,550. Content posted on Facebook is automatically cross-posted onto Instagram. Instagram stories have also been used to provide an additional view of posted content, or content that is not posted to the account's main feed. Our Instagram can be found at <https://www.instagram.com/hutchisonhousemuseum/>. During July, our Instagram account received an increase in positive interactions due to a now-deleted reel. In a 48-hour period, the reel had over 3,000 views and 134 content interactions, which included comments and likes.

The Hutchison House YouTube channel currently has 289 subscribers, and the total number of views of our 38 videos is 41,612. 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.

Hutchison House uses Google Analytics to track visitors to our website. The museum currently has a 4.6-star Google rating. In 2025 Hutchison house was found on Google 27,258 times. Directions to the museum were requested 1,384 times. Visitors went to our website from Google 2,136 times. Hutchison house was contacted 170 times through Google.

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 2025, Hutchison House received funding for two summer students in the amount of \$11,884.41 toward summer staff wages.

CSJ- Canada Summer Jobs

We were fortunate to acquire funding for one summer student through this program in 2025 receiving \$ 4,467 to help with student wages.

City of Peterborough – Community Service Grant

In 2025 Hutchison House received \$ 45,325 as part of their Community Service Grant funding program.

SEO- Summer Experience Opportunities

In 2025 were fortunate to receive funding for one student as part of the provincial Summer Experience Opportunities Program. This funded a dedicated Historic Interpreter position. We received \$3,741 to help with student wages.

Volunteer Report

Adult Volunteers: 17

Junior Volunteers: 34

Volunteer Hours: approximately hours: 5,516

Volunteer Fundraising: Total funds raised by Volunteers: \$ 23,637.08

1. Christmas Market: \$3,025
2. Snowflake Tea and Dessert: \$675
3. Bingo: \$ 15,856.58
4. Dickens and Dessert: \$420
5. Plant and Yard Sale: \$2,280.50
6. Downton Abbey Tea: \$630
7. Mother's Day Tea: \$ 750

Volunteer Activities in 2025

Linda Chandler, Loretta Terry and Juli Hiller worked hard to plan, and execute two sittings of the Snowflake Tea and Desserts in the afternoon the Sunday following the Christmas Markets in November. The Keeping Room was decorated with white Christmas Lights and sparkly snowflakes. Desserts and a light tea were served out of the kitchen, and visitors enjoyed them by the fire in the Keeping Room.

Linda, Loretta and Juli also worked hard at organizing and executing an afternoon tea as part of the *Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale* movie release. Volunteers created a 1930s speakeasy with popular period mocktails and served 1930s style sandwiches and desserts in the Keeping Room. Thanks also to Don Willcock and Caroline Priddle who helped with this event.

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. This popular event was sold out again this year.

Once again, Linda and Juli organized the popular Dickens and Dessert 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.

For the fourth year in a row Hutchison House Museum participated in the popular Gilmore St. Garage Sale. Dale Standen was once again kind enough to let the museum use his front lawn for the yard sale portion of the sale. Diane Card was once again Wonder Woman in her efforts to split, pot, cultivate, sort and price all of the plants for the plant sale portion that was held at her home. Thanks also to Tammy MacFarlane who helped Diane with the plants, as well as Susan Jewell and Juli Hiller who helped with the yard sale.

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; collections work such as database entry and inventory; Education programs, crafts and tours; Property Maintenance such as building & grounds upkeep, gardens, house cleaning; Sitting on Management Committee and other committees such as: Garden Committee, Costume Committee, Property Committee, Acquisitions, Friends of Hutchison House and Finance; Guiding; 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.

Junior Volunteers:

Summer Student and Junior Volunteer Program:

Applications for Junior Volunteers were sent out the end of April and we had 34 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 Emma Hammers 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. Kaitlin Pinch was hired as our Scottish Tea Coordinator this summer. Kaitlin did all of the baking for the teas, maintained a grocery list and kept the kitchen and lower level clean. Kaitlin also oversaw the junior volunteers that were helping in the kitchen. Avery Larmer acted as our Collections Assistant for the summer. Avery worked with the collection this summer and continued with the ongoing work entering artefacts into the new database. When needed Avery also helped with tours, the kitchen or the junior volunteers. We were also fortunate this summer to have a grant to hire Zoe McEwen as our Historic Interpreter this summer. Zoe would help the other summer students in the morning, mostly she helped with inventory. All four students 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 decided on a renaissance themed party. Children were encouraged to dress in theme, which many did. A 'tavern' table was set up with staff serving 'traditional' medieval food such as chicken legs, corn on the cob and roasted potatoes. Children watched the Princess Bride, made crown and potions as well as jousting with pool noodles. A good time was had by all. Children each received a certificate of appreciation as well as a Tim Hortons gift card, also paid for by their tip money.

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 Co-ordinator had an up to date Food Safety Certificate through previous work.

Staff: Supervising volunteers and summer staff, continued improvement with customer service and interpretation. Both Hailey and Erin recertified in First Aid CPR C with AED training in September of 2025.

Erin attended a workshop on Fundraising put together by the City of Peterborough that highlighted various granting opportunities for both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations

Donna Lynn Clarke, the Regional Development Advisor from the Ontario Ministry Tourism, Culture and Gaming came and spoke with staff and senior volunteers about granting opportunities through the ministry that might be applicable to the museum.

Hailey shadowed a paranormal investigation at Lang Pioneer Village as research for potential future events at the museum.

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:

- Digital Strategies for Museums in Ontario
- Conservation Strategies for Books
- Deaccessioning in Museums workshop
- Dark Tourism