

# *Peterborough Historical Society*

## *363rd Bulletin*

*December 2009*

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### Display in the Harvey Connal Room

From now through to the end of January the glass cases in the Harvey Connal Room contain a most interesting display of weaving, spinning and felting. The Peterborough Handweavers and Spinners Guild's comprehensive collection is divided into three sections of spinning, weaving and hand felting. Each section is accompanied by a legend explaining each item and its craftsperson or origin. Take time to view this colourful display of work by our local artistic craft people.

Hogmanay

January 1, 2010

1- 4 pm.

Cost: Adults \$5.00

Children \$2.00

Family Rate \$15.00 (2 adults/ 2+ children)

### Mary Lavery



The picture shows **Iain Steele** entering Hutchison House with the haggis and a bottle of scotch accompanied by bagpipes played by **Colin Campbell**

### .....from the president

Doug and I thank you very much for your support and assistance to us over the past eight months. It meant so much to have you cheering us on.

The Board of Directors has decided to omit their Christmas Party this year. Instead we will heartily support Hutchison House's Hogmanay celebration – and hope you will too!

We wish you good health and happiness over Christmas and into the New Year.

**Mary Lavery**

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### Many Thanks Margaret

Sincere thanks to our longstanding member Margaret Thomas for representing Peterborough Historical Society at the cenotaph in Peterborough on Remembrance Day. Margaret served as a WREN in the Navy in World War II.

Margaret approached the memorial with many other veterans and placed the PHS wreath for us on the memorial. It was an extremely moving ceremony with children and veterans standing together in the sunshine in remembrance

Thank you Margaret for representing the Peterborough Historical Society.

**Mary Lavery**

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### Remembrance Day Service at Camp X Intrepid Park

Those of you who enjoyed the PHS June bus trip Camp X Revisited will be happy to hear that a Remembrance Day Ceremony was held to honour this intelligence community of World War II.

Remembering how we stood at the Camp X monument on a blustery cold day looking over the fields and Lake Ontario, we can appreciate the following excerpts from an article by National Security reporter, Michelle Shephard, in the *Toronto Star* of November 12:

“Wreaths were laid from...CSIS, Canada's Spy Service, and another from the Communications Security

Establishment, the country's electronic eavesdropping agency, and the North Shore Amateur Radio Club. Evelyn Davis carried the final wreath to remember Camp X, the unofficial name for the World War II paramilitary training camp and spy school which stood on the site. Evelyn, now 86, states ‘I was just a radio operator. I would not have known if what passed through my hands was important or not. But as secrecy is lifted we're learning more about the camp. What happened there was important.’ One hundred members of the spy service attended the ceremony at Intrepid Park honouring the overlooked participants in the war – the intelligence community.

**Mary Lavery**

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### Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations and/or applications from members willing to serve on the Board of Directors. We need a chair of the finance committee, a second vice president, and at least three more members at large. If you are not presently a member of the Peterborough Historical Society we would be pleased to receive your application for membership.

**Michael Townsend**

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### Heritage Buildings and their stories

At the November meeting, Andrew Elliott presented a look at Peterborough architecture through the workmanship of the notable architect, William Blackwell.

William Blackwell began his career in Peterborough, travelled to Toronto, New York and Winnipeg and returned to Peterborough at age 34. He worked on 435 Brock Street (Brock Street was known as Doctor's Alley). This building was torn down and replaced by the Peterborough Credit Union. He designed St Luke's Anglican church on Rogers Street. After a fire devastated the interior, this property was transformed by volunteers of the Peterborough Theatre Guild from a burnt-out shell into their current facility.

Early in his career Blackwell also worked in Guelph, Lindsay and Port Hope. Then came the

Lech House on the corner of Stewart and Rubidge Streets built of the more expensive yellow brick, in the Second Empire style with rounded dormers and balconies. Sadly this house is bereft of much of its architectural detail.

In 1886 to 1889 he designed Harstone House at 565 Water Street named for the family who owned it for many years before it became the Red Cross headquarters. It was built in the Queen Anne style for John McWilliams, an unappreciated mayor of the City, who moved away to Winnipeg, later becoming the Lt Governor of Manitoba. The house still maintains its original towers, balconies, notable chimneys and stained glass and a magnificent staircase of cherry wood. It was designated by the City both for both its exterior and interior qualities. Colonel Harstone was the sheriff of Peterborough for many years and died peacefully at the house in his 80s.

In 1886 Blackwell was commissioned in Ashburnham to build the bracketed Italianate house for the Sullivans, three storeys high with 12 foot ceilings and much painted and stained glass. After the Sullivans, it became the home for the Sisters of the Holy Blood before being altered into apartments. It is now privately owned and well maintained.

In 1887 Blackwell built 84 Benson Avenue for himself, a modern Tudor Revival with Arts and Crafts elements, well back from the street with double hung casement windows and a recessed entry.

In the 1890s Nicholls Hospital, a Romanesque and Gothic building was given to the City by Charlotte Nicholls, a generous community benefactor. The YMCA at George and Murray Streets of Richardson Romanesque style was built in 1895. In 1931 a sympathetic addition was added by Blackwell's son, Walter. In 1905 the Grand Opera House said to be the largest and finest in Canada, was built for Rupert Bradburn. Many theatrical performances took place at the Grand until the 1930s.

The impressive Armories building on Murray Street was built between 1907 and 1929 with William Blackwell as one of the supervising architects. He also supervised the provincial designs for Queen Mary and King George Public Schools in 1911-1912.

How fortunate we are still to have, and use so many of these buildings. Mr. Elliott's well re-

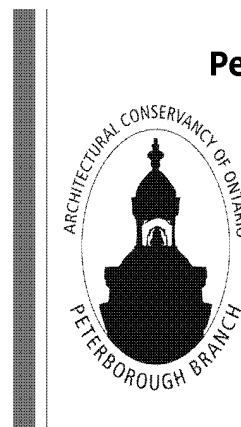
searched articles in the *Peterborough Examiner* are an important source of information about Peterborough's public and private buildings.

**Michael Townsend**

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### **Recent Significant Donations to Hutchison House Trust Funds**

The PHS Board of Directors is pleased to accept two generous donations. Jim Lillico's gift to the Hutchison House Maintenance Fund will be a welcome addition to funds set aside for the Accessibility project. Plans are underway to make the House accessible by 2012, as mandated by the Ontario Government. Iris Adams has generously donated to the PHS Endowment Fund. Our heartfelt thanks go to these two long time supporters of the PHS and the House.



### **Peterborough Architectural Conservancy Of Ontario**

preserving buildings and structures of  
architectural merit and  
places of natural beauty or interest

116 Hunter Street West  
Peterborough, ON K9H 2K6

aco.peterborough@nexicom.net  
www.arconserv.ca

New members contact:

Peterborough Architectural Conservancy of Ontario,  
please contact Michael Townsend

Phone :652-8654 or

Mail: Box 712 Lakefield, On K0L 2H0



### Hutchison House Report

Haunted Halloween was popular again this year with 69 people enjoying the tricks and treats of the season. Children made paper roll bats, stretched open their mouths as far as they could to catch a tasty 'snap apple', felt all the slippery slimy body parts in the darkened Monster Mush corner, had their fortunes told by the mysterious Madame Roushka (aka Heather Barker), toured the spooky upper levels of the House, and enjoyed a snack of witches fingers, ghoulade and gummy worms. This annual event is a real family affair and it is always lots of fun to see the kids' costumes. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to make it a success.

We were very honoured to host the book launch of *Sir Sandford Fleming ~His Early Diaries 1845-1853~* at Hutchison House on Saturday, November 14. **Jean Murray Cole** has done a fabulous job of editing the publication. Young Sandford tells us a great deal about himself and our community as it was long ago. Reading through the pages one really gets a sense of his personality as well. It is a delightful book and I hope everyone in town, and beyond, adds it to their 'must read' list. The book sells for \$30 and is available at the Hutchison House Bookshop.

With Halloween behind us, and the gardens put to bed for the winter, we are now gearing up for the festive season. The staff and volunteers will be very busy indeed prior to the Christmas holidays. The Museum is fully booked for 19 century Christmas programming until December 17. Anyone wishing to visit the Museum or purchase books from the bookshop is advised to come after 2:30 pm. during the two weeks leading up to December 18. Our Volunteer Pot Luck Christmas party will be held at 1 pm. December 18 and then the House will close until after Christmas.

Well, we've made it through another year. Erin and I wish to thank all of the dedicated volunteers who help out in so many ways. We really could not get very far without you!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our **Hogmanay** celebration on January 1, 2010. Once again we will be ringing in the New Year with lots of traditional fun and food. In the meantime, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season.

Please note: Hutchison House will be closed from December 19 until December 28.

**Gale Fewings**



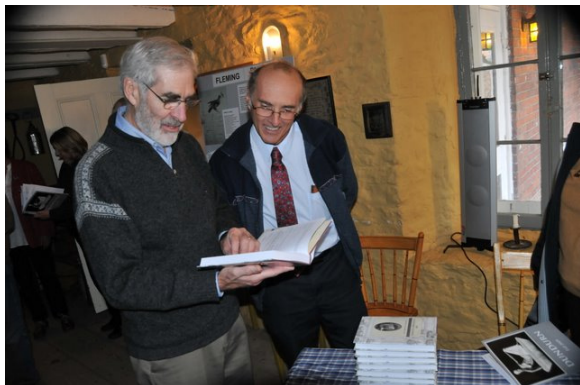
Heather looking up someone's relatives in the crystal ball



Doreen taking tickets at Haunted Halloween



Loretta, The Prom Queen



Dale Standen and Dennis Carter-Edwards looking through the book



Jean Cole discussing her book  
*Sir Sandford Fleming—His  
Early Years 1845—1853*



Mary Lavery and Barb McIntosh  
discussing the book

### Ketchecum Hunting and Fishing Club

The October PHS meeting featured the history of the Ketchecum Hunting and Fishing Club which was founded in the 1850s on the Ennismore shore of Chemong Lake, as depicted in early photographs of tented sites. George A. Gillespie, the club's executive director, told a fascinating story of the Club's beginning and its evolution. The Club traditionally met in the first week of November to hunt and fish. Membership was by invitation. Several prominent Peterborough area men were members; names such as Turner, Monkman and Eastwood. The permanent camp site purchased from the Crown on the west side of Catchacoma Lake in Cavendish Township encompasses a mile of shoreline. Each year a cook was hired for the week. Good food (as well as venison and fish) was a main attraction for the hunters. On arrival at the Hunting Club Friday evening New York sirloin steaks were served and at the end of the week a traditional Christmas dinner was shared. Each morning bacon and eggs and coffee fortified the men for the hunt. Some years the hunt was good, but every year there was good camaraderie.

In 2001 the old Club was sold and a modern club house built on land in the North Kawarthas. Wives join their husbands each New Year's for a feast worthy of hunters. The old ways were good, commented Mr. Gillespie, but now it's even better.

An excellent archival collection was displayed with written records, casual snap shots and professional photos by Fred Roy. Sketches of fish (drawn on the walls of the original hunting cabin) were preserved and on display.

Indeed the Ketchecum Hunting and Fishing Club is an important part of the Canadian way of life here in Peterborough County.

**Gail Corbett**

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### Mark Your 2010 Calendar

The Peterborough Historical Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday February 20, 2010 at Princess Gardens. The evening will begin with a lavish TURKEY DINNER at 6:00 PM. Entertainment will follow the brief meeting.

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**Hutchison House Museum**

December 2009

**Owned & operated by the  
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Bill Corbett  
Barb Earle  
Betty Hinton  
Michael Peterman  
Debra Taylor**

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Barbara McIntosh**

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Peter Darling  
Lois Davidson  
Don Earle  
Marilyn MacNaughton**

**Mark your Calendars**

**PHS General Meetings**

Tuesday January 19, 2010, our guest speaker Jean Cole's topic will be *Sir Sandford Fleming His Early Diaries 1845-1853*.

Tuesday February 16, 2010 annual AGM meeting and dinner

**Hutchison House**

Hogmanay—Friday January 1, 2010, 1—4 pm

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[www.nexicom.net/~history](http://www.nexicom.net/~history)