

Peterborough Historical Society

364th Bulletin

ISSN 1494-5983

January 2010



PHS Meeting
Tuesday, January 19, 2010
Peterborough Public Library
Lower Level Auditorium
Aylmer Street, Peterborough

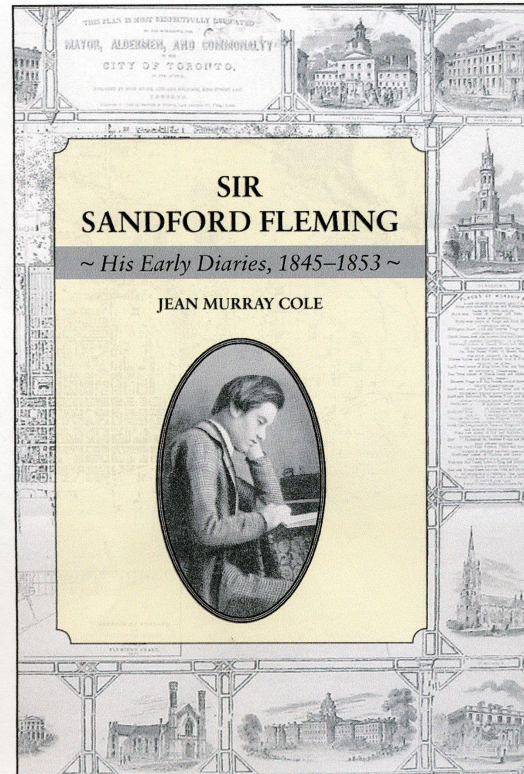
SIR SANDFORD FLEMING –
His Early Diaries, 1845 - 1853
By Jean Murray Cole

The Peterborough Historical Society is pleased to present Jean Murray Cole, author, past president of the Society, and editor of the newly launched book *Sir Sandford Fleming – His Early Diaries 1845 - 1853*. The editing of Fleming's diaries has been a long wished-for project of the Publications Committee of the Peterborough Historical Society. It is a distinct accomplishment that Jean Cole, a member of the Committee, has completed this book which is published by Dundurn Books.

It is also fitting that Jean Cole launched this book at Hutchison House which is owned and operated by the Peterborough Historical Society. Fleming lived at Hutchison House with his cousin Dr. John Hutchison and his family, for two years on his arrival in Canada at age 18. He wrote these most interesting entries from age 18 to 26 as he was finding his way, and struggling to get established in his rewarding career as a railway builder and innovator, in his new home country.

Copies of *Sir Sandford Fleming – His Early Diaries – 1845 – 1853* will be available for purchase, and signing by the author, at the presentation..

Mary Lavery



Cover of new book *Sir Sandford Fleming – His Early Diaries, 1845 - 1853* – edited by Jean Murray Cole

.....from the president

I'm sure that most of you are thankful to calm down from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season - most especially Gale and the staff and volunteers of Hutchison House. The PHS Board members were happy to help with Hogmanay this year.

Likely all of the children and their teachers are still chatting about their "old time Christmas" at Hutchison House.

Thanks to everyone involved in the events of the season.

Mary Lavery

Mark Your Calendar!

The Peterborough Historical Society will host its annual dinner, silent auction and brief Annual General Meeting at Princess Gardens on Tuesday February 16. This is an evening of a sumptuous roast beef dinner complete with wine bar - lots of silent auction items this year focusing on gift baskets, and gift certificates for theatre, other events and restaurants. Bring your friends for this special mid-winter event. Tickets are \$25 - available at Hutchison House.

Mary Lavery

Hutchison House Report

The Christmas season is always a busy time at Hutchison House. It was a treat to see all of the children coming through for the ever-popular 19th century Christmas programs. In December we had two solid weeks of programming with two and sometimes three programs per day. Even with a 'snow day' thrown into the mix, 332 children took part in the programs. Thank you very much to Erin Panepinto and the wonderful Museum volunteers for so ably keeping up with the pace. We really couldn't have done it without you!

Nicole Payne, a student of the Trent University Teacher Education program, has been on a placement with the Museum since September. Nicole has been assisting with ongoing programming as well as conducting independent research to develop new educational programs for the museum. Judging by her interaction with the children it is plain to see that she really enjoys working with the kids. I have no doubt she will make a fabulous teacher.

Another student joined the Hutch House ranks in the fall as well. Laura Stein is studying at Sir Sandford Fleming College. Laura's part-time position was made possible through a grant from Young Canada Works in Heritage. While Laura's real passion is the Medieval era, she has embraced the pioneer life with energy and enthusiasm.

The annual Volunteers' Festive Sale at the end of November was a great success. The volunteers raised approximately \$2,700 for Hutchison House through the sale of wreaths, Empire cheese,

and attic treasures. This total represents an increase of about \$300 over last year. Well done! Thank you everyone who helped with the sale, donated to the cause, and/or came out to shop. It takes the whole team to make it happen and we've got one of the best teams in town.

By the time everyone reads this Bulletin we will have already turned the page on a new year. I promise to give a report on the highlights of Hogmanay 2010 in the February edition. However, we do have an event coming up in early January that I would like everyone to know about. For the past three years the Museum has taken part in Snofest Peterborough. On January 14 Hutchison House will again host a Fireside Tea & Dessert in the keeping room. We are now taking reservations for this event. The cost is \$3 per person, with 3 sitting times. The sittings will take place at 1pm., 2pm., and 3pm. Advance tickets are required.

The Heritage Luncheons will begin again on Wednesday, February 3. Our seasonal menu promises to dispel your mid-winter blahs and post-Christmas humdrums. Luncheons will also be held on March 3, April 7, and May 5. For more information please call the office for details and to book tickets at 743-9710.

Best wishes for the new year!

Gale Fewings

From Stephanie Ford Forrester

Members will be interested to read that Stephanie is curating a solo exhibition of her current work at Campbell House Museum Gallery (Toronto) for the month of February 2010. Any and all PHS members are invited to drop by anytime, or to attend the opening which will likely be Saturday afternoon February 6 or Sunday February 7. Date to be set soon .

www.campbellhousemuseum.ca

Stephanie's work will be featured in the new Canadian Art, Architecture and Design Magazine, *Arabella*, the Winter Issue, in the section "Artist to Collect". Physical distribution is limited, but section will be complete on the website,

www.arabelladesign.com

For further information, call her at 652-5204, or email sandjforrester@nexus.com.net, or website www.stephaniefordforrester.ca

A Little Christmas Wreath History

Did you know that the decorative value of wreaths is believed to have been derived from ancient traditions? In the same way that we use house numbers today, wreaths featuring different floral arrangements were used to identify particular families and houses. In ancient times Romans used wreaths as a sign of victory. Victors of battles would hang wreaths upon their doors to advertise their status.

There is much symbolism attached to wreaths as well. The shape of a circle has no beginning and no end. This may represent the eternal nature of God's love, or the circle of life. Evergreens are used to represent immortality and victory of life through darkness and challenge. The fact that evergreens live through winter signifies the strength of life.

At Hutchison House, the sale of wreaths for Christmas has also become an annual tradition. As with other traditions, this one has a history worthy of telling. It all began in 1995 when Doreen Jones suggested we take orders for fresh greenery wreaths as a fundraiser for the Museum. That year she took orders for 24 wreaths, making a profit for the House of \$120. Every year since that time, Doreen has continued to take charge of the wreath orders, including pick-up and delivery.

Over the years the number of wreath orders has risen substantially. A couple of years ago, Doreen realized she would need a second vehicle to help transport all the wreaths. Now, Peter and Carol Koeslag help her out by filling their trailer with the greenery. This year alone, Doreen sold 131 wreaths.

In fifteen years Doreen has sold 1,231 wreaths, netting the museum a profit of \$7,375. As with many things, the cost of the wreaths has not remained constant. For several years, due to the supplier's increase in wholesale cost, Doreen even made up the difference in personal donations to the House.

On behalf of the Management Committee, the Peterborough Historical Society, the staff and volunteers of Hutchison House, it is my great pleasure to say a very special "thank you" to Doreen Jones and to recognize her constant dedication and commitment to the Museum. Doreen, you are a real Champ!

Anyone who has purchased a wreath from Doreen will know they are a beautiful addition to the décor of the season. When you hang a fresh ever-

green wreath you are following a time-honoured tradition. The wreath is a sign of faith in humanity and in life and victory over life's challenges. And during the cold months of winter, wreaths add a feeling of warmth, building a sense of excitement for the holiday season.

Thank you, Doreen

Gale Fewings

Festive Fair
Saturday,
November 28,
2009



Hutchison House Museum

**Owned & operated by the
Peterborough Historical Society
270 Brock Street
Peterborough Ontario
K9H 2P9
Phone 705- 743-9710
hutchisonhouse@nexicom.net**

**Curator: Gale Fewings
Management Committee:
chair: Michael Townsend**

**Members: Edith Butler
Bill Carson
Bill Corbett
Barb Earle
Betty Hinton
Michael Peterman
Debra Taylor**

Board of Directors

**President: Mary Lavery
Past President: Michael Townsend
First VP: Kathy Hooke**

**Directors: Dennis Carter-Edwards
Gail Corbett
Bob Green
Linda Lumsden
Enid Mallory
Barbara McIntosh**

**The Trust Funds Trustees:
Chairperson: David Bate
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. Tickets are \$25 - available at Hutchison House.

Hutchison House

Sno-Fest Fireside Tea & Dessert —Thursday January 14 The cost is \$3 per person, with three sitting times at 1pm., 2pm., and 3pm. Advance tickets are required.

Heritage Luncheons are on Wednesday, February 3, March 3, April 7, and May 5. Call the office at 743-9710 for details and to book tickets.

Peterborough Historical Society

270 Brock Street K9H 2P9

Phone 705 - 740-2600

Email history@nexicom.net

Bookkeeper, Administrative Assistant

Diane Ostrom,

The Bulletin

Editor **Kathy Hooke**

Publisher **Marilyn MacNaughton**

Photographer **Doug Lavery**

Bulletin submissions for the February issue due by January 20, 2010 (day after meeting).

www.nexicom.net/~history