

*Peterborough Historical Society**367th Bulletin**May 2010*

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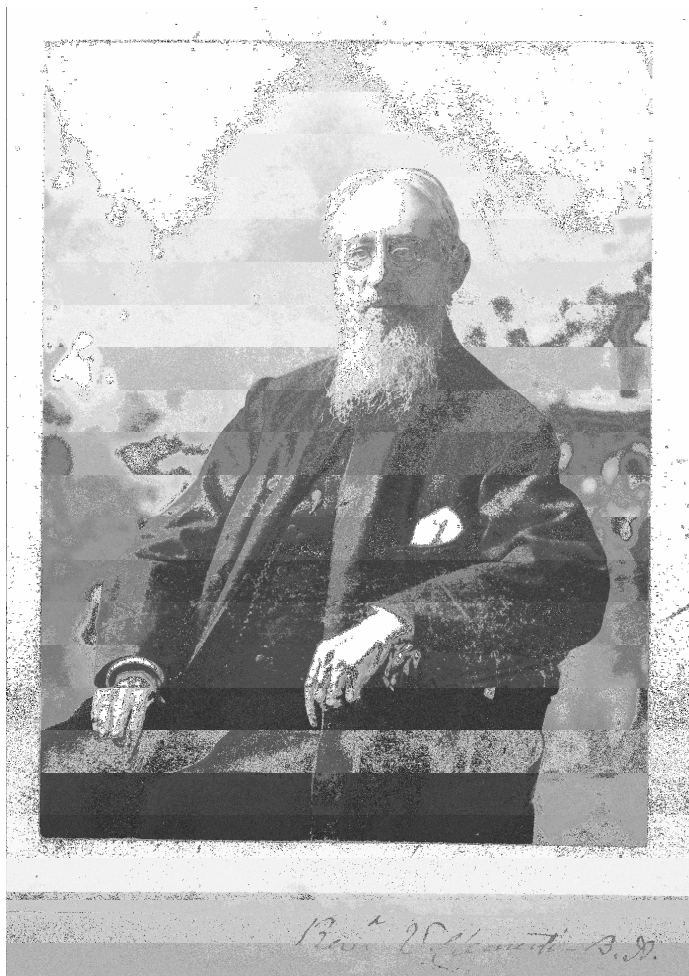
**PHS Meeting,
Tuesday May 18, 2010
at 7:30 pm
Peterborough Public Library
Lower Level Auditorium
Aylmer Street, Peterborough
The Enigmatic Vincent Clementi
by Catherine Dibben**

The Peterborough Historical Society is pleased to present Catherine Dibben, researcher and volunteer with the Peterborough Museum and Archives. Catherine's presentation covers her extensive and fascinating research into the life of Vincent Clementi.

During the second half of the 19th century few people cut a wider swath through the communities of Peterborough and Douro than the Rev. Vincent Clementi. Following ten years as priest and curate in England Vincent followed his son Vincent Mutius Clementi, to Canada West in 1853. His career as a leading figure in the Church of England was enriched by his skills as a poet, gardener, and artist and his involvement in various organizations in the area. The many aspects of Vincent Clementi's "enigmatic" life, illustrated with a power point presentation, provide a fascinating presentation by Catherine Dibben. .

Mary Lavery

For your Information: Saturday, May 8th, 2010 at 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. "Unique Vintage Treasures" will exhibit and present two important collections, followed by savoury and sweet refreshments at St. John the Baptist Parish Hall, corner of Queen & Regent Streets in Lakefield. The \$15.00 tickets are available from Shirley Twist 652-6300 or Gwen McMullen gwenmcmullen@nexicom.net



"Vincent Clementi" Credit – Catherine Dibben

MAY IS MUSEUM MONTH 2010

As in past years we are pleased to announce that Mayor Ayotte has proclaimed May as Museum Month in our area.

Museum Month was initiated by the Ontario Museum Association some ten years ago. The Peterborough Historical Society, as organizer of the event in our area asks you to support our area museums and their special events as public recognition of Museum Month.

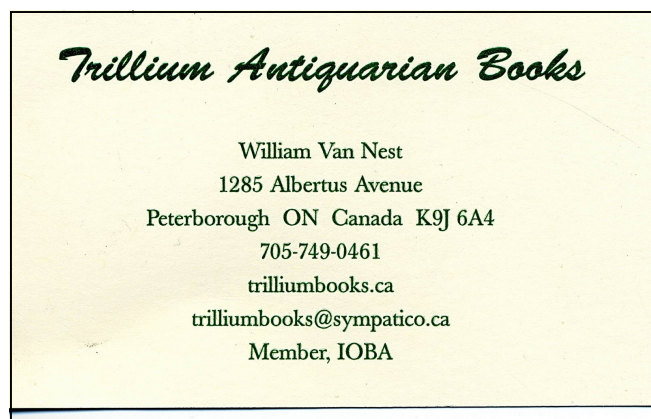
Mary Lavery

.....from the president

What a busy spring it has been around PHS and Hutchison House. By the time this Bulletin reaches you the renovations will be almost complete - how exciting!

Many thanks to Barbara McIntosh and the Accessibility Committee for the successful submission to the Ontario Trillium Foundation to make inside and outside of Hutchison House accessible to all. Thanks to Gale Fewings and Erin Pontepinto and their helpers for the mammoth move necessitated by the plan. A huge thank you to Paul Lumsden for his many volunteer hours organizing the project and for taking on the job of project manager. What a wonderful team!

Mary Lavery



Mark your calendars for these exciting meetings:

September Topic: JUDGE JOSEPH WEARING

Speaker: Joe Wearing

October Topic: ASYLUMS

Speaker: Janet Miron

November Topic: CURVE LAKE & WHETUNG FAMILY
Speaker: Mae Whetung

PHS and Cruise Tour
Wednesday June 9, 2010

Cruising up the river (Otonabee) and over the Liftlock will be a unique journey on June 9th - to end our day tour!

We'll have started at Little Lake Marina at 9 am and journeyed to Rice Lake by Special Activity bus complete with Coach seats and washroom.

Our first stop will be the Carousel at Rose-neath - to hear its history and have an opportunity to ride this historic attraction.

We'll stop at the Alderville War Memorial - a mammoth sculpture remembering the area's war heroes through the ages.

Lunch at the Historic Victoria Inn on the shore of Rice Lake at Gores' Landing will be a special treat. At 1 pm we will board the Lift Lock Cruise ship for our scenic ride up the Otonabee River.

Throughout the day our local historians will keep us informed of the fascinating area through which we are travelling.

Tickets are \$80 per person with opportunity for a \$25 income tax receipt. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Peterborough Historical and Hutchison House Offices at 270 Brock Street

Mary Lavery

From the Editor:

A Reminder for those members with computers.

Please contact PHS with your email address, so we can send out the bulletin via the internet, saving both postage and paper costs, as well as providing full colour photos. Along with the financial savings for PHS, you can consider it a contribution to Earth Day.

Winners of the Peterborough Historical Society Heritage Awards

The awards, named in honour of former citizens of Peterborough who made significant contributions to the Peterborough area, are

The F.H.Dobbin Award which acknowledges exceptional coverage of historical events, articles, photos or videos. **The 2010 co-winners are Jean Murray Cole for her production of the book "Sir Sandford Fleming – His Early Diaries 1845 to 1853", and Heather Barker for the Transcription of Dr. John Hutchison's Birth Registry.**

The Samuel Armour Award recognizing the involvement and exposure of students to local historical opportunities, programs and/or development of curriculum based on local history. **The 2010 winners are The Hutchison House Education Program Staff and Volunteers: Loretta Terry, Robert Laing, Marilyn MacNaughton, Betty Hinton, Carol Koeslag, Heather Barker, Don Willcock, Norm Savage, Gale Fewings and Erin Panepinto.**

The J. Hampden Burnham Award given to individuals, groups or organizations who establish a venue for public awareness of historical events, places or people. **The 2010 winners are the Heritage Tree Project Committee: Andre Vaililee, Geoff Eve, Cathy Dueck, Chris Gooderham, Peter Beales, Barb Boysen and Gavin Trevelyan.**

The George Cox Award given for historical restoration and/or preservation of Peterborough properties. i.e. artifacts, structures, gardens, parks etc. **The 2010 winner is Dr Joanna Hamilton for the Restoration of Dixon House.**

Mary Lavery



The Hutchison House Education Program Staff and Volunteers winners of the Samuel Armour Award—Carol Koeslag, Robert Laing, Loretta Terry, Betty Hinton, Heather Barker, Gale Fewings, Erin Panepinto and Norm Savage



Winners of the J. Hampden Burnham Award to members of the Heritage Tree Project Committee: Peter Beales, Geoff Eve and Chris Gooderham

Hutchison House Report

The museum is undergoing renovations and has therefore been closed to the public since the end of March. However, it has been anything but a quiet time for all of us at the house. As I reported last month construction work is taking place both inside on the lower level and on the grounds. I've been told the neighbours on Rubidge Street can hear the racket from their homes.

There have been many, many, surprises over the course of a few short weeks. Of course old houses were built when building codes either didn't exist or were much less stringent than today's standards. I'm also learning that the codes can change from one day to the next it seems.

We've made some compromises, dealt with lots of change, accepted the inevitable, and even had a showdown about keeping the apple tree. There have been good surprises and bad surprises along the way. Isn't it true that every cloud has a silver lining?

One bad surprise for the construction team even turned into a great surprise for the museum. In order to create an entrance to the building from a ramp at the back of the house we had to remove the north window of the Harvey Connal room on the lower level. When the excavators dug down to make way for the landing for the entranceway they discovered what was in all probability an old well that had been used as a garbage midden.

We now have a terrific selection of old bottles, lots of shards from various makes of china, glass, part of a shoe, a fabulous clay pipe and even a light bulb that dates to circa 1900 with its base and filament intact!

The work is continuing on schedule and if all goes well from here on in the construction work will be completed by mid-May as promised. Then the hard work for the staff and volunteers will really begin. The house will need a thorough cleaning from top to bottom and judging by the amount of earth pushed around the yard we'll have our fair share of outdoor clean up as well.

The Spring Plant Sale and Yard Sale will still go ahead on Saturday, May 15 9:00am 'til noon. Muffins and coffee will be available for a very reasonable price as well. Donations of plants, garden implements, and yard sale items would be greatly appreciated. All items may be dropped off at Hutchison House between Mon-

day, May 10th and Friday, May 14th. Please help spread the word about the sale. We have posters in the museum office for anyone wishing to take them out into the community. Reminder: the office has moved upstairs to the back of the house. Enter through the porch on the west side of the house.

Gale Fewings



Digging at the back of house.

Photo credit: Hutchison House



Paul Lumsden and Bill Carson in the Hutchison House Office. Photo Credit: Hutchison House



Found pottery



Found bottles Photo credit Hutchison House

If you have an interesting antique or artifact you would like to share, please contact a members of the Program Committee, Catherine Dibben, Enid Mallory or Nancy Martin.

Our Last Meeting
4th Line Theatre
18 Seasons of Original Plays
by Robert Winslow

Robert Winslow, Artistic Director of 4th Line Theatre shared his remarkable talents for storytelling at the Society's General Meeting on April 20th. The audience appeared spell-bound throughout his presentation of recollections, anecdotes and readings from some of his theatrical work.

Winslow began by recalling his days as an only child growing up on the family's 5th generation farm near Millbrook. "I was a lonely kid," he admitted. He says he developed his interest in drama and storytelling as a way of amusing himself as he planted and tended vegetables in the fields. By the time he inherited the farm, he was an established actor and playwright.

Three barns on the farm form a u-shape with a south opening – forming an ideal setting for outdoor theatre. Plays have also been performed in the surrounding fields and at a small cabin, located in the woods.

4th line Theatre presents original plays that tell the early social history of the area. This year marks the 18th season for the highly successful barnyard theatre productions.

This summer the company will launch the world premier of *Eldorado Town – The Port Hope Play*, about the radium craze of the 1930s and how Port Hope played a role in ending WW 11 and the dawn of the nuclear age. There will also be performances of last year's successful play – *The Right Road to Pontypool* about the establishing of a summer family camp for thousands of Jewish immigrants in a largely protestant town.

Barbara McIntosh

Artifact of the Month: Michael Townsend revealed some of his family history by displaying two pieces of military history. The first was a flint-lock musket from the 1800s, which was owned by Joseph Hamilton, a founder of the city of Hamilton. Michael's great grandfather was married to the granddaughter of Joseph's father. The second was a German naval midshipman's Dirk (a small sword) believed to have been taken from a German officer on the last day of WW II, also past down to Michael through the family.

Rhubarb Spring Fling at Hutchison House Museum

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Sittings at: 1pm., 2pm., 3pm.

Advance tickets \$6.00 At the door \$8.00

Did you know:

- Rhubarb is a vegetable not a fruit.
- Chinese herbal remedies list rhubarb as a medicine dating from 2700 B.C.
- It was grown by monks in Asia & Europe in the Middle Ages also as medicine.
- It was first recorded in Britain in 1777 in a herbal garden in Oxfordshire.

Rhubarb became known as the “pie plant” in North America during the 19th century.

Hutchison House Museum will host a Rhubarb Spring Fling on Wednesday May 26th, from 1-4pm. Bring back all the tastes of an old-fashioned self-saucing pudding with this crispy rhubarb-flavored cake served with a dollop of whip cream. Tea, iced tea, or lemonade will add a refreshing compliment to this delightful spring repast.

Tickets for the Rhubarb Dessert may be purchased in advance at a reduced rate. Book tickets in advance at a cost of \$6 or at the door for \$8. Sittings are at 1pm, 2pm, or 3pm. For more information please call the museum office at (705) 743-9710 or visit the website at www.hutchisonhouse.ca.

**Spring
Plant Sale & Yard Sale**

**May 15, 2010
9am-12pm**

Our annual spring plant sale features perennials, seedlings, shrubs, herbs, and house plants. Pick up some new gardening tools and pots too!

We will also host a yard sale in conjunction with the plants.

Coffee & muffins too!

Donations Welcome!

Drop off plants or yard sale items at Hutchison House
prior to the sale for pricing on
Friday, May 14.

PHS Newsletter May 1973

Our Last Meeting

"Treasures I Live With" are not necessarily things of substance. This we learned at our last meeting when Mrs. Mary Strickland Rogers spoke to the Society of a bygone age. The treasures she lives with are not only a delicate water-colour painted by Susanna Moodie and an embossed silver tea caddy, but the values and ideals handed down by her family and her family's family. The talk was as nostalgic as the raspberry vinegar she mentioned.

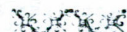
It was an evening of tender anecdote and word picture drawn of a style of living of an earlier age. It was a respectful tribute to those who have gone before and what we can learn from them.

There was the story of Miss Field's school for girls on McDonnell Street. Miss Field, "a little bit of Britain", instilled in her pupils the art of gracious living, yet wasn't above wearing a red petticoat under layers of black skirts. Mrs. Rogers felt that Miss Field's school could prove to be an ideal and interesting research project for a student of local history. And there was the story

of Mrs. Rogers' aunt who was the first court reporter in Ottawa, forced into involuntary retirement at the age of 78. There was Mrs. Rogers' family association with the Peterborough Canoe Company, and the pages from the diary of Miss Jean Harstone. This served to underline Miss Harstone's courage, driving an ambulance in the front lines during the First World War. And too, there was Admiral Bull who swam across the lake every morning and turned out to be a spy.

It was Mrs. Rogers' personal opinion that local history should be offered as a credit in our school system. After listening to her sensitive appreciation of Peterborough's past and her fine portraits drawn of the people who made up its fabric, we were happy to agree with her.

In closing, Mrs. Rogers pointed out that here in the present, we may now be creating treasures for the future - a thought which is provocative.



Contributors to our Bulletin this month are Mrs. K. E. Kidd for "Research Project", Mrs. John Ellis for "Our Last Meeting", Miss Anne Heideman for "Museum News" and John Twist for "Christ Church News".

Peterborough Historical Society

Day Trip

Rice Lake and the Otonabee River

Wednesday June 9 – 9am to 5:30pm**Coach** - Peterborough to Rice Lake**Lunch** - Victoria Inn, Gore's Landing

Cruise – Rice Lake to
Peterborough including
over the Lift Lock
with Lift Lock Cruises

\$80 per person \$25 Income Tax Receipt

**Peterborough Historical Society
Hutchison House Museum**

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

**Curator: Gale Fewings
Management Committee:
chair: Michael Townsend
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Bill Carson
Bill Corbett
Barb Earle
Betty Hinton
Michael Peterman
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Website:

www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca

Mark your Calendars

PHS

Tuesday May 18, 2010 our guest speaker Catherine Dibben Her topic will be Vincent Clementi.

Wednesday, June 9,2010 Day Trip –Rice Lake and the Otonabee River. Tickets \$80 available at Hutchison House or PHS Office

Hutchison House

Plant and Yard Sale is Saturday May 15— 9 to noon.

Muffins and coffee will be available for a very reasonable price

Rhubarb Spring Fling is Wednesday, May 26,2010—
Sittings 1pm, 2pm, 3 pm. Advance Tickets \$6.00

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Bulletin submissions for the June issue due by May 19 2010 (day after meeting).

Note new email addresses

Hutchison House info@hutchisonhouse.ca

PHS info@peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca

New website address

www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca