

*Peterborough Historical Society**369th Bulletin**June 2010*

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### **Jim Lillico Donates \$10,000 to launch PHS Capital Fundraising Campaign**

Jim Lillico, a long-time PHS member, has donated \$10,000 to kick-off the PHS capital campaign for renovations to Hutchison House Museum.

The Ontario Trillium Grant Foundation of \$134,400 covers almost two-thirds of the total estimated cost. With Mr. Lillico's \$10,000 donation, PHS only needs \$30,000 more to complete the project and maintain a healthy balance in the HH Maintenance Fund.

"We greatly appreciate Mr. Lillico's generosity and support for Hutchison House Museum," says PHS President Mary Lavery. "I am confident that many more of our members will step forward and give what they can."

PHS will also be approaching foundations and local businesses for funding toward this project.

The renovations to Hutchison House will not only improve accessibility, they will enhance the museum's ability to generate revenue for on-going operations. The much larger and more efficient kitchen will make it possible to involve more volunteers in food-related activities, that account for an estimated 10 per cent of earned income. The renovated kitchen will also be more attractive to outside caterers and encourage more rentals for private functions at the museum.

Donations should be sent to the PHS office, indicating that they are for the capital campaign. All donations will receive a receipt for tax purposes.

**Barbara McIntosh**

### **Memorial Service—Michael Townsend**

Friday August 20, 2010

4:00 pm

Lakefield College School

### **Looking ahead**

#### **Hutchison House Open House**

Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 11am- 4pm.

Come help us celebrate the completion of our new renovations at our Open House.

There will be face painting and pioneer games for the kids.

We'll have hot dogs and lemonade for sale.

Admission will be free so come for a tour and see our new changes.

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The museum will open weekends in June from 1-4 (closed Mondays)

The Scottish Teas will begin Saturday July 3 and will be offered Tues-Sun from 1-4pm. in July and August.

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#### **Annual Peach Tea**

Thursday August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Sittings will be 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm

Tickets selling for \$6 in advance and \$8 at the door for adults and \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door for kids.

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### **PHS Fall General Meetings**

September Topic: JUDGE JOSEPH WEARING

Speaker: Joe Wearing

October Topic: ASYLUMS

Speaker: Janet Miron

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

## Remembering Michael Townsend

It was with much sadness that people in Peterborough, Lakefield and Stoney Lake heard that Michael had died early Wednesday morning, May 26. He will be remembered in many ways as his life embodied a variety of skills and interests.

When Michael undertook a responsibility he gave it focused dedication and perseverance. Four years ago he assumed the role of president of the Peterborough Historical Society when Marilyn Huels became ill. Michael studied the policies and documents of the Society and Hutchison House and committed himself to lead the board wisely and enthusiastically. He was also president of the Lakefield Society, a smaller organization without a building of its own like Hutchison House.

History and heritage were equally important to Michael who was a member of the Peterborough Architectural Conservancy. He fought hard for the preservation of the city's important built heritage as well as that in Lakefield. The flashing orange sign board in the strip mall at the north end of the village he considered an abomination. Michael was financially generous concerning events and historic recognition, such as the regular heritage lunches at Hutchison House and the heritage plaques. His guests at the lunches were often key city residents who needed to know about Hutchison House and the Society.

Michael exemplified perseverance in the face of adversity. Some might have called him stubborn when he was determined to do something his own way, but it generally worked. After his wife Norah died some years ago, Michael regularly walked into Lakefield (about a half mile from his house) trudging sturdily along the shoulder of the road, white cane in hand, and wearing an orange reflective vest. In the last few years he used the village taxi to take him to Peterborough where he would board the Toronto bus, sometimes with a friend. Michael would often walk with his hand on someone's shoulder, when entering a house or walking in an unfamiliar place. He never appeared obtrusive. Michael recognized

voices very well which board member realized as they settled down for a meeting. Their faces may have been a blur, but he knew who and where they were around the table. One of Michael's great passions was sailing which all his family enjoyed. He learned to handle a canoe with a battery operated motor. He knew that physical handicaps didn't have to be a deterrent. Last summer he organized sailing regattas for handicapped children and adults at Little Lake and Kawartha Park Marina.

As a teenager, Michael regularly paddled from his family home in Young's Point to Lakefield College School (LCS), a six mile round trip. After attending Royal Roads College in Victoria B.C, he came back to LCS to instruct the school's naval cadets. Michael began his career at Lakefield District High School in



the early 1970s, teaching mathematics. He was also a union steward for the Retired Teachers' Association of Ontario.

This spring was a blessing for Michael. The ice went out April 2; he was at his cottage, "The Patch", the next day. On Sunday, May 23, he held his annual "opening up" gathering. Friends and relatives of all ages were welcome. He was a generous host and a lively conversationalist. Michael appreciated classical music, was widely read, and enjoyed good whiskey. He

lived long enough to see the much-needed accessibility renovations at Hutchison House. The integrity of the House has been maintained, but now people in wheelchairs will be able to enjoy the keeping room and learn about the House and its occupants.

Michael set an example to all who knew him. As a cousin, I have known him all my life and I will miss his comments and reflections on our shared family history. But I am grateful he is now at peace which came to him at his beloved cottage.

**Kathy Hooke.**

**.....from the president**

We hope that you are joining us on the June 9th day tour by bus and Cruise ship to Rice Lake and back...should be interesting and fun!

We also hope that you will join us for tea and scones at Hutchison House this summer....very exciting renovations which make Hutchison House more accessible for all.....for you to see!

Have a safe, healthy and sunny summer.

**Mary Lavery**

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### *Trillium Antiquarian Books*

William Van Nest  
1285 Albertus Avenue  
Peterborough ON Canada K9J 6A4  
705-749-0461  
trilliumbooks.ca  
trilliumbooks@sympatico.ca  
Member, IOBA

### **Accolades from PHS members**

Sent to Catherine Dibben

You on the Program Committee are doing a superb job for the Public Lectures! Thank you for them. These meetings are the public's connection with the society and are important for its health. Of course the Heritage Lunches and special Events are too, but your consistently interesting meetings have ordinary people hooked.

**Gwen Morawetz**

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Sent to Mary Lavery:

Please extend my congratulations to Board members and others who were actively involved in all aspects of the Hutchison House Renovations.

It has been an amazing piece of work and the results are most impressive. It was hard initially to visualize how the integrity of the 1870s addition would be kept but the end result is one to be proud of.

Best wishes - **Carol and Peter Koeslag**

### **Hutchison House Report**

Spring has been a busy time for Hutchison House and this summer promises to be just as exciting! May began with a successful media event to celebrate the Ontario Trillium Foundation's contribution to the Accessibility project. The interior renovations are completed and look beautiful! Thank you to everyone who has helped to put the House back to rights again. The exterior ramp and drive way will be done by early June.

The Volunteer Service Awards took place May 7<sup>th</sup>. Once again Hutchison House honored a few of the volunteers who have continued to support the museum with their time and efforts over the years. Recipients for 2010 were Bob Laing, 5 years, Doreen Jones, 20 years, Jennifer Conley, 5 years-youth, Carol Koeslag, 15 years, Bill Carson, 10 years, Phyllis Nelson, 30 years and Norm Savage, 15 years. Thank you everyone for all your hard work!

Also receiving a volunteer award this June is Ann Baker. Ann will be receiving a Civic Award for Cultural Betterment for all of her hard work around the museum and her work digitizing, transcribing and interpreting Dr. Hutchison's Ledgers.

Our Annual Spring Plant Sale was a success despite the cold gloomy weather. The volunteers made \$557 for the plants and just over \$240 for the refreshments and yard sale. A special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped to organize the sale and those who helped to run it that day. We couldn't have done it without you!

Beginning in May the Conservation students from Sir Sandford Fleming College will be re-housing and digitizing the archival collection. This project will be ongoing throughout the summer.

Hutchison House will welcome the Embroiderer's Guild of Peterborough this summer. They will be installing an exhibit June 17<sup>th</sup> to showcase the wonderful work of their guild members and continue to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Embroiderer's Guild Peterborough.

There will be lots of new faces around the museum this summer. Margot Klingender will begin in May as Programming Coordinator and beginning in June is Sarah Carr as Programming Assistant through the Young Canada Works Program. Emily Walsh will be returning again this summer through a Summer Experi-



also been made available through the Canada Summer Jobs Program. The girls will be helping to organize and coordinate all the summer volunteers, create and run the summer workshops and research material for an upcoming virtual exhibit on the Life of Dr. Hutchison and the early community of Peterborough. This virtual exhibit is made possible through a grant from the Canadian Heritage Information Network.

The museum will open weekends in June from 1-4 (closed Mondays). The House will be very busy in June with many group bookings and several school bookings as well. The Scottish Teas will begin Saturday July 3 and will be offered Tues-Sun from 1-4pm. in July and August. Enjoy a tour of the house and our wonderful homemade scones and jam. Scottish Tea is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children.

Last but not least what summer wouldn't be complete without our Annual Peach Tea on Thursday August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Sittings will be 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm with tickets selling for \$6 in advance and \$8 at the door for adults and \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door for kids.

Hutchison House has gone digital! Follow us on Facebook for all the exciting happenings at the museum!

**Gale Fewings**



One happy customer— photo credit Erin Penelinto



At the plant/yard Sale—Edith, Carol, Angela, and Amber. Photo Credit Erin Penelinto.



Mary Lavery and Phyllis Nelson at Hutchison



## **Hutchison House is Improving Accessibility Thanks to \$134,400 OTF Grant**

Thanks to a \$134,400 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), plans are well underway to making Hutchison House more accessible to people with physical disabilities. Jeff Leal, MPP for Peterborough, joined OTF representative, Eileen Nolan, in congratulating PHS and museum volunteers at a news conference on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

"I and my family have visited Hutchison House on many occasions. The Government of Ontario recognizes the importance of preserving our heritage and making it accessible to everyone. This Ontario Trillium Foundation grant will bring more visitors to this wonderful living museum that we are proud to have located in our City of Peterborough," said MPP Jeff Leal.

The renovations will not affect the original stone house that was built in 1837. Plans include a new accessible entrance to the ground floor of the Victorian extension and the museum's historic Keeping Room, where special events and educational programs are offered to all age groups. There will be an accessible washroom and a larger, more efficient kitchen. A wheelchair accessible parking space and ramp system will lead to the accessible entrance. Future plans include production of a virtual tour of the upper floors of the museum.

"We are very grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for enabling us to undertake these important improvements," said PHS President, Mary Lavery. "Hutchison House is an irreplaceable local heritage resource and we are committed to making it more widely accessible to the entire community."

The President thanked all those who played a role in the project. Members of the HH Accessibility Committee. Bill Carson, Michael Townsend, Deb Taylor, Barb McIntosh and Gale Fewings, spent over six months developing the renovation plans and the OTF grant application. A special thanks was extended to local developer, Paul Lumsden, who volunteered many hours of professional expertise to developing the technical details. PHS was delighted to be able to hire him to oversee the project to completion.

And of course, the project could not have happened without the outstanding efforts of Gale Fewings, Erin Panepinto and the many volunteers who helped to get things ready for the contractors – clearing out the rooms, moving the library and offices up to the third floor and moving the raised gardens and perennial plants on the west side of the house to make way for the new accessible ramp system. Once the renovations are completed, more volunteers will be needed to put things back in order.

A leading grantmaker in Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation strengthens the capacity of the voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. An agency of the Government of Ontario, OTF builds healthy and vibrant communities. [www.trilliumfoundation.org](http://www.trilliumfoundation.org)

**Barbara McIntosh**



Participating in the announcement (left to right) Barb McIntosh Director of PHS, Mayor Paul Ayotte, MPP Jeff Leal, Ontario Trillium Foundation representative Eileen Nolan, PHS President Mary Lavery, Alan Wilson (representing MP Dean Del Mastro)

Peterborough Historical Society  
Hutchison House Museum

June 2010

Owned & operated by the  
Peterborough Historical Society  
270 Brock Street  
Peterborough Ontario  
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Phone 705- 743-9710  
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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

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Website:

[www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca)

#### Mark your Calendars

##### PHS Fall General Meetings

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

Tuesday, September 21, 2010 Topic: Judge Joseph Wearing, Speaker: Joe Wearing

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 Topic: Asylums, Speaker: Janet Miron

Tuesday, November 23, 2010 Topic: Curve Lake and Whetung Family, Speaker: Mae Whetung

**Please note:** The report on May's meeting about Vincent Clementi by Catherine Dibben will be in the September Bulletin

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#### Note new email addresses

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#### New website address

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