

PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



Peterborough Historical Society Bulletin

Issue 434

February 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

**PHS Monthly Lecture
NOTE LOCATION and
DAY**

The Parlour
Trinity United Church

**Wednesday, February 15
Speaker Randy Hinton
The Kawartha Spirit
at 7:30 pm**

**Tuesday March 21
AGM & Dinner
Princess Gardens Atrium
5:30 to 9:00 pm**

**Heritage Luncheon
March 1
12:00 and 1:30 p.m.
Cost \$15.00
Advance tickets
required**

REMINDER OF LOCATION FOR MEETINGS. This year, while the Library is closed, the Historical Society will continue to hold its monthly meetings on the **3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in The Parlour, Trinity United Church** (entrance off parking lot on Reid Street).

The Kawartha Spirit on Wednesday February 15, 2017 at the Parlour Trinity United Church

Randy Hinton to speak on his 26 years as captain of "The Kawartha Spirit," his long-serving cruise boat that he operated with his wife, Susanne, on the lower Kawartha Lakes out of Fenelon Falls, Bobcaygeon and more recently Stoney Lake. The boat is 52 years old and was sold last year to a tour company in Halifax where she is still going strong. Cruise tours on the Kawartha Lakes have been an important part of the region's history since the nineteenth century.



St. Valentines Afternoon Tea

*Hutchison House Museum Volunteers are hosting
a Victorian Tea Fundraiser*

*On February 12 at 2:30 pm in the
Keeping Room at 270 Brock Street*

*A light lunch of savouries, sweets and tea will be served.
Tours of the House will also be available.*

*Tickets are \$25.00 in advance only. Please call (705) 743-9710
Seating is limited to 24 for the afternoon.*

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:
Tuesday 21 March 2017, 5:30-9:00 p.m. Princess Gardens Atrium,
Speaker TBA. Mark your calendars.

From the President

Recently I attended a talk in which the speaker raised the idea of history “ownership”. Must the history of a specific sector of society only be compiled and expressed by members of that group? The first inclination may be to say “Yes” because lore, information, experience, and understanding of a people, gender, religion, occupation, organization, etc., are usually contained within that community. I agree, but only partially.

History should be expressed with consultation and participation by members of the target group, when possible. If, however, none are available to an historian, does that preclude the story being told? Not necessarily. For example, the last Canadian veteran of the First World War died a couple of years ago, so should further examination of that conflict end? Should contact observations by early European arrivals to North America be completely ignored or discounted because there are no surviving First Nations counterpart accounts? Do men have the right to outline women’s history or vice versa, or does living in one time period restrict writing about another era? Because I have never served in the armed forces or gone to war, do I have no right to explore my interest in military history? I hope not!

In my opinion, if historians are responsible, thorough, and respectful then they should be “allowed” to write about any historical subject. I do not think that history, even controversial topics, should remain untold just because the teller was not a participant in events, a witness to them, or a member of a particular subject community. In many cases, “outsiders” may bring fresh perspectives and outlooks to a story, and that can be a good thing – especially if further interest, discussion, and curiosity are aroused in others.

Don Willcock

Annual Heritage Awards - Reminder

Each year the Peterborough Historical Society recognizes the contributions and efforts made by community members in exploring, celebrating and preserving the rich cultural and architectural history of the Peterborough area. Recipients must be residents of the City of Peterborough or Peterborough County. Nominations will be considered for accomplishments or projects completed in the past three years.

There are six award categories:

The Samuel Armour Award recognizes the development and/or delivery of programs, activities or curriculum based local history material that engages students in exploring the diverse history of the region.

The J. Hampden Burnham Award recognizes the completion and presentation of a major project in any media such as a painting, video, web design, newspaper articles, etc that promotes awareness of the history of the region.

The George Cox Award recognizes the sympathetic redesign or sensitive new construction that respects the existing character of significant cultural resources, such as buildings, cultural landscapes, period gardens or the preservation of manuscripts, photographic collections, etc.

The F.H. Dobbin Award recognizes the publication of a major work, either fiction or non-fiction that focuses on Peterborough’s past.

The Martha Kidd Award is a new award (2013) that honours the memory of Martha Kidd and recognizes outstanding work in the preservation of our region’s built heritage.

The Charlotte Nicholls Award recognizes a substantial donation either financial or in kind services towards the commemoration of a historic structure, artifact, cultural landscape, etc.

If you are interested in nominating someone for an award, you can download and fill out an awards nomination form on the PHS website [<http://www.peterboroughhistoricalsociety.ca/awards.php>] or pick up a printed form at the PHS office at 270 Brock Street.

From the Curator

Hogmanay is always a terrific celebration and our 2017 event was no exception. There were over 250 visitors this year as well as approximately 50 volunteers including the entertainers, their families, the PHS board members, and of course, the fabulous Hutchison House volunteers. Many thanks to everyone for helping to make our New Year's celebration such a success, especially considering the fact that the Hutchison family moved into their new home 180 years ago!

Again this winter volunteers Linda Chandler, Loretta Terry, and Carol Marsland are hosting an elegant Victorian Tea in our historic keeping room. Book your reservations now for **Sunday February 12 starting at 2:30 pm for the St. Valentines Tea**. It promises to be another delightful light lunch of savories, sweets and tea, this time based on a very romantic theme. Tours of the museum will be conducted by costumed guides. The ladies have organized four very successful events in support of the museum since 2015 that sold out very quickly, so to avoid disappointment don't delay booking a table. Tickets for the event are \$25 each and pre-registration is required as seating is limited.

Some members of the Historical Society will be aware that last summer one of the large Norway maple trees on our lower lawn suffered extensive damage during a storm. As a result the Management Committee was compelled to have large sections of the tree's canopy removed. During the process the arborist advised us that the tree was infested with carpenter ants and therefore should be removed completely. Unfortunately, the work undertaken last summer took a big chunk out of our meagre funds and we weren't sure how we could afford to have the rest of the tree removed.

Well, Norman Savage, bless his heart, stepped forward and generously donated the money to get the job done! Bear in mind this was not a small tree and watching the professionals from Hyland Tree Care do the work so nimbly on the old majestic giant was at times awe inspiring. We certainly do owe Norman a debt of gratitude for helping us out. We'll have to wait till spring to count the rings to determine its age.

Parents and grandparents will be amazed at the wonderful **hands-on activities offered kids over March Break**. The time is now to register for the four morning workshops being held **between March 14 & 17**. Erin and I have been experimenting with a number of fun crafts and we are both very excited about our programs this year. Children will delight in their very own imaginative creations when make their own Woodland Elves & Fairies on Tuesday February 14 or Thursday February 16. Of course the wee folk need a place to live, so we will be working with the children to help them construct their little fairy houses on Wednesday February 15 or Friday February 17.

The March Break workshops all take place from 9:30 till noon at a cost of \$15 per child per workshop. Parents/grandparents are asked to send indoor shoes and snacks with their kids. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register please call the museum at (705) 743-9710 or visit the website at www.hutchisonhouse.ca.

Gale Fewings



Hogmanay 2017 with Barry Landry, Douglas Kean, Colin Campbell



Snofest Committee attend the Fireside Tea & Dessert



**PETERBOROUGH
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SOCIETY**

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Graham Hart, Broadcaster

Graham Hart, the well known TV personality and a Peterborough Volunteer of the Year, was the guest speaker at the January meeting of the Peterborough Historical Society. He spoke about his weekly historical Flashback program on CHEX and selected three episodes of his Remembrance Day specials that feature Peterborough area men who served in the Second World War – each with a moving story that highlights the humanity that can exist despite the cruelty and horrors of warfare: Bob McEwan, who jumped out of his tank on the Italian front to escort a pregnant woman out of harm's way in the midst of enemy snipers; Harold "Cleve" Gallagher who shared his food with a starving Dutch girl with whom he reconnected 50 years later and remains in contact to this day; and Ralph Lloyd who served on HMCS St. Thomas that sank, while on convoy duty, a German submarine, then rescued the entire crew. In later life the First Lieutenants of the St. Thomas and that German submarine became, and continued, fast friends for the remainder of their lives. All these stories required extensive preparation. Graham noted that it takes about 10 hours of research, writing, and editing to produce, from scratch, each minute that goes to air. When asked about the actual interview footage, he replied that he had hours of taped interviews that formed the basis of his Remembrance features and agreed these could provide valuable archival records. He also spoke about his career path that led to his position as a broadcaster at CHEX. While an engineering student at Dalhousie University, he acquired a summer job as a part time control room operator at a local radio station. That developed into on-air positions in other Maritime radio outlets and ultimately led to employment in some Ontario broadcasting facilities. After a stint at CFCO Radio in Chatham, he decided to step back and rethink his career's direction. He was soon offered a position at CHEX in Peterborough, which he agreed to accept for one year. Forty-three years later, he has made an invaluable contribution to the community and continues to ply his craft, which he enjoys and at which he works tirelessly. Graham was thanked by President Don Willcock for sharing these memories and stories with the Society.

Dennis Carter-Edwards



Dennis Carter-Edwards, Graham Hart, and Don Willcock. The audience exhausted Graham with a lengthy Q&A session