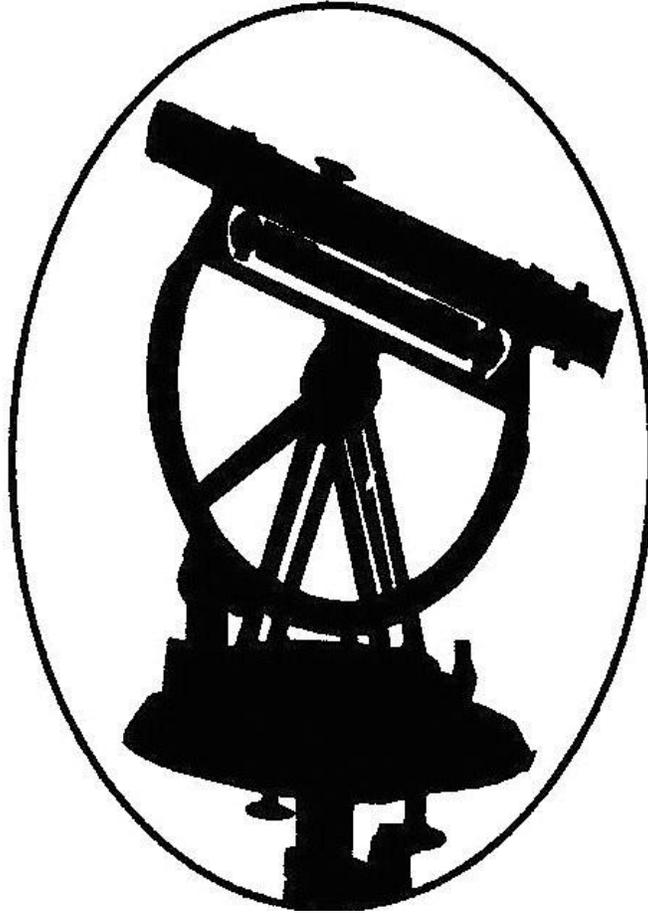


Peterborough Historical Society



Annual Report 2020

Presented at the Annual General Meeting Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Board of Directors, 2020

Dale Standen, President
Bob Taylor-Vaisey, Vice-President
Paul Lumsden, Treasurer
Jodi Aoki
Dion Gemmiti
Linda Chandler
Deborah Key
Michael Peterman ex officio
Gayle Fewings (January – June) ex officio
Erin Panepinto (July – December) ex officio

Hutchison House Operating Committee 2020

Michael Peterman, Chair
Erin Panepinto, Acting Curator (ex officio)
Paul Lumsden, Property Management
Edith Betty Hinton, Gardens
Bill Corbett, Member at Large
Linda Chandler, Acquisitions/Conservation

Trust Fund Trustees

Peter Darling, Chair
Marilyn McNaughton, Treasurer
Dennis Carter-Edwards
Norman Savage (deceased)
Dale Standen, President PHS
(Financial Advisor: Susan Young)

President's Report

As everyone experienced, the year 2020 was a year like none other. The PHS and Hutchison House began auspiciously with a full agenda to begin implementing the Strategic Plan that was approved by the Board of Directors in December 2019. Two stimulating speakers at the monthly meetings in January and February and another festive Hogmanay at Hutchison House launched a promising year. Then everything shut down in March.

Without programs and earned revenues from events, the outlook became bleak and the future of the PHS and Hutchison House uncertain. Thanks to reassurances from the City and Province for the security of their operating grants, and thanks to the wage support and museum assistance programs from the Federal Government, the outlook for the year became manageable. At Hutchison House, Curator Gale Fewings and Assistant Curator Erin Panepinto adapted programs to comply with the COVID-19 public health regulations, developed digital versions for online delivery and hired summer students to create pilot projects. Our committed volunteers helped implement them. As a result, though earned revenues were greatly diminished, they exceeded our worst projections. Most gratifying was the generous response of members to our appeal for donations, an essential contribution to the year's financial survival.

After a forced postponement, the PHS held its AGM in June, a successful virtual event by Zoom. In September it resumed its monthly speaker series, also virtually, by recording speakers' presentations in a new format of **PHS Talks** posted on Hutchison House YouTube. In all these ways we have managed to continue an essential public engagement during these difficult times.

Despite the delays caused by the pandemic, the PHS Board also made progress on the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The AGM approved a revised By-law that clarified governance and the reporting structure of the Society. The development of a new, much more interactive website is in its final stages. A filing system has been created to provide consistency in record keeping. A review is under way of the Hutchison House Trust Funds in order to conform to current professional management practices and opportunities.

Looking ahead, the immediate objective is to recover successfully from the disruption caused by the pandemic and to prepare for the termination of emergency government support programs. All heritage organizations face a severe challenge in this regard because, like the cultural sector generally, their programs and events depend upon visitors gathering in their physical space, and this will depend upon how quickly public confidence in social gatherings returns. The restoration of revenues for Hutchison House is especially critical to support the level of staffing necessary to manage and operate a museum and to maintain a heritage building. On a positive note, the pandemic has stimulated the development of digital and online outreach projects that will be an important component of future programming.

The main goal of the Strategic Plan is to expand community engagement. Peterborough is evolving in many ways. The City and region are growing and becoming more diverse, bringing new, enriching interests and perspectives. There is a welcome, increased awareness of the important contribution of Indigenous communities to our local history. These are exciting developments for the understanding of our past and opportunities for the PHS to broaden its engagement with the community.

Dale Standen, President

Financial Report

The financial position of the Peterborough Historical Society and Hutchison House resulted in a surplus for the year-ended December 31, 2020 notwithstanding the severe reduction of visitations, and numerous fundraising events and themed-programs due to Covid-19 closures. Reduced revenues were offset by government grants, a federal government wage-subsidy and increased student staff funding. In addition, PHS received a sizable Grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough.

No funds were needed from the Maintenance Trust this year as the second-year projects of the Five-Year Plan to complete capital projects on the House and surrounding property were delayed because of financial uncertainties due to Covid-19 closures.

To review the exact details of the PHS financial position please see the **Peterborough Historical Society Unaudited Financial Results at December 31, 2020** prepared by Tim J. F. Nicholls, Chartered Accountant.

Paul Lumsden, Treasurer

Program Committee Report

The Honourable Barry MacDougall began the regular monthly public lecture series for the Peterborough Historical Society with a presentation entitled, “Adjudicating First Nations’ Damage Claims before the Specific Claims Tribunal.” Barry highlighted the meticulous research that went into the deliberations for each of the cases he discussed. In February, Eric Conroy spoke about the rescue and rehabilitation of *the S.S. Kewatin*, the last remaining Great Lakes passenger steamer. A true labour of love, the history of this storied Edwardian vessel had a happy ending, saved from the scrap yard due to the commitment of a group of heritage minded enthusiasts. With the declaration of a world-wide pandemic and provincial lockdown measures to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the March and May meetings were cancelled.

The regular Annual General Meeting of April, which would usually feature a business meeting, dinner and guest lecture, was not possible in 2020. Instead, a virtual AGM was held in June followed by a conversation between President Dale Standen and Dr. Rosana Salvaterra on “Pandemics: Past and Present.” It is hard to think of a more timely topic as the two speakers explored aspects of past pandemics, such as the Spanish Flu and SARS, compared with the current COVID-19 pandemic. Not surprising, there were many parallels to the diseases, whether it was the origin in animal to human transmission or differences such as the better understanding of appropriate public health measures and the urgency of vaccination. The conversation between these two experts on pandemics was highly informative and underscored how important knowing your history is – a theme that continues to inspire the work of the Peterborough Historical Society.

In response to COVID-19, in the fall the Peterborough Historical Society modified its regular monthly public lectures to a virtual **PHS Talks** on historical topics of interest. Like many, the PHS adopted new ways of operating for a transition to a virtual world that has enabled the Society to fulfil its mandate of engaging the community.

The program in September began with an informative talk by Bob Arlidge entitled “Musician of Extraordinary Merit: Joseph Churchill Arlidge in Peterborough.” This intriguing

story of Bob's great grandfather who was a talented musician and prominent leader in promoting Peterborough's musical talent offered new insights into this hitherto little known topic. The October lecture featured Professor Emeritus Michael Peterman, speaking about "The Cradle of Canadian Literature – Early Writing in Peterborough and Lakefield." A recognized authority on the famous Strickland literary family, Michael brought his extensive knowledge of the writings of these early "pioneers" in Canadian literature, including the work of James McCarroll, the subject of his most recent book, to an appreciative audience.

In keeping with a military theme for November, Captain David Rumble offered his "Personal Remembrances of Remembrance Days Past" that reflected the resurgence of interest in and attendance at the annual Remembrance Day service. In part due to the Canadian participation in the Afghanistan conflict and the moving repatriating ceremonies that saw large crowds on the overpasses on the Highway of Heroes as the caivalcades passed underneath, Captain Rumble applauded this enhanced appreciation of the sacrifices made to protect our democratic freedoms.

Dennis Carter-Edwards, Program Co-ordinator

Hutchinson House Trustees Report

The trustees met on July 14h, 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to review our investments and to decide what to do with 2 G.I.C.s that had come due on July 13th, 2020. Following some discussion the decision was to invest both G.I.C.s (\$25,000 and \$15,000) for 5 years at a rate of 1.8%.

With respect to the investment of a \$6,000 G.I.C. that would come due in January 2021 it was decided to deal with that at the time with a Zoom meeting. The decision in January was to leave the funds in cash.

Historically the majority of the Trust's funds have been held in a 5-year ladder of G.I.C.s. However in recent years the interest rates have become so low that the amount of money available at the end of the year to pass on to P.H.S. is now minable. Furthermore the wording of the Trust no longer serves or permits us to consider other types of investments that would produce better returns. It is recognized that risks must be kept to a minimum but there are other roads to travel. Also, unless we consider changes to the amount that must be transferred to P.H.S. at year-end the Trust funds will only grow if they receive donations. With this in mind Dale Standen and two others have been looking at what can be done. Besides looking at other investment groups it is realized that the current Trust document has to be revised. This is a complicated process and it has required many hours on Dale's part to accumulate all of the information about donations, etc.

Peter Darling
Chair of the Trustees

Membership Report 2020

Membership in the Peterborough Historical Society in 2020 increased by 7 over 2019.

- 20 lifetime members (no longer an option)
- 101 individual and family members
- 4 institutional members
- 1 student member

Membership renewal letters are sent out at the end of September, with reminders in the *Bulletin* in October and November. In December personal reminders are sent, and again at the end of January. Forgetfulness afflicts all of us and we continue to explore ways to make renewing easier. When the new website is up and running, it will be possible to renew memberships online, which should help members respond quickly. Reminders, however, will always be necessary for some of us.

The membership file currently lacks a coordinator.

Publications Committee Report

This year the Publications Committee produced Occasional Paper # 41 in March. Its author Don Willcock wrote “Peterborough Remembers Its Fallen: The City and County Citizens’ War Memorial” as a record and tribute to the statues commissioned by the city and county, and created by Walter Seymour Allward in the 1920s. The Paper is distributed to all PHS members as part of their membership. For 41 consecutive years the PHS has published quality essays on various aspects of local history; Don’s paper continues that valuable tradition. Elwood Jones did the spadework in preparing the paper for publication.

The Publications Committee has been undergoing some changes in membership this year. Dale Standen stepped down to see to other PHS needs and Jean Cole who was our longest-serving member has retired. Continuing members are Michael Peterman (Chair), Elwood Jones and Bill Corbett. Jodi Aoki is joining the team this year. Another member is being sought. Michael Peterman, Chair

Library and Archives

Due to the closure of Hutchison House because of the pandemic lockdown, there is very little to report about the past year in library and archives. As for the future, there is a project underway in 2021 to catalogue the collection digitally so it can be accessed for research. It is a very special collection.

The archive is a work in progress and needs the assistance of someone with archival qualifications. A project to undertake an assessment and organization of the archival collection will be scheduled following the pandemic interruption. The assessment will include consideration of appropriate measures for the collection’s security.

Susan Jewell, Coordinator

Heritage Awards Report

The plan for a Heritage Award ceremony for the spring of 2020 was disrupted, as so much else, by the COVID-19 emergency. The call for nominations was posted just before the pandemic lockdown, with the result that members of the community could give little attention to anything but crisis management. In view of this, we suspended the process until the fall when the call for nominations resumed.

In 2020 the Society introduced a new award: The Thomas H. B. and Christine Symons Heritage Award to recognize “an outstanding one-time or ongoing contribution to local, regional, provincial, national or international heritage causes.” Intended to honour truly exceptional contributions to heritage causes, in keeping with the scope of interests of the Symons, recipients will receive a personal inscribed plaque, and have their names inscribed on a larger plaque to be displayed in Hutchison House. We are grateful to the Gemmiti family for sponsoring the Symons Heritage Award.

The recipients of awards this year are the following:

The Thomas H.B. and Christine Symons Heritage Award for an outstanding one-time or ongoing contribution to local, regional, provincial, national or international heritage causes: awarded in 2020 to **Jean Murray Cole** for a remarkable lifetime contribution to the history and heritage of the City and County of Peterborough.

The F.H. Dobbin Award recognizes the publication of a major work, either fiction or non-fiction that focuses on Peterborough’s past. Awarded in 2020 to two worthy candidates: **Robert Clarke** for his juried article published in *Ontario History*, titled “In Search of George Scott: Jack of All trades, Motion Picture Pioneer, World Explorer;” and **Peter McConkey** for his extensive collection of writings, written, co-written and/or edited, spread over some six decades that elaborate on Peterborough area history.

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. Awarded to **Matthew Seaby** for his development and coordination of an exhibit celebrating the rich history of the Head of the Trent rowing regatta.

The J. Hampden Burnham Award, the George Cox Award, the Martha Kidd Award and the Charlotte Nicholls Award received no nominations in 2020.

High School History Awards

In 2020, despite the disruptions of COVID 19 to the schools, PHS was pleased to give awards for outstanding achievements in history to 6 students.

They are:

Lauren Stoyles of Adam Scott Collegiate Vocational Institute

Katelynn Jordan of Crestwood Secondary School

Yifei Zhou of Kenner Collegiate Vocational institute

Paige Piche of St. Peter Catholic Secondary School

Lily Ross of Thomas A Stewart Secondary School
Nicholas Pedersen of Norwood District High School.

Linda Lumsden, Coordinator

PHS Bulletin Report

In 2020, Peterborough Historical Society published nine issues of the *Bulletin*, this despite the upending of all schedules due to COVID-19. Produced by Marilyn MacNaughton and edited by Jodi Aoki, the *Bulletin* reached the membership mostly through email, with a few copies sent out in print format. The issues included insightful President's reports, always-inspiring overviews of the monthly goings-on at Hutchison House and notices of history-related community events. Included, too, were write-ups of the in-person speaker presentations delivered in the early months of the year, and of the highly successful virtual [PHS Talks](#) instituted by the fall of 2020.

The *Bulletin* column, "Voices from Peterborough's Past," included articles of local historical interest which were submitted by various contributors:

- January 2020: "Winch House—Crescent Street" / Ken Brown
- February 2020: "Of Letters and Lilies" / Jodi Aoki
- March 2020: "Sevengala, the "Master of Telepathy," at the Grand Opera House" / Robert Ganton Clarke
- April 2020: "Peterboro's Only Nightclub" / Ken Brown
- October 2020: "The Grand Opera House and the Turner Building" / Robert Ganton Clarke
- November 2020: "Buffalo Bill Comes to the Crystal Theatre, December 1910" / Robert Ganton Clarke

Jodi Aoki, Editor

2020 Annual Report

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