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Cover photo: Demolition of St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church begins (Elwood Jones)
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Canadian Rajah: Esca and Me

I have long been a faithful Globe and Mail subscriber but have recently switched to the online edition. I’ve noticed that this has changed how I read the paper, and not in a good way. Now, I tend to only open the stories that already interest me. What I am often missing are those unexpected features and smaller items that catch the eye, intrigue and then surprise.

A case in point: About twenty years ago I was leafing through the books section of the Globe and saw a review of a history text entitled The White Rajahs of Sarawak: A Dynastic Intrigue and the Forgotten Canadian Heir. If that review had been online, I likely wouldn’t have seen or read it. But what I found that day – in the hard copy corner of an old-fashioned broadsheet - has sent me on a twenty year playwriting adventure.

I learned from that Globe review that a young man named Esca Brooke had been exiled from Sarawak – at that time a small nation in Southeast Asia. He had washed up in the eastern Ontario village of Madoc, of all places. This dramatic juxtaposition of those two locales – tropical Sarawak and the tip of the Canadian Shield - kept me reading the review – which in turn led me to buy the book.

The author was Cassandra Pybus, a noted Australian historian. She’s got ‘a nose for a story’. Pybus first heard about Esca Brooke while writing a history of the Brooke family – known as the “White Rajahs of Sarawak”. The Brooke dynasty actually owned Sarawak (now part of Malaysia) and ruled it for a century.

Pybus had heard rumours that the second Rajah, Charles Brooke, had fathered a son named Esca with a Malay woman. By chance she met someone who told her he’d actually met a Canadian grandson of that child. This surprise discovery was enough to send the intrepid Professor sleuthing across Canada, uncovering the story of Esca. It was an act of detective scholarship for which I’ll be forever grateful.

+++ Rajah Charles Brooke had indeed married a woman named Dayang Mastiah, a daughter of Malay nobility. And the rumours Pybus had heard were true - Charles had indeed fathered a son with her. This was all recorded in government and church records in Sarawak, including Esca’s baptism. Pybus also learned about Charles Brooke’s profligacy with the state treasury. Shortly after Esca’s birth, he went bankrupt. To save his country, Charles returned to England and obtained a wife, one with a juicy bank account. Sarawak was saved for the Brooke dynasty. In addition to her wealth, the new English wife – Ranee Ghita – proved remarkably fertile, quickly producing an heir and a spare (and a daughter, for good measure.)

But there was that inconvenient first-born son and the equally problematic first wife. Charles Brooke likely divorced his Malay wife at some point but Esca remained on the scene, a biracial threat to the Brooke lineage. At the new Ranee’s request, Esca was farmed out to an English clergyman who, in turn, was dispatched to a parish in far-off Canada with a small allowance to cover the care and feeding of his adopted son.

That’s where my play begins. Esca and his father, Archdeacon William Daykin, are standing outside Madoc, Ontario, both of them wondering what on earth they’d let themselves in for.

In the father’s case, Madoc proved a village too far. Reverend Daykin was high church and Madoc was very low. Daykin’s candles, bells and incense did not amuse the villagers. He also hated heading out of the village to the rough and tumble missions scattered here and there in the Shield.
Esca, by contrast, prospered. He loved running through the forests; joyfully communing with the lakes and wildlife. He adapted quickly to the people as well. It helped that he was young, of course. And Lady Luck shone on him. He won a scholarship to Trinity College School. He also met a young man named David Dunlap – they became best buddies and Dunlap went on to discover silver. Lots of it. Esca married a well-bred Ottawa woman, and had four children. He moved to Toronto, where he worked as the right-hand man of (now) Sir David Dunlap in the latter’s new venture: Hollinger Mines. Esca was active in his church, became an award-winning gardener and, always, lived in harmony with nature. He built a cottage on Big Rideau Lake and spent happy summers there, fishing and canoeing with his children and grandchildren, until his death in 1953.

Flash forward to 2010. I am waiting a bit nervously in a parking lot outside a Stittsville, Ontario restaurant. After much emailing and letter writing, I’m finally meeting Esca’s last living grandchildren, Joan Brown and Shirley Cooke. I had slowly been making contact with some of his descendants but had never met with anyone who’d actually spoken with Esca. Shirley and Joan finally pulled up in the parking lot and, with wide smiles, greeted me. They were laden with photo albums and envelopes of written material – the hard copy proof of Esca Brooke’s existence.

+++ 
Dramatizing Esca came with its own set of advantages and disadvantage. At first glance, the story is a writer’s dream. It spans continents, centuries, and carries in it the themes of colonialism, racism, dysfunctional families, and sexual obsession. The Brookes were involved in massacres, both as perpetrators and preventers. They fought against – and with - head-hunters. The males of the family had hyperactive and creative libidos. The family feuded, even as they pursued wealth and nobility and hung out with the Victorian and Edwardian glitterati. Even Oscar Wilde has a cameo in the Brooke saga.

The disadvantage? There was too much I could write about. So many “gifts” to the playwright. Way too much to jam into a play. The Brookes are a family in need of a BBC mini-series.

But in a way, that wealth of story was irrelevant. I kept coming back to the image of young Esca from Sarawak standing on a hill outside Madoc, erased from his roots, about to start a new life. Which he did. Another Canadian success story, at least on the surface.

Except that, as Esca aged, the worm of obsession turned. He began to crave recognition of his true identity. That quest began to consume him. He petitioned the Brookes. He wrote to politicians. The media. Even the King of England. No one replied. He was effectively shut-out. “Ghosted” as we now say.

I felt strongly that this quest for recognition was the part of Esca’s life that I wanted to dramatize. So I distilled it down into one showdown with the Ranee. One tragic trip back to England to ask Rajah Charles’ widow – the woman who had sent him from Sarawak – to acknowledge his existence. That quest was the dramatic fulcrum of Esca’s life, the cloud on his happiness, the motor that drove him, and the moment of high drama.

+++ 
I had one more hurdle. Why. Why did he care? Esca had made a good life for himself in Canada. He had a great job. A lovely home. An idyllic cottage on Big Rideau Lake. Most important, he had a good marriage, a loving wife, three daughters and a son. Why couldn’t he have just focused on them?

His granddaughters have shared their theories but they remain that – theories. Esca never revealed his motives, so no one will ever know for sure. It fell to me to guess at what drove him on that life-long quest for recognition. Was it something to do with unresolved father-figures – one who gave him up and
the other who took money to keep him away. Was it about race? Did he somehow think that establishing his paternity could help shield his family from its sting? Esca seems to have sailed through life in Edwardian Toronto, but at least one of his children suffered the vicious smack of racism. Or was it all about morality, as one granddaughter suggested. There were whispers about Esca’s birth legitimacy and, in that post-Victorian era, the sins of the grandfathers were pasted on the children. With the help of Esca’s granddaughters, I believe I have come up with a satisfactory explanation for Esca’s obsession and how it plays out in his meeting with Ranee Brooke.

As mentioned, Esca’s dealings with the Brooke family didn’t go well. They had thoroughly washed their hands of him; they still do. Nevertheless, Esca has been vindicated somewhat. His daughters went to Sarawak and were received there with enthusiasm by the Malay population. His Canadian descendants are now proudly sharing information about him on Facebook. Ten of them came to a reading of Canadian Rajah in Port Hope and more are planning to come to the February 2019 production in Toronto.

We are all struggling to make sense of this world. I have spent a long time trying to make sense of just one life. Esca Brooke began, for me, as an intriguing figure in a newspaper review. That has deepened into my own quest that the erased life of Esca Brooke might find its way to its proper place in our country’s history.

Canadian Rajah by Dave Carley opens at Campbell House Museum in Toronto on January 29. It runs to February 17. For more information or tickets, go to www.canadianrajah.com

Hunter Street Bridge

Barber, who was the engineer of the Hunter Street Bridge. He claimed that this was the longest concrete bridge in Canada at the time. Much of the discussion over the years has been about the centre arch, which was a flatter arch in order to prevent too much rise in the traffic flow. In this view the bridge is comparatively level. Notice, too, the different patterns of the arches singularly and in a group. There are five arches on each side of the river, and within the centre arch this pattern is replicated. There never was a street car line on the bridge as the roadway was narrowed by order of the City Council to save money.

The contractor for the bridge was the Russell-Townsend Company, and this items was supplied by a descendant of the Russell family.
Hutchison House: the heart of Brock Street

Elwood H. Jones
Peterborough Examiner 19 Jan 2019

Hutchison House in 1917. Note the wire fence and gate, and the side yard garden. A view from the Connal photo album. (Trent Valley Archives, Connal fonds)

Perhaps the most storied house on Brock Street is the old stone house at 270 Brock Street.

Dr Hutchison had emigrated from Kirkaldy Scotland in 1815, and in due course arrived in Cavan, where he was a doctor and Justice of the Peace. His work brought him to Peterborough often and by 1830, Peterborough was his home. Dr Hutchison was one of the founders and an early elder of the Old Scotch Church, later known as St Andrew’s United Church.

To keep the Hutchisons from moving to Toronto in 1838, the citizens of the town built him a stone house on the rising ground on Brock Street. The site was both close to the centre of town and suburban.

Of course, the house had to be special. The stone was quarried from a pit near Monaghan and Parkhill, later the site for Hamilton Park and perhaps part of Jackson Park,. The same quarry was used in those years to build St John’s Anglican Church, the Court House, St Peter’s Roman Catholic Church, and a few other houses. Peterborough houses were normally built of wood. Brick was not available locally until the mid-1840s. The limestone from the Peterborough quarry was inferior, and Peterborough never became a limestone city. But the stone buildings of the 1830s remain among Peterborough’s finest.

Historian Frank H. Dobbin says the call went out for volunteers, to work in the day or at night, when men would work by the light of bonfires. When the roads became passable in the winter, the stones were hauled from the quarry. Because the site was on the side of a hill, the basement was at ground level on the eastern side. In the spring of 1838, the town hired a stonemason to supervise the volunteer builders. Volunteers begged local merchants for the lime and sand for the mortar, and also for paint, glass and hardware. The shingles and lumber for the rafters likely came from Dixon’s mill in what is now Jackson Park. Dobbin says the suppliers of sashes and doors were partly reimbursed. The volunteers also built a well on the property. Dobbin estimated the house had been built for about $225 in 1838 dollars.

The birth register kept by Dr. Hutchison is a treasure of the Hutchison House Museum which opened in this building in May 1974. His 38th birth was recorded in 1822 in Monaghan township, and over the next few years he was the doctor for births in Port Hope, and Cobourg. His first birth in Peterborough was in 1830 and over the next 17 years he appears to have been the town’s busiest doctor.

Dr. John Hutchison was very active even by the late 1820s as he was a doctor, coroner, justice of the peace. The swamp between Hospital Point and Townsend Street was not filled until 1906, at which time George Street was extended with difficulty to Lansdowne. Thomas A. Stewart, the local Member of the Legislative Council and Dr John Hutchison both died in the Famine summer of 1847 of typhoid
contracted while helping the sick Irish immigrants.

Hutchison House Museum on Brock Street between Bethune and Stewart celebrates several lives crucial to the understanding of early Victorian Peterborough. The Hon Pauline McGibbon officially opened the museum on 24 May 1978, and I accompanied her as we arrived in a horse and buggy that had to wait as a train whistled and passed the growing throng. This captured the spirit of Victorian times, for it was every community’s symbol of progress from the 1850s for nearly a century.

Over time we came to appreciate the many names associated with the house. Sandford Fleming was a nephew and this was his first Canadian home. He went on to become famous for accomplishments without number, but he married a Peterborough girl, and never forgot this special place. Peter Connal ground coffee for his George Street store in the brick wing that was added to this fine stone building. Catharine Parr Traill was a frequent visitor. The most remarkable names associated with the building still remain Dr John Hutchison and his wife Martha Hutchison.

However, the families of James Harvey and Peter Connal lived in the house for about 100 years, and it was a descendant, Jennifer Connal Patterson (1906-1969) who donated the house to the Peterborough historical society in 1969.

In May 1871, John Whyte was partnered with the young Augustus Sawers (1848-1931), one of the sons of Augustus Sawers, owner of the Peterborough Examiner and his wife Mary (nee Crawford). The woolen mill on McDonnel Street at the creek formerly owned by James Harvey (1806-1867) and then by Daniel Brock had been completely repaired and filled with new machinery expressly for manufacturing “blankets, flannels, full cloths, Tweeds, &c.” Products on hand they were willing to exchange for wool, and promised good prices for wool delivered to the mill. Their Custom Department would manufacture farmer’s blankets, roll carding and fulling. In the same advertisement, Johnnie Newton said he was now back in the Old Mill with Whyte and Sawers where he had a large room with a new carding machine. “Bring in your Wool, and I will give you BETTER ROLLS than have ever been turned out in this County.”

F. H. Dobbin says “the first factory in Peterborough was operated by Mr. Johnathan Newton. He had a woolen mill on the site now occupied by G. Walter Green’s foundry, and manufactured dress goods.” James Harvey’s factory seems to have been at this site on McDonnel Street just east of where Jackson Creek crossed.

The connection of Peter Connal (1828–1914) was longer lasting. Peter Connal was a George Street merchant whose grocery store was at 380 George Street.
Elizabeth Ferguson, Peter Connal lived until 1914 at 196 Brock Street, on the Doctor’s Row.

The grocery business on George Street was a father-son operation for many years. By 1925, this was the site of the Downeyflake Tea Room and the Laura Secord candy store. Nowadays, it is the site of the Old Stone Brewery restaurant.

The Trent Valley Archives has the prized photo album kept from 1917 to 1920 by the young Margaret E. Connal (1900-1984) who was later married to Russell Little. The album records connections with families such as the Pattisons, the Fergusons and the Snowdens. It includes photos of this house and also of the Connal cottage on Upper Stoney Lake.

The Peterborough Historical Society and the Hutchison House Museum have done a remarkable job over the years in interpreting this house in the Hutchison and Fleming years and in the Harvey and Connal years. The new year has been ushered in with a Hogmanay celebration since it was established and each year the event is crowded. The museum is also justly noted for its Scottish teas, interesting house tours, and special events tied to school groups and other tour groups.

Hutchison House Museum is truly the heart of Brock Street.

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**Power, Politics and Patronage in Peterborough:**

**Leasing Water Power Rights on the Otonabee River at Dam No.5 (Lock #22), 1901**

*Dennis Carter-Edwards*

The controversy over the leasing of rights to the waterpower near lock 22 in 1901 touched off a lively debate in Peterborough. The lobbying efforts of a consortium of politically well connected local entrepreneurs were pitted against the proponents of public ownership of key municipal services. Central to the debate was the question of who was best positioned to provide the cheap electricity that all agreed was key to the realization of Peterborough’s great industrial potential. While the exponents of private ownership won a temporary victory, the ultimate control of the generation and transmission of electricity by the Ontario Hydro Electric Power Commission signalled a triumph of the forces for public ownership.

Extension of the Trent Canal was the focus of one of the country’s most effective nineteenth century lobby groups, the Trent Valley Canal Association. Headed by Mossom Boyd of Bobcaygeon, it mobilized members of parliament, reeves, Boards of Trade and prominent businessmen to pressure the government to add additional locks to the existing truncated navigation system. In a brilliant political stroke, James Stevenson, the Conservative member for Peterborough West, convinced Prime Minister John A. Macdonald to appoint a Royal Commission in 1887 to examine the whole question of canal expansion to deflect political pressure while retaining the loyalty of voters along the proposed canal route. After four years of study, the Commission reported favourably for extending the locks, dams and canal cuts that constituted the Trent Valley Canal. Just before voting day in March 1891, Macdonald released the findings of the Commissioners and announced the government would act on the recommendations.

The announcement had the desired effect. D. Murphy, a Conservative organizer, reported ecstatically to Macdonald, “Your telegram re Trent Canal did first class work . . . I repeated the telegram to Stevenson and Burnham and no doubt it did good service there.” The commitment to extend the canal did indeed do “good service”. James Stevenson, after squeaking out a narrow 14 vote win over George Cox in 1887 in Peterborough West, extended his margin by over 200 votes in 1891. John Burnham, after losing to the Liberals in Peterborough East, won a narrow margin over the Liberal incumbent by a mere 29 votes. With victory assured, the government was in no hurry to proceed with actual work on the canal. The death of Prime Minister John A. Macdonald and internal strife limited new initiatives, and it wasn’t until shortly before the 1896 election that the government introduced a supply vote for money to extend the canal.

In the spring of 1895 the Department of

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Railways and Canals advertised for two major contracts, one for the section of new canal works from Peterborough to Lakefield and the other for the Balsam Lake to Lake Simcoe section. The Peterborough-Lakefield works were divided into two sections, one from Nassau to Lakefield and the other from Little Lake to Nassau, which included the innovative hydraulic lift lock. The contract for the Nassau to Lakefield section was awarded in August 1895 to the firm of Brown, Love and Aylmer, experienced canal builders. The work consisted of a series of five dams to eliminate treacherous water and locks to allow vessels to bypass the dams. Work progressed satisfactorily and by 1900 the concrete locks and timber frame dams were nearing completion.

While the canal was proposed as an aid to navigation, there were other lucrative side benefits from the construction work. The dams not only eliminated turbulent water, they also created a significant head which could be used for generating hydro electric power. Peterborough was already a pioneer in the application of hydro electricity to commercial purposes. In 1884 town council awarded a contract to the Peterborough Light and Power Company (PLPC) for electric lights on George Street. When the tender came up for renewal in 1896, there were two companies vying for the contract, the Peterborough Light and Power Company and the Auburn Power Company. Even though the Auburn Company submitted the lower bid, they lacked access to the street poles and the contract eventually went to the PLPC.

The potential for lucrative profits by developing hydro power potential along the Otonabee, once the dams were in place, was not lost on other entrepreneurs in the city, nor for that matter, the city fathers. In December 1898 S. Armstrong, the town clerk, wrote to the Minister of Railways and Canals, A.G. Blair: “I am instructed by the Mayor to write you that the Town of Peterborough desires to secure power from Locks . . . on the Trent Valley Canal between this town and Lakefield. This power is a matter of importance to the people of the town as it would furnish the power for the lighting system and waterworks and he thinks the people should have the opportunity of receiving the benefits of such advantage that are connected with these public works. Therefore desires to know upon what

considerations the Government will place the power connected with these locks in the contract or possession of the town.”4 The response was noncommittial, stating the Department was unable to grant the lease.

A marginal note on the letter, likely by a departmental official, observed that there was a potential for 1,000 horse power at Dam 5 and that it would be worth $4.00 per horsepower.5 Peterborough’s efforts to procure municipal control over critical utilities such as hydro, were in the vanguard of a wider movement by municipal councils to wrest control of municipal services from all powerful private monopolies. In 1901 the inaugural meeting of the Union of Canadian Municipalities was convened in Toronto. One of the principal organizers, W.D. Lighthall warned the gathering of a future “in which, if it be permitted to develop, the entire people of the Dominion, would inevitably find themselves tied, dictated to and bled by a small group of trusts obeying no laws but dividends.”6

The city fathers were not the only ones interested in the potential water power development at Dam 5 as it was referred to by canal engineers. In February 1901 Adam Hall, acting on behalf of a newly formed Peterborough syndicate, wrote to Minister Blair regarding Dam 5. “I beg to enclose you a formal application which I am making to the government in connection with No.5 Dam on the Trent Canal north of Peterborough.” Hall went on to add, “I expect to be in Ottawa next week and would like to discuss the matter with you and know just exactly what information the Government require in order to grant us a lease and the terms upon which they would grant the same.”7 The letter was marked “personal” and was indicative of the exchange by the syndicate and the Liberal government – either private correspondence or more direct personal meetings to try and arrange the lease. A marginal note on the letter made clear the challenges the group would face to secure a lease. It stated, “leasing water power on the Otonabee River between Peterborough and Lakefield will be done by Public Competition.”8 The note was signed by A.S.O.N., likely a departmental official and dated 4 March 1901. The last thing the syndicate wanted was an open, competitive process and they quickly mobilized their considerable political clout to short circuit any public competition and secure an untendered, exclusive lease for water power privileges at Dam 5. The first step was to remove the cloak of secrecy and identify members of the consortium. Incorporated as the Otonabee Power Company, the three principal partners, R.R. Hall, W. Meldrum and W. A. Stratton were prominent Peterborough figures. Richard Hall, a lawyer who had the lead role in the subsequent negotiations, was a prominent Liberal and later ran successfully for the Liberals in Peterborough West defeating the incumbent Conservative in the 1904 federal election. William Stratton was the brother of J.R. Stratton, the sitting Liberal member in the provincial legislature and publisher of the Peterborough Examiner, the Liberal party organ. William Meldrum was a manufacturer and member of city council. His politics are unknown.

The next step for the directors was to line up supporters who would lobby the government on their behalf. One of the first individuals they contacted was J.H. McLellan. A former coal merchant, McLellan ran unsuccessfully for the Liberals in the 1900 federal election in Peterborough West. As a reward for this service to the party, McLellan was appointed Superintendent of Maintenance on the Trent Canal, despite having no engineering experience, McLellan would later be fired from his job for fraud and misappropriating government funds. A Royal Commission investigating corruption at the canal concluded, “McLellan seems to have engaged himself largely with matters of political patronage and pleasure seeking jaunts at the public expense.”9 In May 1901 McLellan wrote to Blair, reporting on his meeting with Hall and offering his support suggesting that water power “should be given at a very low or moderate rate . . . what occurs to me to be reasonable would be say to give Mr. Hall’s company say the first twenty one years 350 horse power developed at a nominal rental of $1.00 per year . . . that strikes me as being reasonable terms . . . which gives the Company the opportunity of making a reasonable profit to compensate them for their first investment which would be in the neighbourhood of about $75,000 to $100,000.”10

Blair, 15 February 1901.

8 Ibid.
Confident that their efforts to obtain the lease had met with success, or perhaps to pressure the Minister to act, the directors wrote to Blair as follows, “recommending the lease.”11 They followed up this report with a personal letter to Blair urging prompt action and asking to have the required Order in Council made as soon as possible so that we can make necessary arrangements for immediate development . . . and would esteem it a favour if you would kindly have report made to Council this Friday recommending the lease.”11 They followed up this letter with a personal letter to Blair urging prompt action and asking to have the required Order in Council passed by “Friday if possible.”12

The tactic appeared to work as the Order in Council was duly passed 6 June and a copy later forwarded to Hall and Stratton. If the directors were ready to celebrate their accomplishment, they were in for a rude shock. The terms that had allegedly been discussed in person with the Minister were not reflected in the Order in Council. Early in July, the three directors penned an angry letter to the acting Minister of Railways and Canals, stating categorically, “we could not and will not under any circumstances accept a lease on the terms indicated in the Order in Council because it is not drawn in accordance with our understanding of the agreement we entered into . . . nor were the terms we complain of ever suggested to us prior to the granting of the Order and because the Order contains terms and conditions which are unjust, unreasonable, extremely burdensome and entirely unnecessarily in the public interest.”13 Having vented their displeasure, they then proceeded to make the desired changes which they noted in red ink on the original. To keep the pressure on the government for prompt action, they pointed out that they needed to start construction in the summer low water conditions. Their final push for action related to promises of power they had given to the proposed Cordage Company headed up by W.H. Meldrum based on the expected lease and the many shareholders – mostly farmers [and implicit in their remarks, voters] who had invested on the assurance of hydroelectric power for the plant. Having indirectly accused the Minister of acting in bad faith, they concluded by stating, “We hope that you will see your way clear to grant us the lease on the terms suggested in the draft copy of the amended Order hereto attached.”14 Again, they followed this missive with a personal letter to the minister in which they urged prompt action and virtually dictated to the government the terms of the Order in Council for a lease that was originally supposed to be let by an open, public tender. “Please wire me without fail on Saturday when you can see Hon. J.R. Stratton, Mr. Meldrum and myself early next week. I shall esteem it a great favour if you would be kind enough to rush this matter through at your earliest possible convenience.”15 Sutherland, while filling in temporarily for Blair as acting Minister of Railways and Canals, was also the Liberal party whip and, more crucial for Prime Minister Laurier, the party organizer and vote getter in Ontario.16 He no doubt recognized the importance of keeping the party’s wheels well greased and acceded to Hall’s request. On 10 July he presented a revised Order in Council for the lease. It stated in part,

The Water to be leased to be all the surplus water available at this point over and above that required for navigation or other purposes of the Canal; . . . for the water the rental to be $5 [crossed out in the original and replaced with] nil in the first year and thereafter for the balance of 42 years comprised in the first and second terms to be fixed at $1,250.00 being on the basis of an estimated minimum head of nine feet.17

The need for urgency concerned more than just possible delays in starting construction. Rumours of the untendered lease for Dam No.5 were starting to circulate in the community and predictably brought a strong public protest. A. Stevenson from the Peterborough Light and Power Company wrote to the Minister inquiring if the rumours of a sweetheart deal were true. “... as this is the dam [Dam No.5] for which the town of Peterborough applied for and for which the Department asked $4.00 per h.p., we think there must have been some misapprehension of the facts by the Department in agreeing to lease to a private party at a much lower rent then they asked the town and would like an opportunity of presenting the matter to you before any action is taken as to signing the lease.

11 Ibid, W. Stratton & R. Hall to A.G. Blair, 28 May 1901
12 Ibid., 30 May, 1901.
13 Ibid., W. Meldrum, W. Stratton and R. Hall to Hon. James Sutherland, 2 July 1901.
14 Ibid.
15 Ibid., R. Hall to J. Sutherland, 4 July 1901.
17 LAC, RG43, Vol.1298, file #373, Part 1, Order in Council submitted by Acting Minister of Railways and Canals, 10 July 1901.
... this Company [Peterborough Light and Power] is paying $5.00 per HP for water and feel that it would be an injustice were others assisted by public funds to compete with them while they still have 1,000 hp. developed and unsold.18

The workingmen of Peterborough were even more pointed in their criticism of the deal. At a meeting of the local chapter of the American Federation of Labour, the following resolution was adopted. “That this meeting of the workingmen of Peterborough having learned that the Dominion Government is being urged to grant to the Otonabee Power Company a lease of the water at No.5 Dam at a rental of $1250.00 which, if the Company’s representations are true, is equivalent to only 60 cents per horse power and knowing that a rental of $4.00 per horse power was demanded when the town were desirous of obtaining the power for the purpose of supplying manufactures locating here. That we believe that the opportunity should be given to the town to rent this power in preference to any private company at the same price so that the advantages thereof should be retained by the people. That if the said power is to be sold to any private Company that it should be sold by public tender and upon such conditions as will prevent it from being used for the benefit of any monopoly or combination.”19

The various interests opposed to the lease for the Otonabee Power Company were sufficiently mobilised to send a delegation to Ottawa in early September to meet with the Minister. As the political heat intensified, the Examiner under the editorship of J.R. Stratton entered the fray to stiffen the Department’s resolve and deflect any further criticism of the deal. The pro lease campaign began with a short column refuting an article in the Mail and Empire reporting on the delegation that met in Ottawa in opposition to the lease. The Mail and Empire article referred to the consortium as being headed up by J.R. Stratton which the Examiner claimed was false as he was “in no way connected with any syndicate that has applied for water power.” Even more disingenuous the paper claimed the Empire erred in referencing the town’s interest in developing power, noting “there has been no serious or sustained agitation respecting the development of water power by the town.”20 Having disposed of the Mail and Empire’s reporting as a “mere example of the reckless lengths the Conservative organ will go to try and injure the reputation and influence of public men politically opposed to it”, the paper then went on to defend the lease and the need for power to help fuel Peterborough’s industrial development. 21 In bold headlines, the paper led off with a clarion call to action by Minister Blair.

PETERBOROUGH’S IMPERATIVE NEED ABUNDANCE OF POWER FOR MANUFACTURING PURPOSES IMMEDIATE ACTION IS DEMANDED. In a lengthy op ed piece, the paper cast its eye into the future and foresaw a bustling industrial centre of 20,000 people, gainfully employed in factories processing the region’s vast natural resources but only if cheap, accessible hydro electricity was available. “This motive power must be developed,” thundered the editor, “it is to the material interests of every businessman, and every real estate owner and in fact every ratepayer and citizen of every class that this development should take place.”22 By offering a lease at a reasonable rate, reasoned the editor, the Otonabee Power Company could in turn offer very competitive rates to attract industry to Peterborough instead of having it locate in other centres such as Hamilton which, the paper pointed out, had recently happened. Not only would factory hands reap the benefits but contractors, bricklayers, carpenters and local merchants would benefit from the boom in construction that would follow in the wake of the operation of the power plant.

Having scaled the lofty heights of a boosterism paradise, the paper warned against the dangers of self interested parties trying to thwart the city’s rightful aspirations. The Examiner zeroed in on the two existing power companies, the Peterborough Light and Power Company and the Auburn Power Company as conspiring to prevent the lease going forward to safeguard their monopoly of power distribution in the city. In an adroit twist of logic, the paper unabashedly claimed that citizens “will not endorse any parliamentary representative who will not use his best efforts in the public interest to see that these [hydro electric] powers are not tied up in the hands of speculators and monopolists. The people want free competition and they must have it.”23 Moreover, the editorial noted, these companies were already committed to providing all existing power to current users and unable to furnish the growing demand for cheap, available power. As an example, the paper stated that the Auburn Power Company was obligated to supply all the power needs of the Canadian General Electric until such time as they had

18 Ibid., A. Stevenson to Minister of Railways and Canals, 24 July 1901.
19 Ibid.
20 Examiner 6 September 1901.
21 Ibid., September, passim.
22 Ibid.
23 Ibid.
their plant at Nassau fully operational.24 A letter by John Carnegie, president of the Auburn Company denying the claim failed to deter the Examiner from their broadsides against opponents to the lease.

Whether it was the laudatory articles in the Examiner, the pressure from the syndicate or the numerous letters from prominent manufacturers like William Hamilton and shareholders in the Cordage Company, urging the government to act, the campaign to secure an untendered lease was successful. The Otonabee Power Company prevailed. With the lease secure, the company immediately began construction of the requisite plant and installation of the electrical equipment. A detailed article in the Electrical News in December 1902 gave a detailed description of the plant. Construction proved challenging as the shoreline for the headrace and tailrace as well as foundation for the powerhouse was composed of shale that had to be blasted out. Still construction proceeded apace and by the end of 1902 the plant was up and running. Many of the components were supplied by local manufacturers. The William Hamilton Company provided three 68 inch Sampson turbines, while the Lakefield Cement Company provided concrete for the foundation and wheel wells and Canadian General Electric the electrical equipment. According to the Electrical News,

“The electrical equipment consists of one 1,200 k.w. 60 cycle 6600 volt, three phase revolving field generator operating at 200 revolutions and one 30 k.w. 125 volt multipolar exciter, both direct driven and controlled by a switchboard of the usual type with the necessary volt, ampere and watt meters and oil break switches. The voltage chosen was selected as being high enough to allow the use of line copper of a reasonable size while still being within the limits of potentials which it is possible to generate directly in the generator and thus eliminate the necessary for step up transformers.” 25 The lines crossed the river from the rear of the powerhouse and ran along the east bank of the river parallel to the Grand Trunk Railway line. The power house and adjacent manager’s residence was designed by prominent Peterborough architect, John E. Belcher.

Indicative of the company’s success, they supplied power to the William Hamilton Company, the Mathews Packing Plant, the Ultramotor Sifer Company, the Hicks Manufacturing Company, W.H. Meldrum’s elevator and the Colonial Typewriter Company. The company directors were listed as William Ferguson as president, W.A. Stratton as solicitor and first vice president, Adam Hall second vice president, R.R. Hall as treasurer and W.H. Meldrum managing director.

The article concluded by observing the “the harnessing of this magnificent water power has been carried out under the direction and personal supervision of Mr. Meldrum who may feel justly proud of the successful installation of this splendid plant.” When handing out accolades, the Electrical News could just as easily have included those who led the intense, controversial and politically challenging task of securing an untendered lease for this lucrative project.

Postscript

While the unrelenting challenge of securing the lease and building and operating the plant by the Otonabee Power Company is a story in itself, it does seem incomplete without bringing the tale to its conclusion. What happened to the plant that no longer graces the western bank of the Otonabee River opposite lock 22? The Otonabee Power Company was purchased by the Electrical Power Company which later emerged as a major player in the power business in eastern Ontario. Beginning with the Seymour Power and Electric Company near Trenton, J.G.G Kerry, the company principal, bought out many of the small, municipal power companies and created a powerful monopoly that was to challenge Ontario Hydro for mastery in the generation and distribution of electricity. After much political wrangling, the Electrical Power Company was acquired by the Ontario Hydro Electric Power Commission (HEPC). The flagship of the public ownership movement created by the Ontario Government under Premier J. P. Whitney, the HEPC continued to operate the plant of the Otonabee Power Company. In 1924 the HEPC carried out repairs to the power house and sluices for which they got a reduction in the rental rates charged by the Trent Canal.26 However, by the late 1920s the forebay and tailrace were deteriorated past any viable repair and the entire complex was removed when the new concrete dam for Lock 22 was construction in 1934. In an ironic twist, a new power plant, Trent Rapids, was recently built not far from the location of the original Otonabee Power Company plant. It too had its share of public complaint, though in this case on environmental grounds.

Secretary HEPC to Superintendent Trent Canal, 30 January 1925.

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24 Ibid.
25 Electrical News December 1902, p.204.
26 LAC, RG43, Vol.1298, file 1298 Part 2, W. Pope,
Progress of 45 Years Seen In New Building

[The Cox Building, home of the Toronto Savings and Loan Company, George at Brock, south west corner]

TRANSFORMATION OF OLD BUILDING IS MOST COMPLETE: EVERY DETAIL SHOWS LATEST IDEA OF MODERN OFFICE

The business of the Toronto Savings and Loan Company flowed quietly back this morning into its new and sumptuous offices in the old premises on George street that have witnessed its sound and steady progress for forty-five years.

Of the old familiar surroundings, to which not only the staff but also the general public had been so long accustomed, nothing remained, probably not even the street number. The transformation effected during the last six months of rebuilding and enlargement was complete, and every detail of both the exterior and interior presents the latest ideas of modern office efficiency and beauty. It is altogether an architectural symphony of marble and bronze and walnut, achieving a warm and harmonious atmosphere of subdued elegance pervading the spacious business scene.

And the business aspect is obviously predominant, especially after the first aesthetic reaction to the persuasive art of the decorative features has passed.

Security a Feature.

The Toronto Savings and Loan Company has not only modernized and enlarged its offices to accommodate the increasing number of its accounts and investors, but it has also provided every possible convenience and security for the benefit of its customers, particularly in the installation of a new safety deposit vault of the latest time-locking design.

In their exterior appearance the new offices of the Toronto Savings and Loan Company contribute a most distinctive and attractive addition to the business section of Peterborough. In the extensive improvements that have been going forward since last summer the entire front of the building to the height of the first storey was removed and a new front of modern bank building design was constructed. It is faced with selected Indiana limestone, with a base of Ebonridge granite, supporting a row of stone pilasters, capped with a stone cornice. The entrance doors and the signs above them are carried out in bronze. The window sashes are of steel glazed with plate glass, and the transoms are of a special lens glass which projects the light into the office.

Interior is Spacious

The interior has been completely remodeled, a brick dividing wall having been removed and replaced by steel columns and beams thus throwing the whole space into one large room. Tall broad windows in both the front and rear walls flood the entire office with a maximum amount of daylight.

The banking room has been completely rearranged. A pair of wide bronze doors lead into an entrance vestibule, the walls of which are lined with "Loredo Chiaro", and the base and door trim is of "Black and Gold", both of which are beautifully veined Italian marbles, highly polished. The floor is of variegated Tennessee marble in large squares with border.

Through walnut doors, fitted with plate glass, the main banking room is entered. Directly inside the door and also to the right is a wide space for the public. It is furnished with convenient cheque desks for customers. These desks are of bronze and marble, with three-quarter inch transparent glass tops, giving a view of the cheque compartments below.

Two Cages For Tellers

The walls and floors are covered with the same marbles that are used in the vestibule. To the right of the public space are grouped the tellers' cages and bookkeepers' desks, so arranged that every facility is afforded to serve the customer in the most expeditious and efficient manner. The counter is faced and the top is covered with carefully matched marbles, especially selected for their rich veining, and is topped with a solid bronze screen, glazed with Imperial Prism Pressed Glass of brilliant lustre. The two tellers' cages are also made of solid bronze, and glazed with a similar glass. The cages are fitted with commodious counters, having the necessary tills, and the tops of these counters are covered with battleship linoleum, and heavy black glass deal plates.

Office of Managing Director

On the left as one enters from the vestibule is a handsome walnut door trimmed with "black and gold" marble, and capped with a graceful pediment, leading into the office of Mr. W. G. Morrow, the Managing Director of the company. This office is not yet completed, but is being fitted with walnut paneling to match the other work, and will shortly be ready for occupancy.

At the farther end of the customers' space are two private offices which are wainscoted with matching walnut paneling, the first of which is assigned to Mr. H. W. Morphet, and the second to Mr. G. H. Thompson. These offices are furnished in walnut; they are of the open office type, have all the latest conveniences in the way of private telephones and buzzer systems, and are readily accessible to the public through gates in the counters.

Safety Deposit Vault

One feature of their service to the public which the company has especially emphasized in the planning of their new quarters is that which they give to their customers desiring safety deposit box accommodation. Ready access is given to the customers' vault from the public space through a swing gate. The vault proper is heavily constructed and lined with steel, the vault door is of the latest and most modern design, weighing more than three tons, with an outer door of hardened steel 2½ inches thick, heavy boltwork, eccentric pressure bar, scroll crane hinge, combination locks and time locks, the latter preventing the door from being opened except at specific times. It is fitted with a polished steel day gate, which is kept locked when the vault door proper is standing open. The front portion of the vault is equipped with 125 safety deposit boxes, varying in size from the smallest, suitable for the man with a few bonds to put away, to the largest, which are of ample capacity to contain the family silver, or more bulky valuables. To one side of the vault is the customers' room, furnished with table and chairs, for the convenience of customers who want to clip their coupons, or look over their valuables. The back part of the vault is cut off by a heavy steel grille and gate, and is used by the company for their own safe, which is one of the latest burglar-proof types.

Next the main vault is another which is used for storage for the company's documents and books, and is fitted up in a most commodious manner with pigeon holes, counters and drawers, so that everything has its allotted place, and can be found at a moment's notice. In addition to this another large vault is provided in the basement for storage purposes where books and documents which are not in use can be conveniently stored.

The Lighting System

The lighting effect produced by the type of electric fixtures used is particularly worthy of note. When the lights are turned on in the semi-darkness of a winter afternoon the room is illuminated with a soft brilliancy which is ideal working in, and which shows up the rich colours of the marble, bronze and walnut,
and the wall surfaces finished in flat paint stripped over with a glass which serves to bring out the delicate ornament of the plaster cornice, and the other decorative features. The lights are controlled by an electric clock which automatically turns the lights off or on at any set time, thus enabling the Bank to be kept illuminated all evening.

**Confidence in Peterborough**

In opening to-day one of the most complete and splendid financial offices in the province, the Toronto Savings and Loan Company has eloquently proclaimed its confidence in the future prosperity and growth of Peterborough and the district of which it is the business centre. Recent important capital investments in this city have really been an infusion from outside sources: but the Toronto Savings and Loan Company’s expenditure and expansion is essentially local and is a most encouraging evidence of the community’s faith in itself. Every new factory locating here, every new branch warehouse that is built here, swelling the tide of business, all add to the sinew of Peterborough and indicate the estimate which others have formed of our potential developments. But, it is even more heartening when an old associate like the Toronto Savings and Loan Company presents such substantial proof of its own success and its larger hopes.

**Formed by Senator Cox**

The company and the community have come a long way together. In the early eighties the present Toronto Savings and Loan Company was born of the enterprise and vision of the late Senator George A. Cox. He was the first president. The late Richard Hall and J. R. Dundas of Lindsay were the first vice-presidents and among those associated with them were Robert Jaffray of Toronto, F. C. Ferris of Campbellford and others.

Senator Cox was succeeded in the presidency of the company by his son, Edward C. Cox, and upon his death his younger brother Herbert C. Cox assumed position, continuing the family connection down to the present day. Mr. W. G. Morrow grew up in close contact with the business, and for years as managing director in Peterborough he has guided its affairs along the path of success in the early eighties the present Toronto Savings and Loan Company was born of the enterprise and vision of the late Senator George A. Cox. He was the first president. The late Richard Hall and J. R. Dundas of Lindsay were the first vice-presidents and among those associated with them were Robert Jaffray of Toronto, F. C. Ferris of Campbellford and others.

The new chapter of the company’s history which began to-day should be even more interesting and more expansive than the old one that closes upon the memory of the former offices and their associations with a fading past. For, the Toronto Savings and Loan Company has been a long time integral factor in Peterborough’s affairs. And in the years to come it is hoped that the Company and the city will continue to share in the sound and substantial progress which both have accomplished in the period of which the company’s old offices were somewhat of a symbol.

**Architects and Contractors**

The work was carried out from plans and specifications prepared by W. & W.R.L. Blackwell, architects, and was done under their superintendence.

The general contract work was carried out in an efficient manner by the company’s own contractor, Mr. Harold Fry and the contracts for the various trades were let as far as possible to local firms. The marble work, which is such an important feature of the decorative scheme was carried out by the Ontario Marble Co. Mr. H. J. Sherwood set the granite and cut stone work. Mr. J. A. Wolstenholm carried out the plastering contract, the Peterborough Lumber Co. and the McDonald Lumber Co. supplied the various parts of the interior finish work. The General Electric Co. through their subsidiary, the Architectural Bronze and Iron Works, supplied the steel; the Peterborough Hardware carried out the glazing contract; the Peterborough Lock Mfg. Co. supplied the hardware; Messrs. Archibald & Richmond were the plumbing contractors, and Messrs. Adamson and Dobbin the heating contractors, while Miller, Powell and Co. provided the wiring system, and electric fixtures; and J. J. Turner & Sons did the window lettering.

Among the out of town contractors who supplied materials were the following: Dinnistel Ltd. London, who supplied the bronze work; W. E. Dillon Ltd., Toronto, who supplied the kalamein bronze work; the Standard Stone Co., of Windsor, who supplied the cut stone; the Thomson Monument Co. of Toronto, who supplied the granite work; the Canadian Office and School Furniture Co. who supplied the banking room fittings and furniture; the J. J. Taylor Co. of Toronto who supplied the vault work; and the Cresswell-Pomeroy Co. who supplied the window shades; and Balmer & Blakeley of Toronto, who supplied the decorative plaster work.

All the contractors deserve great credit for the way in which their respective parts of the work were carried out.

**The Board of Directors**

The following are the Directors of the Company:

- HERBERT G. COX, Esq., Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Canada Life Assurance Company, President.
- W. G. MORROW, Esq., President of the Peterborough Lock Manufacturing Company, Vice-President.
- LEIGHTON McCARTHY, K. C., President of the Canada Life Assurance Co. – Vice-President.
- E. R. WOOD, Esq., President of the Central Canada Loan and Savings Company, Toronto.
- G. A. MORROW, Esq., President of the Imperial Life Assurance Company, Toronto.
- E. T. MALONE, K. C. Vice-President Imperial Life Assurance Company, Toronto.
- J. A. McLEOD, Esq., General Manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Toronto.
- W. E. RUNDLE, Esq., General Manager of the National Trust Co., Toronto.
- A. H. COX, Esq., President of the Provident Investment Co., Toronto.
- -30-
Memories of Christmas Day in the Backwoods [1853]

*Catharine Parr Traill*

When I first came to Canada, I was much surprised at the cold indifference which most people showed in their observance of Christmas day – with the exception of the then few residing English families, the church was scantily attended. For in those days there was no dressing of the houses or churches with evergreens as is now so generally the custom, (Long may it continue); and I missed the heart-felt cordiality that seems on that sacred day of Christian gladness to overflow all hearts, and break out into smiles of loving kindness to the poorest and least cared for of our fellow creatures. There be many – who with a scoffing eye look upon the decoration of our hearths and altars n that day, and loudly condemn it as a rag of Romanism. But are we really better Christians for casting aside all those old customs that tended to hold us in the bond of unity and Christian love? I cannot but think that this old custom had its origin in the palm of the trees, and strewed them in the way, over the mantel piece, and above the pictures of our lake, was killed for the occasion; turkeys were only to be met with, even though we had to seek it through the heart of the forest, along which no better vehicle than an ox sleigh could make any progress without the continual chance of an overturn. We bush-settlers were brave folks then, and thankfully enjoyed every pleasure we could meet with, though we had to seek it through bower of snow-laden hemlocks and dark spruce, which shut us out from the cold wind, like a good fur-lined cloak.

I remember one Christmas day in the Bush. It was the year after the memorable rebellion in Canada; my brother-in-law had been appointed to a company in the Provincial Battalion then stationed in Toronto; my sister who had remained behind with her infant family was alone, and we were anxious that she should spend this day with us, and that it might look more like an English Christmas day. I despatched Martin, the boy, and old Malachi, the hired man, to bring a sleigh load of evergreens, from the swamp to dress the house with, but when all our green garlands were put up, we missed the bright varnished holly and its gay joy-inspiring red berries, and my English maid Hannah, who was greatly interested in all our decorations, remembered that there were high-bush cranberries, at the lake shore, and winter green in the swamp, but these last were deep beneath a covering of two or three feet of snow. With the red transparent berries of the cranberry we were obliged therefore to content ourselves, and little Katie brought her string of coral beads and bade me twist it among the green mistletoe boughs, clapping her hands for joy when she saw it twined into the Christmas wreath.

Then we sent off the ox sleigh for my sister, and her little ones, for be it known to you, my reader, that our settlement in those days was almost the Ultima Thule of civilization, and our roads were no roads, only wide openings chopped through the heart of the forest, along which no other vehicle than an ox sleigh could make any progress without the continual chance of an overturn. We bush-settlers were brave folks then, and thankfully enjoyed every pleasure we could meet with, even though we had to seek it through}

...
frozen heap did James and Kate with their playmates glide and roll. It was a Christmas treat to watch those joyous faces, buoyant with mirth, and brightened by the keen air, through the frosty panes; and often was the graver converse of the parents interrupted by the merry shout and gleesome voices of their little ones; and if a sadder train of thought brought back the memory of former days, and home, country and friends, from whom we were for ever parted; such sadness was not without its benefit, linking us in spirit to that home, and all that made it precious to our hearts; for we knew on that day our vacant places would be eyed with tender regret, and “some kind voice would murmur, ‘Ah would they were here.”’

That night unwilling to part too soon, I accompanied my sister and her little ones home. Just as we were issuing forth for our moonlight drive through the woods, our ears were saluted by a merry peal of sleigh bells, and a loud hurrah greeted our homely turn-out, as a party of lively boys and girls, crammed into a smart painted cutter, rushed past at full speed. They were returning from a Christmas merry-making at a neighbour’s house, where they too9 had been enjoying a happy Christmas; and long the still woods echoed with the gay tones of their voices, and the clear jingle of their merry bells, as a bend in the river-road, brought them back on the night breeze to our ears...

Santa Claus Parade Attracts Big Crowd.

*Peterborough Examiner, December 7, 1939*

Despite the uncertain weather Friday evening, the rain that had been falling intermittently all day held off long enough to allow the Santa Claus parade to be staged without any undue dampness (no pun intended). The parade was a big one, and the crowd that turned out to see it was the largest on record - bar none.

Santa Claus was officially welcomed at the C.P.R station by Aldermen Cotton, Glover and Bradburn, Mayor Hamilton being out of town. Santa was escorted to a waiting float, and headed by a police motorcycle escort and Fire Chief’s Gimblett’s car, with Deputy Chief George Smith, the parade proceeded along George street to King street, up Aylmer to Charlotte and thence by Charlotte, George and Murray streets to Victoria Park.

The band of the Prince of Wales Rangers, the Lions’ Boys’ Band, and the Peterborough Brass Band enlivened the parade with plenty of music as it made its way along the streets lined with dense crowds of spectators.

The floats in the parade included a fire truck loaded with toys rebuilt by members of the fire department brigade, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, contributed by the A.Y.P.A, the Peterborough Canoe Company float with a display of skis, the Richard Hall Company float with military figures, a representative Canadian General Electric Co. float and other handsomely and appropriately decorated floats by H.R Scott, lumber; Campbell’s Dairy, Dick Raine’s Magazines, Canada Packers, Sanitary Ice, Business Men’s Association. Moncrief’s Dairy ponies, and two or three entertainment groups made up the balance of the parade.

At Victoria Park Dick Lush presided as master of ceremonies. Alderman Glover, representing Mayor Hamilton, welcomed Santa Claus and congratulated the Business Men’s Association on the success of the parade. Santa Claus then addressed the crowd, and said he had come a long, long way. He could not use his reindeer, so had traveled by plane and train so that he could arrive here in time, he said, and asked the children to write and tell him what they wanted for Christmas.

Alex Elliott, MPP said he hoped every boy and girl would have a happy Christmas and reminded them that Santa Claus would be found in the Peterborough stores during the Christmas season. Al. Sharpe, president of the Business Men’s Association expressed appreciation of such a wonderful turnout on a rather bad night and said he hoped Santa would be good to everyone.

After 21 years of service in Lakefield, Selwyn and Peterborough county, Mary Smith did not run for re-election. We congratulate her on her leadership over the years, and wish her all the best in retirement. We expect here to play a significant role in the promotion of ideas and events in 2025 to mark the 200th anniversary of the Peter Robinson Settlers coming to Peterborough.
Research tip for historians and genealogists: Researching the Trent Severn Waterway

Dennis Carter-Edwards

The Trent Severn Waterway has an impressive archival resource that documents the construction and maintenance of this navigational route from Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay for over 175 years. However, personnel records on the men and women who worked here are much more difficult to come by. Individual personal files would normally be forwarded to Ottawa for pension calculation and then disposed.

Apart from local histories that may reference canal staff at a specific location, or the occasional newspaper article reporting the drowning or other misfortune of a canal staff, a comprehensive list of the various lockmasters, bridge keepers, dam keepers and light keepers is not available.

Fortunately, two separate archival sources can be combined to yield some information on personnel at the various lock stations. The first is the Auditor General’s Report for the year 1923-1924 Part W, pp.80-83 which contain a listing of the “Trent Canal Staff” both administrative and operational and their annual salaries and any bonuses they received. Only the surname and initials for first names are recorded but the station where each person was located is included. The lock stations are identified only by number. The naming of lock stations which is currently in use wasn’t adopted until around 1974, just after the Waterway was transferred from Department of Transport to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

The second key source is a ledger of canal employees for the year 1935 currently housed at the Trent Severn Waterway. This document lists the surname and first initials of operational and administrative staff along with their birth date, ethnic background, date of employment and any service during WWI along with their pension number. It also lists the position, such as lock master, bridge keeper, dam keeper, lift lock operator or marine railway operator but without noting which particular station they were based at.

However, by combining the two sources, it is possible to make some tentative statements about canal staff at various locations along the waterway. A few caveats are required before undertaking such an analysis. The first and most obvious is the potential for staff to move or be reassigned to a different lock site. The date of appointment does not necessarily imply that the individual was at a specific station, although this was usually the case. No definitive conclusions can be drawn for the tentative list of lockmasters and their associated stations.

Secondly, the list contained in the Auditor General’s report, does not include staff for the last set of locks that were built on the Severn River section, such as Couchiching, Port Severn and Big Chute. There is no explanation given why they were not included.

The report by the Auditor General cites numerous instances of two staff at a particular lock station. During this period, locks were kept in operation seven days a week, twenty four hours a day throughout the operating season. In winter, lock staff would be responsible when required to adjust the stoplogs at the dam to control water levels and flow. For this reason, staff were provided with accommodation at the station. The dwellings provided for the lock master and his family were of a standard design and provided as part of the financial compensation for the job.

In cases where two lock staff are noted, it is unclear if both resided in the same dwelling, had separate dwellings, although from the surviving records, this seems very unlikely or the junior member lived nearby. While in most cases, the names and spelling are identical in the two separate lists, there are a few discrepancies, such as Nichols and Nicholes. In other instances, the 1923/24 list has in some cases only the initial of the first name while the 1935 list has additional initials for first names. It is a reasonable assumption that the names refer to the same individual. Finally, it should be noted that
the given birthdates in the 1935 report, contain numerous pencil notations questioning or changing the actual date of birth.

Nevertheless, even with these qualifiers, these sources provide important clues to tracking the various lock masters, bridge and dam keepers and other operational staff employed along the Trent Canal. For those doing family research on potential canal ancestors, it offers a ray of hope in what is a rather bleak archival landscape. Equally important, is the reference to military service noted in the 1935 records.

Hiring preference was given to veterans after the war. This opens the possibility of tracing an ancestor’s military service through the Attestation Papers which are available on line through the Library and Archives website. A few examples will illustrate how helpful this can be. P.L. Knox is listed as the lock master at No.3 Glen Miller in the published Auditor General’s report. The 1935 ledger lists him as a lock master born 17 October 1888 who was appointed 9 June 1919. The attestation papers for a Percy Lorne Knox from Sterling, Ontario has his birth date as 7 October 1888 who enlisted 6 September 1915. He was married to Alice Elizabeth and lists his occupation as a printer. Another example illustrates the utility of these records. M. LaFrance was listed in 1923-24 as the lock master at No.1 Trenton. The 1935 record states he was born 18 August 1878 and appointed 21 July 1918. He served in France during the war. His attestation paper records his birthday as 18 August 1878. He is a painter by trade with a wife, Elizabeth living in Trenton. He lists his place of birth as Collingwood Ontario and yet states he served with the 79th Battalion, St. John Quebec. Some names are more difficult to link to an attestation paper. S. Smith was the lock master at No.6 Frankford. There are over 7,000 entries for Smith in the Attestation papers – a much more challenging task!

Further analysis could be done using these records to examine the ethnic makeup of the canal staff for example or to look at hiring practices around election dates.

Though by no means complete, the combination of these two sources, allows for some insight into the staff who kept the canal running in the early part of the 20th century.

A Night at the Archives

Trent Valley Archives is holding a special event to welcome new members. The theme of the evening will be Dr. Elwood Jones’ Show & Tell: “Why I Love Archives.” It is being held on Monday February 18 and Wednesday February 20 7 to 9 pm. There will be door prizes and gifts for everyone.

Elwood had his first archival adventures 55 years ago and in one way or another has been working with archives. Some of this has been as an historian at Trent University, 1969-2006, during which time he was researching in archives in Ottawa, Philadelphia, Richmond and London. He was hired by the Public Archives of Canada (now known as Library and Archives Canada) in September 1964.

Since 2000 he has been the editor of the Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley, one of Ontario’s best historical magazines. He is also a Saturday columnist with the Peterborough Examiner since February 2007.

If you are interested in this event, call Trent Valley Archives at 705-745-4404. Even if spaces are not available, a waiting list for a future repeat will be kept.
Queries

Dating a photo

This excellent professional photo was taken at the Peterborough Examiner. Allan Dunn, of Allan Dunn Appliances, said his father was the salesman in this photo. His question was whether there was a connection between Comstock’s Furniture Store, which had been connected with the Comstock Funeral Home, and Grant & Loucks.

Grant & Loucks was a firm at 418 George Street North that supplied electrical servicing and electrical hardware and supplies. The store at 418 had been an electrical supply store since 1920. By 1925, Grant & Thorpe, with branches in Peterborough and downtown Toronto, was there. After the death of Thorpe, the new firm continued there. By 1953, this location was the home of Peterborough Electric Company.

Clearly, this photo has to precede 1953. Both Comstock’s and Grant & Loucks were approved dealers for Hoover vacuum cleaners.

The building at Brock and Aylmer has housed Allan Dunn’s vacuum and appliances business since 1983. However, the business began with his father, also named Allan. In the 1950s, the senior Dunn was a manager at the new Simpson’s Sears store at Lansdowne and Monaghan. In the next two years he was a serviceman operating from his home, but became a storefront business by 1958, when he was at 344 Water Street. He moved to 95 Hunter Street West from 1959 to 1962, when the city expropriated his business to create a parkette at the corner of Queen Street. The business moved to 159 Sherbrooke from 1975 to 1983; the building disappeared in the expansion of Canadian Tire at this site. Since 1983, the business has been at 223 Brock.

The picture also precedes Allan Dunn’s appointment as appliances manager at Simpson-Sears. This suggests he was working for either Comstock’s or Grant & Loucks.
Webber Murder follow-up

I was very interested to read your follow-up to the newspaper articles on the death of my Great grand parents John and Dora Webber.

As you say, ‘many puzzles remain’, but by collecting and relaying the facts we can possibly try and piece together things, if only for ourselves.

If you have any further information, or photographs of the couple or family I would love to have copies. My mother, Dorothy Alexandra Cross, was the youngest child of Mary Elizabeth Webber, John and Dora’s eldest child who was born in USA. Their youngest daughter, Alma May Webber, stayed with them in Longueuil, Quebec, and was like a big sister to mum. There were baptised in Longueuil on the same day, into the Methodist church. The family had been Methodists in Devon, England before emigrating.

Thanks again for your article.
David P. Howat.

Gladstone Avenue

We had a query about the location of Peterborough’s Gladstone Avenue. The street used to run parallel to Lansdowne one block north, extending from Lock to Haggert Street. It turns out that the street was renamed Princess Street, a street that originally ran from Park to Lock. Only the name was changed; the house numbers remained as they had been. The street is not in line with the former Princess Street, and so it is not clear why the name was changed.

Delicious Mirth: James McCarroll

Michael Peterman was a long-time professor of English Literature at Trent University, and is well-known for his research books on Trent Valley literary stars such as Catharine Parr Traill, Susannah Moodie, and Robertson Davies. For a long time he has been researching the varied career of James McCarroll whose career took him from Ireland to New York City, and he was a significant presence in the Peterborough of the 1830s and 1840s.

James McCarroll (1814-1892) was a talented Irish poet, journalist, humorist, musician, and arts critic who left his mark on nineteenth-century Canada by seemingly engaging with anything topical in every medium. Often writing anonymously or under pseudonyms, McCarroll's best-known nom de plume was "Terry Finnegan," who wrote weekly comic letters to his "cousin" Thomas D'Arcy McGee, offering advice on political and social matters. Yet, since his death, McCarroll's contributions to early Canadian writing and culture have largely been forgotten.

Making a case for the recuperation of Canada's lost Irish voice, Delicious Mirth seeks to gather and contextualize the extant fragments of this outspoken and flamboyant entertainer and commentator. Adept in the rich excesses of the Paddy brogue, McCarroll spoke for his beloved but broken country and sought to bring the Irish legacy of expansive prose and lyric poetry to Canada. Following the fluctuations of his personal hope, ambition, and talent through the years, Michael Peterman maps McCarroll's responses to the main events of the late nineteenth century such as Irish emigration, the settlement and growth of Upper Canada, the extension of the railway network, little magazine culture, reform politics and responsible government, the spiritualist movement, nascent Canadian theatre, classical and Celtic folk music, the US Civil War, Confederation, and most notably the Fenian movement, in which he became involved. His travels took him to many places, in particular Peterborough, Cobourg, Niagara Falls, Toronto, Buffalo, and New York City.

Revealing a man of immense creative energy and cultural significance who has been lost to Canadian literary historians for over a hundred years, Delicious Mirth shows that McCarroll's life and works are outstanding achievements and deserve fresh attention today.

This book, $39.95, will be launched Wednesday, February 27 at Bagnani Hall, Traill College at 7:30 pm at an event sponsored by Traill College and the Peterborough Historical Society. Everyone welcome.
St. John’s Rectory
[Ed. Note: There was a proposal to demolish the rectory at St. John’s Anglican Church, Peterborough in order to improve parking arrangements at the church. These were my comments on the importance of the rectory.]

The Rectory is a symbol of the church’s commitment to the community and to the parish. For its first 80 years, St. John’s did not have a rectory; the Rector supplied his own housing, usually with the idea that the Rectory Act of 1836 had provided the means for the minister to supplement his income either by farming or renting acreage set aside for the support of the minister. The other possibility was that anyone called to be an Anglican minister must be independently wealthy, or from a rich family.

Nonetheless, the bishops, usually every three years, harangued the congregation on its obligation to provide a rectory for the minister. When the Rev. J. C. Davidson became the rector in 1889, there was more urgency to meet the need, and the parish paid for his house, which was on Hunter Street by the Hunter Street bridge. Concerted efforts were made beginning in 1903 to build a rectory, and the site chose was the double lot at the corner of Sheridan and Brock. This decision was complicated because Davidson had been collecting rent there, and the congregation compensated him for that alleged loss of income. And the congregation built the rectory. The architect was John Belcher, who had been the architect for the major changes made at the church in 1878, 1882, 1890 and 1907, and for whom a special window was dedicated in the upper vestry. The contractor was A. A. McIntyre, later a Peterborough mayor, and the handsome and commodious rectory was built in 1908 and 1909, recent reports in the press notwithstanding.

The rectory was outstanding when built and was well-maintained throughout the years. The rectory was converted to two units in 1943 because Archdeacon Davidson thought it was too large and resented paying the heating bills. The legend was that the house was built to be an episcopal palace, and there was since 1875 an expectation that an additional diocese would be carved out of the Diocese of Toronto (as had been done for Huron, Ontario and Niagara).

W. R. L. Blackwell, a member of the congregation, was the architect for the changes, and financing was made possible through the Charlotte Dickson estate. The hope was that the rent on the apartment that was created would offset the costs. In the long run, the apartment has been steadily occupied and was used to house curates, sextons and a sexton’s widow, and others.

When the Churchill Apartments were built, the city had made a condition that the rectory would be removed to meet their requirements for green space tied to major projects. My personal connection with the rectory dates from this point.

Canon Clough approached me when I was newly appointed as the junior churchwarden in 1974. He said the Glebe Committee forced him to sign the agreement and it was making him sick. He loved the rectory and did not want it demolished. Over the next few years, largely aided by the Rev. William Moore, the rectory was saved. The city agreed that with Victoria Park and the front lawn of the church, there need for green space was met. However, St. John’s had to set out a forty-foot strip parallel with the Churchill Apartments on which no buildings would be constructed. As well, Bill and Ann Moore set up within the parish’s new Endowment Fund (probably the smartest single move by the congregation in my lifetime) a fund of $20,000 for a rectory maintenance fund, meant to be permanent and replenished.

The bigger world picture changed the logic of the Rectory as a place for ministers. The driving factor was the decision in World War II by the American
federal government to provide housing for chaplains by the use of income tax; chaplains could claim on taxes whatever the government had paid for their housing. This double-dipping became the model for churches, many of which had fought long for the separation of church and state, and Canada by the 1970s followed suit on most aspects of the use of the income tax refunds to promote government policies. However, the Rectory was and remains one of Peterborough’s major heritage buildings.

- The building has been used to support non-profit social agencies.
- The connection with John Belcher is outstanding, and the link with Blackwell is important.
- The site is a commanding landmark location.
- The building has never been neglected.
- It can be adapted for a wide range of uses. It seems to me that it would be ideal for offices, perhaps in connection with the Diocese of Toronto (even if not for a bishop’s residence). It could be used for church offices and facilities, as well.
- Peterborough has long considered it to be a major heritage site.

The minister was known earlier as Missionary and later as Rector, and now more recently as Incumbent.

Hxeritxge

The ReFrame Film Festival, in its fifteenth year, was a great success again. Held during the last weekend in January it featured an amazing range of films. One of these was a short film produced by Madison More and sponsored by Trent Valley Archives and the students at Trent University.

Trent Valley Archives is pleased to sponsor Hxeritxge in this year’s ReFrame Festival. The film was totally created by Madison More, who is a summer film archivist at TVA and spent considerable time cataloguing, processing and preserving our various film collections. This film was produced for a class at Trent University [Prof Kelly Egan in Experimental Film] using some of our film, a video featuring Martha Ann Kidd, Peterborough’s noted architectural historian and 8mm film which she found at auction, and of course film she shot. The film questions important issues facing our city and its changing urban landscape today, and the way the growth of the city affects our heritage architecture. This is quite timely as the City Council is receiving a report on 411 heritage properties at its next meeting, two days from now. Trent Valley Archives is always pleased to see how researchers develop ideas inspired by what they encounter in our archives. Today it is in this ambitious film.

Peterborough City Council Received the Heritage List

665 Bethune Street
665 Bethune Street was constructed around 1887 for David Breeze who co-owned the tinsmithing company, Breeze and Jones. Breeze acquired the property from David Dumble in 1886 and was living in the new house soon after. It is of red brick construction and has a number of unique features including the mock half-timbering in the gable end, the basket weave brick pattern between the first and second storeys and the semi-octagonal dormer on the north elevation.

Heritage attributes: Two-and-a-half storey red brick construction; gable roof; semi-octagonal dormer with shingles; mock half timbering; entrance porch; entrance with transom; porthole window above entrance and shingles; basket weave brickwork; tripartite window on east elevation; fenestration; foundation.

This is a good example of the details provided in the heritage listing taken to Peterborough’s City Council on January 28, 2019. Some of the research for this particular entry was done at Trent Valley Archives, mainly by Shelagh Neck.

10 Gzowski Way - Trent ArchaeologyCentre
The Trent Archaeology Centre is comprised of three connected log buildings. Log structures of these types were typically the first types of buildings constructed during early settlement, later to be replaced with more substantial dwellings and
outbuildings. As such, log buildings of this type are rare in Peterborough. These buildings are located on land originally owned by Irish immigrant Edmund Chamberlain.

**Heritage attributes:** One-storey log construction; dovetail corners; chinking; gable roofs; boards in gable ends; fenestration; entrances.

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580 Gilmour Street
580 Gilmour Street was constructed in the late 1880s for R.E. Wood, a local barrister. The house is an excellent example of late nineteenth century Italianate house. Constructed in buff brick, it features a front ay and gable with ornate wooden details, rackets and a verandah with a unique band hell corner.

**Heritage attributes:** Two-storey buff brick construction; hipped roof; chimneys; rusticated quoins; wrap around verandah with band shell corner; pediment; brackets; wide eaves; bay; gable with return eaves; decorative woodwork; decorative brickwork; fenestration; entrance with double doors; rounded windows.

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626 Bethune Street
626 Bethune Street was constructed in the late 1870s. It is a good example of a mid-Victorian vernacular dwelling with a gable roof and it retains many of its original features. These include buff brick quoins and voussoirs and the verandah across the front of the house.

**Heritage attributes:** Red brick cladding; buff brick radiating voussoirs; rusticated buff brick quoins; round upper storey windows; offset entrance; verandah with decorative woodwork; gable roof; shutters; fenestration.

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A series of 411 properties could be added to the city's heritage register on Monday — and if they are added, owners who want to raze any of the buildings will have to wait 60 days to get a demolition permit.

The idea is to give city council a chance to weigh in and potentially protect a heritage building from the wrecking ball.

It's not the same as a heritage designation, which means a building can't be torn down.

The heritage registry — which already has more than 100 properties in Peterborough, states a staff report — obliges owners to wait 60 days for a demolition permit.

Erik Hanson explained that Council would now be able to ask heritage to move on to designating many of these properties.

Concern was raised when earlier in January the developer began demolishing St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church. Because the building, of clear heritage significance, was not listed the city issued the demolition permit quite quickly.

One advantage of listing is that demolition permits would have to wait 60 days before demolition began.

Back around 1970 my sister berated me for living in towns that lacked the excitement of New York, London and Paris. Two days later, the Saskatoon Star Phoenix ran a page one story that claimed with a little effort Saskatoon could be the prettiest place west of Peterborough. Her opinion of me changed; she thought I must have had great influence with the editors.

Since 1970, Peterborough turned the corner, and heritage became more important than parking lots. The
demolition of the Cluxton Building at George and Hunter was distressing, but it sparked resolve locally to protect buildings with character that had long defined the downtown. With the 1975 Ontario Heritage Act, Peterborough, under the leadership of Martha Ann Kidd, was one of the first communities to create a Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, known here as PACAC. One of the first creative moves came when the city developed the 1974 Official Plan and included an appendix that included a list of historically significant buildings, defined then primarily as pre-1890 construction. That list grew into two important publications by Martha Kidd, and the development of two printed maps outlining the historic landmarks of the downtown between Hutchison House Museum, which opened in 1974, and the Market Hall, built in 1889.

Peterborough’s downtown has thrived in many ways because of the development of a strong arts, culture and music scene driven by former Trent University students who fell in love with Peterborough.

I am really pleased that PACAC and the Heritage Office have developed a new list of 411 properties throughout the city that deserve commendation. The list celebrates the building trades that made these properties solid and interesting and with vernacular features. It is also a tribute to the fine architects that worked here: Belcher, Blackwell, Craig, Zeidler, Lett, Trevalyan and others that worked here. More important it is a signal to property owners that their places are valued by the community, and to heritage and tourism groups that we have a fantastic city with outstanding streetscapes, some of national significance.

I trust and hope that Council will endorse this initiative and move on to further steps to ensure a future for our outstanding town, the best looking place west of Saskatoon.

This is a welcome development. Ever since the first Ontario Heritage Act was passed in 1975, Peterborough has been a leader in the promotion of heritage. Heritage buildings are worth redeveloping because of the high construction standards of high end properties. Demolitions are filling up land fill garbage sites, and the life of those sites would be expended if fewer construction materials were dumped there.

However, the major value of saving heritage buildings and sites is they are reminders and indicators of the way the community developed. The artisans and workers who created these buildings, often adding local touches and differences are best remembered by the quality of their work.

Trent Valley Archives is fortunate to have two major collections that document the heritage aspects of the community as it developed.

The Martha Ann Kidd [F90] fonds consist in large part of her interest in identifying and discussing the significance of historic buildings. She looked elsewhere for contemporary discussions of new developments in heritage. She found many of the communities that highlighted heritage and pedestrian friendly access were also attracting tourists. Heritage tourism is a key feature in modern promotion of places. It helps to have museums such as Hutchison House Museum, but the context and the ambience of heritage buildings is also a draw.

One of the charms of Peterborough’s downtown is the many historic buildings which have survived and set a comfort level. Most buildings are reasonably low, at a height of three storeys. The buildings blend with each other, because of the predominance of brick, the attention to detail in the fenestration on the upper storeys. Much of the construction material in our downtown was sourced locally. The iron pillars often have the marks of local manufacturers such as Whyte, Helm and Hamilton.

The heritage buildings set the tone for the downtown.

Martha Kidd’s major projects were particularly centred on identifying all buildings, especially in the original boundaries of the town, that predated the 1890s and were still standing in the 1970s. The main sources for researching such buildings were assessment rolls, land records, early maps, family papers and memoirs, deeds, mortgages, newspapers and work continues along similar lines.

We now have the advantages of computers and webpages which allow for a systematic compilation of information and sharing it.

Our second major heritage fonds is the Gary Townsend Fonds. In many respects this collection picks off where Martha Kidd’s stopped, and therefore allow us to extend the analysis of local built heritage.

One of the outstanding differences, though, is that the Townsend fonds has more maps and official plans. They also document the work of PACAC through the 1990s and 2000s.

There are many other collections at TVA that allow us to flesh out stories of our buildings: the Examiner and other newspapers; the Peterborough County land records; our photograph collections, and more. Visit TVA and see what is possible.

Council agrees to add 411 Peterborough properties to heritage register

News 12:58 AM 29 Jan 2019
by JOELLE KOVACH Examiner Staff Writer

A series of 411 properties are being added to the city’s heritage register, meaning owners who want to raze any of the buildings will have to wait 60 days to get a demolition permit — even though Coun. Lesley Parnell said owners weren’t given enough time to speak up.

The list of 411 properties was only released by the city on Thursday and Parnell thought it was too soon to vote on Monday.

“It is a bit of an overreaction to what’s happening at St. Paul’s (Church, which is under demolition),”

Parnell said owners weren't given enough time to get a demolition permit — even though Coun. Lesley Parnell thought it was too soon to vote on Monday.
Parnell said.

The developer who bought the structurally unsound church from the congregation last year is "reluctantly" tearing down the church in order to redevelop the property into "much-needed housing," she added.

The idea behind the register is to give city council 60 days to weigh in and potentially protect a heritage building from the wrecking ball.

It's not the same as a heritage designation, which means a building can't be torn down.

Parnell wanted to defer the addition of the 411 properties to the register on Monday, but that motion lost. Mayor Diane Therrien said she couldn't support a deferral.

"Heritage is something that's really important to this community — this is long overdue," she said.

Council later voted 8-3 to add the properties to the register; Parnell, Coun. Henry Clarke and Coun. Andrew Beamer voted against it.

Coun. Dean Pappas moved to add a further 38 downtown properties to the list of 411; these were properties that had been set aside by council in 2017, to be reconsidered when the new Official Plan is adopted.

Included among those 38 properties were buildings such as the County Court House, the Peterborough Armoury and the Commerce Building.

But Coun. Kemi Akapo said she had only just received this list of 38 further properties on Monday evening — she wasn't a councillor when it was first discussed, in 2017.

Although she said she agreed with the idea of the registry, she didn't want to vote on Monday to add properties when she had just been handed the list.

Coun. Kim Zippel, another new councillor, said she felt the same way.

The additional 38 downtown properties weren't added to the register on Monday; that will be discussed again at a meeting on Feb. 11.

Prior to the debate, at least three citizens spoke to council about it.

Ann Farquharson, a city lawyer, heritage advocate and former city councillor, urged council to act fast before more demolition permits are issued.

"With St. Paul's Church — we learned a lesson," she said.

Stewart Hamilton, the longtime chairman of the city's heritage committee, said there was "no downside" to adding the 38 downtown properties to the register immediately on Monday.

Elwood Jones, archivist at Trent Valley Archives, said creating a register serves many functions such as inspiring people's pride in their historic homes and highlighting the work of certain local architects.

"Even just having a list is important — it inspires people in different way."

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@peterboroughdaily.com

**STAN’S CENTURY**

As remembered by a home child who loved Canada

Trent Valley Archive is pleased to announce its newest publication, Stan’s Century. The heart of the book is the memoir of Stan Andrews (1912-2012), who was an assisted Barnardo child emigrant who came to Canada in 1927. He had a sponsor who guaranteed one year’s employment and who assisted Andrews in making a career farming in the Norwood area. The book contains many tributes and memories by people who knew Stan, including his two children, Bert Andrews and Ruth Dorrington. The book was initiated by Stan MacLean who interviewed Stan Andrews when he was 100.

Stan MacLean was impressed that Stan Andrews was a perfect example of the way in which child emigration schemes could work.

Stan Andrews was 15 when he emigrated and so his memories of England also were quite clear.

The book is also a tribute to the children and grandchildren of Stan Andrews.

After he retired to Peterborough, he and his new neighbours became fast friends. Stan was a painter and a poet who loved to travel.

*Stan Andrews farm in the 1950s.*

This is the sixth book in the TVA Memory Series. The series is designed for people who have stories to tell, but need help in working through the process of converting them to book. For details, contact Elwood Jones.

The book is available from Trent Valley Archives Bookshelf for $20. Also browse our many books tied to the region and its many histories.
The Brock Street Site in the Media

by Dirk Verhulst

Introduction

On three different occasions during the last sixty years, archaeological discoveries from a small parking lot on Brock Street in Peterborough, Ontario attracted widespread media attention.

The first occurred in December 1960 when a flurry of newspaper articles reported that a human skeleton had been uncovered by a City employee while digging a hole for a parking meter. That discovery made national headlines.

Thirty years later the site again received extensive media coverage. This time not only in newspapers, but also on radio and television. The focus of all this attention was a precedent-setting decision by city staff, officials and representatives of Curve Lake, the nearby First Nation, to repatriate the original remains and artifacts found in 1960.

The third media event took place in May of 2003 when the parking lot was being stabilized because of the many underground features; new archaeological discoveries, including several unanticipated surprises, once again drew attention to the Brock Street site.

“A Most Exciting Discovery”

On December 7, 1960 the front page of the Peterborough Examiner featured reports of an “important” archaeological discovery. The story included a photograph of Walter Kenyon (left), an archaeologist with the Royal Ontario Museum, ROM in Toronto, who had been brought in by city staff to examine the findings. Kenyon hailed the event as “a most exciting discovery.”

*Left: Walter Kenyon in a Brock St. pit. Below.*

Mr. Douglas Yaxley (left) and Constable Jim Leeson (right).

This edition of the Examiner also included a photograph of Douglas Yaxley, the city employee who
made the original discovery and Constable Jim Leeson who, along with Constable Jack Hayes, were among the first to visit the site.

The author of the article noted that soon after the discovery the men returned to the parking lot, gathered up the items and took them back to the police station where Deputy Chief Jack Shrub contacted the City librarian, Robert Porter. Together they agreed to call Kenyon.

According to the reporter, when Kenyon first learned of the discovery, he immediately stopped what he was working on in Toronto and departed for Peterborough. The article went on to describe Kenyon’s preliminary findings, which included: “one intact skeleton of a middle-aged male, a variety of animal bones, and an elk horn graving tool, with a beaver tooth in one end for use like a chisel...and a serrated end, possibly for scraping hides.”

On the basis of these discoveries, he speculated that City staff had stumbled upon the grave of a “chief of the Point Peninsula tribe.” He estimated the remains to be over 2,000 years old.

On the same day that the Peterborough Examiner article was published, the Toronto Globe and Mail broke the story nationally. In the Globe and Mail article Kenyon emphasized the significance of the discovery.

“Never in my whole life,” he said, “have I come upon something of this type. It is the most exciting find of my entire career. This will add another important piece of the 12,000 year jigsaw of North American Indian culture.”

The next day, December 8, a follow up story in the Peterborough Examiner reported more details regarding the items buried with the human remains, including: “eight very finely finished side-notched arrowheads, five larger unfinished blades and spear points of flint, a bone ‘gorget’ or breast ornament…a bone awl, and a harpoon point of antler.”

The story also introduced an issue that would often be repeated in subsequent news reports- that is: what to do with the remains? Dr. Ralph Honey, president of the Peterborough Historical Society, proposed that “the society’s executive will discuss what action can be taken to retain the articles for the local historical society.”

In an article later in December, Ald. Alene Holt, the chair of a special City committee that had been formed to deal with the discoveries, said, “the members of the committee made it clear that they expected the find to be on display in Peterborough.”

Kenyon begged to differ. “Articles that are dug up,” he said, “are usually made the property of the museum.”

Stan McBride, Peterborough’s Mayor at the time, had another point of view. “The entire matter,” he argued, “should be turned over to the historical society, which would then be handling the display of the articles in Peterborough.”

Kenyon agreed but with some reservations. “The museum would be pleased to permit the bones and relics to be displayed in Peterborough,” he said, “but only after he had finished his studies and tests on them.” Then he went on to say that although it would be ideal “to keep all of the items together,” he recognized that “the skull and a few other items are city property.”

What is troubling about these conflicting opinions is not only their lack of agreement about ‘ownership’ of archaeological remains, but the total absence of consultation with First Nation representatives regarding the matter.

Moreover, as the discussions at City Council reported in the Peterborough Examiner on December 14 confirm, the comments made by participants often descended into immature wisecracks and inappropriate attempts at humour. Such comments reveal a disturbing disrespect for another culture’s spiritual practices and beliefs.

Consider, for example, the following excerpt from the same article, in which the reporter who attended the council meeting noted that “when prodded by Ald. Alene Holt, the committee made no “bones” about the issue and “gleefully greeted suggestions for the erection of a black parking meter on the lot, or a meter which charged 50 cents an hour for the privilege of parking on the very spot where the bones and a number of artifacts were found.”

One committee member even went so far as to assert that the ultimate destination of the human remains would be as part of “an important tourist attraction.”

It would take thirty years before such attitudes and insensitivities would be considered unacceptable.

“A Simple Ceremony”

It is May 1991.

Thirty years have passed since the original discoveries and once again the Brock Street site is the focus of widespread media attention. This time, however, coverage is not just in print media, but also on radio and television. Accompanying the changes in reporting are significant advances in professional practice, as well as public perceptions.

A glance at some of the newspaper headlines of the time reflect those changes:

- “Museum returns native artifacts” (Peterborough Examiner May 4)
- “Skeletal remains to return home” (Peterborough This Week May 5)
- “Native bones will rest at Curve Lake” (Peterborough Examiner April 2)
- “Museum praised for return of bones” (Toronto Star May 4)
“Repatriation by Peterborough Museum” (Ontario Museum Association Newsletter)
“Museum set to return native bones, artifacts” (Toronto Star May 3 1991)

The content of these newspaper articles provides additional insights into what has changed regarding the disposition of archaeological artifacts.

Museum Director, Ken Doherty, at the original Brock Street commemorative monument with following memorial: “Here on December 6, 1960, the skeletal remains of a man who lived in this area about 2,000 years ago were discovered by Douglas Yaxley of Peterborough. Buried with the man were twenty-nine artifacts attributed to the Point Peninsula Culture, which occupied the Trent River System before the Christian Era.”

An editorial in the Peterborough Examiner, dated May 8 1991, for example, drew readers’ attention to legislation introduced in 1978 in which, “Queen’s Park decreed that the nearest native community be consulted whenever native remains and artifacts are found.”

The author of the editorial, however, went on to caution readers that a change in the law didn’t necessarily guarantee a change in attitudes.

“The tragedy,” he noted, “is that Curve Lake Chief Mel Jacobs still has to say that native people are upset when they see their ancestors’ remains so often displayed like a sideshow or, in some cases, carelessly stored or lost. Research is vital. But so is respect for the customs and beliefs of the native peoples and for the human need to bring ‘our people back home.’”

At the time, not everyone agreed with this change in practice. According to an article from the Toronto Star dated May 4, 1991, for example, some archaeologists and museum officials, still argued that “entire collections would be at risk” and “scientific research would be threatened by these changes.”

Another Toronto Star report reminded readers that “debate has raged for the last half-decade over whether the study of native remains is science or sacrilege” (May 3 1991).

A more balanced perspective was offered by John McAvity (Toronto Star, May 4 1991). McAvity, the executive director of the Canadian Museums Association, congratulated the Peterborough Museum, “for taking considerable leadership in introducing that kind of practice here.”

In another article (Peterborough This Week, May 5 1991) Ken Doherty, by then the Peterborough Museum Manager, echoed McCavity’s position. “It’s a sign of caring and respecting the past of the members of First Nations,” he said. “It’s a significant gesture for certain individuals who lived and died a long time ago. It’s also a symbol of a responsible relationship with the First Nation band.”

Referring to a Memorandum of Understanding that had recently been reached between the City of Peterborough and the Curve Lake First Nation, Chief Mel Jacobs said that a traditional native ceremony as well as a Christian service would mark the burial of the aboriginal bones at the Curve Lake Reserve.

“It will be a simple ceremony,” he added, “as a sign of the bones coming to their final resting place.” (Peterborough Examiner April 2 1991).

Radio adds another dimension to print media. This was clearly evident in an interview that Chief Mel Jacobs and Ken Doherty gave at that time on the CBC radio program, Morningside.

The interviewer begins by inviting Doherty to review for listeners the original discovery in 1960. When Doherty gets to the part about the city employee uncovering a human skull “while digging a hole for a parking meter,” there is an audible gasp from the interviewer.

Clearly radio’s auditory component conveys emotion.

Consider two other examples. As the program continues, the interviewer asks Doherty how he first got involved in the Peterborough repatriation project. Doherty explains that in 1983, while attending a conference in Peterborough, he had occasion to see the display in the Peterborough Museum that re-created the grave of the First
Nation man, complete with skeletal remains and accompanying grave goods.

“Found that offensive,” he says.

Doherty goes on to explain how, a few years later, after he had been hired as the Peterborough Museum’s director, he had the opportunity to do something about it.

“It’s no longer on view,” he responds brusquely to the interviewer’s question about what he did.

At this point, Chief Mel Jacobs joins the radio conversation. He is on the phone from his hotel room in Orillia where he is attending a meeting. Chief Jacobs, who speaks in calm and measured terms, agrees with Doherty’s emotional reaction.

“‘These finds,’” he says, “are borrowed, not owned by anyone. They contain things that go with the individual in the afterlife. Their repatriation should have been done earlier.”

“It was the right thing to do,” concludes Chief Jacobs. According to Doherty, the Chief’s account of the ceremony brought the interviewer, Ann Medina, to tears.

A few months later, the Brock St. repatriation again makes the national news, this time as a feature on Barbara Frum’s popular CBC Television’s program, The Journal. The episode, aptly named, ‘A Legacy Unlocked,’ explores the issue of native artifact ownership.

Two Peterborough citizens frame the program: Doherty at the beginning and Chief Jacobs towards the end.

In her introduction, Frum explains the issue.

“For over a hundred years,” she says, “museums competed with each other for the most and the best archaeological treasures. Nothing was considered too sacred.”

“This practice,” she continues, “resulted in much of native culture being locked away…gathering dust in museums and climate controlled vaults…99% of which remains unseen.”

Then, referencing the Peterborough initiative, she notes that things are changing: “More and more natives are demanding return of the artifacts and bones.”

Next, the camera cuts away to Doherty, whom she introduces as the director of a museum that has “chosen to do things differently.”

A voice-over notes that the decision to return the human remains and associated artifacts to the First Nation band, “set off a furor within Canada’s archaeological community.”

As the narrator points out, however, there were still many scientists who argued that returning native artifacts
risked “losing a vast body of knowledge” and that archaeological findings should be “preserved and studied in museums.”

Television adds a powerful visual dimension to media coverage. ‘A Legacy Unlocked’ makes very effective use of visuals to explore the range of opinions and practices regarding repatriation.

Using stunning photographs of West Coast Native Art, the creators of the program, make compelling arguments in support of ‘unlocking’ native artifacts. These could be used, they argue, to inspire new native artistic initiatives, to perform native ceremonies and to develop educational resources.

Towards the end of the program attention returns to the Peterborough repatriation initiatives. Eric Rankin, a prominent CBC investigative reporter at the time, is shown walking through the Curve Lake cemetery with Chief Mel Jacobs as they discuss the plans for repatriation.

Then Doherty again appears on camera. “It goes back to the whole issue of respect.” he says. “Would we want to see our ancestors on display, in a museum setting? Would we want to see them left in a box for future research purposes? It does raise questions about how museums collect and what they do with their collections…objects that were once thought to be dead are alive.”

New Discoveries, New Controversies

In May 2003 the Brock Street site attracted widespread media attention for a third time when construction on the parking lot unearthed more bones. Early reports, such as those recorded in the Peterborough Examiner on May 27th of that year, speculated that they were human.

Others urged caution about drawing premature conclusions. Dr. Peter Clark, the regional coroner, was among them. “Some bones have been found,” he confirmed. “They appear to be very old. At this point we cannot tell if they are human or animal. The bones will be examined by a forensic anthropologist in Toronto this evening at which time we should know whether they are human or animal.”

After Clark’s preliminary examination of the bones, they were packed up and taken away by the police. “If the bones are human, the province’s cemeteries branch will take over the investigation. There is a process to make sure the bones are treated with respect and also dignity,” he added.

In another article (Peterborough This Week, May 28) Kim Reid, the curator at what was then called the Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives, provided a review of the original excavations in 1960. She explained that extensive research into the find that at the time had led officials to conclude the skeleton belonged to a Point Peninsula Native, aged 45 to 50 years of age.

“That group,” she said, “lived all through this region and the skeleton find was considered a huge window into the area’s past.”

In the same article, Ken Doherty, reviewed the repatriation of the remains that occurred in 1990. “We received acclaim and notoriety for a number of years because of that,” he revealed. “The repatriation of the remains caught the attention of many. There’s even mention of what’s termed the Peterborough Precedent on the United Kingdom Parliament web site,” he added.

Doherty, who visited the site soon after the bones were removed, reported noticing animal bones in the area, as well as a layer of material comprised of pottery, old nails, china and other items. His observations also led him to urge caution.

“It’s too early to tell,” he said, “if a complete site excavation will be needed.” It didn’t take long, however. The next day’s newspapers reported the results: forensic tests had determined that the bones were those of an animal.

No sooner had the results been released, when new controversies began.

A First Nation archaeological liaison representative accused the City of violating the Ontario Heritage Act by not conducting an archaeological assessment before starting construction (Peterborough Examiner May 29 2003).
Utilities Services Director Gerry Rye, when asked why an assessment wasn’t done earlier, said, “I guess the current staff feeling was that the plaque and marker were there signifying the remains that they found of a body back in the 60s and weren’t of the knowledge that the site was actually an archaeological site.”

Once he had been notified of the discovery of bones, Doherty fulfilled the protocols required under the act and hired Gordon Dibb, director of York North Archaeological Services Inc., to conduct a survey of the site.

Dibb agreed that the archaeological assessment should have been contracted out beforehand. “It could have saved some of the slowdown and hard feelings,” he said.

In addition to surveying the site, one of Dibb’s responsibilities was to “sift through the four dump trucks of fill” that had already been transported from the site.

That news prompted an angry letter from a local citizen to Peterborough mayor Sylvia Sutherland expressing his frustration. “To the best of our knowledge,” he complained, “the ancestors of the First People are now resting in piles of dirt, after being dumped from the back of a truck in some holding area.”

Although subsequent screening of the dirt revealed no further evidence of human remains, a later article (Peterborough Examiner July 11, 2003) reported that an important and surprising discovery had been made in one of the piles that had been trucked off the site.

It was an ancient slate projectile point, approximately 10 cm. long. “It’s about 4,000 to 5,000 years old,” speculated Dibb, “a little over 2,000 years older than the Brock Street burial.”

The projectile point was not the only surprise. In June 2003, employees of Dibb’s company discovered human bone fragments. That Peterborough Examiner article reported that David Bonsall, the City’s Construction Manager, immediately put out a stop work order. “It’s the law,” he explained, “We’re doing our best to get through it.”

In the same article, Dibb surmised that the bone chips could “very easily belong to the same remains found in the 1960s.” He said that the fragments had been sent to a lab in Florida. When asked his explanation about that decision was that “a result will be available three times faster than that from labs in Canada.”

It would be September of that year, however, before the results were finally announced (Peterborough This Week Sept. 26). Carbon dating determined them to be from between AD 655 to AD 780.

“They’re small slivers,” noted Dibb, “but they’re still human remains.”

The excavations were significant, and not just because of the discovery of the tiny fragments of human bone. The parking lot, it turned out, had been home to several important nineteenth century buildings. In the course of their excavations Dibb and his crew unearthed three building foundations, seven significant archaeological features, and large quantities of historic archaeological materials including: ink bottles, earthen ware, plates, ceramics, teapots, platters, bowls, clay pipes, medicine bottles, glass, cutlery and buttons. Among the features was an ice house and a wet clay storage pit associated with a Mid–Late 19th century pottery.

Delays caused by the time-consuming excavations, however, stirred up more controversy- this time from the merchants in the area. Several articles in local newspapers that spring (Peterborough Examiner June 19 and 20, Peterborough This Week June 18) and letters to the editor (Peterborough Examiner June 18) expressed the frustrations.

Their complaints included the City’s handling of the reconstruction of the Brock Street parking lot, the loss of parking spaces, the constant presence of construction trucks and the incessant noise.

One store owner demanded that someone be held responsible for the lack of accountability by the City for not realizing that an archaeological survey should have occurred.

“It’s a total mess and who knows when it will be finished,” she exclaimed.

The concerns of local citizens, staff and City officials did, however, have a positive outcome. As a result the City of Peterborough became among the first in the province to develop and implement an archaeological policy.

It would be some time before the plan was finally completed by City staff and approved by City Council. But in April 2013 an Archaeology Policy was adopted by City Council. In no small way, the experiences gained from the Brock Street excavations and ensuing repatriation initiatives led to the creation of what was subsequently described as a ‘model’ for the province.

The Policy was introduced to be compliant with the Ontario Heritage Act and the Provincial Policy Statement. Peterborough is now one of many cities and towns in Ontario to consider that archaeological resources have cultural heritage values and an obligation to protect and preserve them.

Conclusion

In the years that have passed since the first discoveries on the Brock Street site, archaeological practices and public attitudes have changed significantly.

This review of media reports from the three events reflect those changes.

In 1962, the role of the First Nation representatives was virtually non-existent as noted in an article from the Peterborough Examiner on November 18 of that year:
“Not an Indian was in sight as Mayor Alene Holt opened the ceremony. The chiefs from Curve Lake and Hiawatha reserves were invited but did not attend.”

Fifty years later, another Peterborough Examiner article (July 16 2010) reported that First Nation representatives were not only present, but had assumed a leadership role in planning and organizing the re-burial of the human bone fragments found during the 2003 excavations.

As Anne Taylor, the Cultural Archivist from Curve Lake who worked closely with Erik Hanson, Peterborough’s Heritage Resources Co-ordinator, to plan the ceremony, said at the time, “These remains have sort of been left in limbo since 2004.”

“It’s in honour of our ancestor’s remains,” she went on to say, “because his remains have been disturbed one of our concerns is that his spirit has been restless and disturbed as well.”

Taylor and Hanson agreed to hold the ceremony during the First Nation’s annual Strawberry Moon Festival. It would feature a sacred fire maintained during the entire length of the five-day ceremony by five young fire keepers from Curve Lake.

“The sacred fire serves the purpose of calling the ancestor’s spirit home and making sure that he travels on to where he should be,” Taylor explained.

“Those who attend the site during the five days will be informed about the significance of the ceremonies,” she added.

The five-day ceremony did more than just honour the First Nation Ancestor, it also provided an important educational opportunity.

As this review of media coverage of the Brock Street site clearly demonstrates, there has been significant improvement in societal attitudes and archaeological practices in the management and treatment of sacred artifacts.

Clearly, we have come a long way since the discovery of the remains of, what he who has since become known as ‘The Ancestor.’

But it is also clear that much remains to be learned. And the media, both traditional and contemporary, will increasingly serve as powerful instruments of that learning.

New Book

The Ancestors Speak: Stories from the Brock Street Site

This book is for sale at Trent Valley Archives for $20

The book is divided into three sections. The first consists of Pat and Gordon Dibb’s report on the 2003 excavations. The second includes a variety of original documents (newspaper articles, letters, speeches and memos) from each of the three events.

The third includes new essays by Pat and Gordon Dibb, Doug Williams, Anne Taylor, Julie Kapyrka, Ken Doherty, Kim Reid, Susan Neale, Elwood Jones, Kate Dougherty, Rita Granda, Dirk Verhulst and James Conolly.
Klement Main Hambourg 2018
Necrologie Canada  Posted on octobre 25, 2018

Klement Hambourg, violinist, conductor and scion of a famous musical family, passed away peacefully at Rockyview General Hospital on October 22, 2018. His grandfather, Professor Michael Hambourg, a distinguished Russian pianist and teacher, brought his family to Toronto in 1911 and, with his two sons Jan and Boris, established the Hambourg Conservatory of Music. It was in this environment that Klement spent his formative years, studying at both the Hambourg Conservatory and the Royal Conservatory of Music where he earned his Associate degree in 1946. Major teachers include Harry Adaskan, Geza deKresz (members of the renowned Hart House String Quartet) and Oreea Pernel in Switzerland. From 1950-1954 Klement was a member of the Pro-Musica String Trio with his uncle Boris Hambourg, cellist. He also played on one of the original Hart House viols in the Toronto Renaissance Ensemble.

Although Klement has always been active as a performer, he chose to pursue a career in music education, establishing a highly successful string and orchestra program in the Oshawa Public School System in 1954. Three years later he initiated a similar program in Peterborough, Ontario where, in addition to youth groups, he also conducted the Peterborough Chamber Orchestra. Granted a year’s leave of absence in 1961, he set off for London, England where he studied with the noted English violinist Frederick Grinke and earned advanced degrees from the Royal Academy of Music and Trinity College of Music London. At the end of his sabbatical he was offered a position at Newton Park College in Bath, as string specialist and orchestra conductor. Soon after settling into Newton Park he married Leonie Maria Lang and their two daughters – Tanya and Corinne, were born soon after. They later became excellent musicians in their own right.

In 1967 the Hambourgs returned to Peterborough where Klement took over his former position in the public schools. He also laid the groundwork for the Peterborough Symphony Orchestra, which elicited strong community support and has just completed its 50th anniversary. It is now one of the city’s major arts organizations. With the Symphony a going concern, Klement decided to move on to a new academic environment. This he found at Western Oregon University. The orchestra thrived and Klement became recognized throughout the region. He was also one of the “originals” in the Oregon Bach Festival of 1969 directed by Helmuth Rilling and played as assistant concertmaster for ten years. In 1975 Klement and Leonie spent a sabbatical year in Eugene at the University of Oregon where Klement completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree and Leonie her Master’s degree in German. In 1982, following two years with the Tanglewood Young Artists Program, Tanya and Corinne enrolled in Boston University to earn Bachelor of Music degrees. Klement and Leonie decided to follow suit resulting in Klement’s appointment as Associate Professor of Music at Lebanon Valley College of Pennsylvania. He served the college community in a variety of ways – as teacher, conductor, performer and clinician and also established the LVC Honours Orchestra – an annual event, which brought promising young string players to the college each year. Leonie became a member of the German department at LVC and was noted for her excellent teaching skills.

Following retirement, Klement and Leonie moved to Victoria, B.C. where their daughter Corinne was a member of the Victoria Symphony. Here Klement founded and directed the Celebration of Chamber Music series. In 2010 Klement and Leonie departed for Toronto where Klement was active in the Arts and Letters Club, both as a performer and event organizer. Of particular significance was the Centennial Celebration of the Hambourg Conservatory in 2011, a singular event, which drew a capacity audience and wide acclaim. Their daughter, Tanya, teaches violin and viola at the Nevada School for the Arts and is a professional violinist. She lives in Henderson, Nevada with her husband, Shawn. Klement and Leonie have been residing in Calgary since 2013, living close to their daughter, Corinne and son-in-law, Murray. Corinne teaches for the Calgary Board of Education at Bowcroft School and Murray teaches classical guitar at Mount Royal University. Klement and Leonie are also proud grandparents of their talented grandson, Gavin, a budding young classical guitarist.

Klement’s family would like to express sincere gratitude to Bowcroft School, the Nevada School of the Arts and our dear friends and family for their support during this time. A special thank you to Herbert Visscher and family for spending so much time with Klement over the past few years. We would also like to thank Dr. Tam, Dr. Wong and the nurses and staff at the Rockyview General Hospital for their outstanding care.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Peterborough Symphony Orchestra which he founded.
Court case exposes major art galleries' reliance on tax break

CHRIS HANNAY, OTTAWA
25 DECEMBER 2018

Editor note: Trent Valley Archives, under certain conditions, gives income tax receipts for donations in money and in kind. Since 1968, the federal government has used the power of the income tax refund to encourage donors to support libraries, museums, art galleries and archives. Later, in order to protect against national treasures being sold abroad, it created the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board to declare properties nationally significant and to encourage their donation to Canadian repositories in exchange for a 100% refund of the fair market value of the materials. More commonly, donors of gifts in kind receive refunds closer to 30%.

The calculation of fair market value has been made possible by the development of appraisal systems. In the field of archives, the National Archival Appraisal Board has developed credibility by its system. A group of appraisers, usually three, view the collections and in a process of triangulation arrive at a consensus fair market value. However, there are other appraisal groups and individual appraisers. This article is a useful summary of the background as it relates to art galleries.

Elwood Jones, the Archivist at Trent Valley Archives, has been doing appraisals for income tax purposes since 1970 and was one of the founders of the National Archival Appraisal Board in 1976.

A court case has revealed publicly for the first time how dependent major galleries are on a special tax break to put new art on their walls.

Most galleries have small or nonexistent budgets to buy art outright, and they’ve grown to rely heavily on a special certification handed out by the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board to items it judges to be of national importance to Canada.

The owners of art that gets certified by the board are entitled to a tax break that is much more generous than what they would get from giving real estate or cash to museums – which is why this process has become the centrepiece of how galleries approach their communities for support in building their collections.

“Most of the galleries encourage this as the only option for donors,” said Malcolm Burrows, the head of philanthropic advising at Scotiabank, a division of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

For galleries, he said, the tax break “is the acquisition budget they don’t have.”

But the certification system has been disrupted by a precedent-setting court decision, which narrowed the rules for when a piece of art is deemed important to Canadian heritage, prompting a group of museums and galleries to jump into an appeal and open up their books to argue for a return to the status quo ante.

For example, the Art Gallery of Ontario said it spent $1.3-million of its “very limited” funds in 2017 to buy art. It received $327,000 worth of pieces as “straight” gifts, those without any extra tax break. And it added $38.9-million of works through the special certification process administered by CCPERB.

The same is true of many other big galleries: The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts bought $1.6-million of art in the last fiscal year, got another $1.4-million from regular donations and received $10.8-million of items through the special tax break. And at the Vancouver Art Gallery in 2016, $526,000 of art was purchased, $1.2-million was donated and $1.9-million had the special designation.

Smaller galleries are also voicing concern. “Having worked with donors, I consider it to be undeniable that tax deductions are the main incentive that the Beaverbrook Art Gallery can offer to convince the owners of the works to donate them as opposed to selling them on the international market,” Thomas Smart, the director of the Fredericton gallery, wrote in his court submission.

For donors, the tax break can be substantial. “Having worked with donors, I consider it to be undeniable that tax deductions are the main incentive that the Beaverbrook Art Gallery can offer to convince the owners of the works to donate them as opposed to selling them on the international market,” Thomas Smart, the director of the Fredericton gallery, wrote in his court submission.

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For donors, the tax break can be substantial. Mr. Burrows said that donors who give art under regular rules get a tax credit worth, at the highest tax rates, 50 cents for every dollar they give. But then the donors will have to pay a capital gains tax, which can reduce the value of the credit back down to just 25 cents on the dollar.

By contrast, those whose items are certified by the review board can claim a credit worth 50 per cent. They do not get penalized for art that has appreciated in value (the capital gain) and they can apply the credit to all of their income in a given year – and even carry forward the savings for the next five years.

CCPERB’s 2016-17 annual report says the board certified a total of $121-million worth of items that year. Of the nearly 500 applications they
received, only 7 per cent were refused or deemed inadmissible. The program cost federal coffers an estimated $35-million in forgone tax revenue that year.

The bulk of items that get the tax break are fine art, but other cultural items are eligible for the credit, too. The Royal Ontario Museum said it received $1-million worth of objects in its 2016-17 under the special tax program, including 18th-century European ceramics and an Aztec stone disc.

In an affidavit submitted to the courts, AGO director Stephan Jost says his gallery might never have received some of its most “critically important” items if not for the old rules, such as the 17th century Peter Paul Rubens painting Massacre of the Innocents, which was given to the AGO by Ken Thomson in 2002. It had been bought for $117-million at a London auction months earlier.

Galleries and museums took the extraordinary step of jumping into the court battle because they are concerned that some of these fundraising tools are going to be taken away. The Canadian Art Museum Directors Organization is organizing the intervention.

CCPERB has two main duties: administering the tax break and reviewing cases where the owner of valuable cultural property has been blocked by the Canada Border Services Agency from taking it out of the country.

Both duties require the members of CCPERB to make a judgment about whether an item is of outstanding significance and national importance. The same test is used for both exports and for tax credits because, the review board says, the tax break provides art owners a financial benefit that might balance a loss they could experience by being limited on how they sell art on the international market.

In June, the Federal Court ruled for the first time ever on how the board conducted itself when reviewing export permits. In Heffel Gallery Ltd. v. Attorney-General of Canada, Justice Michael Manson said that the review board was too broad in interpreting whether a piece of art was important to Canada’s national heritage. In particular, Justice Manson wrote, an item had to be demonstrably linked to Canada’s specific culture to be blocked from export – just being in Canada, as was the case for the French Impressionist painting that was the subject of the dispute, was not by itself a reason for something to be deemed important to the nation’s heritage.

In response to the ruling, the review board changed how it processed export cases. But, because the board uses the same test for judging both exports and donations, it also changed how it processed donations. It meant that international works of art, which had gotten the board’s blessing in the past, faced a much higher bar for getting extra tax relief.

The Attorney-General appealed. Heffel told The Globe and Mail it had no comment on the museums’ arguments.

The Federal Court of Appeal is set to hear the case on Feb. 7, 2019.

Follow Chris Hannay on Twitter @channay

History and Archives

Thanks to Steve Guthrie.

There has been considerable discussion in Archives circles about the relationship between History as taught in universities and archives, libraries and museums. Since 2008 there has been a decline in history majors. This seems to be related to impressions rather than to realities. History majors are quite employable across quite a wide range of occupations. There is an impression that they receive lower salaries than majors in other disciplines; generally, this is not true. Another consideration is that university students prefer major that lead to specific paths, such as one finds with sciences, and the recommendation is that universities should shift how they teach History in order to satisfy this concern. The other worry among archivists is that people will have lower opinions of archives and museums if they perceive a lower value for History.

As an historian and an archivist this is of interest to me. However, my belief is that at the local level we can overcome these prejudices by delivering, as Trent Valley Archives does, solid value in everything we do.

We have high standards in the acquiring and processing of archives, we draw attention to our resources on the web and in our publications and our outstanding outreach programs. We are grateful to our members.
Omar Ibn Said

**Autobiography**

Only Known Surviving Muslim American Slave Autobiography Goes Online at the Library of Congress

JANUARY 15, 2019

Website: Omar Ibn Said Collection

A portrait of Omar Ibn Said around the 1850s. Photo courtesy of Yale University Library.

The Library of Congress has acquired and made available online the Omar Ibn Said Collection, which includes the only known surviving slave narrative written in Arabic in the United States. In 1831, Omar Ibn Said, a wealthy and highly educated man who was captured in West Africa and brought to the United States as a slave, wrote a 15-page autobiography describing his experiences.

This manuscript is important not only because it tells the personal story of a slave written by himself, but also because it documents an aspect of the early history of Islam and Muslims in the United States.

The Omar Ibn Said Collection consists of 42 original documents in both English and Arabic, including the manuscript in Arabic of “The Life of Omar Ibn Said” – the centerpiece of this unique collection of texts. Other manuscripts include texts in Arabic by another West African slave in Panama and from individuals located in West Africa.

The collection was digitally preserved and made available online for the first time by the Library of Congress at loc.gov/collections/omar-ibn-said-collection/about-this-collection/.

“Although the Omar Ibn Said Collection is recognizable, it has been moved between different private owners and even disappeared for almost half a century,” said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. “To have it preserved at the Library of Congress and made available to everyday people and researchers across the world will make this collection an irreplaceable tool for research on Africa in the 18th and 19th centuries and will shed light on the history of American slavery.”

“This rare collection is extremely important because Omar Ibn Said's autobiography is the only known existent autobiography of a slave written in Arabic in America,” said Mary-Jane Deeb, chief of the African and Middle Eastern Division at the Library of Congress. “The significance of this lies in the fact that such a biography was not edited by Said's owner, as those of other slaves written in English were, and is therefore more candid and more authentic.”

“It is an important documentation that attests to the high level of education and the long tradition of a written culture that existed in Africa at the time,” added Deeb. “It also reveals that many Africans who were brought to the United States as slaves were followers of Islam, an Abrahamic and monotheistic faith. Such documentation counteracts prior assumptions of African life and culture.”

According to his autobiography, and to articles written about him in the American press while he was still alive, Said was a member of the Fula ethnic group of West Africa who today number over 40 million people in the region extending from Senegal to Nigeria.

Omar Ibn Said, son of a wealthy father, spent over 25 years as a prolific scholar and Muslim in West Africa. When Said was about 37 years old, however, an army came to his home, killed many people, captured him and sold him into slavery.

Conservators at the Library of Congress performed treatment to physically stabilize the Said manuscript, mending and reinforcing its fragile pages. Following multiple owners and the ravages of time, the pages were weak, exhibiting holes, heavy creases and torn edges.

“Paper and ink are resilient and long-lasting, though they can be battered and damaged. Our aim was to strengthen and preserve the manuscript, while still allowing its previous history and life to remain evident,” said Shelly Smith, head of the Book Conservation Section.

The original collection of Omar Ibn Said was purchased by the Library of Congress in 2017. The Omar Ibn Said Collection reflects advancement toward a goal in the Library’s new user-centered strategic plan to expand access, making unique collections, experts and services available when, where and how users need them. Learn more about the Library’s five-year plan at loc.gov/strategic-plan/.

February is Black History Month.
Townsend Fonds inventory, first items received

This very important collection was received from Gary (aka Michelle) Townsend, formerly the person in charge of the PACAC records. There have been additions, but this preliminary list provides a good indication of the range of the documents in this collection. This is effectively the continuation of the records collected by Martha Ann Kidd, also available at Trent Valley Archives. Many files were copies of engineering and planning documents, and of course there are many maps and drawings. The inventory has problems in numbering because numbers instead of letters were used in Files 20 and 21. Sorry.

1 Properties in Peterborough designated by the Ontario Heritage Act, including assessment of criteria; map of Ward 4 showing locations of heritage buildings; Township of Smith, Map 015, 1980; City of Peterborough Map 306, 1976; map of Ward 4; City of Peterborough Map 412, Ward 4 (working copy and photocopy); City of Peterborough Map 414, Ward 4, 1980; property map of same part of city; Guidelines for applications for private property claims. (Binder)
2 Townsend Group, Peterborough Changing: Revisiting Martha Kidd’s “Peterborough’s Architectural Heritage” (3 binders)
3 Dickson Mills Heritage District (binder)
4 Townsend Designs, Heritage Designation and Restoration for Engleburn Farm, 760 Lansdowne Street East, Owners Copy, 2001; includes maps and photos; research by Gina Basciano and Martha Ann Kidd, 1983. (binder)
5 Rail lines circa 1954 plus later additions; photographic Google air view with superimposed street and site names.
6 Restoration and Revitalization of CPR Station, Peterborough Chamber of Commerce, 1990; proposal presentation by Callender Associates, Peterborough
7 Condition Survey The Hunter Street Bridge; … by Terraspec, geotechnical engineers, January 1987; presentation book
8 Peterborough Club, Concept proposal for Restoration and Enhancement Committee, 1991
9 Heritage Profile for 751 George Street North (Sadleir House) Working Copy; includes plans, drawings and photos (binder)
10 Peterborough’s Ashburnham Architectural Heritage Inventory Area; includes applications, photocopies, maps
11 Peterborough Changing, Townsend Group, (see #2), features Peterborough’s CBD Architectural Heritage Inventory Area, c 1985, updates Martha Kidd research
12 Heritage Designation for 100 Benson Avenue (former Teachers College), 1 binder, 1 vol.; includes photographs, correspondence and reports; rezoning documentation.
13 Heritage Designation for 399 Parkhill Road West, McFadden House, 2000; includes title search, loose photos, a design brief on floppy disk; CIHB report; survey plan, 1993
14 Bonner-Worth Woollen Mill, Heritage designation brief; proposal for affordable housing; Engineering report by Greer Galloway (3 vols)
15 Heritage Designation Brief, 383 George Street (Fair-Bierk building), owners copy, includes title search, plans, photos, archival documents, (floppy disk missing) Apparently the building was built in 1860 by Robert Rowe (binder)
16 Heritage Legislation Project, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation, June 1, 1995, containing several background papers, and discussion papers on Municipal Heritage Policies; Municipal Heritage Committees, Listing Heritage Resources, Municipal Designation of Real Property, and on Heritage Conservation Districts
17 City of Peterborough Request for Tender Document T-28-02, for the Market Hall Restoration, 2002; includes two letters, blueprints drawn up by Trevelyan Architect
18 Hunter Street Streetscape, Water Street to George Street, asphalt pavement, concrete curb and gutter, sidewalk, sanitary and storm sewers, landscaping, City of Peterborough tender document, 2003, together with updates related to sidewalk cafes, 2004, 2005, and a DM Wills plans, 2005
19 Bill 20 – Amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act, 1996
20 PACAC FILE DRAWERS
1) A Sense of Place, 1999
3) Markham Village Heritage Conservation District, 1989, 4 vols
4) Retirement Residence, Sherbrooke Street, 1999
5) Providence Rhode Island, 1992
6) Carriage House, 254 Stewart Street, Callendar Associates presentation to PACAC, 1990
7) Time Square Development, 211 Hunter Street E., Planning Staff Report, 1989
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12) Peterborough Official Plan, Update and Review, 1976; Official Plan, and Secondary Land Use, 1979 (both reports on newsprint); photocopy of part
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22) Market Hall, Heritage Challenge Fund application, 2000
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24) Cultural Resource Management, online pages
26) CPR Station, 175 George Street, application for heritage designation, 1988-89
27) CPR Station, Heritage designation brief, surveys, 1989-1990
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30) A Study of Canadian Pacific’s Heritage Railway Properties, by Commonwealth Heritage Resource Management, 1989; Railway Information Kit, Ontario Heritage Foundation; CHIB; other documents
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32) Designation Brief for 521 George Street North, Osborne Photography (just copies of CHIB)
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35) Heritage Donor Recognition Plaques, 2000
36) Hazlitt House designation brief, 1987
37) Old Pump House, photo copy
38) Confederation Square, designation brief, 2005-2006
39) Morrow Building 442-448 George
40) 547 Water Street
41) 604 George Street North
42) Burnham Mansion
43) Cox Terrace
44) Armouries
45) Calcutt House, 73 Robinson
46) 399 Parkhill Road West
47) 1507 Rubidge James Hall
48) Clonsilla 694 Sherbrooke
49) 716 Maryland Avenue, Sisters of the Precious Blood
50) 100 Benson Avenue, former Teachers College
51) Little Lake Cemetery
52) Bierk Art 383 George Street, former Fair Department Store
53) 527 Parkhill
54) Bonner Worth Mill, Woollen Mill Project
55) Pioneer Park, Wesleyan Burial Ground
56) Heritage Handbooks Project PCMA
57) George Street United Church
58) York North Archaeological Services, A Block in Time
59) Inverlea Bridge
60) Hunter Street Bridge Rehabilitation 1 1990
61) Hunter Street Bridge Rehabilitation 2 1990
62) Hunter Street Bridge, Elwood Jones
63) Nassau Mills Bridge, 1992
64) Bridge Inspection Report 1992
65) Citywide Bridge / Culvert Appraisals 1995
66) Precast Frame Units for Municipal Bridges 1992, 1995
67) Bethune Street Bridge over Jackson Creek, 2000
68) Heritage Inventory Guidelines 1 of 2
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70) Historic Resources Management Program, Edmonton
71) Property Owners Guide to Heritage Preservation 2002
72) Researching Your Historic Building, Ottawa, Heritage Patrimonie 1988
73) Historical Designation Evaluation Manuals
74) Peterborough Markham
75) Cobourg Heritage Programs
76) Peterborough’s Architectural Heritage (copy)
77) Bridge Deck Evaluation Parkhill Road Bridge over Otonabee River 1992, 1994
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80) Inverlea Bridge Deck Evaluation Davroc 1994
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82) Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives 1 2003
83) Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives 2 2002-2007
84) City Hall Renovations 2001
85) Lowell Massachusetts Preservation and Revitalization 1984-1990
86) Building facades and Signage Models
87) Downtown Residential Intensification Study, 1991
88) Central School Apartments 2003-2004
89) 526 McDonnel Bonner Worth, Sir Sandford Fleming College
90) 100 Benson Avenue
91) 544 Harvey
92) 269 Edinburgh Smithtown Hill
93) 297 Hunter Ridley Cottage
94) 694 Sherbrooke Clonsilla
95) 583 Waterford
96) 399 Parkhill McFadden House
97) 118 James Street
98) Heritage Designation 189 Hunter St W; 432 George 2007
99) Heritage Designation 2008
100) Union Street 616, 624
101) Timothy Jackson sketches, complete set
102) 617 Rubidge
103) Peterborough Designation Evaluation Manual 2002
104) PACAC Artwork and Logo
105) New Heritage Legislation 1992
106) Heritage Canada Conference 1997
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111) Affordable Housing 2002
112) Elementary School Closures, King Edward, Confederation, 2002
113) Heritage Information
114) Peter Robinson College 2001
115) Traill College Langton-Dumble house 554 Reid Street
116) Traill College Kerr House 586 Rubidge
117) Traill College Conger / Bradburn 293 London
118) Traill College Scott House 300 Londond
119) Bonnie Patterson, President Trent University 2001
120) Trent University Tim Jackson sketches 1985
121) DeLaval office building 113 Park Street; North Monaghan con 12, lot 13, Park Lot 2
122) Home Depot Landscape Plan 1998
124) 539 Downnie
125) 510 George North
126) 659 George North
127) 663 George North
128) 617-619 Union Street
129) 224 Dublin
130) 612 Union Street
131) Land Registry Research
132) Hume, Christopher, the demolition of a 1949 house
133) Signage Policy
134) Heritage issues
135) 756-760 George Street North
136) Peterborough Official Plan 1989 PACAC submissions
137) 329 McDonnel (Volkswagen)
138) Chapters Plaza 1998
139) Quality of Life = Task Force Downtown Peterborough 2001
140) Heritage Restoration
141) Quan Building, Charlotte and Aylmer, 1989 [architectural drawings transferred to oversize]
142) Writing a Heritage Description Brief 2003
143) Heritage Designation Handbook 1991
144) Building and Site Guidelines CBD
145) Jackson Creek Erosion Control ORCA 1996
146) Loss of Heritage Properties in Ontario 2002
147) Architecture and the School Board Curriculum [aimed at Grade 7, 2 hour workshop]
148) Strategic Planning Workshop 1996
149) Resources for Heritage Volunteers
150) PACAC Development in the Central Business District 1988
151) Peterborough’s Urban Fabric, Geography thesis by Frederic Chislett, 1996
153) Manual for Municipal Heritage 1 of 3
154) Manual for Municipal Heritage 2 of 3
155) Manual for Municipal Heritage 3 of 3
156) Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings 1980-1990

A List of designated properties in Ottawa 1990
B The Evaluation of Historic Buildings 1980
C Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings [1987]
D Parks Canada CIHB Exterior Recording Training Manual
E Three pamphlets: Canadian Inventory of Historic Building; Recognizing Canadian History; Policy on Federal Heritage Buildings

157) CIHB Exterior Recording Training Manual 1980 (second copy)
159) Dalhousie Street Bridge over Jackson Creek 1994
160) Dalhousie Street Bridge 1994
161) Trent University, Gzowski College, 2002
162) 475 George Street North (YMCA)
163) 224 Hunter Street 2011
164) Fleming College New Wing for Applied Computing and Engineering Sciences

1. Designs and plans [Archival refereces will include 21-01 etc.]
2. Warwickbrook Centre, Peterborough, View from Lansdowne Street East, John Boddy Developments, presentation panel, colour, showing grocery store as Loeb, plan A4, August 1995
3. Willowcreek Centre, Peterborough, presentation panel, site plan A1, August 1995
4. Proposed Treatment South of Sherbrooke Street, as prescribed in sidewalk improvement guide, street lights and paving patterns, drawings attached to presentation board, 1994; verso is presentation plan for Peterborough Family Enrichment Centre, 201 Antrim Street, Craig Jones Architect, 1994
5. Kilmullen Condominiums, Minor Variance Application, Lett Architects, coreboard presentation panel, showing elevations, building relationship and streetscape rendering, n.d.
6. Kilmullen Condos, Denure Drive, Peterborough, Landscape Plan, July 2005, Basterfield and Associates [80 units in 3 buildings], coreboard presentation panel
7. Georgian Cottage sketch, no identification, in folder
8. East City Urban Design Study, Potential Building In-Filling, Building Form, 1992, Hunter Street from Burnham to Rogers
9. East City Urban Design Study, Streetscape Development Potential, Burnham to Rogers Street, 1992
11. Willowcreek Centre Peterborough, South Elevation, perspective drawing on core board presentation panel, 1995
12. Voyageur Place Commercial Development, Conceptual Site Design, Michael McGuire, Landscaper Architect, Peterborough, June 2003; Lansdowne between Monaghan and CPR tracks; includes Rona, shiny paper; working with Erik Wilke Architect
13. xxx
14. Quan Building 1989
15. Central Business District, 1990 sidewalks, streetscapes, restaurants
17. Bus Terminal and Parking Garage, 1993
18. Peterborough waterfront in CBD – Plantings 1999
19. MNR Building, 1994
20. Voyageur Place, Commercial Expansion Site Design 2003
21. PRHC Hospital area, 2004, aerial map; topographical details north of King, west of George, 1995; Market Hall, Arbour Festival, 1994
22. Lansdowne and Monaghan area to Park Street, large aerial map
23. CBD map showing outlines of buildings, and also showing open stretches of Jackson Creek, n.d. c. 1990s
24. CBD, maps 1999
25. Vacant Land Report, 1988, including several maps covering whole city
26. Ontario MNR contour interval maps, several sheets, covering entire city 1989
27. Trent University, several projects, 2002 including what became Gzowski College and First Nations House of Learning
28. Don Ditchburn's plans of the layout of Peterborough shopping centres, 1994, including among others Portage Place, Brookdale Plaza and Lansdowne Place
30. Maps showing city streets, c. 1990; covers whole city and includes key map
31. Burnham Mansion Steakhouse, 1975; 2 large photos of Burnham Mansion
32. Trent University DNA Cluster Building, and proposed Ring Road, 2002, 2005
33. Arbour Theatre; Market Hall, 1989; Waterfront development, 1998; Education Centre on O'Carroll Avenue, 1974-75
34. Peterborough Centennial Museum, 1966, several sheets, some wear and tear
35. George Street North, Brock to McDonnel, 2000, streetscape improvements, roll
36. Otonabee River Trail, 1999, roll of plans
37. Voyageur Place, 2002, landscape plans by Michael McGuire and Erik B. Willke, roll
38. Quibell Residence, 569 Park Street North, landscape plans 1992 by Michael McGuire, of Warsaw, roll (former Dixon House)
39. Peterborough Municipal Airport, 1989, 1997; apron reconstruction, partial parallel taxiway; two projects rolled together
40. Carriage House, 254 Stewart Street, 1990, roll
41. Hunter Street Bridge, 1990, roll
42. Eastern Pentecostal Bible College, Library and Cafeteria Addition, 1992, roll
43. King Street Parkade, 1995, roll
44. Hunter Street East Streetscape Improvements, Ashburnham, 1995, roll
45. Rubidge Retirement Residence, 2000, John F. Reeves, Architect, roll
46. Peterborough Waterfront Boathouse, Mark Street Wharf, 1999, roll
47. Rehabilitation of Inverlea Bridge, Parkhill Road, 2001, roll
50. Proposed Municipal Building, 1944, roll, three blueprints prepared by M. E. Shaver
51. Peterborough Memorial Centre, 3 folders of photocopies of 1950s plans relating to foundations, seating roof and other features; drawings prepared by G. L. Wallace and C. D. Carruthers, engineers. The original documents were fragile and worn, roll
55. Wal-Mart Commercial Development, Store No. 3071, Building A., 2005, Site and Landscape plans; architects Petroff Partnership Architects, Chemong Road at Milroy Drive, roll
56. The Boathouse, near Mark Street wharf, by Lett Smith Architects, 385 Reid Street, 2001, roll
57. Land Use Plan, part of Official Plan of the City of Peterborough Planning Area, 1971, prepared by Municipal Planning Consultants, roll
58. Proposed Business Depot [Staples and Home Depot], Park and Lansdowne, site plan and other details, 1998, plans by Venchiariutti Gagliardi Architect, Markham roll
59. Victoria Ville Mansions, Sherbrooke St. and Glenforest Boulevard, (site, garage, floor plans and other details), 1995, plans by J. Milicic Architect, roll
60. Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School / Armour Road, Asbestos abatement Duct Removal & Replacement, 1998, plans by T.J.J. C.E.A.
61. Crary Park Redevelopment, Rink Street and Crescent Street, 1993, plans by Totten Sims Hubicki Associates
62. Evinrude Centre, Monaghan Road and High Street, 1995, plans by W.M. Salter and Associates Inc. Architects
63. The Artspace Market Hall Building Project Phase 2, 1984, plans by Jon Hobbs and Associates. Architect and Planner
64. City of Peterborough – The Boathouse, 1999, plans by Lett Smith Architects Peterborough
67. Otonabee Region Conservation Authority – Jackson Creek Dam, (Lot 9, Concession 1, Township of Smith), City of Peterborough, 1987, plans by totten sims hubicki associates; includes specifications report
68. Leon's Commercial Building, 1731 Lansdowne Street West, 1994-1995, Trevelyan Architect
69. Smith Street Bridge in Reinforced Concrete, aka Inverlea Bridge, crossing the Otonabee River at Parkhill Road (formerly Smith Street), 1910. Photocopy of plans approved by the City Engineers Office, 1909, 1910. Title on one plan describes the bridge as built in the Kahn System of Reinforced Concrete. T. A. S. Hay described as the city engineer. Original drawing by the Trussed Concrete Steel Co. Of Canada Limited, 22 August 1908. Drawing No. 570.
70. Trent University, DNA Cluster Laboratory Project, 2004, Architects Engineers Shore Tilbe Irwin and Partners; D M Wills Consulting Engineer; Landscape Plan by Basterfield & Associates.
71. Otonabee River Index Flood Risk Map, Received from ORCA 30 April 1996; prepared for the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, 1990-1991, 40 sheets
73. Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Temporary Parking, Demolition Site Plan, 2002; shows relationship of Existing Hospital, Nicholls Building and Future Hospital Building.
74. Peterborough Regional Health Centre, 2003; preliminary Drawings, issued for 60% cost check, February 2004.Dunlop Architects and associates, c 400 sheets
75. Otonabee River Trail (Phase 2), 2001, Basterfield and O’Brien Landscape Architects and Kirkfield Engineering, working drawing set
76. Otonabee River Trail (Phase3), 2001, Basterfield and O’Brien, preliminaries
77. Otonabee River Trail (Phase 2), 2001, Basterfield and Associates, pedestrian paths
78. Millennium Place (Otonabee River Trail – Phase 1 Construction)
79. Millennium Walk (Phase 1, 1999; Phase 2, 2000 – Trails, Landscape in bay area and south to railway bridge; Phase 3, 2001 – Timber Boardwalk; Phase 4, 2001- Holiday Inn Waterfront)

St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church

In January, I posted the following notice on Facebook. It received quite a range of comments. The Church was under a shadow for some time and had been sold to the developed last June. However, the demolition came without significant notice and started on a Sunday. The main regret is that the City did not accept the recommendation last year of the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (PACAC) to change the status of 50 heritage buildings in the downtown from listed to designated.

The cover photo was taken on the Sunday that demolition began. (Editor)

Workers lopped off the top of the steeple at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in downtown Peterborough today, Sunday. The steeple dates from 1859 and was in former days one of the markers of the way to get downtown. The neighbours of the church include the police station and the City Hall. It is a sad day for the church which was found to have a serious structural issue a few years ago. It is the current home of the Brock Street Mission. This is sad and disappointing. For reasons never convincing many heritage treasures in downtown Peterborough have been noted but not protected.

As you will notice elsewhere in this issue, the City Council has supported accepting the list of heritage properties developed by PACAC and the Heritage Office.
Lakefield’s Hague’s Point and the Lakefield Marsh

Michael P. Dolbey

Lakefield’s Hague’s Point and part of the Lakefield Marsh are on Smith Township Lot 28 Concession 8. In 1832 this lot and others nearby were bought by Walter Crawford, a wealthy gentleman from Northern Ireland whose family had made money in linen manufacturing. The Crawford family arrived from Ireland in 1828 and initially settled near Cobourg. Walter Crawford was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Hamilton Township in 1833 on the recommendation of Thomas A. Stewart of Peterborough. He later moved to the Peterborough area where he was a Justice of the Peace, a Colonel of the Peterborough militia during the 1837 rebellion and after 1840, the Government’s land agent in Peterborough. Crawford purchased a number of properties in Smith and Douro townships all of which had frontage on the Otonabee River. These included Smith Lot 28 Concession 8 (Hague’s Point), and three other lots bordering and to the north of what is now the Lakefield Marsh, Lot 29 Concession 9, Lot 30 Concession 9 and the south half of Lot 30 Concession 10 (1832), south part Lot 28 Concession 6 (1834), south part Lot 27 Concession 6 (1838) and immediately across the river in Douro, Lot 11 Concession 8 (1835) and Lots 13 Concessions 7 & 8 (1835) through which Sawers Creek runs. It is believed that Walter Crawford and some of his family moved to the Douro property in about 1835.

In April 1837, Walter’s daughter, Mary Crawford married James Hague who was described as a gentleman (rather than a farmer or labourer) but nothing more is known about his background. James and Mary Hague had two children, Eliza Georgina, born 4 October 1838 and James, born 24 July 1843. Mary’s husband, James Hague, along with Hugh Nelson, drowned in May 1843 while attempting to cross the Otonabee River just below the falls at Lakefield. He was 30 at the time of his death and his burial was recorded at St John’s Anglican Church in Cobourg. Walter Crawford sold James Hague the land he owned in Smith Township opposite present day Lakefield, today’s Hague’s Point, Lot 28 Concession 8, and three other lots bordering and to the north of what is now the Lakefield Marsh, Lot 29 Concession 9, Lot 30 Concession 9 and the south half of Lot 30 Concession 10. James Hague’s burial record states that he was from Douro so the family may have been living on the property owned by Mary’s father about two miles south of Lakefield since their marriage. Suzanna Moodie, in a letter to her husband, Dunbar, written in January 1839, tells him of a visit from Mary Hague who found Suzanna in a “miserable state”. Mary Hague sent Suzanna “a gallon of old port wine and so many nice things …”. She also took Suzanna’s daughter, Aggy, and looked after her for the winter buying her shoes and nice clothes. Clearly the Hagues lived nearby and appeared to be well off.

Mary (Crawford) Hague soon found another gentleman to marry. Augustus Sawers was the son of John Sawers, a half-pay Lieutenant of the Royal Marines. John Sawers immigrated to Upper Canada in 1833 and acquired a large tract of land in Verulam Township near Bobcaygeon and later a large tract of land in St. Vincent Township near Meaford. His son Augustus was being educated in France and Germany and joined his father in Upper Canada in 1840 at the age of 21. Augustus Sawers married Mary Hague at St John’s Anglican Church in Peterborough on 1 October 1844 and the two Hague children were raised by the Sawers. On 20 July 1844, before the marriage of his daughter Mary, Walter Crawford sold the Douro property, on which it is believed he and the Hagues were living, to Augustus Sawers. Augustus Sawers built a dam and mill on the creek that came to bear his name but it was short lived. Farmers in the surrounding area believed that the flooded land behind the dam was the cause of the increasing incidence of ague (swamp fever). One night they destroyed the dam and that was the end of Sawers’ mill. The Sawers continued to live on the farm in Douro until about 1852 when they moved to Peterborough. Augustus Sawers bought the Peterborough Dispatch and renamed it the Peterborough Examiner newspaper in 1856 being its owner and editor for the next three years. He was elected Peterborough’s tenth mayor in 1860 and briefly entertained the Prince of Wales during his one-hour passage through Peterborough in September of that year. Unfortunately, at about this time Augustus Sawers developed kidney disease from which he died on August 6, 1861. His death left Mary with their four sons and a daughter to look after.

Mary (Crawford) Hague-Sawers soon found a third husband to support her and her family. On 7 April 1864 she married John Whyte, owner of Whyte & Co., Peterborough (and later Campbellford) Foundry and Machine Shop. Her daughter, Eliza Georgina Hague, had died of consumption in 1856. Before Augustus died her son, James Hague, had gone to live with Mary’s brother, Angus Crawford, on his farm near Cobourg. James Hague married his cousin, Angus’ daughter Laura Isabella Crawford, on 28 January 1864 and they had two children, Laura Isabella Georgina Hague born on 8 November 1865 and James Patrick Templeton Hague, born on 23 February 1867. When James Hague Jr. died on June 8, 1868 of heart disease, age 25, his wife and children went back to live with Angus Crawford, Laura’s father and Mary’s older brother who lived on the Crawford Farm in Hamilton Township, Lots 19 & 20 Concession 2, about 3 miles north of Cobourg. Walter Crawford had bought the 130 acre Lot 19 portion in 1829 and added the 140 Acre Lot 20 portion in 1834 before selling the farm to his son Angus in 1840.

Meanwhile back in Lakefield in about 1846 Samuel Strickland and his brother-in-law, John Reid, constructed a new dam across the Otonabee River at Lakefield which raised the water level of Lake Katchewanooka by 43 inches. This caused permanent flooding of considerable land, particularly much of the Hague land creating what is
now Hague’s point and the Lakefield Marsh. The Hague children were the heirs to James Hague’s estate, first James Hague junior and, after his death, Laura I. G. Hague and James P. T. Hague. Angus Crawford, grandfather and “next friend” of the under-aged Laura and James P. T. Hague, sued the businessmen that had profited from the use of the dam (James M. Irwin, Alexander Smith, Gardner Boyd, Roland C. Strickland, Charles A. Boulton, Alfred Passmore Pousette, Robert A. Strickland and John Rodgers) for damages caused by the flooding of the Hague’s property. The date that the suit was launched is uncertain but on 25 March, 1884 the Ontario Court of Chancery settled the case. It decided that “whereas there is in contemplation or may now be in process of construction a certain public work of the Dominion of Canada known as the Trent Valley Canal or Trent Navigation” the Crown would pay compensation to all landowners whose land or premises were damaged by the increased water levels. The Hague children received $2,000 in compensation.\footnote{1}

It is probable that the Hague family did not occupy the land either before or after James Hague’s death in 1843. The Lakefield history book, Nelson’s Falls to Lakefield, gives a story about the land. It says it was a favorite camping ground of the Anishinaabeg during the last half of the nineteenth century. Land records indicate that the south part of the lot containing the east end of D’Eyncourt Street was sold by the Hague children to the County of Peterborough and the Village of Lakefield including the remainder of the lot in their Plan 15 of 1876. The Village of Lakefield purchased the northern remainder of the lot from the Estate of James Hague in 1911 for $3,000.\footnote{18}

The two-page article about Hague’s Point in the Lakefield history book, Nelson’s Falls to Lakefield, gives a great deal of interesting information about the area after it was acquired by the Village in 1911 which will not be repeated here. It has been said that a Mrs. Hague claimed that the Hague family gave Hague’s Point to the Village of Lakefield to be used as a park. This may have been Mrs. Charles Hague (nee Edna May Freeburn) who was born in Smith Township in 1910 and who died in Lakefield on September 22, 1992. She is buried in Lakefield cemetery. While it is possible that her husband was related to the original Lakefield Hague family, no connection has been found. As shown above, both Village of Lakefield records and Ontario Land Records show that the land was purchased from, and not donated by, the Hague family.

\footnote{2} {Upper Canada Sundries. LAC microfilm C-6871, pp 58935-37, LAC microfilm C-6877, pp 69233-36}
\footnote{3} {Dr. T. W. Poole, *The early Settlement of Peterborough County, 1867*. Reprint, 1967. Pages 32, 42. 1851 census, Upper Canada.}
\footnote{4} {Peterborough Land Registry Office: Abstract books for the Lots cited.}
\footnote{5} {Carl Ballstadt, Elizabeth Hopkins, Michael A. Peterman, Editors. *Letters of Love and Duty: The Correspondence of Susanna and John Moodie*. University of Toronto Press, 1993. Page 98. Ballstadt says the marriage took place at Spring Vale, the Crawford farm near Cobourg in April 1837.}
\footnote{x} {St. John’s Anglican Church, Peterborough. Eliza Georgina: Register 1b, baptized 30 June 1839, James: Register 3. Section B. Baptisms 1842-49. Accessed at TVA}
\footnote{vi} {St. John’s Anglican Church, Peterborough. Register 2.2 Burials 1842-1891. Accessed at TVA}
\footnote{x} {Peterborough Land Registry Office: Abstract books for the Lots cited.}
\footnote{vii} {Susanna Moodie, *Roughing it in the Bush Or Life in Canada*, edited by Carl Ballstadt, Montreal, McGill-Queen's Press, 1988, Page 606}
\footnote{vii} {M. P. Dolbey, “In Search of Augustus Sawers: Ninth Mayor of Peterborough”, *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*, Volume 23, Number 3, November 2018. Trent Valley Archives.