

# HERITAGE GAZETTE

OF  
THE

TRENT



VALLEY



HISTORY OF CHEX TV – PART THREE (*See page 16*)



In this edition, we follow the history of CHEX TV up to the current day, which includes the many community programs station staff were involved in and the efforts made to work through the COVID-19 pandemic. We also continue the journey of Great War soldier Nicholas Scott from Chandos to Mericourt as well as look the history of Trent Valley Archive’s popular Little Lake Cemetery Pageant. This edition also includes some more images from the Peterborough Examiner Collection, showing winter and festive activities.

Looking into Scottish genealogy? TVA volunteers Gillian Holden and Christina Sills have contributed an article on their adventures in Scotland, looking for ancestors. Their story is just the sort of thing we would love to see more of from our members: how an archives search led from the Reading Room across the ocean to Caledonia. So, please let us know what you are working on for there may be an article for the Gazette there.

With Christmas coming up, members are encouraged to consider gifts from TVA including books, maps and photos. You can drop into the reading room or shop online.

Associate Archivist Heather Aiton Landry left us for the East Coast a few months ago, and we miss her already. In this issue we remember her work and her support of TVA with some comments from a few volunteers and friends. Best wishes from all of us, Heather!

From all of us at Trent Valley Archives, the board of directors, the staff and volunteers, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you the best of the holiday season.

  
Steve Guthrie,  
Trent Valley Archives, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

**TVA will be closed for the holidays from December 24 to January 2.**  
We look forwarding to seeing you in the New Year!

**Members-Only Zoom Talk** – January 11 @ 7:00 pm  
**The Miracle on Monaghan Road**

Presented by active community volunteer and journalist, Lois Tuffin. Based on her recent book.

*Ten years ago, a group of poverty reduction advocates took a leap of faith and bought a former convent. This was no ordinary building. Haunted by ghosts, it contained 132,500 square feet of space built between 1869 and 1969. It had sat empty for four long years, floors bursting in the freezing cold and bats lying dead in sinks and hallways. Over the next six years, several miracles – and a lot of hard work -- would unfold to bring new life to this building. The community rallied to bring the volunteer power, money, faith and resources to turn it into a vibrant place that served as a set for the Murdoch Mysteries TV series and Indian Horse movie. Today, The Mount Community Centre boasts 68 apartments, lush gardens, a refurbished commercial-scale kitchen and hope for the people who live there. It changed their lives and those of the people who committed to its success.*

This is a membership-only Zoom event. Visit the TVA website to become a member. The link will be forwarded to members closer to the event date. We’re always looking for interesting Zoom talks for our members. Speak up if you’ve an idea or if you’ve a pet writing or research project you’d like to share.



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**INTERESTING IN BECOMING A MEMBER?**  
See page 30 for more details on our membership.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
We sell a wide range of local books, maps, photos and posters of historical and general interest; many described on our webpage. Please inquire as we always have changing stock.

**ADVERTISE WITH US!**  
Rates for advertisements may be had by calling our office at 705-745-4404. We are grateful to our advertisers and hope that you give them support and mention that you noticed their ad here.

*On the cover: 1970-12-29 Tuesday: A Daring Leap (p. 13, 35mm) Not only is it the season to be jolly, but also to be daring. Michael Bowes of Peterborough makes a daring leap over a snowbank after coming out of a 90 degree angled turn. The 17-year-old was putting his snowmobile through its paces at the Old Orchard Park Winter Park, located about three miles east of the city. Michael is now vice-president of the private winter park situated on 300 acres of recreational land. Besides 12 miles of snowmobile trails, there are skiing, skating and tobogganing facilities. The family of J. M. Bowes, well known realtor, owns and operates the winter recreation business. Photo by Bruce Christensen.*



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# A Springtime SCOTTISH SOJOURN

BY CHRISTINA SILLS AND GILLIAN HOLDEN

(with help from Trafalgar Tours, Wikipedia and various dedicated websites)

## The Background

We two first met in Peterborough, at an aerobics class above a warehouse, in July 1987. We had an instant connection and discovered many things in common, including the same landlord, pet cats, bibliophilia, and a love of social history and genealogy. Over the ensuing 31 years, our lives took us in very different directions, but while living in distant cities and leading busy lives, we made time to get together as often as possible and catch up on the latest events. Perhaps one of the biggest surprises of our friendship has been finding out that we are related by marriage! But that is a story for another time.

In the summer of 1992 we made our first genealogical trip, heading to the Maritimes for three weeks, to find out where some of Gillian's Canadian ancestors originated. Both of us view the pursuit of family history research not so much to see "how far back" we can go (no royalty in Gill's family, and we don't know for sure about Christina's, since she does have a castle or two!), but rather to understand what our ancestors' lives were like. We love to learn the social history of a people and about the places they are from. In support of this, we stopped at Upper Canada Village in Morristown, Ontario as well as King's Landing in New Brunswick and the Fortress of Louisburg in Nova Scotia, during that trip.

Our first overnight was in Williamstown,

Ontario, where we stayed at a century B and B, which happened to be across the street from St. Mary's cemetery, where Christina had her first genealogical find! A serendipitous moment to be sure! In New Brunswick there was another such moment when we stopped in a cemetery in Scotch Settlement near Fredericton and spoke with a man who sent us to meet local historian, Bessie Howland. Bessie was one of the authors of *Looking Back at Macnaquac* and she was able to give Gillian many historical details about branches of her family. Gillian had known to look for that cemetery because she had letters written in the middle 1800s to her Ingersoll, Ontario ancestors, that had originated in Scotch Settlement.

In 2018, Gillian moved back to Peterborough, and we started meeting on a weekly basis, working on our various family branches, and promising one another that we would get our mountains of information under control. Both of us are the keepers of family letters, photos, maps, land documents, journals, books, and various other items. We have wanted to do another genealogy trip together mostly because when you travel with non-genealogists, they really do not appreciate being hauled through cemeteries and libraries. With the reduction in Covid 19 travel restrictions in the spring of 2023, we decided to take a trip to somewhere in the UK. Since we both have Scottish ancestry, that seemed to be the place to go.



St. Andrew's Castle  
ruins in St. Andrew's.

Gill wanted to do a combination trip of a few days alone in Edinburgh, then a bus tour that would give us an overview of the Highlands. That said, we booked the Best of Scotland trip through Trafalgar Tours, used VISA points for our flights, and started to pull it all together.

## The Preparation

Once we knew we were going to Scotland, we brought all our prior learning and knowledge to the forefront, to make the most of the trip. Over the years we had both taken courses through FutureLearn, an online UK university, about Scottish genealogy research, and Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites. Christina was well acquainted with many aspects of Scottish history through the Diana Gabaldon *Outlander* book series, and previous trips to Scotland. Both of us were reasonably well versed in the events leading up to the Battle of Culloden as well as some other Scottish historical people, events and places. We also did some reading in the

weeks leading up to the trip, (a novel about Glencoe, *Clanlands* by Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish (Outlander TV series actors), Scotland: 1,000 Things You Need to Know by Edwin Moore) for interest, but which also helped us to appreciate so much more about the sites and stories we encountered while there.

A little online research showed us that April is the month in Scotland with the greatest number of sunny days, and that midges (reviled insects that are as annoying as blackflies and mosquitoes in Ontario) don't appear until May, but then remain through the summer to September. That said, the second half of April was chosen. Interestingly, because we booked in February, and paid in full at the time of booking, we received a large enough discount to cover the cost of all the additional activities that were offered by Trafalgar. Thank goodness! Those activities really made the trip spectacular. Why go all the way to the UK if you're not going to see and do absolutely everything that is possible?



Gillian and Christina at  
the top of Arthur's seat.





## Edinburgh

After landing at 7:40 am on a Thursday, we planned to stay awake as long as possible before finding our pre-booked guest house and settling in for the night. To this end, we found a bus from the airport into Edinburgh, stowed our bags in lockers at the city bus station, and started walking. Up we went to the Royal Mile, dominated by the imposing Castle on a rocky outcropping at one end, and Holyrood Abbey, ancient and very beautiful, at the other end, to get our bearings and begin to taste the flavour of the city. Hungry of course, the first priority was a place to eat, and we found a wonderfully delicious, full Scottish breakfast (yes, that includes blood pudding and haggis) at the Deacon's House Café in Brodie's Close. The breakfast, wait staff, atmosphere and ambience at the café were all so good, we went back again two days later!

Also on that first day, we dropped in to The People's Story, one of a collection of Edinburgh museums, featuring the lives of ordinary citizens of Edinburgh through the ages, where we met Kirk, a docent who hailed from Alberta. He recommended the Edinburgh Museum, across the way, which featured scale models of the Royal Mile at different points in history. It has been described as a "beautiful collection of artifacts in a quirky museum that is well away from the busy, touristy end of the Royal Mile" and we would agree. We were quite interested in First World War commander Earl Haig's extensive collection, the collar and bowl of Greyfriars Bobby, and the National Covenant, 1638, written on a piece of deer hide and signed by many citizens in support.

Finally, practically propping our eyelids open, we made our way by city bus, after obtaining a map from a very helpful Information booth attendant, to our guest house on the Corstorphine Road. Perhaps

at this point I should mention that neither of us had put Scottish SIM cards into our phones, and thus we could not access maps and directions or make phone calls. We were lucky to run into a friendly dog walker who helped us find our way. And then, once at the guest house, we couldn't get in! This was an entirely unexpected turn of events. The keypad instructions said to phone the posted number and be given a passcode. But we couldn't phone. Alas, how did people travel before the cell phone age? Ever resourceful, Christina went out to the road to flag down the first available stranger with a phone. He was none too pleased and looked at her with a high degree of suspicion and distrust, standing well back as he made the call on our behalf and gave us the number. In hindsight, we're lucky he was trustworthy and I only hope he hasn't used the passcode himself at some point since.

I, Gillian, make the navigating sound easy, but never have I seen a street in which the house numbers make absolutely no sense. We disembarked from the bus and began walking in the "right" direction. There was no chronological order to the houses, and just when we thought we might be getting somewhere, the numbering actually switched completely to a series that we had passed a few blocks back. I'm sure there's an explanation, but we never did get it figured out. Every time we got off our city bus and started to walk to our guest house, we ended up going in the wrong direction, in daylight and in the (well-lit) dark. By the final night, we had figured out the correct bus stop for disembarking, but even so, we never could understand which way to turn. It was like being in a Harry Potter movie, in which the houses kept changing places and their numbers were randomly assigned. One very cool thing we did discover is that bus riders can tap their credit cards to pay the fare. That made life easy!

## Walks and Tours

While in Edinburgh, we enjoyed walking tours such as Underground Edinburgh and a Harry Potter excursion, which had been prebooked from home, and which we highly recommend. We trekked up to Arthur's Seat, made a visit to Holyrood House, and wandered through the

Greyfriars Kirkyard, home of the burial plot of the famous little terrier, Greyfriars Bobby, and the scene of the location of imprisonment of the Covenantors mentioned above. We learned that J.K. Rowling, of Harry Potter fame, had used that imprisonment site and the names from several of the headstones in her books. In fact, she wrote the first book while sitting in a coffee shop that overlooked the cemetery. A word about Holyrood House. Having been an avid reader of biographies of Mary, Queen of Scots, Gill found it absolutely spine-tingling to stand in the rooms where Mary gave birth to her son, James, and where David Rizzio, her Italian-born, personal secretary, was ambushed and stabbed to death. We also had a quick look into St. Giles Cathedral. You will be wondering why I haven't mentioned the Castle. We knew it was to be visited during the Trafalgar Tour, so we used our time for seeing other sights and sites.

Christina, who likes to keep track of these things, noted that we averaged 15,000 steps each of our first three days in Scotland! No wonder we wanted the full Scottish breakfast each morning!

One of our aims in going to Scotland was to complete some family history research. Gillian had recently discovered, through her father's DNA results, that he had a direct ancestor from South Uist in the Outer Hebrides. This was an exciting piece of information, and led her to an author (through Hebrides People) named Bill Lawson, who has compiled an incredible amount of research about those islands and has published several books. The books, while available for purchase, are quite expensive, so Gill was very pleased to find some of them in a branch of the Edinburgh Library. As well, she found books called *The Statistical Accounts of Scotland* which are a series of documentary publications that describe in detail the life of people in Scotland in the 18th and 19th centuries. They are divided into parishes, and the information about the lives of citizens of South Uist in 1794 and 1845 is fabulous! I took photos of the pages with my phone, and intend to transcribe them, in the hopes of gaining a better understanding of the lives of those ancestors. Christina has since discovered that these books have been digitized and

are available at <https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/home>.

We decided to forgo a visit to the National Archives as it has an online presence called Scotland's People (<https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>). We are already users of that website and have had some luck finding information and records. A few days later in the trip, Gillian found and bought a book, *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors*, produced by the National Records of Scotland, that is a guide to effective use of the website.

## The Bus (Coach) Tour

On Sunday we once again schlepped our bags halfway across Edinburgh in order to store them for the day at the hotel where we would later meet up with the Trafalgar Tour. I may as well as tell you, because Christina certainly will, that we actually (my mistake!) stored them at the WRONG hotel because it was immediately next door to the RIGHT hotel, and I didn't bother to read the signs! Thought it was simply another entrance. Luckily, when we needed them, we were able to catch the eye of a hotel housekeeper who retrieved them for us, rather than lining up at the check-in desk and possibly being charged a fee for the day. Things seem to happen to me when I'm in another country . . . oh well.

Trafalgar had arranged a jam-packed itinerary for the next five days (six nights) and it was very exciting to begin this portion of our journey. A fabulous tour of Edinburgh Castle was taken the next morning, led by Bob, a local specialist and proud Scot. While in the Castle, we also saw the Crown Jewels, the Stone of Scone (Stone of Destiny) which has an intriguing history and story of its own, and the dungeon prison which was spooky, damp and had a pervading atmosphere of despair.

Interestingly, the military presence at the Castle remains unbroken and it is still an active base today. Gill also came across this fact recently while reading a Cormoran Strike novel written by Robert Galbraith, aka J.K. Rowling. Once again, our reading and our sight-seeing converged. Have I mentioned yet that Christina and I like to get our history from novels? Christina

always downloads a selection of audio books to listen to when travelling. She enjoys historical fiction as it is a good starting point for further fact finding. For our Scotland trip one of the books that she downloaded through the Peterborough Public Library's cloudLibrary website was Susanna Kearsley's *The Vanished Days*. Susanna Kearsley is a Canadian author from Brantford, Ontario. Christina has read most of her books and enjoys the blending of history with time travel, similar in style to Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* series.



Local Specialist Bob – tour guide for Edinburgh Castle.

*The Vanished Days* is a tale of intrigue and revolution in Scotland where King James' exile brought plots, suspicion, and untold bravery to light. It is set in the autumn of 1707 when old enemies from the Highlands to the Borders are finding common ground as they join to protest the new Union with England. At the same time, the French are preparing to launch an invasion to bring the young, exiled Jacobite king back to Scotland to reclaim the throne and in Edinburgh the streets are filled with discontent and danger. While in Edinburgh touring the sights and immersing ourselves in the history, we walked in the footsteps of the book's characters, and saw firsthand places mentioned by the author, such as St. Giles Cathedral, the wynds and closes, Edinburgh Castle's dungeon and many more locations that form the setting of the book.

A trip to Rosslyn Chapel, made famous by *The DaVinci Code*, written by Dan Brown

and made into a movie, part of which was filmed at the Chapel, was also included in the tour. The interest generated by the book and movie, and the subsequent flood of tourists to the area, has had a huge beneficial financial impact on the preservation and restoration of the chapel and the development of a visitor centre.

Off into the Highlands the following day, with a stop in St. Andrew's, which will be well known to golfers (which we are not) and a short, fast trek into the town where we found both ruins of both a castle and a cathedral. While many of our fellow coach travellers headed into the nearest café and tourist shop, we took some fabulous photos of these historic buildings and learned about George Wishart, an early Protestant martyr, while finding the site of his burning at the stake.

A lengthy visit to Blair Castle, the ancient home of the Dukes of Atholl, and the home to Europe's last remaining private army, was very interesting. It is the ancestral home of the Clan Murray and was historically the seat of their chief, the Duke of Atholl, though the current (12th) Duke, Bruce Murray, lives in South Africa. When the previous Duke died childless, it was necessary to trace the lineage back several generations, and then forward along a different family line, to locate the present Duke. There is an excellent timeline of the various Dukes through the centuries depicting this search. To a genealogist, this was a fascinating process. The castle stands in Glen Garry and commands a strategic position on the main route through the central Scottish Highlands. Blair has hosted royalty from Mary, Queen of Scots, to Queen Victoria. Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Jacobite army were quartered there briefly at two different periods in 1745 and 1746. While we were there an exhibit of clothing belonging to members of the family through the centuries was on display. Currently, a cousin of the present duke lives on site and manages the Castle as a well-maintained and extremely informative tourist site.

For two nights we stayed at the Laggan Hotel in Cairngorms National Park. This hotel had the ambience of a bygone sporting or hunting lodge, with



picturesque views from all its windows, a tasteful Highland decorating scheme and a wide selection of more than 30 malt whiskies, all offering different tastes and origins. The hit BBC drama series *Monarch of the Glen*, based in fictitious Glenbogle, was filmed in Laggan and the surrounding areas. The meals here were the best we had on the trip, with generous helpings and a variety of fresh and cooked vegetables – somewhat of a rarity in other restaurants at which we ate. Haggis was served everywhere too, in forms like sausage, patties and in small pate dishes. It is not dissimilar to the spiced sausage that is eaten in Canada, and I suspect it is quite dissimilar to the haggis that was made and served in centuries past.

One of our extra activities was a visit to a Highland sheep farm to watch Neil the Shepherd work his border collies. This was fascinating, especially to Gillian, who adopted a border collie three years ago, when it was eight years old. Neil the Shepherd can be seen on YouTube videos. He has several dogs and told us they all have their own set of whistle commands. This seems incredible as we would have expected the same whistles could be used for all the dogs. Working border collies are truly a sight to behold as they dash around the fields herding the sheep in different directions according to the shepherd’s whistled commands. Neil told us he was the fourth-generation shepherd in his family on the Leault farm near Kingussie. He demonstrated shearing a sheep with fleece clippers, rather than an electric tool, and allowed some onlookers to try their hands at it too. One of the border collies had given birth to a litter six 6 weeks before and we all enjoyed snuggles and cuddles with various pups. As well, there were copious numbers of lambs, all able to be picked up and held until they wriggled loose. Interestingly, the lambs had no scent, while the pups stank as if they’d been rolling in manure (which we suppose they may have been).

By the way, the Scottish Highlands truly are covered with sheep! As we drove along, we saw many white lumps on the hillsides. Just as Gill was pondering whether such a lump might be a rock, invariably, it would move! Once she saw a sheep lying on its

back with its legs in the air. Gill gasped aloud, crying out, “Oh no, it’s dead!” when suddenly, it rolled over, jumped up, and shook itself like a dog. Hilarious!

### Glencoe History

We were unable to stop and explore the Glencoe area, which was a disappointment, but the tour had a very tight schedule. We would have enjoyed seeing the present-day village on the historic site and the museum, which contains artifacts and tells the story of the horrific massacre that took place there in February 1692. (Both Christina’s reading of *Clanlands* and my reading of *Witch Light*, by Susan Fletcher, had informed us of the story of this place.) The short version of the story is that the MacDonalds of Glencoe were hosting a group of Campbells for a couple of weeks that winter. Unbeknownst to the MacDonalds, the Campbells had been ordered by the government to kill them all. It was thought to be retaliation for the chief’s failure to sign an Oath of Allegiance



*Christina with a ‘wee lambie’.*

to King William and Queen Mary. In fact, the chief had gone to sign the oath, but was late due to weather problems, and having gone to the wrong place. About 38 members of the MacDonald clan were murdered outright or died from exposure as they escaped onto the surrounding moorlands. To this day, there are businesses in the area with signs in their windows stating, “No dogs or Campbells allowed.”

It’s our understanding that Scotland was pretty much completely deforested in the 17th and 18th centuries to enable sheep, deer and goat grazing. This kind of landscape alteration can be devastating to the native flora and fauna. An organization called Trees for Life is rewilding areas of the country. To that end, a brand-new facility, which had opened just days before our visit, will educate people and work to provide habitat to help some of those plant and animal species regenerate. The Dundreggan Rewilding Centre is a flagship rewilding estate and tree nursery, about eight miles from Loch Ness and based on a former laird’s estate lands, where tens of thousands of trees are grown each year, including rare and hard-to-grow species. Allowing the forest to regenerate naturally has expanded fragments of Scotland’s Caledonian Forest and is providing habitat for more than 4,000 species, including golden eagles and black grouse. The Red Squirrel is another little creature that is being encouraged to repopulate the area, which caused Chirstina great hilarity as she recounted to the interpreter her husband’s ongoing annoyance with the furry pests!

We took a Loch Lomond cruise on a cold and misty afternoon. The Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond are truly beautiful and the skipper maintained a running commentary about the history of the people and buildings along the shoreline. One such place is the Inversnaid Hotel, which was once a hunting lodge for the Duke of Montrose and is part of the local history which includes clan warfare and the clearances. The skipper also pointed out Rob Roy’s cave. Unfortunately, it was somewhat difficult to hear the commentary clearly due to the rumble of the diesel engines.

The Trafalgar Tour, billed as Best of Scotland, did an excellent job of showing the highlights and telling about many sites and their stories. Occasionally it was frustrating to know we couldn’t spend more time, such as at Culloiden, or see something in more detail, such as Glasgow Cathedral. One such disappointment was Eilean Donan Castle. We stopped at the visitor centre but did not have time to cross the causeway and tour the buildings. So close and yet so far! We finally reasoned that we will have to plan another trip

which will be taken on our terms, with a rental car, local guides, etc. and allow us to go into greater depth in places we want to know more about.

While on the coach, between stops, we were treated to various goodies, including whiskey shots, that are popular in Scotland. Laphroaig, which will be familiar to readers of novelist Peter Robinson’s *Inspector Banks* series, and Drambuie, a liqueur created by the bonnie Prince himself, according to legend, were among them. Some of the treats were similar to cookies and chocolate bars we have here. Fortunately, none of them included the infamous Irn Bru! Tour members who tried it in restaurants were not particularly enamoured of it. Also, Scottish music, including sing-along if you wish, clips from movies filmed in Scotland and video footage of historic events, were played on board. We thought the Trafalgar guides, Jon and Ian, did an excellent job of entertaining us, herding us (Oh, that pair from Australia!) and meeting our needs and desires.

Every day was packed with places to go and things to see. One day we had a 10 am tour of a distillery and whiskey tasting (!) at Clydesdale Distillery where we met a young woman from Ontario who had attended Strathclyde University for her final term and then obtained a two-year work permit to stay in the country. Similarly, while in the Fort William Bookshop, Gill met a young woman from her hometown of 6,500 people! What are the odds? It turns out she taught with the woman’s godmother for several years and knew her parents. This woman went to Scotland on a six-month visa, met a Scotsman, married him, and the rest is history. While dining at the Red Onion restaurant in Glasgow we met the owner who was once Canadian rocker Brian Adams’ personal chef. He gave us secret inside information about the singer, too. That Scottish chef has been to more places in Canada than we have!

We also visited Stirling Castle’s hilltop fortress, which is a symbol of national pride as it was once the seat of Scottish kings and queens, including Mary, Queen of Scots. From there we saw the Wallace Monument which pays tribute to one of the Scottish heroes who fought for Scotland’s independence.

It was on this travel day that Christina had another genealogical moment. She had compiled enough information through DNA, Scotland’s People and Ancestry matches, to pinpoint the origin of one of her family branches as Callander, Perthshire, Scotland. The McNaughtons (they of the castle) came to Canada on the Fame in 1816. It so happened that our excursion took us past the exact location of their origin. Christina was able to see firsthand the landscape of her ancestors’ birth.

Another local farm experience, which was a real highlight for us, took place at Ledard Farm, owned by Fergus and Francesca Wood. It is located on the shores of Loch Ard and is described as a hill farm, dating back to the 15th century. Fergus and his son, Gregor Wood, fed us a delicious dinner (including haggis, of course) in the original laird’s hall and entertained us with bagpipes, guitars and tales of Rob Roy. The hall was decorated with ‘plaids’, guns, swords and other historical weapons. Border collies were also part of the farm animal population as the Woods raise Jacob sheep. As we were saying goodbye, Fergus learned that Gillian is a spinner and weaver. He was so disappointed not to have known earlier, he said, as he would have shown her his collection of 100 or so spinning wheels!

### Visitors from North Bay

During dinner one evening, we sat with a couple from North Bay, Ontario. Part of their visit to Scotland was to search for some of the wife’s family members as they had lost any connection with the family in Scotland. They had an interesting tale of a man stealing his brother’s fiancée a day or two before the wedding and then heading straight out to Canada. They were looking for any information about that man’s 11 siblings and his parents. Christina loves to talk family history with people and her instinct for detection was aroused. That evening, through Scotland’s People, she was able to find several details about the lost people that were needed to locate the headstones of the family in Greenock. The North Bay couple was extremely grateful, and decided they would visit the area after the tour and see if they could find any living relatives.



*Gillian with a ‘wee pup’.*

We had one remaining day between the end of the coach tour and our flight home, and we chose to spend it at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. There is a terrific Scottish Family Research Centre there, and once again we found some real genealogical and historical gems. For us, it’s not all about the family members and their vital statistics, but we also want to know what their lives were like, how they lived and worked, what they ate, where their food and other goods came from, how they travelled and where and why, ad nauseum. Short of being able to travel back in time and live amongst the ancestors, we want to be able to recreate for ourselves a solid sense of their time period and living conditions. Many of the resources we found helped us toward this understanding. In other cases we took down titles and publishing information, to be able to look for books elsewhere.

When Christina and I travel, we remain as open as possible to whatever might come our way. We firmly believe that this open-to-possibilities attitude brings events, activities and people into our sphere that we might not experience otherwise. This trip to Scotland proved to be full of these serendipitous moments and made the trip so much more enjoyable and memorable. Gillian definitely has a plan to return to Scotland, probably to the Outer Hebrides in search of an understanding of what her father’s ancestors’ lives were like. Christina has now been to Scotland at least three times, but still doesn’t feel she’s seen enough of the country.



# The History of the LITTLE LAKE CEMETERY PAGEANT

BY STEVE GUTHRIE

The Little Lake Cemetery Pageant was originally staged in 2010 to mark the 160th Anniversary of the cemetery.

In August 2010 TVA Assistant Archivist Dianne Robnik and TVA volunteer Bruce Fitzpatrick had just returned from Atlanta, Georgia, where they were impressed by activities honoring local historic citizens at a city cemetery. Coincidentally, Peterborough's Little Lake Cemetery was marking its 160th anniversary so planning was started on an event to illustrate the lives of some of those buried at Little Lake.

The first step was to decide on who would be portrayed. Little Lake Cemetery staff provided lists of those who lie there and some details about them. Then pageant producers would go through the list, narrowing it down to a dozen personalities they felt would be good theatre. Other volunteers began using resources at Trent Valley Archives to flesh-out the characters using period newspaper articles, letters and books and writing the script. At this point, producers began thinking about actors who could bring the characters back to life. The persons portrayed in the first cemetery pageant, and the actors involved were:

- Graham Hart — W.G. Morrow
- Liam Fitzpatrick — Arthur Ross Ackerman
- Peter Blodgett — Daniel MacDonald
- Tim Rowat — Rev Vincent Clementi
- Gail Rowat — Frances Stewart
- Teresa Kaszuba — Charlotte Nicholls
- Wally Macht — Mossom Boyd,
- Dennis Carter-Edwards — R.B. Rogers
- Elizabeth King — Isabella Valancy Crawford
- Geoff Hewitson — Dr. Thomas Barnardo
- Basia Baklinski — HESSIE GRAY
- Steve Guthrie — Col. John Wesley Miller.

The event involved dozens of people including actors portraying the deceased but also scriptwriters, costumers, and wranglers to escort visitors around the cemetery to the various gravesites. A team approached the Peterborough Theatre Guild, 4th Line Theatre in Millbrook and Lang Pioneer Village to secure appropriate costumes for the actors. Tickets had to be prepared and sold and lighting made available at the gravesites, along with tents to shelter the actors in case of inclement weather and hot drinks to keep volunteers and visitors warm.

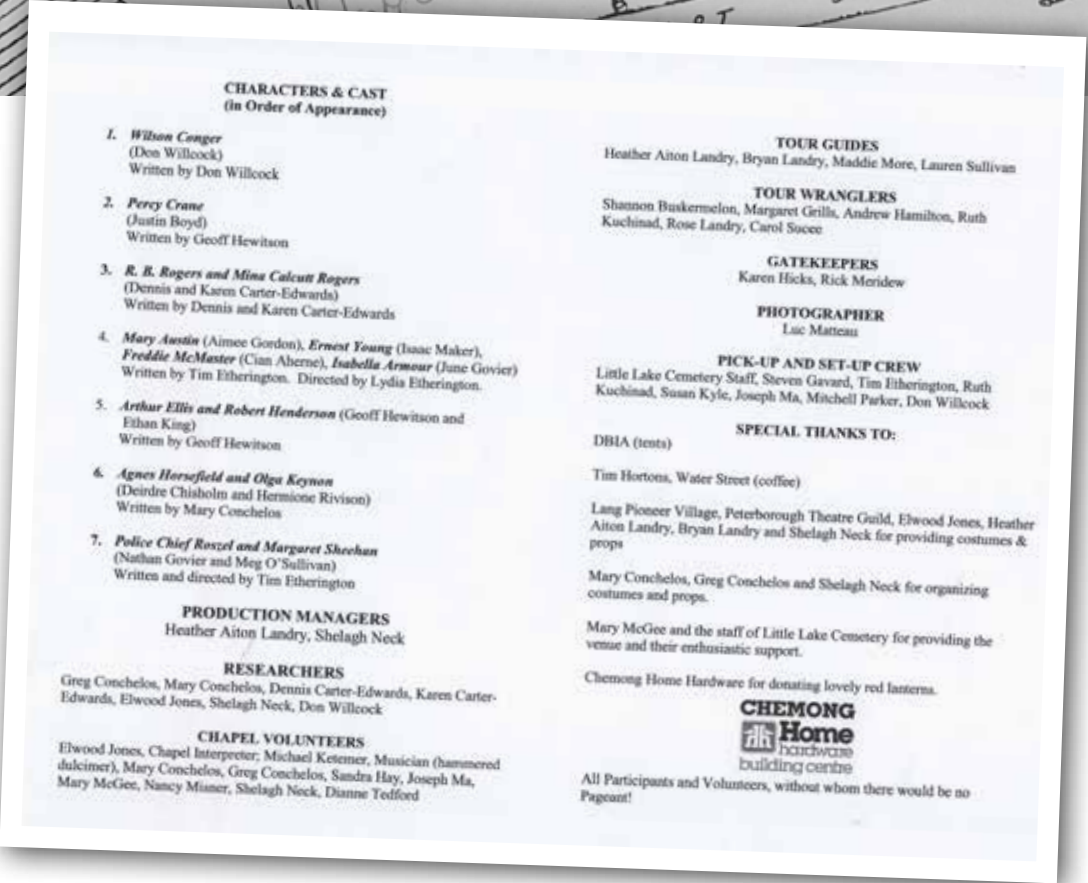
As the pageant continued in subsequent years, organizers recognized the need to



streamline the production, to tighten up the schedule. Groups of visitors were reduced in size. And while it was felt that staging the pageant around Halloween had a certain “spooky” feel, the weather and increasing darkness made the experience more of a potential hazard than it needed to be. So, in 2017 the event was moved to September and expanded to include both Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon performances.

The brochure from 2018 illuminates the number of volunteers needed to successfully present the pageant.

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns for the health of actors, volunteers







## Thanks, Heather



I always looked forward to receiving an in-person query or an e-mail question from Heather — she seems to have an exaggerated idea of my range of knowledge. I tried never to disappoint her — even if it was just to suggest that she check with Elwood!

Heather, however, has a non-office, non-administrative talent that many may not know about: she is a terrific seamstress, with special training in heritage costume creation! (Did you think the TVA Ghost Walk capes were made by elves?) Last year, Hutchison House needed two new male guides' costume shirts (one for me) to replace rather long-worn ones, so Heather was commissioned. She did a marvellous job, in very short order — and admitted to having a lot of fun in the process.

Thanks for everything, Heather. If you ever decide to start up your own heritage sewing business let me know — I'll be first in line for another shirt, a vest, trousers ...

All the best, you are missed already.

— Don Willcock

and audience members, the decision was made to cancel the Cemetery Pageant for that year. The following year, thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough, Trent Valley Archives presented a virtual pageant. The historical sketches were recorded onsite at Little Lake cemetery and edited into a video made available online in 2021.

Unlike the names of prominent citizens

buried at Little Lake, their stories are not etched in stone. Writer and actor Geoff Hewitson, who portrayed Dr. Thomas Barnardo several times, has revised the doctor's story of rescuing British children from poverty and bringing them to Canada. He uncovered details showing those he had entrusted to monitor the health and well-being of the children had in many cases, failed to do so. The script now shows the doctor's dismay at some of

the stories of hardship and neglect of the children he had brought to Canada with such high hopes.

In 2022, the live pageant returned although some areas of the cemetery, including the chapel, were off-limits due to damage from a violent windstorm. But due to a number of issues, including the departure of assistant archivist and pageant producer Heather Aiton-Landry, the 2023

edition of the pageant had to be cancelled. However, it's too soon to declare the Little Lake Cemetery Pageant "dead." It may be reborn and rise again in the future. But even with the loss of the pageant, the partnership between Trent Valley Archives and Little Lake Cemetery continues with a number of annual conducted tours including Ladies of the Lake, The Military Tour, Tragic Tales and Mark your Spot.



Sean Quinlan as Harry Jeffrey and Geoff Hewitson as Dr. Thomas Barnardo.

### Little Lake Cemetery Twilight Pageant

**Sunday August 14**

Hour-long lantern-lit tours are from 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Tickets \$20 per person. Refreshments to follow at the chapel.

Introduce yourself to some of Peterborough's most famous celebrities and hear them tell their fascinating stories at their own grave sites!

Advance tickets call **745-4404**  
Trent Valley Archives

**A FAMILY EVENT**

Top to bottom: Teresa Kaszuba as Charlotte Nichols, Elizabeth King as Isabella Valancy Crawford.



# PETERBOROUGH PERPETRATORS: *How I Developed a* TRUE CRIME TOUR *for the* TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

BY MADISON MORE

Humans have always been fascinated with true crime stories, although the real media frenzy that has surrounded true crime in the past century or so probably dates back to the 1880s when the notorious Jack the Ripper was stalking the streets of Whitechapel and the newspapers were reporting on his movements on a daily basis. Partly out of a desire to keep informed on what was happening in their own backyards and partly out of a curiosity for what might drive a person to commit such horrible atrocities, Londoners clung onto every word the newspapers reported about the mysterious killer. That same desire and curiosity continued into the 20th century, when more and more people were getting recognized in the media for their heinous crimes.

In Peterborough, local citizens' interest in true crime stemmed from the Peterborough Examiner's nearly word-for-word accounts of any of the major trials that took place at the county courthouse on the hill in Victoria Park. It also stemmed from the fact that the county gaol, situated just behind the

courthouse, was responsible for meting out capital punishment for five men who were sentenced to death in the courthouse for murders they had committed. Even if they weren't regular readers of the Examiner's crime content, most Peterborough citizens had a vested interest in the lives and crimes



Police at New Grand Hotel after fatal shooting.

of these men. Sometimes, they were even divided as to whether or not the man in question deserved to die or not. Despite this historical precedence, with the creation of YouTube and online streaming services like Netflix, it's

undeniable that true crime has been gaining in popularity over the past decade. Whereas someone interested in the topic before might have had to scan the newspaper or catch a segment on the evening news to learn more about a case and the perpetrator, today it's as easy as watching a short video on YouTube or Netflix's latest docuseries. The creators of this content have varying motives. While news reporters were simply acting upon their duty to share information with the public, many true crime content creators today do it because it's a popular topic that draws in a large viewership.

That being said, there are some people out there who are making this content from a place of respect, those who want to draw more attention to unsolved cases and bring the stories of the victims and their families to the forefront. In some instances, the families of the victims will even reach out to these content creators and ask for their help in spreading awareness about their loved one's case. And with the popularity of these videos (and genetic genealogy and DNA testing) we are definitely a step closer to solving a lot of crimes that went cold decades ago.

I must admit that my first thought, upon deciding to create a true crime tour for the Trent Valley Archives, was that it would likely be popular because of the popularity of the topic in recent years. But I was also inspired by some of my favourite true crime content creators, and wanted to do my part in raising awareness about cases that may have been forgotten by the general public over the years. That being said, I knew there were a few high-profile cases that happened in Peterborough that people would be expecting to hear and that we've talked about on previous tours, specifically the murder of OPP Constable Norman Maker at the Montgomery Hotel in the 1920s and the murder of Grand Hotel manager Murray Green in the 1970s. For these, I used journalist and local historian Ed Arnold's two true crime books as a jumping off point: *Inside Peterborough: Three Murder Stories*, and *Peterborough 1970's Crimes*. Both books described the cases in great detail and also helped to synthesize the plethora of information that would have been published about them in the Examiner.

From there, I turned to the Examiner to help flesh out the rest of the tour. There were a lot of great stories that were published in the paper in the late 1800s and early 1900s that piqued my interest, and since the Examiner reporters did a great job at describing the crimes, there was a lot of information to work with. I was particularly interested in finding a couple of more lighthearted stories (as much as crime can be lighthearted) to balance out the heavier stories on the tour, and fortunately I found a couple that fit the bill.

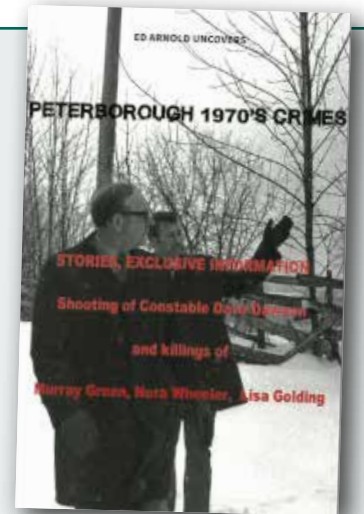
My favourite story, which resulted in a thrilling search through the Peterborough Examiner to track down all of the information, is about a man named John Parks who went on a crime spree throughout Central Ontario. When he landed in Peterborough, he stole a man's car in the market square and left town with it. He was finally caught in Oshawa, and was dragged back to Peterborough where he spent the holidays in the county gaol to await his trial. Unfortunately for the gaol, he found a way to escape and was on the

lam for over two months before he was finally recaptured.

I'll save the details for anyone who wants to take the tour, but needless to say this story also served as a perfect opportunity for me to talk about what conditions were like at the county gaol at the time Parks was awaiting his trial there, and to talk about the other breakouts that happened at the gaol before his daring escape. In my opinion, it's hard to talk about true crime in Peterborough without also talking about its deep connection to the county courthouse and gaol, which served as a warning to Peterborough citizens to abstain from criminal activity and was the home to the perpetrators of many crimes, both petty and serious, over the years.

Out of respect for the victims and their families, I chose to refrain from talking about solved cases that happened in Peterborough in the recent past, sticking to cases that were at least 50 years old. I did, however, make one exception for an unsolved case from the late 1980s that the police are still hoping to solve, since it's important that we get the word out there as much as possible; you never know who might have some information that will lead to a case being solved. Since we were planning to run this as a walking tour, I also had to confine my stories to the downtown core. I know there have been some significant cases that have happened in other parts of town over the years that I would like to talk about at some point, but for now I've had to narrow my scope to keep the walking to a manageable amount.

I want to extend a huge thank-you to everyone who has attended the tour so far and provided me with positive feedback. As someone who has spent the past few years admiring the work of other content creators, the chance to finally do it myself has been very rewarding. I also encourage anyone who has a local case they would like me to talk about to reach out to the Trent Valley Archives. Our tours are enhanced by contributions from our audience, and I'm always keen to update them with new stories and information, especially if there is an unsolved case you'd like me to talk about.



## LEARN MORE!

If you want to learn more about true crime in Peterborough, I highly recommend you check out Peterborough Perpetrators, our true crime tour, that will be running again next summer. If you can't wait, I also recommend you check out Ed Arnold's three true crime books: *Young Enough to Die*, *Inside Peterborough: Three Murder Stories*, and *Peterborough 1970's Crimes*. We have copies of the 1970s Crimes book in our bookstore for \$25.



## A SPECIAL GIFT

We're also offering a special gift bundle for the holidays that will include a voucher for two tickets to next year's true crime tour, and a copy of *Peterborough 1970's Crimes*. The cost is \$50 and the bundle can be picked up anytime during our operating hours (Tuesday-Saturday from 10am to 4pm). Copies are limited, so get yours today!





*Easter Seals Telethon  
Producer/Director Fred Barrie (l)  
and Cameraman John Zeyen (r).*

# HISTORY OF CHEX TV

## PART THREE

*This is the third and final installment of the History of CHEX TV, written by Steve Guthrie. Part One appeared in the premier digital issue of the HG in March, 2023, the second part in the August issue. These past instalments can be found at [www.trentvalleyarchives.com](http://www.trentvalleyarchives.com).*

*The first part introduced the new local station, part of the Thomson family in 1952. The second part described the people and programs of the established local station. Broadcasting, and media in general, have been transformed over the past decades. In Part Three we learn how technology and the business of television altered the familiar CHEX logo.*

BY STEVE GUTHRIE

In early 2016 after 60 years of affiliation, CHEX Television was dropped from the CBC family due to corporate restructuring. That August, Corus and Bell Media signed an agreement to purchase CTV programming and adapt the CHEX schedule to include a noon-hour newscast, the first in years, and a late local news cast at 11:30 pm, formerly at 11 pm. In September 2016, Corus Entertainment purchased Shaw Communications which brought CHEX under the Global Television umbrella. This meant moving the late news back to 11 pm.

Coming under Global Television also meant a number of positions and departments were declared redundant as the work could be done off site. Master control had gone fully digital in 1999; there were no taped shows, all programming came off a server. Over the years, Peterborough master ran programming for Peterborough, Kingston, Oshawa and Brighton. In late August 2018 — another change. CHEX Television went off the air Sunday, August 26; early on Monday, August 27, Global Peterborough went on the air. This meant that in September programming for Peterborough originated from Global Calgary and Peterborough master control was shut down.

The change also meant the loss of CHEX Daily in its original form and the



introduction of a three-hour morning show which was accomplished by moving staff like Teresa Kaszuba, Melody Belfry, Caley Bedore and Lindsay Biscaia and production veterans Kevin Wheeler and Dave Dundas off the CHEX Daily to the new time slot. But the rest of the local programing continued under the CHEX name, including The Morning Show, and CHEX News at Noon, Six and Eleven.

*The Effect of COVID-19*

The only non-news program currently produced at Monaghan Road is Kinsmen Super Bingo. On the air for over a quarter of a century, the show saw its greatest success as a community fundraiser during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sales of bingo cards reached 18,000 in late 2021 year and hit 22,000 in 2022. The pandemic also led to changes in the way the show is

produced. In the past, the caller, the phone team and others worked in the studio. Now the caller works by himself in the studio with the rest of the volunteers operating in two separate trailers parked outside.

Global Television was very proactive in protecting staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Current technology allowed the majority to work from home and those who had to come to 743 Monaghan Rd. practiced daily screening and worked physically distanced from each other behind clear plastic screens. News interviews were largely conducted through Zoom but in the field, crews have been given tools to maintain physical distance between themselves and the public.

*Supporting the community*

From the start, CHEX Television has

always supported community initiatives. From entering teams in fundraising sports tournaments, to the Peterborough Dragon Boat Festival to hosting the Easter Seals Telethon, CHEX has been a presence.

The Rotary Club of Peterborough and CHEX Television launched the Easter Seal Telethon in the mid-1970s. Spearheaded by CHEX General Manager and Rotarian Wally Rewegan, and continued by former CHEX announcer Stuart Harrison, the telethon has raised more than one million dollars for the Easter Seal Society. The three-hour live broadcast featured local musical talent and dozens of community members who worked the phones taking pledges. Announcer Al Simmons recalls working the telethon:

“It was absolutely insane because all the entertainment was live up on TV Hill.

We had two, sort of, studios: one real studio and one pretend studio. We ran the entertainment from one studio, which was all live, and then the actual donation team was going on the other studio, and we had two cameras and the cameras were running back and forth between the two studios, we were going insane but it was fun, it was part of the spirit of the organization.”

Stuart Harrison, former general manager of the Peterborough and Kawarthas Chamber of Commerce and long-time telethon host says:

“I essentially went from doing it as a DJ to doing the Telethon as a Rotarian to now, and they won't let me go. I have the memory and the experience and I guess the natural ability to work with the kids. I've got decades of recipe cards with the comments and thoughts and things that



1967 CHEX Hockey team vs Peterborough County OPP.



CHEX Dragon Boat Team entered in the 2007 Survivors Abreast Dragon Boat festival on Little Lake.



# Thanks, Heather

Back in 2012, I joined TVA to do some research for a friend who wanted to designate her historical home. Every Saturday morning, I made it my routine to spend half the day going through various collections. It was a nice break for me, having four children at home, to get out, see some new faces and do something completely different.

I'll never forget meeting Heather Aiton-Landry for the first time. That particular Saturday morning she was there as a volunteer covering for Diane Robnik and had her young daughter Rose in tow. After helping her conquer the thermostat, Heather offered me some home baked cookies that she and Rose had made the night before. That, in a nutshell, captures the sweet, friendly and kind personality of Heather.

As the Cemetery Pageant grew over the years, so did our friendship. I signed up to help with the event and we began to spending more time together, not just work related but social time as well. Dinners out, the occasional horror movie and glasses of wine here and there. I will miss being able to "pick her brain" as I often did about putting together costumes, dating old photographs or sharing a story that might be turned into a piece for the pageant, but mostly I will miss her quirky sense of humour. One year, after pulling off a very large scale production of the pageant, we were in the chapel enjoying some down time. Heather saw me and came running over, throwing her arms around me yelling, "We did it!" She was never afraid to show how much she appreciated you.

We tackled more than just that thermostat together. Heather has left her mark on Trent Valley Archives and it's going to feel like a family member missing from the dinner table for quite awhile, but we wish her all the best as she begins the newest chapter in her life on the east coast.

— *Shelagh Neck*



I just pull out of my right pocket every year and put them into my left pocket as I read them, they just promote a thought. A lot of time my role is essentially stick handling from one host to the other and saying something in the process, going from Mike Melnik at the Angel Board with pledges to read and Catherine and Graham have phone bank people to talk to and Teresa is interviewing a family and I've got my recipe cards. There's certainly a lot of satisfaction in doing a good job."

The Rotary Club continued to organize the telethon until 2003 when it was taken over by the provincial Easter Seal Society, although many Rotarians continue to support it. The move by CHEX to Monaghan Road and the subsequent loss of studio space led to the telethon being presented in part from Lansdowne Place mall. Eventually, the in-studio segments were taken over by COGECO Cable although CHEX staff continue to take part.

## Union Organizations

The first CHEX employee association, KBEA, the Kawartha Broadcasting Employee's Association, was formed in the early 1980s in response to concerns about salaries and working conditions but was mostly a social organization. It was succeeded by the Power Activity Club (for) Employees or PACE. This reflected the purchase of Kawartha Broadcasting by Power Broadcasting in 1987. The first union representation was by the Peterborough Typographical Union in 1987. At the end of the first three-year collective agreement, members voted to leave the PTU and joined NABET, the National Association of Broadcast Engineers and Technicians. NABET represented CHEX employees till 1994, when it became part of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers or CEP. Employees continued with this union as it merged with the Canadian Auto Workers to form UNIFOR and now form UNIFOR Local 724-M.

Stu Harrison: Although "the media is occasionally accused of being intrusive, the community wants to know what happened and more important they want the story

so there's an opportunity for empathy, for understanding, for whatever it is, we the public want the story and that's where the media really shines.

"The importance of having a television station is to have that ability to tell that story which you can't get with any other medium. And even in an age of social media, traditional media still plays an incredibly important role. I just think that as a community we should be grateful that we still have a television station."

The world of news and entertainment has changed drastically in the 60 years since Thomson broadcasting brought CHEX television to Peterborough. Today there are dozens of ways people get information — social media, online and traditional media. Network television is particularly under extreme pressure from streaming services offering original dramatic programming. But there will always be a need for local television and especially local news programming. Viewers have an expectation of seeing a quality product produced in their communities by professional broadcasters.

*Steve Guthrie joined CHEX TV in 1979 as a commercial photographer and set designer-builder. As the nature of local television evolved, he moved through various departments including caster Control, film editing and shipping before ending up as a news camera operator. Over the years, he shot local events, spot news and sports in Canada, Somalia and Haiti. He later became a news videographer, which combined the roles of camera operator and reporter. It was from this position he retired in 2020.*

*Do you have a story you can share with us? Visit our Facebook page and let us know.*

*(Clockwise from top) Videographer Steve Guthrie in full COVID-19 protection, Heather McCullough, Ryan Snodden, Jaye Makinson serve at McDonalds McHappy Day, Behind the scenes at the 1979 Telethon, Stuart Harrison interviewing Telethon Guest.*







Central School boy slides down courthouse hill on cardboard (no name).

# 1970-71 EXAMINER



Just Visiting Trent: Jill Robinson (right) a third-year student at Trent and two visitors from Toronto, Debbie Hopkins (left) and Lauren Hardy found sliding down a snow bank cold business during Trent's winter weekend. Photo by Bob Beavers.

## *Winter Photo Feature*



Down to 24 below: Jane Burrett, Examiner employee in Classified holds hands over frozen ears below the Examiner Clock Thermometer. It would not register below ten degrees below.



Pupils Launch Rockets at Kawartha Heights School under supervision of teacher Grant Johnston. No names.



A Day's Work: Donald Brown, 12, of Steel Avenue spent a whole day making these snow sculptures. The black coat on the larger figure was made with spray paint.



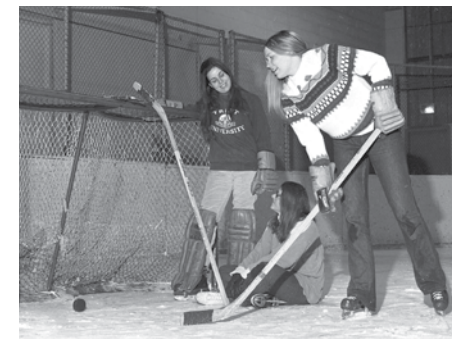
Men's curling.



Blind Children Have Yule Party: Party sponsored by Hi Y clubs at YMCA. Christine, 3 yr. old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Nicholas of Campbellford, gets present from Santa.



Buy a Christmas Tree: Danny Jackson, Gabi Pomplun, Teresa Bell.



Trent Goalie Takes Time Out to Talk: Erica Metcalfe, Shirley Farquhar, Terry Tabulentus, players on Trent U. women's hockey team.



Kids look at moving Peterborough Lumber Christmas window display. Andrew Martin (11), Russell Harding (10), and Robbie Towse (10), all Prince of Wales students.



## A Young Soldier's Path to War

# THE JOURNEY of a YOUNG SOLDIER

BY MICHAEL DORAN

*Part One of The Journey of a Young Soldier, From Young's Point to France, appeared in the August 2023 issue of the Heritage Gazette. Watch for Part Three in the March 2024 issue*

*The departure of local soldiers to the War from across the Dominion was unheralded and as such, was of great interest to every Canadian. The mustering, equipping and dispatch of the troops was heavily covered by newspapers including that of Nicholas Scott and his comrades.*



Replacement Canadian troops moving up to the front lines. Inset: Nicholas Scott. Photo courtesy Frank McMahon.

A series of articles in *The Peterborough Evening Examiner* did a thorough job of tracking the movements of the 93rd Battalion as they trained in the area. Short biographies of most of the soldiers mentioned in this and the following parts can be found in Appendix II from the author..

*The Peterborough Evening Examiner, Thursday, 27 April 1916:*

***J. E. R. Munro, Captain. Adjutant 93rd Overseas Battalion C. E. F.***

Arrangements are being completed for the bringing in of the outside detachments of the 93rd Battalion and by this time next week the whole battalion will be mobilized here, although the number of men who age out on plowing and seeding furlough will make the increase in the strength of the battalion less noticeable than it otherwise would have been. It is probable that the Lakefield contingent which now includes the Apsley platoon will move into Peterborough on Monday, and the Havelock platoon on Tuesday. The Norwood platoon will not come in until Wednesday as the citizens of Norwood have planned to bid farewell to the soldier boys on Tuesday evening next. The draft of seventeen men from the 93rd battalion for the 4th Pioneer Battalion has been practically completed and the men have been notified of the transfer. It is not known definitely when the draft will leave, but it will be in the course of a few days. Sergt. Watson will be in charge of the draft.

The band of the 93rd Battalion had their first experience in what will be an every day occurrence for them later on. Yesterday at Westwood they were billeted among different residences in the neighborhood for their supper



*After the battle, Canadian walking wounded at a Casualty Clearing Station.*

and for the night. The people at Asphodel proved splendid hosts and did everything in their power to make the visit of the band an enjoyable one, as indeed it was.

This morning the musicians were driven in from their billets to Birdsall station, a distance of three miles [5 kilometres], and the "lift" was appreciated by the boys. A detachment took possession of the Town Hall last night and elected to sleep there rather than go to their billets. The sleep did not amount to much as reveille was sounded at 4 o'clock on a euphonium but it was better than the trenches, especially as there was a plentiful supply of eatables left over from the refreshments of the night before and this was supplemented at an early hour by several pails of hot tea hospitably provided by residents in the neighborhood. Some of the bandmen spent the afternoon fishing for "suckers" while another section spent a considerable portion of it in fishing for a khaki cap which drifted down the Ouse River<sup>1</sup>.

*The Peterborough Evening Examiner, Monday, 22 May 1916:*

***FIRST DETACHMENT OF 93rd BATTALION LEAVES FOR CAMP Advance Party of Eighty-six Non-Coms and Men Under Command of Major Lech Entrained For Barriefield This Morning — Main Body Will Leave Thursday — Today's Orders and General Military News.***

The 93rd battalion has already begun to leave the city. This morning an advance party, consisting of eighty-six non-commissioned officers and men in charge of Major K. G. Lech, left for Barriefield to put the camp in shape for the arrival of the main body of the battalion on Thursday morning. The advance consisted of

1. *The Peterborough Evening Examiner*, Thursday, 27 April 1916, page five.



one non-com and twenty men from each company, the non-coms being Sergt. Jay from “A” company, Sergt. Lockie from “B” company, Sergt. Ball from “C” company [he reverted to the ranks shortly before or after shipping out], and Corp. O’Brien from “D” company, while Corp. E. G. Hardie and Pte. Jackson represented the battalion cooks.

## Thanks, Heather



It takes a lot of people to put on a theatrical production the size of the TVA Cemetery Pageant.

It always worked because Heather took on the roles of event planner, promoter, researcher, script advisor, producer, stage manager, props manager, costume designer, and site and crew manager.

The best part of working with Heather is you always feel like you are working with a friend!

— *Geoff Hewitson*

The men paraded at the armouries at 7 o’clock this morning, and were each presented with socks by the 57th Chapter, Daughters of the Empire. Mayor Duffus, Ald. Dobbin, Ald. Langford and City Clerk Armstrong were present on behalf of the civic authorities, and the Mayor briefly addressed the men before they left the armouries. Major Davidson, chaplain of the battalion, conducted a short but impressive service, while Capt. J. E. R. Munro, adjutant of the 93rd read to the advance party some of the standing orders of Barriefield camp.

At 8 o’clock, headed by the brass and bugle bands of the battalion, the advance party left on their march to the station, headed by the brass band playing, “My Little Girl,” which the men found a little difficult to sing this morning, although they came out strong on the two lines,

“My little girl, I know you’re waiting  
And I’m coming back to you.”

*[We don’t know if Nicholas had a girl waiting for him, but if he did, she would never see him again.]*

The men wore their full equipment, with their great coats slung around their shoulders and carried rifles. They looked very business like as they marched down street.

At the G.T.R. station a large number of friends gathered to say goodbye and the affecting farewells that have grown all too familiar, were again in evidence as mothers, wives, sisters and sweethearts gave the last greeting to their loved one. While waiting for the departure of the train the band played “O Canada,” “Rule Britannia” and other patriotic airs, and as the train started to move they broke into the strains of one of 93rd’s well known marching songs “Farewell Isabelle”, the words of which are particularly appropriate to such an occasion:

Farewell Isabelle, Isabelle  
Don’t let it grieve you, I’ve got to go.  
Farewell Isabelle, Isabelle  
I’ve got to leave you to face the foe.  
You know very well, Isabelle  
As the battle I go through,  
I’ll do my best while I’m in it,  
to win it  
As I won you.

As the train pulled out the boys in khaki who were leaving cheered lustily in reply to the cheers from the crowd, while arms were waved as long as the train was in sight. Lt.-Col. Johnston and the majority of the officers of the 93rd were on hand to see the detachment away.

Following is a list of the men who left this morning:

*[I’m only showing “C” Company, the company to which Nicholas belonged. See Appendix II “Brief Biographies of Nicholas Scott’s Comrades in Arms”.]*

### “C” COMPANY.

- Sergt. [James Albert] Ball,
- Ptes. [William Arthur] Barker,
- [Andrew Vesey] Mann,
- [Vernal] Meharry,
- [James Joseph] Morris,
- [Ernest James] Robertshaw,
- [Joseph Alexander] Jamieson,
- [Henry (aka Harry) James] Tanner,
- [Frederick] Tanner,
- [Gordon] McCauley,
- [George Garns] Winter,
- [Abraham Tice] Post,
- [Harry] Holbrook,
- *[Nicholas] Scott,*
- [Lewis John] Drain,
- [Arthur Gordon] Binnington,
- F. Post [This could be either Frederick Edward Post or (William) Floyd Post.],
- [Warren Tice] Post,
- [Milford William] Woodbeck,
- [Ernest] Peters,
- [William John] Newnham<sup>2</sup>.

2. *The Peterborough Evening Examiner*, Monday, 22 May 1916, page five.

*The Peterborough Evening Examiner*,  
Tuesday, 30 May 1916:

### FAREWELL TO THE 93rd

Peterborough has said goodbye to her battalion. With their passing on to Barriefield this morning we have seen the 93rd march through our streets for the last time as a battalion. The members will be home on leave from time to time before they go overseas, but it is hardly probable that ever again will the complete battalion assemble at Central Park. That they will be missed goes without saying. The streets will have an odd appearance without the familiar khaki—the blare of the band, the clarion call of the bugle, the rattle of drums and the tramp of military boots will be strangely lacking. In hundreds of homes in the city and county, there will be an empty chair at the family table. Familiar faces will be missed from their usual circles, and even to those who are not losing a relative the city will seem empty. The progress of the 93rd will be followed with a vivid interest. Never in her history has Peterborough sent out so many fighting men at one time—never has she seen so many citizens leave, and never has she had more reason to feel proud of her sons. The 93rd has already won a high reputation for good conduct, and efficiency, and there is no reason to fear that that record will be lost at Barriefield. The Examiner wishes the officers and men of the Peterborough Battalion a great and glorious career in saying goodbye, and assures them that as this paper has consistently and faithfully supported the 93rd since the day of its organization, it will continue to use its best efforts on the part of the dear ones they are leaving behind to see that their interests are looked after and their welfare maintained while their brave men are fighting for the Empire.

3. *The Peterborough Evening Examiner*, Tuesday, 30 May 1916, page five.



*Nicholas Scott. Photo courtesy  
Frank McMahon.*

We can say with Longfellow in closing:

Our hearts, our hopes are all with thee  
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers,  
our tears,  
Our faith, triumphant o’er our fears  
Are all with thee — are all with thee!<sup>3</sup>

*The Peterborough Evening Examiner*,  
Tuesday, 30 May 1916:

*Thousands Saw  
Departure of Peterboro  
Battalion for Camp  
Affecting Scenes at G. T. R.  
Station as Gallant lads  
of Peterboro City and  
County Left to Finish  
Their Training Before  
Going Overseas—  
Departure Conducted in  
Admirable Fashion.*

### A MEMORABLE SEND OFF

Peterborough County’s own battalion, the 93rd has started on the second phase of its career as a unit of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and taken its first step towards the battlefields of Europe. This morning the battalion left for Barriefield camp after a memorable send-off that was responsible for the largest crowd that ever gathered in the neighbourhood of the Grand Trunk station.

It was a notable event in the history of the city and county. Since the war began Peterborough has said farewell to many detachments of gallant sons, but never has there been anything like the number who left this morning. “B” Squadron of the 8th C.M.R. being the largest unit to leave Peterborough before to-day, and the mounted unit only numbered one hundred and fifty officers and men, about one-sixth of the number who departed this morning. Then Peterborough has watched the 93rd grow from a few recruits into one of the finest battalions in Canada. Since early last autumn it has been a prominent feature of the city’s life. In the daytime the sound of marching men and the blare of martial music



have been an hourly feature, and on the streets, in the churches and amusement places at night, the khaki uniform has become a familiar sight. Nearly every one in Peterborough had a relative or a friend in the battalion and the good-byes that were said this morning were not said to strangers, but to near and dear ones.

And these things combined to make the passing of the 93rd an event that will long be remembered.

#### ADMIRABLY CONDUCTED.

From the military standpoint the departure of the battalion was admirably conducted, and went through without the slightest hitch or mishap, thanks to efficient preparations and foresight. The men were at the armouries at 6.30 o'clock and the final details in connection with the departure were carried out in an orderly manner. The kit bags of the men were collected and soon trucks piled high with bags, and in charge of a detail of soldiers were on their way to the station. Early as it was many relatives and friends of the boys had gathered and there were many affecting farewells around the armouries. Old campaigners had said good-bye at home, but even in their case there was moisture in many an eye.

When the bugle sounded the "Fall In" at 8.30 o'clock for the last time in Peterborough and the roll was called it was found that there was not one absentee in the whole battalion. "All present and correct, sir," was the report, every man answering "Here" as his name was called. Every soldier was in his place and ready, a record that shows the efficiency of the battalion and the splendid calibre of the men.

#### FAREWELL SPEECHES.

A big crowd had gathered in Central Park by this time to hear the farewell addresses. The speakers were His Worship Mayor Duffus, Rev. R. G. Peever, George Street Methodist church, Rev. Father Phelan, St. Peter's

Cathedral, Rev. J. R. Webb, Murray street Baptist church, Mrs. W. R. Morris, president of the Women's Auxiliary to the Speakers' Patriotic League and His Honour Judge Huycke. The speakers united in praising the battalion for its splendid behaviour and efficiency during its stay in Peterborough and in wishing the officers and men God speed and a safe return. Several of the speakers reminded the members of the battalion the justice of the cause for which they were going to fight.

#### MARCH TO THE STATION.

Shortly after 9 o'clock the battalion moved off from the parade ground for the march to the station. The band of the 57th Regiment headed the battalion playing "O Canada". George Street was lined deep with people, and the battalion marched along looking fit and well with their faces nearly as bronzed as their uniforms and carrying the full equipment, with great coats rolled over their shoulders. They were repeatedly cheered by friends at the windows.

"Are we downhearted?" some one of the khaki brigade would shout, and from the long line would come a thunderous "No." Along Charlotte street there were the same crowds which increased as the head of the column approached the G. T. R. Station. Around the station itself thousands had gathered.

The battalion marched west to Bethune street and then wheeled to the south. Special train No. 1 was in waiting, and in a few minutes, without any confusion or trouble the members of the band and of "A" and "B" companies were entrained. From Charlotte street the crowd extended as far south as King street, filling the road, which was ankle deep in mud. Soiled dresses and muddy mothers', sisters' and sweethearts' shoes were not considered as wives crowded in to say the last farewells to loved ones. The affecting scenes of other send-offs to Peterborough soldiers were multiplied many times over this morning. Some

women managed to say their good-byes cheerfully for the sake of the dear one who was leaving and then turned away into the crowd sobbing. Others wept unrestrainedly, and although the boys in khaki did their best to cheer their relatives, many of the soldiers themselves were seen to wipe away a tear as they embraced mother or wife.

#### FIRST TRAIN GOES.

Promptly at 9.30 o'clock the long train started to draw slowly out of the station amid cheers and the waving of handkerchiefs from the huge crowd. From every window a soldier shouted good-bye while from the platform of the coaches were other figures in khaki who waved their hands in farewell. On the platform of the last coach was Major R. P. Watt, in command of the troops on the first train and Major Lech, third in command of the battalion.

#### DEPARTURE OF TRAIN NO. 2.

During the half hour's wait for the second train the friends of the men made the most of their opportunities by saying good-bye and imparting last messages. The half hour passed very quickly. Train No. 2 was ready ten minutes before 10 o'clock, and "C" and "D" companies, the Signallers, Pioneers, Machine Gun Section, Paymaster's Staff, Battalion Orderly Room Staff and Hospital Staff were entrained with military precision. During the wait music was furnished by the 57th Band. The scenes that attended the departure of the first train were repeated, and then, on time to the minute, the second long train drew away. Lt.-Col. Johnston, who was personally in charge of the second section of the battalion, waved a last farewell to the crowd from the front steps of the last car, while on the rear platform were Capt. J. E. R. Munro, adjutant of the battalion, and other officers who were the last figures in sight as the train disappeared.

The arrangements for the departure of the troops reflected credit upon the officers of the battalions and upon the

G. T. R. Officials. Company efforts had seen to it that train guards were detailed and a supply of food on board each car for the refreshment of the men en route. No one was allowed to board the cars after the men had entrained and there was no confusion.

The transport officers who looked after the details were Lieut. Sexton for "A" company, Lieut. McNab for "B" company, Lieut. [George Noble] Milburn for "C" company, Lieut. Hatton for "D" company, and Lieut. Crisp for the Staff<sup>4</sup>.

On 30 and 31 May 1916, *The Peterborough Evening Examiner* printed part one of a long list of members of the 93rd Battalion, which concluded with part two in the 31st May paper. Also printed was a history of the 93rd Battalion.



Above: German Prisoners captured at Vimy Ridge. Right: Canadian Troops resting by captured German pill box, Vimy Ridge.

4. *The Peterborough Evening Examiner*, Tuesday, 30 May 1916, pages five and eight.





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- Due to the diverse nature of the Members included in this category Membership Benefits are customized to the needs of the member
- This membership category is suitable for educational partners with students that want to use TVA facilities and groups/businesses that wish TVA to provide an archival services
- No tax receipt is given

*The Peterborough Evening Examiner,*  
Tuesday, 30 May 1916:

## A SHORT HISTORY OF THE 93rd BATTALION

*Some Incidents In the Career  
of The Fine Overseas Unit  
Which Left Peterboro This  
Morning on the First Stage  
of The Journey to The Front.*

### HAS SPLENDID RECORD

Peterborough's fine overseas battalion which left this morning for Barriefield Camp has had an interesting career, and a short resume of its history should be interesting just now.

The first suggestion of a battalion for Peterborough County was coincident with the organization of the Peterborough branch of the Speakers' Patriotic League. This useful association was formed at the end of July last year, and in the first week of August launched a monster recruiting campaign, of which a mass meeting in the Armouries, addressed by Hon. Geo. Foster, was the crowning feature. This was on August 4th, and at that time the suggestion was made by the Speakers' Patriotic League that Peterborough County be allowed to form an overseas battalion. The suggestion was not acted on by the Government at the time, but a little later, on August 23 to be exact, it was announced by Mr. J. H. Burnham, M.P., that Peterborough was to be made an infantry headquarters and training depot, and that at least 500 men would be trained here during the winter.

### FIRST RECRUITS LEAVE.

In the meantime there was a great increase in recruiting, and by the end of the third week in August over 100 recruits, including twenty bandsmen, had enrolled themselves. There was some doubt as to whether these men, with the exception of the band, were to join the 50th Battalion at Barriefield or remain in Peterborough as the nucleus of a new unit. Lieut.-Col.

Walker allowed the men to make their choice, and on August 25 the band and thirty-three men left for Barriefield, leaving fifty-six here for the new battalion. This was really the beginning of the 93rd, although the battalion was not definitely authorized for nearly two months afterward.

At that time it was understood that the Peterborough detachment would form part of the 80th Battalion at Belleville, but in spite of that local authorities still clung to the hope that a Peterborough battalion would eventually materialize. Major R. T. Hounsell, of the 57th Regiment, was placed temporarily in charge of the recruits on August 28th. On September 1st, Sergt. Walter Hughes, cornet soloist of the 57th Regiment Band, was appointed bandmaster, and the work of organizing the present splendid band commenced, the musicians of the 57th Regiment and Temple bands quickly responding to the call. On Sept. 7th Lieut.-Col. Johnston, now Commanding Officer of the 93rd, was announced as second in command of the 80th Battalion, and took over the command of the local detachment. On Sept 18th the recruits, then 136 strong, were inspected in the Peterborough Industrial Exhibition by Sir Sam. Hughes.

### PETERBOROUGH HEADQUARTERS.

A few days later, on Sept. 27th, the announcement was made from Ottawa that Peterborough would be the headquarters of the new battalion, with two companies to be recruited here and a company each in Cobourg and Lindsay. This left the status of the recruits who had already enlisted in doubt. It was not known at that time whether they would still be continued as part of the 80th Battalion or not.

### AUTHORIZED IN OCTOBER.

In fact it was not until a month later that it was officially announced that the Peterborough battalion would be known as the 93rd Overseas

Battalion, and that the officers and men who had joined here, and had been carried on the strength of the 80th, would form the nucleus of the 93rd. The announcement arrived at the Armouries just as the Medical Officer of the 80th was examining the local men with a view of having them removed to Belleville, and was enthusiastically received by the men. In November headquarters announced that recruiting for the 93rd would be confined to Peterborough County.

About the same time it was announced that Lieut.-Col. Jos. Mills, of the 2nd Battalion, formerly of the 57th Regiment, was on his way home to take command of the 93rd. Col. Mills arrived in Peterborough early in December, and was in command for a few days when he was called to Ottawa, and presented with a splendid Christmas box in the form of the important appointment of Inspector of Supply and Transport for No. 2 (Toronto) Division, which he accepted. On December 20, Lieut.-Col. Johnston, of the 3rd Dragoons, who had been acting Officer Commanding practically since the commencement of the battalion, was placed in command.

Recruiting continued steadily. By Christmas the battalion had reached the 500 mark. Recruiting stations were opened at Lakefield, Apsley, Havelock, and Norwood, and the announcement that the men who enlisted at these centres would be allowed to train there for the winter had a marked effect on recruiting. On May 3rd and 4th these platoons were mobilized in Peterborough.

### SPLENDID CONDUCT.

The stay of the 93rd Battalion in Peterborough has been remarkable for the splendid behaviour of the men in khaki. Throughout the long months the battalion was here there was not the slightest trouble of any kind. A small force of military police, aided by the good conduct of the soldiers individually, has kept law and order

so efficiently that probably any similar number of civilians during the same period could not show as good a record.

### THE RECRUITING PROBLEMS.

While the 93rd has been longer in organizing than some of the county battalions, this may be accounted for very easily. In the first place the county of Peterborough is on the whole sparsely populated and widely scattered, with few large centres, making the work of reaching eligible men difficult. This threw a lot of the task of raising the battalion upon the city of Peterborough, and, different from many other cities, there were frequent calls here for many for other units. First the Mounted Rifles took away 45 men. Then 60 more went to the 50th Battalion, and some 15 to the 80th, while 145 joined the 33rd Battery, practically the whole battery coming from this city. More recently the 52nd Battery took 60 splendid recruits away, and a number of others have joined other units, so that altogether since recruiting started for the Peterborough County Battalion, some 350 residents of Peterborough have enlisted outside the battalion. Since last August enough citizens of Peterborough have enlisted to complete the strength of the 93rd if they were together, without calling on the county at all, so that there is no reason to feel that the district has been backward. Since the war commenced 2,300 Peterborough men have joined the colours, or one for every nine of Peterborough's population. The average for Canada is about one for every twenty-five.

### A FAMILY BATTALION.

That the 93rd is a family battalion is evidenced by the fact that there are thirty-five pairs of brothers in its ranks, while no less than fifteen fathers are serving with their sons in the battalion. There are five brothers from one family in the 93rd, the five Taylors from Chemong Indian Village<sup>5</sup>. [These are the sons of William and Mary Jane Taylor; see the short biographies for them in Appendix II as part of Russell Taylor's biography.]

5. *The Peterborough Evening Examiner*, Tuesday, 30 May 1916, page nine.



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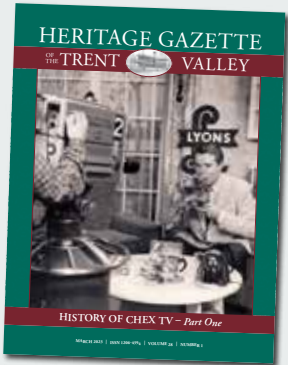
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## A Message of Appreciation...

TVA has recently received a Capital Grant of \$10,100 from the **Government of Ontario's Trillium Foundation**, which will address community needs of repairing and renovating the lighting (exterior and interior), wiring and brickwork in order to improve functionality, safety and security for many years to come.



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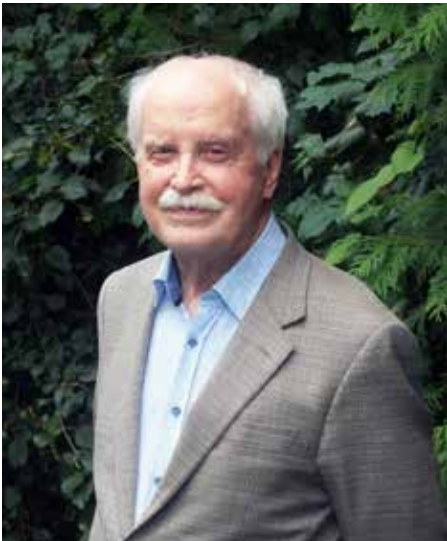
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BY ELWOOD JONES, ARCHIVIST

*Archivist Elwood Jones is a founding member of Trent Valley Archives. He is also a Historian and former columnist with the Peterborough Examiner.*

correspondence, photos, family trees and remembrances, deeds, maps, artwork, diaries and scrapbooks, newspapers and more all related to an area we defined as the Trent Valley. This was an area of east central Ontario that covered the former District of Newcastle, or the areas drained by the lakes and rivers of the Otonabee Trent River system. This continues to be our mandate.

*Researching Houses at Trent Valley Archives*

I took part on behalf of TVA at Researching Houses, sponsored by City Heritage Office, and held at Activity Centre, McDonell Street, October 13.

All presentations were brief. I suggested that house research should begin with secondary sources such as books on Peterborough houses (Martha Kidd, Andrew Elliott and myself) and books on architecture more generally such as housed at TVA, including the Old House Journal and articles from the Heritage Gazette, which is searchable. When getting specific, always go with the city directories (or even telephone directories) and the fire insurance plans, and the Martha Kidd and Electric City fonds for in town residences. The land records are indexed thanks to the excellent work of Alice and Don and these are especially useful for the former park lots. Telephone directories and the manuscript censuses especially for 1901, 1921 and 1931 are also useful. Our archival sources include some good examples of land records tied with specific properties. The Peterborough historical atlas is exceptionally valuable. As well, the maps by Sanford Fleming and the birds eye views of 1875 and 1879 are very useful. Of course, there are ways to make effective use of these suggestions.

TVA hosted a special double header on October 18 attended by some 50 people. First was the appreciation to the Trillium Foundation for funding the project to scan, describe and place on internet the photographs that appeared in the Examiner, 1970 to 1972. The project scanned the negatives in the Examiner Archives, matched the coverage with the newspaper details and produced finding aids that allowed three ways to access. First, by the image; second by the Examiner cut line; third, by the photographers short title reference. There were speeches, and Amelia Rodgers showed how the file could be accessed from the reading room computers. Pat Marchen, who had done the scanning and searching, gave a demonstration in the Annex. There were speeches by Cyndy Paul, for Wintario, MPP David Smith, Archivist Elwood Jones and Al Brunger, chair of the TVA Grants Committee.

The second half featured the archivist's reflections on highlights of the past 25 years. At the outset, we defined a shopping list and led by Jim Moloney, a veteran real estate appraiser, we went hunting. This building most closely matched our specifications. We wanted up to 4,000 square feet, a solid building that could accommodate archival documents as well as volunteers and researchers. We registered as both a charity and a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting business and government records,

*Peterborough Mechanics Institute*

A major project through the fall term was made possible by the placement of a Mohawk College student, Hannah Skitch. The project was all the stages of taking an archival donation to final processing. The archival fonds chosen was the Peterborough Mechanics Institute papers which had been partly described in a 2021 Heritage Gazette article. Much of the discussion related to provenance and respect des fonds, as much was unknown about the origins of this important collection. Ostensibly the papers cover the activities of the Mechanics Institute from 1868 to 1895 and the Peterborough Public Library from 1895 to 1940. Some of the papers suggest the importance of the treasurer, while most relate to the acquisition of newspapers and books for the library. There are important connections to George E. Shaw, George Peters, Catharine Parr Traill and F.M. de la Fosse. There is also discussion of the links between a museum and a library. This is really an important collection.

*Zoom presentation on Cathedral Precincts*

The Zoom presentation for TVA members on Cathedral Precincts was well received. The talk was a revisit to the walking tour but had different twists. It was possible to stress recurring features in the area between Bethune and Park Street. The highlights were the home and offices of doctors, the diversity of bungalows and the evidence of terraces or row houses of which Peterborough has its fair share. Besides the churches and the buildings with church connections, the talk featured outstanding houses on Reid Street, Downie Street and Stewart Street. The two Third Empire



*MPP David Smith and Cyndy Paul look at negatives from the 1972 Examiner project with Elwood.*

mansard roof houses and the Queen Anne stunner were also highlights, and the history of names associated with these buildings rounded out the presentation.

*Volunteers at TVA Reading Room*

The volunteers continue to be outstanding and they bring great progress and excitement to the place. Catherine and I worked on the map collection; Betty is doing finishing steps on the Osborne photo collection. Sue, Wendy and Gary have placed negatives in the Examiner archives to 1979 in negative preservers. It should be possible to index the 1970s negatives using a combination of visual examination and the notes that were kept by the photographers after 1975; Ruth has already begun the project but the work could be divided. John S. is doing an impressive job of summarizing reports in the John Marsh fonds. Hugh has been working on several collections. Mike has been giving attention to physical details around the Fairview Heritage Centre. The archivist has been working with Hannah on the Mechanics Institute papers, which also relate to the early years of the Peterborough Public

Library. Doreen has been transcribing a diary. Mae has been indexing the extensive Examiner collection of biographies. John M. has been working on the index of the massive collection of news stories that were kept by the librarian at the Examiner. This is a place of exciting happenings almost every day.

*Researchers at TVA*

Volunteers have handled several queries over recent weeks and we have had researchers using the land records, censuses and assessment rolls, insurance plans and specific documents in researching their homes, businesses and families. Recent researchers have explored the generations of the Barrie family in Dummer Township. As well, we are still working on aspects of the Hilliard and LaPlante families.

We are open for researchers Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. It is helpful to book a time by calling 705-745-4404 if your interests seem complex.

Elwood Jones, Archivist  
ejones55@cogeco.ca

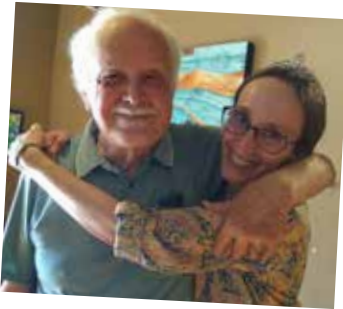
*Thanks, Heather*

My husband, Herb Franklin, was on the Board of Trent Valley Archives and did many tours with the encouragement of Heather. He spent many hours at the TVA office chatting away with Heather and Elwood. We also knew Heather from Grace United Church. Herb got into the habit of calling Heather, Princess of the Archives. It stuck, and one day he went out shopping for a tiara for Heather.

He found one and made a special presentation at a board meeting. Surprise Heather. She still wears the tiara. Heather had it on the day of her party at Ashburnham Ale House. She also wore it to a Christmas Carol singing in our neighbourhood in Herb's memory. It is fun singing Carols under a streetlight in December and taking cookies home. Heather will always be the Princess of TVA.

Thank you, Heather, for being such an inspiration to our family.

— Sue Franklin





*Wishing you a  
Merry Christmas...*



*...and a  
Happy New Year!*



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