

# Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District

Historical Society

March 2022 — Issue 330

## A Night of Mystery

We are delighted to have Maureen Jennings at our March 22 meeting as our first in-person presenter in over two years. Maureen has written four series in the crime fiction genre for a total of seventeen novels.

The first series is set in 1895 Victorian Toronto and features detective William Henry Murdoch. Her *Murdoch Mysteries* television series, broadcast by CBC, is currently in its fifteenth season. She has written for the show for the past eleven seasons and is the creative consultant.

The *Detective Inspector Tom Tyler* series is set in rural England, during WW2 and is currently optioned for TV. These

books were the inspiration for *Bomb Girls*, a 2012 television series that is now available on the Amazon Prime streaming service.



Another book featuring detective William Murdoch, *Let Darkness Bury the Dead* is set during WW1 when Murdoch is older, and his son, Jack, returns from the war.

Her most recent book series starting with *Heat Wave*, features a female private investigator named Charlotte Frayne. The setting is Toronto, 1936. In

between writing these books she has created four plays and a short film called *Viaticum*. Three of her plays are in the mystery genre and all of which have been professionally staged. Maureen Jennings was born in Birmingham, England and emigrated to Canada as a teenager. She has a BA in psychology and philosophy from the University of Windsor, and an MA in English Literature from the University of Toronto. She lives in Toronto with her husband Iden Ford, who is a professional photographer and their dog, a Labradoodle named Murdoch.

Join us in the Concert Hall of Victoria Hall on March 22, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. and learn more about William Murdoch. All required public health measures must to adhered to. Admission is free for members and \$5 for guests.

## **2022 Cobourg and District Historical Society Programme**

All meetings start at 7:30 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of each month except as noted below.

**April 26, 2022 (Expected to be an “in person” event)**

*Rum Runners - The story of Ben Kerr and Prohibition:* An exciting story of the roaring twenties in Ontario where rum runners challenged the storms of Lake Ontario to smuggle booze to the American side. Dan Buchanan will present the story of Ben Kerr, the most notorious of the bunch, who ran his last load of booze out of Presqu’ile and ended up crushed by February ice near Colborne.

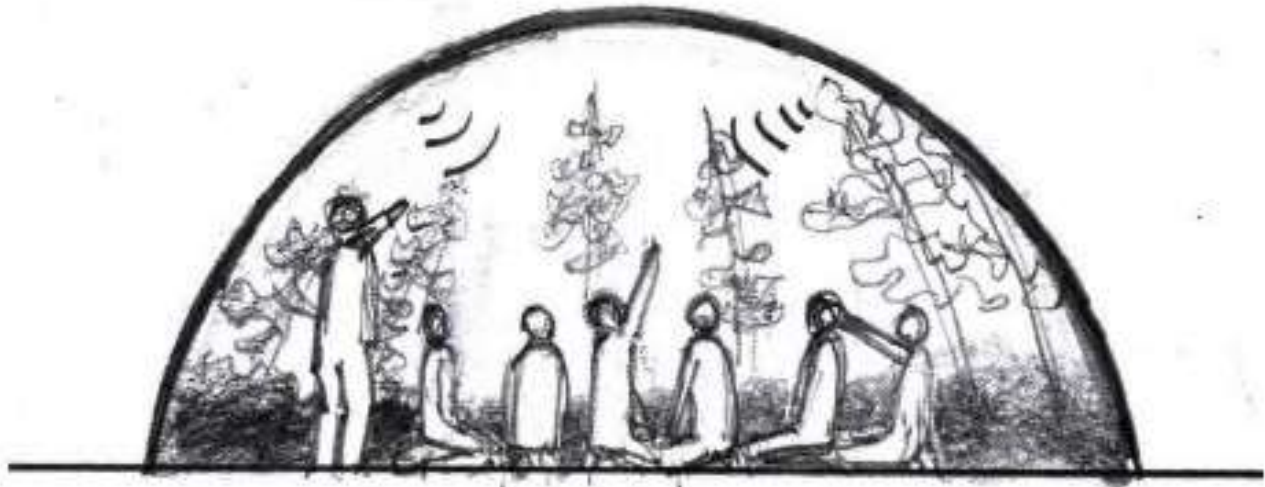
**May 24, 2022 (TBA)**

An “in-person” social accompanied with an outing or special presentation is planned. Complete details will be published in a future issue of *Historically Speaking*.

# Northumberland County Archives and Museum Progress

*Katie Kennedy*

Northumberland County Archives & Museum (NCAM) staff have been working on the design of the first exhibit for the Main Gallery.



The inaugural exhibit will celebrate and honour the Michi Saagiig dialect of Ojibwe which was the first language spoken on the land where the new building is being constructed and is a living and beautiful language of the Anishinaabe today. This exhibit is being created under the guidance of e wiindmaagzijig, an Indigenous Advisory Circle of eight Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Community Leaders and Educators.

NCAM staff and e wiindmaagzijig are working with Entro Communications, a design firm based in Toronto, to build the exhibit. Through consultation sessions with e wiindmaagzijig, the Entro team provided ideas that developed into a concept design exploring four main themes of the language: Alive, Beautiful, Resilient and Healing. Multimedia, light, imagery, and sound will be used to animate the space on soft fabrics and curved walls. A smaller travelling component is being constructed to tour schools and communities to provide greater access to the exhibit content.

There will be a community launch to celebrate the opening of the Main Gallery, followed by a year of programming and events to accompany the exhibit at NCAM and the tour of the travelling component.

# The More Things Change...

Ken Strauss

A casual reading of recent newspaper articles together with television reporting might lead one to believe that the recent Ottawa protests are unprecedented. That is not the case; in relation to Canada's population previous protests were even larger!



Perhaps the most interesting protests are those of 1910. They are the first major expressions of the alienation of western Canadians.

Saskatchewan had grown quickly. By the time of the 1911 census the province was the third most populous in the Dominion and only exceeded by Ontario and Quebec. The farmer's votes would matter in future elections.



In the summer of 1910, Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier began an unprecedented two-month rail tour of western Canada. Officially, the tour was to provide Laurier a chance to see how the region had changed over his time in office. The likely reason was to calm the rumblings of dissent by the western farmers and attempt to remain in office.

The crowds of farmers at Laurier's speeches were enthusiastic but they also wanted to influence government

policies that were limiting their prosperity. Farmers demanded transportation improvements, lower freight rates and better grain handling facilities. A critical demand was the scrapping of the high tariffs on imported manufactured goods which increased the costs of farmers in order to protect eastern Canadian manufacturers of farm equipment and other goods..

Reminiscent of the leadup to the recent Trucker's Protest, the campaign speeches took on a chill in Lanigan, Saskatchewan, when David Rose, a farmer delegate, told the prime minister that farmers wanted "straight conversation" and not just platitudes.

The conversations became even more testy at other whistle stops. John Evans, a grain grower's representative bluntly reminded Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier:

"In 1896 you promised to skin the bear of Tory protection. Have you done it? If so, I would ask you what you have done with the hide."

In December of 1910 more than 500 delegates representing the Canadian Council of Agriculture traveled from the prairies to Ottawa to attempt to force action on the agricultural issues that concerned their members. After a strategy meeting in the Ottawa Grand Opera House, they marched *en masse* to Parliament Hill and crammed into the House of Commons. Filling both the chamber floor and galleries the delegates sat wherever they could including the seat of the Prime Minister. Several cabinet ministers had to perch on the speaker's dais!

The delegates delivered lengthy speeches outlining their demands, but Laurier offered nothing in response. One disillusioned delegate told a local newspaper reporter:

"We have asked for bread, and you (Laurier) gave us a stone."

<p><b>"WE HAVE ASKED FOR BREAD, AND YOU GAVE US FARMERS VERY ANGRY AT LAURIER'S REPLY</b></p> <p><b>AN ODD INCIDENT THAT MAY ACCOUNT FOR ITS MEAGRENESS.</b></p> <p><b>A COUNTER DEPUTATION FROM QUEBEC HAD BEEN ARRANGED.</b></p> <p><b>But Was Called Off at Last Moment Because Govern- ment Feared Trouble—The Text of the Quebec Resolution.</b></p>	<p>sections of the community, a very strong opposition to any change in our present commercial relations with our neighbors. For my part, I do not share this view. I think that if we can improve the relations in the direction of having more markets for natural products and farm products, the country will be immensely benefited. Let us speak with perfect frankness here—and I would not speak otherwise—any change in our trade relations with regard to manufactured products is a more difficult matter. There are difficulties in this which no government can ignore, and we are not ignoring them. But, at all events, we see our goal, and in this our goal is very much in your own direction.</p> <p>To Amend Tariff.</p> <p>"But you go further and say that in this particular section we should commence to amend the tariff also. I suggest to you that, as practical legislators, it would be hardly advisable for the parliament of Canada to undertake this session to revise the tariff while our negotiations are pend-</p>	<p><b>Lot of Schoolboys.</b></p> <p>In discussing Sir Wilfrid's reply to the resolutions, etc., Mr. E. J. Fream, secretary of the United Farmers of Alberta, said: "The general impression among the delegates is that he practically laughed at our suggestion. Sir Wilfrid thought he was dealing with a lot of schoolboys." We feel as if we have been ridiculed."</p> <p>What seems to be the sore touch is that no definite promise was made that any of the resolutions would be adopted.</p> <p><b>It's an Insult.</b></p> <p>No more significant evidence of the feeling that prevails among the delegates about the reply of the premier can be given than by the following terse remarks made by the gentlemen credited with them when they were approached and asked to say something on the subject:—</p> <p>"It's an insult and we should hold an indignation meeting," said E. A. Partridge, of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association.</p>
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A comment from delegate F.W. Green proved prophetic. Only nine months after the Ottawa protests, Laurier's Liberals were trounced 132 to 85 seats by Robert Borden's Conservatives in the 1911 general election.

#### A Later Effect.

"Our meeting with him will have its effect later on," said Mr. F. W. Green, secretary of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association.

## "CRY FOR MOON"

Deputation of Western Farmers are Said to be a "Junketing Tour."

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The London Express, in a heading over the cable relating to the delegation of western farmers to Ottawa, describes it as "Crying for the moon; wild men from the west raid Ottawa; freak free traders." The Express says these farmers are merely the tools of the Free Trade Union of England, whose emissaries have worked them up to a quixotic junketing tour, which need not be taken seriously. The Express also states that the reports of dissensions in the Unionist party are based on the trivial blunderings and flounderings of a small clique, and declares emphatically that a referendum on tariff reform still remains and will remain the basis of the Unionist policy.

As was common then and continues today, the slant of news reports varied dramatically depending on the leanings of the reporting media. And as today, an Ottawa protest got worldwide attention. The Brantford *Daily Expositor* for December 16, 1910, carried this report:

The Standard says the true significance of the farmers' delegation to Ottawa is that agricultural middle-western Canada has become an organized force of immense power, and capable of determining the policy of the Dominion, but at the moment they do not realize some of the consequences of closer commercial ties with foreign nations. The Standard thinks that fact that Canadians of all parties insist so vehemently on retaining and extending the preference is having a powerful effect on British opinion.

The *Ottawa Journal* for December 16, 1910, devoted several pages to objective reporting of the protestor's demands:

# GRAIN GROWERS ARE UNANIMOUS IN REGARD TO THEIR DEMANDS

## CLEAR CUT DEMANDS ON TARIFF QUESTION

**ASK GOVERNMENT TO IMMEDIATELY BUILD  
H. B. RAILWAY.**

**AND WANT TERMINAL ELEVATORS OPERATED  
AS PUBLIC UTILITY.**

**Huge Conference of Farmers in Grand Opera House  
Yesterday Prepared Matters for Presentation to  
the Government.**

The huge conference of farmers which met in the Grand Opera House here yesterday passed unanimously a number of important resolutions and memorials for presentation to the Premier and his Government today. No fewer than eight hundred delegates were present, representing every province of Canada with the exception of Prince Edward Island.

While the resolution which evoked the greatest interest was that upon the tariff, considerable interest was also manifested in the attitude which the grain growers would assume to-

large portion of the east towards the recent reciprocity negotiations between Canada and the United States that something in the nature of a definite cleavage of opinion has been revealed.

D. W. McCuaig, of Winnipeg, president of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, presided, and the other members of the Council present upon the platform were: James Bower, Red Deer, Alta., vice-president; E. C. Drury, Barrie, Ont., secretary-treasurer; W. J. Tregillus, Calgary; E. J. Fream, Innisfall; James Speakman, Fenhold, and D. Warner, Edmonton, representing the United Farmers of Alberta; R. C. Henders, Culross; R. C. McKenzie, Winnipeg; Peter Wright, Myrtle, and J. H. Wood, Oakville, representing the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association; F. W. Green, Moose Jaw; E. A. Partridge, Sintaluta; J. A. Moharg, Moose Jaw, representing the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association; N. E. Burton, Post Stanley; E. C. Drury, Barrie; J. J. Morrison, Arthur; W. L. Smith, Toronto; James McEwing, Drayton; J. G. Lethbridge, Alliance, Thos. McMillan, Seabroth, representing the Dominion Grange, of Ontario; S. C. Parker, Berwick; M. Ellis, Kemptville, representing the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association; S. B. Hathaway, Fredericton, and W. M. Fawcett, Sackville, representing the New Brunswick Farmers' Association; W. F. Stephen, Huntingdon; David Bass, Casanville; Arch. Muir, Jr., Huntingdon; Dr. E. W. Walsh, Huntingdon; Robt. Sellar, Huntingdon; J. Bryson, Brysonville; J. Lafsure, Howick; James McKell, Riverfield, Alex.



## Resolutions Passed by Grain Growers

The following are the resolutions passed yesterday by the Grain Growers' deputation:

### Tariff.

- We ask:
1. Reciprocal free trade between the United States and Canada in all horticultural, agricultural and animal products, spraying materials, fertilisers, fuel, illuminating and lubricating oils, cement, fish and lumber.
  2. Reciprocal free trade between the two countries in all agricultural implements, machinery, vehicles and parts thereof.
  3. For an immediate lowering of the duties on all British imports to one-half the rates charged under the general tariff, whatever these may be. That any trade advantages given the United States in reciprocal trade relations be extended to Great Britain.
  4. For such further reduction of the remaining preferential tariff as will ensure the establishment of complete free trade between the Dominion and mother country within ten years.
  5. That the farmers of this country are willing to face direct taxation in such form as may be advisable to make up the revenue lost under new tariff relations.

### Hudson Bay Ry.

Be it resolved, that it is the opinion of this convention that the Hudson Bay Railway and all terminal facilities connected therewith should be constructed, owned and operated in perpetuity by the Dominion Government under an independent commission.

### Co-operative Societies.

Resolved, that in the opinion of this convention it is desirable that cheap and efficient machinery for the incorporation of co-operative societies should be provided by Federal legislation during the present session of parliament.

### Farmers' Organizations.

That the members of this convention hereby pledge themselves to promote the consolidation and spreading of farmers' organizations throughout every province of Canada.

### Terminal Elevators.

Whereas we are convinced that terminal elevators as now operated are detrimental to the interests of both the producer and consumer, as proved by recent investigation and testimony of important interested bodies, we therefore request that the Dominion Government acquire and operate as a public utility under an independent commission the terminal elevators of Fort William and Port Arthur, and immediately establish similar terminal facilities and conditions at the Pacific Coast, and provide the same at Hudson Bay when necessary, also such transfer and other elevators necessary to safeguard the quality of export grain.

### The Bank Act.

Whereas it is generally believed that the Bank Act, forming, as it does, the charter of all Canadian banks for a ten year term, by its present phrasing presents any amendment involving curtailment of their powers enjoyed by virtue of the provisions of such charter, be it resolved, that this certain convention of delegates desire that the new Bank Act be so worded as to permit the act to be amended at any time and in any particular.

## Member Matters

### *If you missed it*

If you missed our January meeting you can enjoy the recorded version on YouTube. No special sign-in is required and you can view the video at any time on computers, tablets, smartPhones and smartTVs: <https://youtu.be/XdxR57GH4s8>

### *New Members*

Please join me in welcoming our newest members: Keith Simpson, Pat Umiastowski and Caroline O'Connor.

### *In Memoriam*

Many of our long-time members will have fond memories of Dr. Granville Nickerson who passed recently at the youthful age of only 98. In addition to teaching at Harvard University and McGill University, he pioneered the successful treatment of children with tubercular meningitis, a previously fatal disease in children, and served as a physician at the Montreal Children's Hospital and Pediatrician-in-Chief at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Granville was active in the CDHS from his arrival in Cobourg in 2000 to the death of his wife Mary Lou in 2008. During those years he provided dapper dress and erudite conversation at our meetings together with several fascinating presentations to our society. You can enjoy Granville's talk on genetics and royalty at <https://www.cdhs.ca/images/reviews/Historical-Review-27.pdf>

## Announcements

### *Museum Foundation Book Store*

The Museum Foundation's Book Store's website at <https://cobourg-museum-foundation-inc.square.site/> allows shoppers to easily view and purchase books for pick-up or delivery. The Cobourg Museum Book Store offers both new and used books at reasonable prices. They specialize in books by local authors and of local history, but also carry an interesting selection covering Canadian history, the military and "general interest". Delivery in the Cobourg/ Grafton/ Port Hope area is free or pick-up at the Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre in Cobourg can be arranged.

### *Lakeshore Genealogical Society*

The LGS is hosting a Zoom meeting from 7-9pm on Thursday, March 10 featuring Cheryl Levy. Her topic is "Social Media for Genealogy: Using Facebook for Research and Connecting". Cheryl is a member of several genealogy groups and societies, including Quinte Branch, of Ontario Ancestors, where she has volunteered as Social Media Coordinator. Cheryl's roots are in Nova Scotia and Colonial New England, with origins in Scotland, England and Germany.

Visitors are welcome. You can join the Lakeshore Genealogical Society meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81361768224?pwd=SDVrREFZUks0NnJpNWZ5T081dzFrQT09>



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