

Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District
Historical Society

February 2021 — Issue 320

Fearless and Determined: Two Years Teaching in a One-Room School

On February 23 Linda Hutsell-Manning will talk about the history of the school building, about various activities and situations at the school and give a reading from her latest book.

Linda's writing career spans forty years and includes an impressive variety of genres



including poetry, plays, TV, short fiction and novels. Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1940, she moved to Ontario at age nine. After graduating from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and Toronto Teachers' College she taught for two years in a one-room school between Cobourg and Port Hope, Ontario. Following this, she attended the University of Guelph as a mature student, graduating with a B.A. Encouraged by two of her university professors, she began writing full time in 1981.

She has worked as a free-lance journalist, taught creative writing at several community colleges and hosted an author reading series. In the first twenty years, she published primarily juvenile fiction including three picture books, three juvenile plays, two time-travel novels and scripts for TVO's Polka Dot Door. During this time, she gave countless school/library workshops across Canada as well as in Germany and Luxembourg.

She has lived in many Canadian communities from Kamloops, BC to Cobourg, Ontario, where she now makes her home, writing in the attic office of a century farmhouse. More information about Linda's publications can be found at <http://www.lindahutsellmanning.ca/>

All CDHS members are invited to join us electronically on Tuesday, February 23 at 07:30 PM. Please register in advance by visiting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eDPuuxXGRaeNN8Oqkv6Pfg

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you have any questions concerning registration, please contact Brian Murphy, Membership Chair at brianincobourg@gmail.com

We look forward to you joining our upcoming CDHS webinar!

Our Previous Meeting

The Lost Villages

On Tuesday, January 26, Jim Brownell informed us on the Lost Villages -- ten communities in the former townships of Cornwall and Osnabruck (now South Stormont) near Cornwall, which were permanently submerged due to the creation of the Saint Lawrence Seaway in 1958. The communities were deemed expendable to ensure future prosperity for the entire Great Lakes watershed.



In describing the flooding of a number of small communities along the shore of the St. Lawrence, Jim called on his years of teaching and his time in the Ontario Legislature to paint a poignant yet fair picture of the effects of “progress”. The need for deep-water access to the entire Great Lakes region and the generation of electricity had to be alloyed with the losses to residents of the several villages along the shoreline. He spoke of the individuals who had to give up their farms, their businesses and even family graves. Using photos and film, Jim made it easy to feel the losses to families both in the villages and on the farms that lined the St. Lawrence.

Deep-water access to the interior, to allow shipping of wheat, ore and steel as well as many other products from both sides of the border was added to a demand for vast amounts of hydro-electric generation. It made economic sense—all for the greater good. But there were individuals—farmers, businessmen, parents and children, churches, birds, even groundhogs, whose senses of “normal” were disrupted. They paid the price, for all of us.

Yet there is an upside to this as well. Jim and a committee of like-minded individuals have taken on the task of illustrating this for all of us and indeed to those who will follow us. He and his partners have amassed an amazing collection of photographs, movies and video-reports to show us what it was like growing up there along the river in the postwar years.

Beyond that they have created a village — a museum that contains an array of buildings, furniture, artifacts of daily usage of many descriptions. This is the hard evidence that allows us to see, and in some degree to understand, small-town and farming, growing up and living in the days before Facebook and texting or masks. Canada and the world has changed for both good and ill. To see the lives led by others is to better understand the lives we live today.

The comments on the historical context of the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway were provided by CDHS member Gerry Brown.

Future Cobourg Historical Society Programs

The CDHS Programme Committee has planned a great selection of speakers for our 2020-2021 season. Although the ongoing pandemic has forced us to cancel our physical meetings we will have virtual meetings each month. You will be able to enjoy a glass of wine while listening from home. Unfortunately, we have no way to deliver Leona's cookies!

CDHS members will receive a webinar registration email approximately two weeks prior to a meeting. Those who register will be sent a reminder email shortly before each meeting.

March: *The History of the Cobourg Public Library* Heather Viscount

There is evidence to indicate the presence of a public-use library in Cobourg as early as the 1830's. The early library was designed to provide educational opportunities for tradesmen through books and lectures. By 1886 there were 128 subscribers from Cobourg and Hamilton Township.

April: *The Wreck of the HMS Speedy: The Making of a History Book* Dan Buchanan

The History Guy, Dan Buchanan will speak on the challenges of writing a history while also telling the fascinating story of the loss of the Speedy in Lake Ontario off the coast of Brighton in 1804.

After Meeting Social

When the virtual meeting finishes don't change the channel; stay around for some fun! After each meeting we will open the Zoom webinar to everyone for a "social". You will be able to see all participants who have their camera enabled. If you have a microphone you can ask the speaker questions one-on-one, chat with the crowd and generally do what we usually do at a physical meeting.

The Pull of the Stars

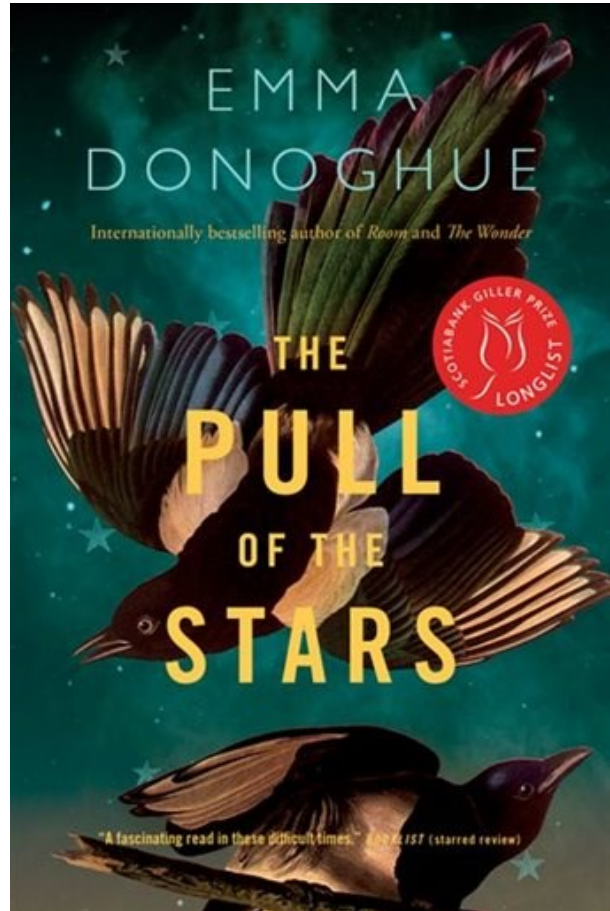
Ken Strauss

**THE PUBLIC IS URGED
TO STAY OUT OF PUBLIC PLACES
SUCH AS CAFES, THEATRES, CINEMAS,
AND PUBLIC HOUSES.
SEE ONLY THOSE PERSONS ONE NEEDS TO SEE.
REFRAIN FROM SHAKING HANDS, LAUGHING,
OR CHATTING CLOSELY TOGETHER.
IF ONE MUST KISS,
DO SO THROUGH A HANDKERCHIEF.
SPRINKLE SULPHUR IN THE SHOES.
IF IN DOUBT, DON'T STIR OUT.**

The catch phrases differ but the basic messages and government ruses to reassure have not changed since the Spanish Flu ravaged war-tired Europe and then the US and Canada. Set in Dublin at the start of November 1918, Ms. Donoghue recounts three days in the life of a maternity ward nurse in a hospital that is overcrowded with dying influenza patients. She delves into the same issues—women’s rights, lack of hospital facilities, limited prospects for many, desires for an independent country—that have changed little in a hundred years.

The characters, other than Dr. Kathleen Lynn of Sinn Féin fame, are fictional. However, Ms. Donoghue has meticulously researched the period. Her descriptions of childbearing are based on instructions by recognized medical experts of the time. You will learn of the uses of carbolic soap (banned in the US since 2016); eucalyptus oil, sulphur and onions to ward off the grippe; masks; Syrup of Ipecac (US FDA “discourages” usage) to clear the lungs; chloroform (usage discontinued because of deaths due to respiratory failure and cardiac arrhythmias) to ease the pains of childbirth and whiskey to relax patients. Her descriptions of the treatment of a young volunteer from the local orphanage are drawn from the 2009 *Ryan Report on Irish Residential Institutions*.

Emma Donoghue was born in Ireland but now lives in London, Ontario, Canada. *The Pull of the Stars* is available in hardcover, paperback, Audible and Kindle editions from Amazon (<https://www.amazon.ca/Pull-Stars-Novel-Emma-Donoghue/dp/1443461784>)



Are you a CBC Radio Lover as am I?

Carla Jones



Have you listened to *Quirks and Quarks*, *As It Happens*, or *Sunday Morning*? Do you remember *Morningside* with the beloved Peter Gzowski?

The name Margaret Lyons meant nothing to me until I read an overview of an upcoming Zoom documentary about the person who led the CBC Radio Revolution

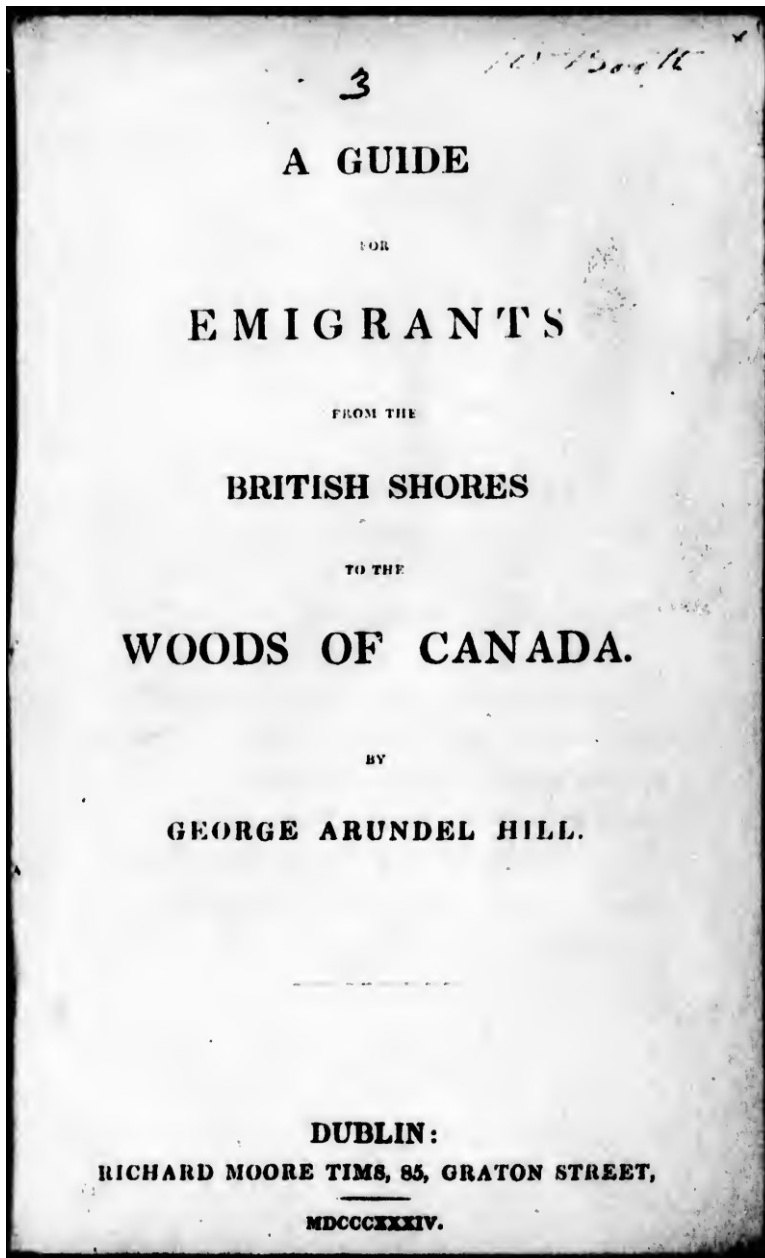
with innovative and creative programming. Many of her creations are still on air today.

Margaret Lyons was a fierce advocate of public broadcasting, champion of new ideas, producer, program director, and the first Vice-President of CBC Radio. The Zoom documentary was written and directed by Karin Wells who spoke to us about Mina Benson Hubbard's *Trek Across Labrador* in the October 2020 CDHS Webinar. All of us who attended agreed that Karin is an excellent storyteller.

This webinar can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elkrJJUw3LY>

Enjoy! Carla

Building Your Cobourg Area Castle, circa 1840



In the first half of the 19th century there were many efforts to convince British subjects to emigrate to the wilds of Canada. Promises of cheap land and good soil were particularly attractive to struggling farmers and to the poor in crowded cities. The reality was somewhat different! Although many of the promises were greatly exaggerated, a book by George Arundel Hill, *A Guide for Emigrants from the British Shore to the Woods of Canada* published in 1834, was somewhat more honest than many. In only 56 pages Hill provides numerous suggestions for dealing with the sometimes-unscrupulous land transfer agents and hired labourers, advice on choosing an appropriate property and legal-financial considerations together with advice on building a cabin for newly arrived immigrants for their first few years in Upper Canada. Interestingly he mentions Cobourg several times.

CHAPTER VIII

In selecting the site for your house, do not forget that a good fall from the front will serve to carry off the melting snow in the spring; as well as the water from the heavy thunder showers which you may expect in summer. Before you weigh one log over another, I remind you to have every tree felled, which, if left uncut, could afterwards reach the intended dwelling. It would be still better, if time allowed you, to get a space of forest of forty or fifty yards square burnt off before

the shanty was commenced; and then only can it be perfectly safe. This precaution seems seldom attended to by new settlers; sometimes perhaps from impatience to see their woodland residence in progress, but still oftener from ignorance of the serious risk incurred by neglecting it.

Having decided on the extent and plan of your edifice, your men proceed to hew down such trees, convenient to the intended site, as are of a proper thickness. The straighter these are, the better; and if cedars can be procured without much difficulty they should be chosen. Maples are said to decay very soon – in some cases after five or six years; but though it might be impossible to make them last for a great length of time, I suspect the true cause of the so rapid decay of the shanties aluded to, was their having been constantly soaking water, whenever rain fell, from gross laziness or neglect of the persons who occupied them.

The trees are now cut into the proper lengths and collected together. Digging for a foundation is of course never thought of. Having placed two end logs in the place where they are to remain, a man with an axe, within a few inches of the extreme ends of each, puts a kind of cut, whose breadth is the diameter of the log which is to be next put up, and its shape, like the letter V, turned upside down; the undersides of a front and the rere [sic] log are then cut, like the said letter V, so as to lie close on the end logs, and thus become, as it were, locked together. A similar operation is repeated, – two end and two side logs until the wooden walls have attained the acquired height, when the door and window spaces are cut away. If the trees have been carefully selected, so as to be as nearly of one size and as straight as possible, there will be little trouble or difficulty in laying the logs so as almost to touch each other in every part; and though some of your men will endeavour to persuade you that this is a matter of no consequence, and that it is the easiest thing in the world to ram a piece of basswood into the chinks, mind them not. You have now to get up the roof, which for a shanty is made by splitting the straightest basswood trees in two, and after they have been hollowed out with axes, placing them, the hollow part up, side by side, and as closely as you can, so that the ends will rest on the upper back and front logs. To prevent rain getting through, the other troughs, similarly prepared, are placed one over every joint, with the concave side under, and the roof is finished.

I strongly recommend you to have the sides of these under troughs made quite straight, which can be done easily by the assistance of a black-line. This will spare you much trouble afterwards, and render it an easy matter to make the joints impervious to the cool air of winter. Here again the workmen will exclaim against your unusual nicety; but remember that it is your own wife and your own children who are to spend the approaching winter under that roof, and be resolved to make them as comfortable as you can.

If you are anxious to have your family in their new habitation as soon as possible, they may now come into it. The weather, until probably the middle of November, will render a slight curtain tacked up at night, a sufficient substitute for glazed sashes; and the good behaviour of your neighbours, should you have any, will cause any stronger door to be quite unnecessary.

You will then have leisure to make, or get made, by degrees, any articles of household furniture you require, and whatever you judge proper for finishing your shanty.

Under this last head, your fireplaces and chimneys claim the first attention. For a short time you may perhaps find it expedient to imitate a very general plan among the new settlers—just to place a few large stones loosely against that part where the fire is to be made, in order to prevent the logs of the shanty from igniting; and let a square hole in the roof serve as the chimney.

If, however, time and circumstance allow it, it will be better to do at once that at once what must otherwise be shortly done, and get a stone chimney put up.

It may happen that you will be advised, as I was, to put up a wooden chimney, well plastered within and without. Such are in pretty general use, and may answer very well where a constant or strong fire is not required. Still, I cannot recommend them, as, let their construction be ever so perfect, they are certainly exposed to the danger of catching fire sooner or later; and the consciousness of this danger will often come upon you, while enjoying a roaring fire of a cold night, like a bitter breeze from the north.

The complete, original, 1834 George Hill book includes several mentions of Cobourg. A scanned copy can be downloaded from https://ia802308.us.archive.org/11/items/cihm_37516/cihm_37516.pdf

Thanks to CDHS member Judith Goulin for finding this fascinating book!.

Northumberland County Archives and Museum Update

Part II

The following information is taken from the Strategic Plan and Policies which are available at <https://joinin.northumberland.ca/>. NCAM's Strategic Plan commits to developing community-centric exhibitions and programming by designing and co-creating community-first exhibitions in alignment with shared goals. As stated in the Exhibition Policy, there will be permanent exhibits in the Entry and foyer of NCAM, permanent Outdoor heritage interpretive stops along the landscaped public pathways and rotating themed exhibitions in the Main Gallery.

Entry Exhibition

The permanent exhibition in the Entry will orient the visitor to Northumberland County with an interactive map and nine panels curated to reflect the unique character of the seven member municipalities of Northumberland County: Port Hope; Town of Cobourg; Hamilton; Trent Hills; Cramahe; Alnwick/Haldimand; Brighton as well as the independent Alderville First Nation and a history of the Williams Treaties First Nations in the area. This permanent exhibit will be designed to raise visitor awareness about Northumberland County history and build an appreciation for the unique cultures, identities and connections across our large geographic area. The Faraday Hall window frame will be on permanent display in the Entry and will also be visible to the public from the outside of NCAM. Interpretive script will detail the history of Victoria College in Cobourg, the Faraday Hall Science Department, famed women scientists from the area and the role of science and ingenuity in Northumberland. The window frame will double as a "selfie spot" for social media promotions.

Main Gallery Exhibitions

As per NCAM Exhibitions Policy, all exhibits will be reviewed, consulted and vetted by ad hoc Exhibition Advisory Groups comprised of community members to ensure design, flow, content and engagement pieces are truly inclusive, accessible, relevant and effective. Both temporary and permanent exhibits will have travelling components to be stationed in more remote parts of Northumberland County, to ensure access of information to all residents. Temporary exhibits created in collaboration with a community group will have a travelling component to be set up in said group's facility, when possible. Community-based exhibits curated through collaborating with local galleries/libraries/heritage groups/non-profits and community organizations will showcase Northumberland County stories that are important to residents, while travelling exhibits on loan from other museums will explore a broad range

of topics not currently able to be featured as a full-scale exhibition elsewhere in an archive/museum setting within Northumberland County.

Some of the proposed plans for temporary exhibits in the Main Gallery from 2022-2030 include:

Theme: Ojibwe – Living Language

Run Date: 5/31/2023-4/30/2024

Artefacts: from Indigenous Community if wanted

Community Partners: Indigenous Advisory Circle

Exhibit Name (TBD): Maadaajim

This inaugural exhibit is well under way! The Indigenous Advisory Circle has been formed and has been meeting which has been incredibly exciting for us!

The Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) will:

- Provide advice and oversight for the development of permanent and temporary exhibits and programming for the new NCAM facility
- Provide recommendations to ensure all aspects are accurately representative, truthful and respectful of Indigenous communities
- Help NCAM facilitate public learning and appreciation of Ojibwe language and culture within the context of existing community initiatives

The following are our draft plans for future exhibits in the Main Gallery after the Ojibwe exhibit. Each exhibit must represent all of Northumberland County and the independent Alderville First Nation. Public Advisory Committees representing Northumberland communities, academia and experts in each field will be formed to oversee each exhibit's development with artefacts on loan from partner institutions. Exhibits will highlight member municipalities and their heritage/cultural institutions' work and promote visitor engagement to these institutions.

Theme: Aquatic Life (with loan from Canadian Museum of Nature)

Run Date: 5/36/2024-08/30/2024

Artefacts: cresset (canoe lantern), fishing rods, Cobourg car ferry room key; skates; Rice Lake Tourism Association fonds, photos, postcards, letters;

Community Partners: Marine groups, boating & fishing associations, Northumberland water user groups

Exhibit Name (TBD): Waterscapes

Theme: Science of Food (with loan from Ingenium)
Run Date: 09/21/2024-12/20/2024
Artefacts: Kraft/General Foods Fonds
Community Partners: OAFVC, food and product developers
Exhibit Name (TBD): A Taste of Science

Theme: Northumberland Horticulture
Run Date: 01/18/2025-08/29/2025
Artefacts: club collections/records/images/pressed flowers/Catherine Parr Traill book
Community Partners: Horticultural Society Chapters/Gardening Clubs/Horticultural academic programs
Exhibit Name (TBD): Beyond Blooms

Theme: Diversity in Science and Technology (with loan from Ingenium)
Run Date: 01/17/2026-04/10/2026
Artefacts: Victoria College records, personal fonds from female scientists from Northumberland
Community Partners: School boards, Venture 13, Girl Guides of Canada local Chapters, University of Toronto, Victoria College
Exhibit Name (TBD): Iron Willed: Women in STEM

Theme: Emigration to Northumberland (with support from the Canadian Museum of Immigration)
Run Date: 05/08/2026-01/15/2027
Artefacts: County Naturalization Records, Canada 150 Stories & portraits, Legacies 89.7FM interviews
Community Partners: New Canadians Centre, Immigration & Diversity Forum group
Exhibit Name (TBD): All Are Welcome

Theme: Musical Arts in Northumberland
Run Date: 05/21/2027-01/05/2028

Artefacts: Shelter Valley Folk Festival (SVFF) fonds (posters, recordings, images);
Northumberland Players fonds; locally produced sheet music and audio recordings;
dance cards; photographs

Community Partners: Northumberland Music organizations (orchestral, choral, youth,
performance); Northumberland Theatre organizations; local high schools,
Northumberland El Sistema (SONG)

Exhibit Name (TBD): The Hills are Alive!

Theme: Transportation Infrastructure

Run Date: 2028

Artefacts: County engineering schematics; bridge plans, historic culverts, images, Cbg-Ptbo
Railway records, Roads Survey books 1821-present, roads signs

Community Partners: Municipal planning/engineering departments, local engineering firms,
school boards

Exhibit Name (TBD): The Bridges of Northumberland County

Theme: Hispanic Culture

Run Date: 2029

Artefacts: Personal fonds, club records, photos, media footage, audio & music

Community Partners: Northumberland Hispanic Cultural Club

Exhibit Name (TBD): Mi Condado

Theme: Northumberland Military

Run Date: 2030

Artefacts: Patrick Duffy carved wooden slat, Charles Rutherford images, military artefacts:
medals, maps, uniforms, letters

Community Partners: Northumberland Legions, Northumberland Heritage/Historical
Societies

Exhibit Name (TBD): Rebels in War

Additional Exhibitions

NCAM will partner with the Golden Plough Lodge (GPL) to create a mix of permanent
photographic and artefact exhibits throughout their internal “Main Street”, neighbourhoods

and main lobby. These exhibits can be rotated to reflect seasonal changes or for events meaningful and relevant to its staff and residents. Inside NCAM, the collections storage will permanently offer a behind-the-scenes display of larger scale artefacts and materials (E.g. historic culverts and farming equipment) that may be accessed under direct supervision of staff. Featured artefacts will be interpreted in-situ. The building at 555 Courthouse Rd. serves as the headquarters for Northumberland County and will feature a temporary small exhibit on the 2nd floor mirroring and promoting the current exhibits in the main gallery. When appropriate, NCAM will seek additional satellite exhibitions locations throughout the County (storefronts, public library display cases, partner, etc.).

For additional information on the plans for the Northumberland Archives please contact Katie Kennedy, Curator, [Northumberland County Archives & Museum at ncam@northumberlandcounty.ca](mailto:ncam@northumberlandcounty.ca).

Announcements

Hastings Historical Society

The Hastings County Historical Society invites you to browse their *Outlook* newsletter at <http://hastingshistory.ca/photos/custom/Nov%20Outlook%202020%20Final.pdf>

In addition to their online newsletters you can watch a number of documentary films at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLHvsK9WZZF5PtnU6isQTfw>

Available titles include:

- ***Herb Ditchburn – The Man Behind the Name:*** The story of master craftsman, Herb Ditchburn builder of the finest wooden boats in the world and a Muskoka legend.
- ***Sons of the Waves – HMCS Trentonian:*** The story of a Royal Canadian Navy ship in the Second World War, its crew and the townspeople from its namesake Town of Trenton who supported the ship and its crew from afar.
- ***Glanmore National Historic Site of Canada – A Victorian Treasure in Our Midst:*** A virtual tour video featuring highlights of the original 38-minute DVD, created to increase accessibility to this historic site.

Archives Survey

The Northumberland County Archives has a survey to gather input from residents about how they feel the new museum and archives will be of use to them. The survey is available through <https://joinin.northumberland.ca/> which is a collaborative tool utilized by many municipalities. You need to register to be able to fill out the survey, but you can still remain anonymous if you so wish. If you are not interested in filling out the survey this way, you are

invited to email them anytime with your thoughts, or they are happy to set up a phone chat. If you do choose to fill out the survey, you will be entered to win one of four \$25 gift certificates to local independent bookstores!

Local Historic Pictures Galore

Visit <https://www.flickr.com/photos/136519498@N04/albums/> to enjoy hundreds of historic photographs from Cobourg and the surrounding area.

Member Matters

New Members

Please join me in welcoming our newest member: Pauline Browes.

Dues Reminder

CDHS memberships usually run from April to April. All 2019-2020 memberships were extended to compensate for cancelled meetings. However, dues are now due for your 2020-2021 membership. Our usual physical meetings will be replaced with an outstanding lineup of virtual presenters. In addition to our "virtual" Zoom Webinars each month, we are still providing our newsletter and continuing to keep our Facebook and <https://cdhs.ca/> website updated. Even without meetings we will be incurring costs that include hosting

of the Zoom webinars and our website; honorariums to our presenters, preparation and production of promotional materials (pamphlets, banner), and contributions to permanent historical features that are part of our town. Unfortunately, we have no way to deliver Leona's cookies!

We have kept the membership fees the same as last season:

Individual Membership: \$30

Family Membership: \$50

Payment can be made by either Cheque or eTransfer. Please make your cheques payable to the Cobourg and District Historical Society and mail it to :

CDHS Membership Chair

P.O. Box 911, Stn Main

Cobourg. ON K9A 4W4

If you wish to use eTransfer, please send the transfer to our Membership Chair:

brianincobourg@gmail.com

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