

# Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District  
Historical Society

March 2019 — Issue 303

## ***Reuben Jackson and Martin Jex: Renowned Cobourg Builders***

What is a Jackson House? Who was Jex? On Tuesday March 26, Judith Goulin will speak about renowned Cobourg builders, Reuben Jackson and Martin Jex. This presentation offers



an opportunity to learn many new and interesting facts about these men and the legacies that they left in the town of Cobourg. Meet our special guests who have a connection with these builders and see the many historic

photos and artefacts on display. This is a meeting not to be missed!

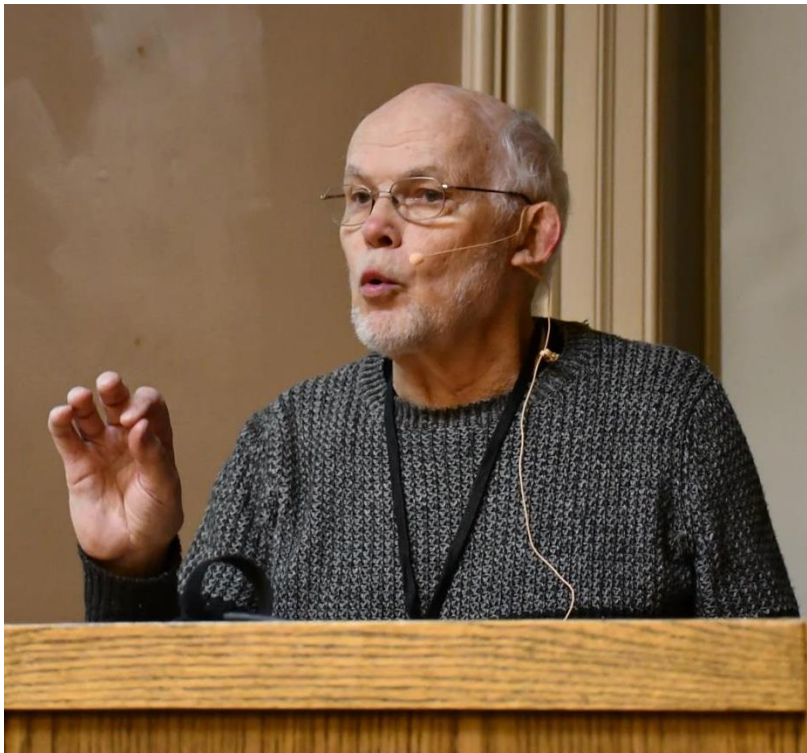
Doors open at 7:00 PM for coffee and cookies. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Guests are always welcome. Admission, including refreshments, is free for members and \$5 for non-members. Annual membership in the Cobourg and District Historical Society is \$25 for individuals and \$30 for a family. Bring a friend or two! See you on Tuesday March 26!

## ***Our Previous Meeting***

### ***Armistice 18: A Historical Fiction Novel***

The speaker for our February meeting was our own Gerry Brown. A retired history teacher who loves to write, Gerry suggested that historical fiction has an important role to play in our understanding of people in other times and other places. He used many examples from his recent book, *Memories of a Grey Wooden Box*, to emphasize his points.

His prime contention was that much of our historical study focuses on major world events somewhat in isolation from its their influence on how ordinary people led their lives. How



were those who stayed home during WWI influenced by the horrific battles in Europe? How did they cope with hardships, loss of workforce, deaths in the family and in their circle of friends? How has our town changed since then? All of these important issues can be better understood by using historical fiction.

In his most recent book we view events through the eyes of his main character, Arthur. We see it all: the battles, the mud, the barbed wire, the boys he knew

who didn't make it home and the ones who did who were never the same. You will recognize real names and real places so you know for sure that it's Cobourg, but this great story could be a slice of life in the wartime era for any small town in Canada. Gerry's writing makes you feel like you were really present in Cobourg during WWI.

Gerry emphasized that it is essential to choose a character who might reasonably do what he does in the fictional work. For example, Arthur was chosen to be a young person with a disability so that he would not have been expected to go to war yet could still observe the people in Cobourg.

## Future Meetings

<p><b>Tuesday, April 23, 2019</b> Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>	<p>Annual General Meeting <b>Ross Quigley Sports Hall of Fame</b> <i>Cobourg Sports History</i></p>
<p><b>Wednesday, May 15, 2019</b> Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>Susanna Moodie: Fact and Fiction</b> A panel discussion with authors Cecily Ross and Michael Peterman. And Moderated by Hugh Brewster.</p>

## May 15 CDHS Social and Susanna Moodie Discussion

Care to socialize and have a few bites? Join us at the Buttermilk Cafe from 5 to 6:30pm. Have a drink or two, a munch and a chat before the Susanna Moodie presentation begins across the street at 7pm.



- Chicken Goujonettes with Apricot-Ginger sauce
- Pulled Pork sliders on Buttermilk made rolls
- Bruschetta Crostini
- Veggie Tray with House made Aioli
- Fruit Kabobs

Cost is \$15 per person including tax. Gratuity and beverages are additional. Available space requires that attendance be limited to 30 people. Purchase tickets from Carla at the membership desk or call 289-252-1684 and reserve your spot. CDHS seating is saved for us in the Concert Hall so no need to worry about getting there early.

The Victoria Hall Volunteers will present “Susanna Moodie, Fact and Fiction” a discussion with Cecily Ross, author, *The Lost Diaries of Susanna Moodie*, and Michael Peterman, author of *Susanna Moodie: A Life*.

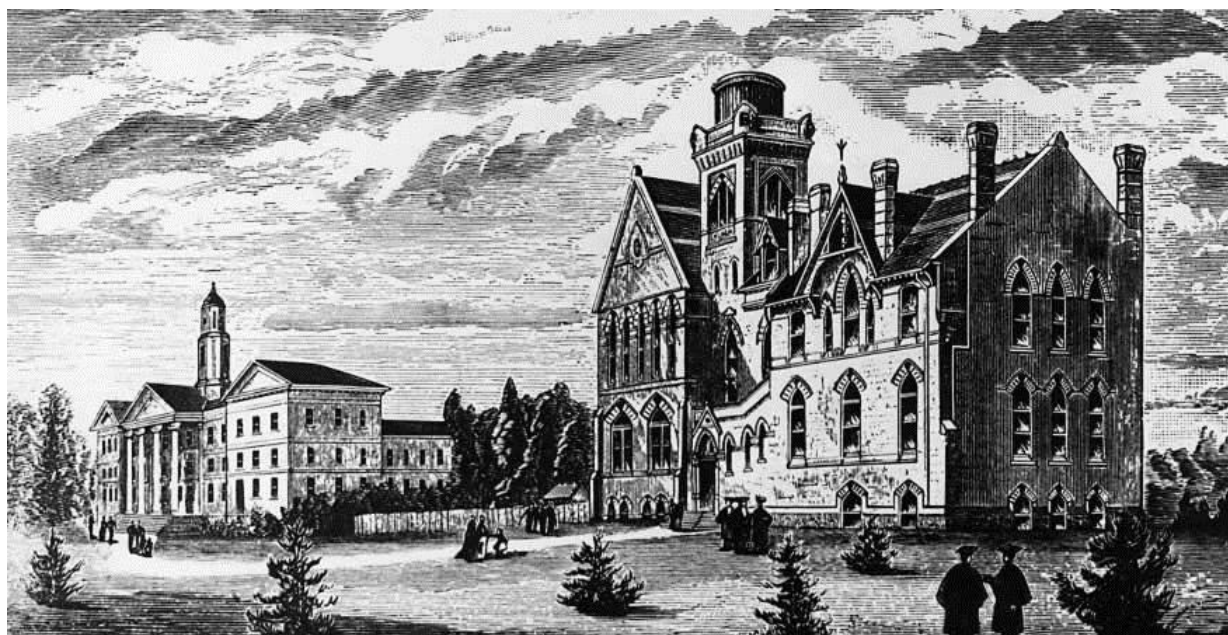
The CDHS Programme Committee thought that this event would be an opportunity to support the work of the Victoria Hall Volunteers in their preservation of the historical aspects of Victoria Hall, and would also provide us with an evening to socialize and end an interesting year of speakers. This promises to be an exciting event and the talk of the town.

Tickets will be available at the March CDHS meeting from Carla without service charge. Or you can purchase tickets from the Concert Hall Box Office at 905 372 2210 or from their website at <http://concerthallatvictoriahall.com>. The cost is \$25 for adults or \$15 for students including complimentary refreshments.

## Why a Window?

*Some of our newer members have enquired about the significance of the logo that appears on the cover of each issue of Historically Speaking. The following explanation is reproduced in part from the Fall 2011 issue of the CDHS Archives newsletter.*

Faraday Hall was opened on 29 May 1878 as an up-to-the-minute well-equipped science hall for Victoria College. Faraday Hall was originally sponsored by Dr. Eugene Haanel, who worked alongside Toronto architects, Smith and Gemmell, to design the building. Of the estimated \$25,000 cost of the building, \$15,000 of that was raised by the residents of Cobourg. The foundation of Faraday Hall was limestone, while the body was completed in red brick. The best science equipment of the day was installed and used in the theatre and in the classrooms. Much of it was obtained from a trip by Dr. Haanel to Paris and included Rhumkorff's induction coil, a powerful Holtz machine, an air pump and a Brownings' Spectroscope. The Observatory, located in a revolving tower housing a seven foot telescope, was under the control of Professor Bain.



This new science building had an enormous basement and rose two and a half storeys above that. The lecture hall on the ground floor was progressive for its time, with an amphitheatre constructed on special optical and acoustic principals. The amphitheatre could accommodate up to 200 students at a time. It had nine windows; Dr. Haanel connected all of the blinds for the windows to a lever at his desk, enabling him to raise and lower them simultaneously. The second floor held the mathematics department, the mineralogy room and the Museum containing eleven display cases, including a well-preserved Egyptian sarcophagus and female mummy. The museum also contained the infamous meteor, discovered by Rev. George Macdougall, which weighed 313 lbs and now rests in the Glenbow Museum in Calgary.

Although many people assume that as Victoria College was Methodist in origin, the theological faculty was of prime importance. While this continued to have some impact, once Faraday Hall was established in 1878, Victoria College sent forth 255 graduates in Arts and Science, 841 in Medicine, 70 in Law but only 29 in Divinity.

Faraday Hall was torn down in 1909, and many years later all that remains is a single gothic window frame, which the Cobourg and District Historical Society has adopted as its logo. The original window frame can be seen in the Archives reading room on the ground floor of the Cobourg Public Library.

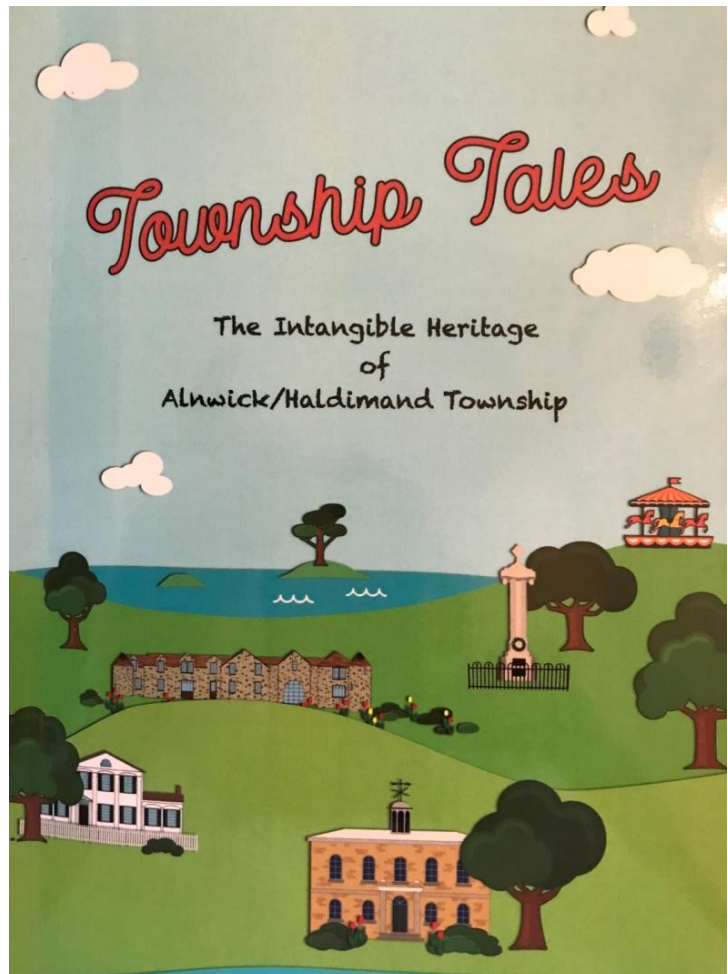
## **Local History of Alnwick/Haldimand: *Township Tales***

***Diane Chin***

The cover's text describes it best "This book of stories, inspired by the memories of long-time Township residents, provides a description of our community as it is remembered years ago. It also contains historic articles and fun facts that highlight some of the many historic landmarks in our community. The residents who have contributed to this book have seen many changes; dirt roads to highways, party lines to smart phones, and in store gossip to...well, some things never change. The stories within truly capture and preserve the spirit of days gone by."

*Township Tales* is a fun, interesting read for the lover of history. Not only are we regaled by stories of daily life, we gain insight into the founding and sometimes loss of the towns, villages and hamlets in Alnwick/Haldimand. We learn about the impact of the invention of the telephone upon the communities and what it was like for a family to run a telephone exchange in Fenella. Tobacco farming, so prevalent was not only arduous but lucrative and meant that many children were pulled out of school for long periods of time, some never to go back. And did you know that Grafton was once called Grover's Corners?

A woman from Grafton recalls the men physically unable to participate in WWII and the soldiers from the Trenton Air Force Base who visited her family's farm for respite on weekends.



Many stories deal with school life. Who knew there were so many schools in the Township? I guess it was because each school had to be within walking distance.

I was particularly pleased to learn that the Alderville War Monument in Roseneath was the first constructed in Canada to commemorate the service of First Nations soldiers in WWI.

These are but a few of the historic snippets, you will find in *Township Tales*.

This fully illustrated book, which includes historical photographs and maps both current and archival, was compiled by Racquel Devison for Alnwick/Haldimand Heritage Committee in 2018.

*The Intangible Heritage of Alnwick/Haldimand Township* is now in its second printing. If you don't have a copy, plan to buy one for \$10.00 at these outlets: In Grafton: 1812 Antiques,

Grafton Farmer's Co-operative, Grafton Town Hall or from Bob Deane, Chair, Alnwick/Haldimand Heritage Committee, (905-349-2910) All Township public libraries — Grafton, Centreton and Roseneath — have copies.

## Member Matters

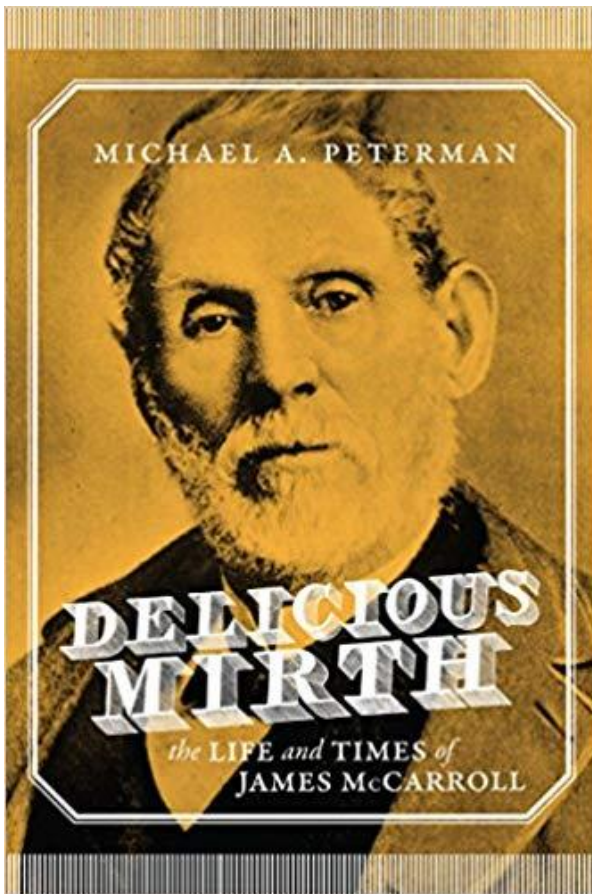
### ***New Members***

Please join me in welcoming our newest member: Capt. (Retd) Don Fowler.

## Announcements

### ***New Book by a Future Speaker***

Michael Peterman, Professor Emeritus at Trent University and speaker at the May CDHS



meeting has published a new book, *Delicious Mirth: The Life and Times of James McCarroll*. Its third chapter is specifically about Cobourg as McCarroll (1814?1892), an Irishman who first immigrated to Peterborough in 1831, spent four years in Cobourg (1847-51). This chapter is very rich in Cobourg history and lore as he taught music at the Globe Hotel, ran a reform newspaper — *The Newcastle Courier* — in 1847-48 and became a Landing Waiter at the Cobourg Customs office. His great friends in these years were William Weller of stagecoach fame and Henry J. Ruttan who was the editor of the *Cobourg Star*.

James McCarroll was a talented Irish poet, journalist, humorist, musician, and arts critic who left his mark on nineteenth-century Canada by seemingly engaging with anything topical in every medium. Often writing anonymously or

under pseudonyms, McCarroll's best-known *nom de plume* was "Terry Finnegan," who wrote weekly comic letters to his "cousin" Thomas D'Arcy McGee (the most recently assassinated Canadian politician), offering advice on political and social matters. Yet, since his death, McCarroll's contributions to early Canadian writing and culture have largely been forgotten.

*Delicious Mirth* can be purchased through book stores and from Amazon in either Kindle or paper (<https://www.amazon.ca/Delicious-Mirth-Times-James-McCarroll/dp/077355467X>).

Professor Peterman will present the fascinating life of James McCarroll in the Cobourg Public Library on Tuesday, April 9, from 6-8pm.

### ***Forest to Farmland***

George Parker, a CDHS member, will be giving a presentation “Forest to Farmland” to the North Shore Probus Club on the morning of June 19 at the Lions Centre. Probus welcomes visitors for a nominal fee. George has made several very well received presentations to the Cobourg and District Historical Society. If you attend you will hear an interesting speaker and have the opportunity to see if Probus and its offerings interest you.

### ***Lakeshore Genealogical Society***

The Lakeshore Genealogical Society has scheduled several meetings of particular interest. LGS meetings are on the second Thursday of the month from 6:30pm to 9:00pm in the HTM Building, 1185 Elgin St. West, Cobourg (**note the change of venue**):

- **April:** Dave Clements: *The Nehemiah Smith Story*
- **May:** Wendy MacDonald from Trenton LDS Family History Centre: *Family Search Basics*.
- **June:** Peter Brotherhood: *The role of the Parish Church of St. Peter’s in the development of Upper Canada*

### ***Heritage Cramahe Presents***



Heritage Cramahe is presenting a show titled: Old Cat Hollow to Lakeport: A Journey Through Time in the Colborne Art Gallery, March 14 to June 2 with the opening at 7pm on March 14. The gallery at 51 King Street East in Colborne is open Thursday through Sunday from 12-4pm. Admission is free.

**Cobourg Museum Foundation Dinner**

You are Invited to  
the

**COBOURG  
MUSEUM  
FOUNDATION'S**

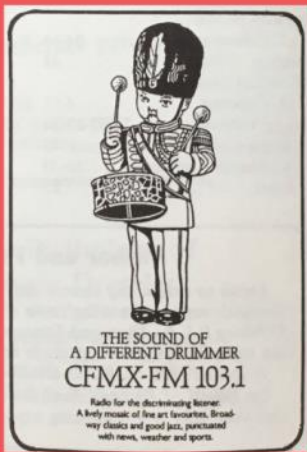
**Fundraising  
Dinner**

Celebrating  
**40 YEAR OF  
CFMX IN COBOURG**

*"beautiful music  
for a crazy world"*



**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**Mike Duncan CFMX**  
Cobourg boy  
Long time radio personality



**COBOURG BEST WESTERN**

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

\$70 (\$20 tax receipt)

For tickets contact Mary:

[cmftickets@yahoo.com](mailto:cmftickets@yahoo.com)  
or  
289-691-3845



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