

# Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District  
Historical Society

May 2018 — Issue 297

## The Way We Were

Come Reminiscence With Us!



Be sure to circle your calendars for Tuesday May 29: our upcoming year end social event. *The Way We Were: An Evening of History, Cobourg Nostalgia and Memories.*

We'll be joined by Dianne Brock of Cobourg Yesteryears and hope to see many long-time Cobourgites there also.

Bring your own photos, Cobourg-related items and stories to share. Enjoy looking at

displays and lots of photos assembled by Dave Seale, Scott Powell, Joy Randall and others. Scott has great photos from 1898 that document Cobourg's Windsor Hotel fire.

There will also be representatives from The Sports Hall of Fame, The Lakeshore Genealogical Society, The Architectural Conservancy, The Sifton Cook Museum, The Cobourg Library and Northumberland County Archives.

This event is also a good time to renew old acquaintances and make new friends. "The Way We Were" is free and will feature a cash bar.

Please come and bring all your friends, especially long-time Cobourg people whom we know have stories to tell. See you there! Victoria Hall-Concert Hall, Tuesday May 29, 7:00-9:00 pm.

# Our Previous Meeting

## Why Local History Matters

Roseanne Quinn's interesting and passionate presentation on the reasons why we need to pay attention to the stories people tell, to the photographs and memorabilia that are stored in family attics and basements, captivated the audience on April 24, 2018. Roseanne's father, an Irish storyteller recorded his stories for posterity in a collection *Down on the Farm* which has captured the local history of Roseanne's town of Castleton and Cramhe township. While "mining" the local landfill, Mr. Quinn came across, and brought home the Cramhe Township papers from the 1850s that had been discarded. These findings awakened Roseanne's love of local history and the history of her family specifically. Her explorations have taken her to Ireland, to cemeteries, archives, census records, newspapers, school records, journals, letters, and other documents. She has seen where history happened and this has made history come alive.

We all have stories and archives that are part of our family's past, and this is what contributes to our identities and to the histories of our communities. We need to preserve these for posterity and perhaps in our exploration we may come across some famous individuals who are part of the greater history of Canada.

An example of unknown but important individuals is Alexander Creighton. In 1862 he graduated first in his class in medicine at the University of Toronto and moved to Castleton in 1878. There he discovered a cure for pneumonia and the common cold. His license was revoked but he was reinstated in 1906. His cure is credited with saving the citizens of Cramhe from the influenza epidemic of 1914.

## Announcements

### Lakeshore Genealogical Society

There are several upcoming Lakeshore Genealogical Society meetings:

- June 14: Day Excursion to Trenton Air Museum.
- September 13: Annual AGM and "Finds and Frustrations"
- October 11: Allison Torrie Lapaire, "The Canadian Flag"

Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month and are held in the Rotary Room, Cobourg Public Library, 200 Ontario Street, Cobourg and starts at 6:30pm. Visitors are welcome.

### **Women and Hollywood**

CDHS members can purchase tickets to Women and Hollywood and receive a special price of \$25.00 per ticket. This is a discount of \$2.50 per ticket from the usual price. To get the special price go to

<https://www.mariedressler.ca/news/46-women-and-hollywood-2018-tickets-special-price> and pay by Paypal with no additional charges.

Alternatively, call or visit the Concert Hall Box Office at Victoria Hall. Quote discount code "**Marie Dressler**" to get the reduced price.

Payment can be with cash or credit card.

**Additional handling fees will be levied by the Box Office.**

Seating is limited so purchase your tickets soon to avoid disappointment.

### **WWI and a Famous Trial**

Cobourg's Armistice 18 celebration will be the largest recognition of the end of WWI in Canada. The centrepiece of the activities will be the performance of a play by Toronto playwright and historian Hugh Brewster. The play "The Last Day, The Last Hour" will be performed in the court room at Victoria Hall Thursday to Sunday evenings October 17-Nov 11. This play re-enacts the trial for libel that Arthur Currie brought against those who accused him of taking Mons for his own ego. Since the trial took place in 1927 in the same location, this will be historically significant.

Hugh would like to create a poppy trail which would mark places in Cobourg that are connected to WWI such as Victoria Hall, the train station, the Cobourg Military Convalescent Hospital, houses where veterans lived, etc. If you interested in being part of a committee to



*Marie Dressler Foundation presents*

# **WOMEN and HOLLYWOOD**

**The powerful roles of women in front of and behind the cameras in early Hollywood**

**The importance of communities of women then and now**

featuring:

**CARI BEAUCHAMP**, award winning author of *Without Lying Down: Frances Marion and the Powerful Women of early Hollywood* and five other books of film history, a documentary filmmaker, and Film Scholar for the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

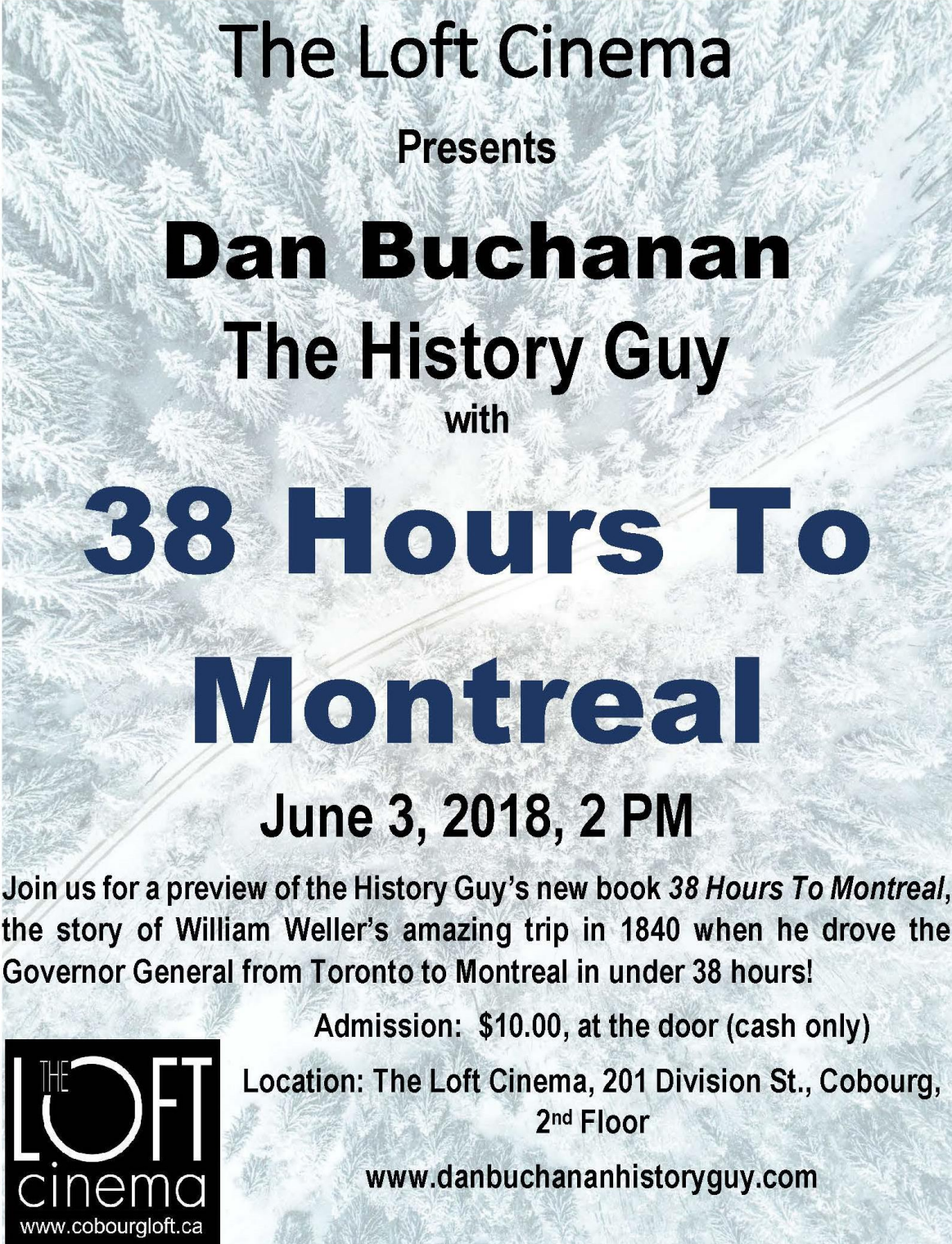
**MATTHEW KENNEDY**, film critic and author of four film history books including *Marie Dressler: A Biography*. Matthew's book *Roadshow!* was the basis of a film series on Turner Classic Movies.

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2018  
at 7:00 p.m.**

**TICKETS**  
[www.mariedressler.ca](http://www.mariedressler.ca)  
or  
**VICTORIA HALL BOX OFFICE**  
**905.372.2210**

150      
Lynn Hardy

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The Loft Cinema  
Presents  
**Dan Buchanan**  
**The History Guy**  
with  
**38 Hours To  
Montreal**  
June 3, 2018, 2 PM

Join us for a preview of the History Guy's new book *38 Hours To Montreal*, the story of William Weller's amazing trip in 1840 when he drove the Governor General from Toronto to Montreal in under 38 hours!

Admission: \$10.00, at the door (cash only)

Location: The Loft Cinema, 201 Division St., Cobourg,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

[www.danbuchananhistoryguy.com](http://www.danbuchananhistoryguy.com)



**THE LOFT**  
cinema  
[www.cobourgloft.ca](http://www.cobourgloft.ca)

## **Membership Matters**

### ***New Member at Large***

Reve Nelson has agreed to join the CDHS Board as a Member at Large. Reva had many careers but not because she was ever fired! She's been a teacher-librarian, actress, seminar leader, corporate professional speaker and successful author. She recently moved to Cobourg from Toronto because of the lake and town hall (really). She figures she's now old enough to really appreciate history!

### ***Our Condolances***

We are saddened to hear of the death of Mary Smith who was a familiar face at CDHS meetings for many years. She had a keen interest in history as well as many other pastimes. You may also remember seeing her at Meet at 66, having coffee with friends, or at University Women's Club meetings. Mary lived on Henry Street for many years, then at Palisade Gardens. She will be missed in Cobourg.

### ***Thanks to Marilyn***

We extend our thanks to Marilyn Harris who has served as CDHS' capable Treasurer for the last five years. Marilyn is off on a new adventure. Next month, she and her husband Bob are moving to Canmore, Alberta where their daughter lives. Their new home is just a few minutes' walk from downtown Canmore. They look forward to being tourists in a new province. Imagine living in close proximity to Banff, looking at mountains every day and discovering animals and birds they haven't seen before! After a while, when they no longer feel like tourists, they plan on once again taking up some of their interests like birding, gardening, curling, golfing and cross-county skiing.

We will miss Marilyn's smiling presence among us at our meetings. (Why is it that people always smile when they are taking our money?) We extend our best wishes to the Harris' for good times and good health in Alberta.

## CDHS Executive for 2018 – 2019

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