



Annual Report

2021



@HastingsHistory



HastingsHistory



@CountyHastings



HastingsCountyHistoricalSociety

Website: www.hastingshistory.ca

Archives: www.cabhc.ca

Historical Plaques: www.hastingshistoricalplaques.ca

Report of the President

Richard Hughes

The year 2021 was the second year of the global Covid-19 pandemic with a continuation of the lockdowns and limitations affecting all aspects of our lives and activities. For the Historical Society it brought further challenges and demands as the Board of Directors sought to develop and deliver programs to the benefit of the whole community while fully respecting the safety protocols of the authorities and the health and well-being of our members and friends.

Previous to the onset of Covid-19 the Society maintained several community-wide, public programs that had become very popular with a large number of people. Our Public Presentations at Maranatha, held nine times a year, had built up a large following, averaging 125 persons per month. These events featured a guest speaker but also book sales, displays, information booths, and were a very popular social gathering for our friends and members. They looked forward to coming out in a comfortable setting and enjoying an informative social evening. Also, for several years the Society's spring Historical Bus Tours had grown from one bus to two, and always fully sold out. These outings provided a pleasant day in the country in the beauty of early Spring, visiting local historical sites and learning more about our area. For many years, our annual fundraising program was the Celebration of Local History Banquet. This event always featured nationally known speakers and was always a complete sell-out, with the table sponsorships raising funds for the next year's operation.

Also, victims of the Covid-19 lockdown were the special, public programs like the creation and installation of memorial brass plaques. Previously six plaques had been installed in Downtown Belleville and seven installed across Hastings County. These were major public events with participation of the municipalities and the public. For 2019, an additional four memorial plaques had been created, three for Quinte West sites and one for Albert College. These plaques were manufactured but, due to the lockdown, have been held in storage. The Society has a long history of participating in community events across the County, with displays, period costume participation, forming many partnerships with other groups.

With the sudden and complete change of direction, the Board of the Society decided to concentrate on developing programs that could be undertaken by the whole community from their homes or out in the open spaces. Our main vehicle for communication, the monthly newsletter *Outlook* continued to be published never missing an issue. News, coming events and, importantly, very informative and entertaining historical stories kept

our contact with members and friends across the county. We created a “Memories Project”, inviting people to write short stories recalling their younger years and times that have passed. With so many people homebound, we established a series of historical documentaries on our You Tube channel featuring films made by videographer Sean Scally. Working in partnership with the Belleville Public Library, we brought a monthly series of guest speakers through Zoom, which were later made available on our Youtube channel. Also, the series of 25 videos in the series, Road Trips in Hastings County continued to be available on YourTV's You Tube channel.

During the Spring and Summer, as it became possible to get out in the open spaces, the Society created a program, Stroll of Discovery Riverfront Trail which guided walkers along the Moira River from Myers Pier to Highway 401, pointing out sites of historical interest along the way. This booklet proved to be very successful in encouraging our community to get out into the fresh air, get some exercise and learn about our city.

Several other programs were initiated in 2021 and are being developed for roll-out in 2022. In the hope that 2022 will bring relief from the two-year shut-down, the Historical Society will be rolling-out these new programs and will be bringing forward the very important public programs which have been “on hold” for the past two years.

In a word, during 2021, the Society has continued to be very busy, shifting its directions, moving from major public events to programs which the community can take part in while following all safety protocols. It has continued to be very active and dynamic under the circumstances and will be ready, when the sun once more shines, to resume its leading role in bringing the heritage of Quinte to all of our community.

Report of the Treasurer

Dan Atkinson

The 2021 year was another challenging one for the Society due primarily to Covid restrictions. Our ability to generate income was once again severely restricted thus reducing our cash flows. Nevertheless, the Society did manage its financial resources as best it could during the year with the result that our cash position at December 31 was only \$4,000 less than the previous year while revenues were lower than 2020 by \$3,500 and \$23,606 less than those in 2019.

The Balance Sheet continues to show a strong position primarily because of the aforementioned Bank position but I should also note the Prepaids are down this year because of ongoing book sales of two publication – the Commodores and Belleville in the First World War – that we have partnered with the authors in a cost/revenue sharing agreement. Other than that, we have no liabilities of note – in fact we have HST still to be received from the Federal government.

The Statement of Revenue and Expenses (or Profit and Loss), as expected, shows a reduced level of operations as one would expect during this pandemic period. There were no fundraising activities but our memberships and donations held up very well thanks to our strong membership base. As a result of the decreased revenue streams, the Board held the Society's expenses in check with the result that we basically operated at a break even for the year. The one exception I should point out is that we have a Grant expense of \$5,000 this year – in fact, this was monies returned to the City of Belleville for a particular project they had originally granted to the Society several years ago before deciding to operate this as a City project.

Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County

Amanda Hill, Archivist

The Community Archives was closed to the public from January to February 16th and from April 3rd to July 5th due to provincial lockdowns. Once again our work has been concentrated in digitizing and sharing local newspapers. We have established an account in the Canadian Libraries section of the Internet Archive and are using that to share our growing collection of digitized newspapers. This year we have been digitizing microfilms of *The Intelligencer* and *The Daily Ontario*, with more than 1,200 files (each holding a month of newspapers)

now available for searching on the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/cabhc>.

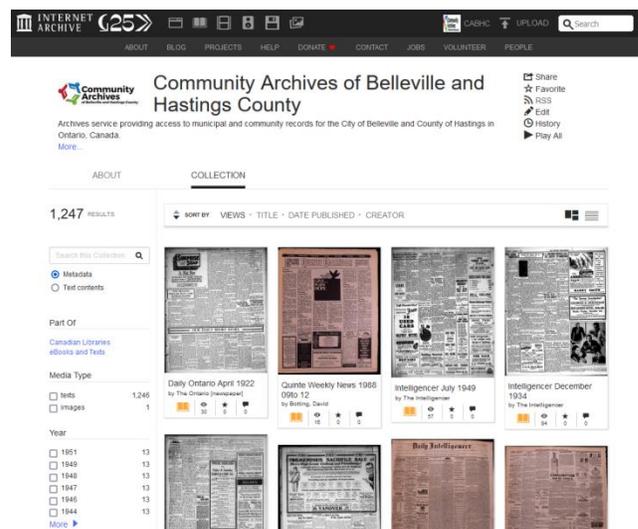
We have also continued our project of photographing the assessment rolls in our collections, with an additional 13 rolls for Hastings County

(<https://discover.cabhc.ca/assessment-rolls> - covering all the county's municipalities except Belleville), and Belleville assessment rolls for 1860 to 1889

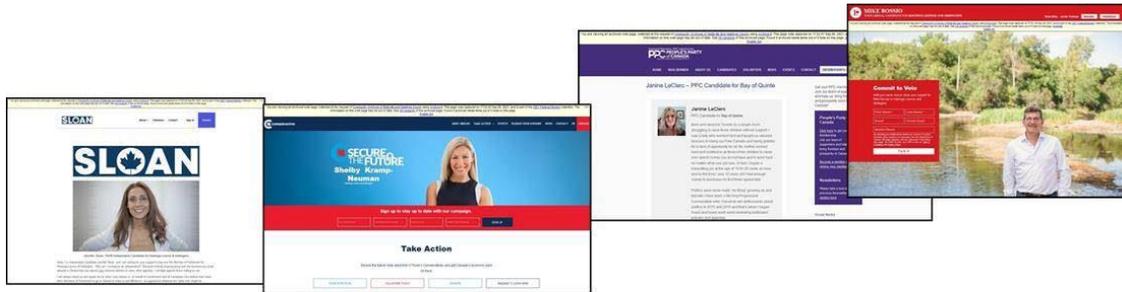
(<https://discover.cabhc.ca/assessment-rolls-2>) now available.

We were fortunate this year in being able to hire a summer student through the Young Canada Works scheme. Olivia White, a Masters student from the University of Toronto, was with us from May to August. Olivia processed a large collection of records from the Quinte Arts Council and produced an exhibit for the reading room display case which she also turned into our first online exhibit (available at <https://www.cabhc.ca/en/publications/painting-ladies.aspx>).

Another new venture this year expanded our collecting activities into the world of web archiving. The Community Archives joined the Community Webs initiative of the



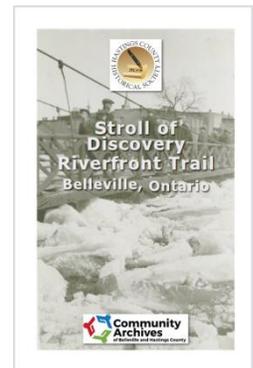
Internet Archive in August 2021. This program aims to preserve websites by recruiting organizations to preserve sites that relate to their area. Websites can be short-lived, with a single web page only available on average for 100 days. The Community Archives has begun to create collections of websites from our own community including local media, community groups, municipal sites and candidate sites related to the 2021 federal



Web archive pages from 2021 Federal Election collection

election. Our collection can be accessed from <https://archive-it.org/home/cabhc>.

We have also been busy with our regular outreach activities, including our monthly newsletter *The CABHC Patch*, the display in the reading room case, social media updates (including an [archival A to Z](#) in March and an [advent calendar](#) in December), an online talk for Prince Edward County Library and Archives and working with the Hastings County Historical Society on their ‘Stroll of Discovery’ waterfront trail booklet and app.



Some statistics from 2021 (last year's figures)

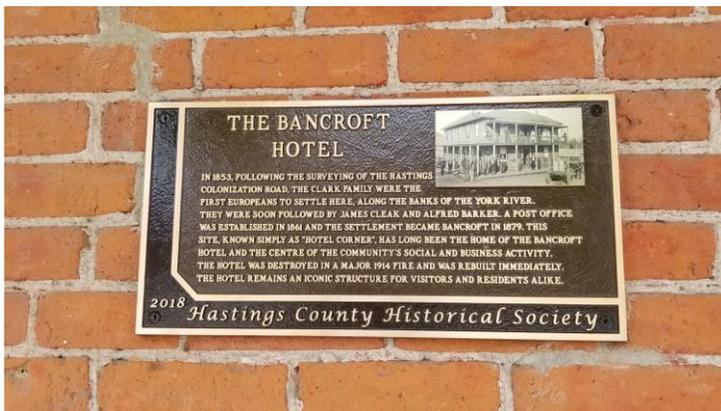
| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Visits to the archives by researchers | 290 (202) |
| Items delivered to researchers from the vaults | 44 (36) |
| Emails/phone queries answered | 544 (444) |
| Volunteer hours donated | 1,376 (1,493) |
| Archival descriptions available online at http://discover.cabhc.ca | 14,716 (13,403) |
| New accessions received | 103 (99) |
| Images added to Flickr: http://flickr.com/cabhc | 1,006 (1,414) |
| Views on Flickr | 3,339,300 (3,432,151) |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Facebook followers (facebook.com/CABHC) | 642 (475) |
| Twitter followers (@CArchivesBHC) | 394 (358) |

Historical Plaques Website (www.hastingshistoricalplaques.ca)

Orland French

Two years ago, the Historical Society established a website to provide information on all the historic plaques in Hastings County. They include plaques erected by the Society, by the Ontario Heritage Trust, by municipalities and by private sponsors. Each plaque on the website features a page of pertinent information: text of the plaque, location and photos.



The number of plaques now recognized on our website is 140 but there are a few more waiting in storage to be erected and dedicated at historic sites. Unfortunately, the continuing COVID-19 pandemic has precluded the calling of presentation ceremonies until crowds can safely be assembled.

The Historical Plaques Website program (hastingshistoricalplaques.ca) has been augmented by the publication of the Stroll of Discovery Riverfront Trail which identifies the location of a number of plaques in downtown Belleville. An anticipated publication in the near future will identify all the plaques in the city. The listing of Road Trips of Hastings County on the Historical Society website has also drawn attention to the location of plaques throughout Hastings County. The videos, about five minutes long, are also featured on Cogeco YouTube. The site is also linked through County, City and tourism sites.

The value of the website has been recognized by the Prince Edward County Historical Society which approached HCHS towards including PEC historic plaques on the site. After some discussion, it was recognized that the Prince Edward locations would be better featured on their own exclusive website.

Even though there is no immediate end in sight for the COVID-19 restrictions, the value

of the Historic Plaques website remains intact. Plaque-hunters can still use the site as a guide to search out plaques throughout the county. Beyond that, the website as another form of publishing the history of Hastings County.

Programmes Committee

Jim Kennelly

The Programmes of the Society continued to be on hold due to Covid-19 for 2021. The decision was made to offer Zoom presentations to our membership and to the wider community. The Belleville Public Library joined us in the development of these presentations and provided the technical support needed.

April: John Immerseel, retired administrator and author, presented his personal and engaging story, “For a Better Life: Post-War Dutch Immigration” to a large Zoom

The Hastings County Historical Society & Belleville Public Library present
It Works! Now what? J.B. Collip and the Discovery and Development of Insulin



Christopher J. Rutty takes a look at Belleville born J.B. Collip, a co-discoverer of insulin.

Dr. Rutty is a professional historian with special expertise on the history of medicine, public health, infectious diseases and biotechnology in Canada. He has provided a wide range of historical research, writing, consulting and creative services to a variety of clients through his company, Health Heritage Research Services.

Dr. Rutty is Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health. He is Lead Historian for the Defining Moments Canada "Insulin 100" national digital commemoration project.

Join us for this free Zoom presentation.
Wednesday, November 24 at 3:00 p.m.
Register at bellevillelibrary.ca
Or call (613) 968-6731 x 2049



For a Better Life: Post-War Dutch Immigration to Canada



The Hastings County Historical Society and Belleville Public Library present a virtual talk by Napanee author, John Immerseel.

Beginning in 1947, almost 500 000 Dutch emigrants left the Netherlands.

Nearly 200 000 arrived in Canada. The situation in Holland, reasons for emigrating, and the challenges facing the many families as they sought to rebuild their lives will be examined.

Join us for this free virtual presentation on Zoom.

Wednesday, March 24 at 3:00 p.m.



Register for this free event at bellevillelibrary.ca
or call 613-968-6731 x 2049

audience. Through YouTube, further numbers enjoyed the presentation.

May: Jim Brownell, retired teacher and former M.P.P., delivered an interesting

presentation on “The Lost Villages of the St. Lawrence”. With the use of several illustrations, we understood the impact of the development of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

June: Evan Morton, local historian and curator of the Tweed and District Historical Centre, provided the timely and touching story of The Small Pox Epidemic of Hungerford in 1884. The tragic story and its impact on Ontario led to the fortunate development of local Boards of Health.

September: Richard Hughes, retired civil servant and President of the H.C.H. Society, presented the story of the little-known but important contributions of John Macoun. Through The Life of Botanist John Macoun we heard of the great accomplishments and contributions he made to Canadian botany and even to the CPR.

October: Dr. William Fox, archeologist and associate professor at Trent University, presented an informative and engaging “Indigenous History: Reading Between and Beyond the Lines.” This was an intriguing look at Indigenous people’s activity in and around Hastings County.

November: Professor Christopher Rutt of the University of Toronto, took us through the important story, “It Works! What Now? J.B. Collip and the Development of Insulin”. The significant contributions of Dr. J. Bertram Collip to the field are better known because of his research.

Publicity/Public Relations

Gerry Fraiberg

Public events pivoted to the virtual in 2021. Thanks to the Zoom platform we were able to continue to offer interesting presentations in partnership with Belleville Public Library. We provided the speakers and the library used their Zoom account to host the meetings.

To promote the presentations, I created social media posters which included a head shot of the speaker, a photo related to the presentation and a brief writeup. Hastings County Historical Society and Belleville Public Library logos were included as part of the branding of these events. We hosted eight presentations starting in March, 2021.

- John Immerseel – For A Better Life
- Bill Brownell – The Lost Villages of the Saint Lawrence
- Evan Morton – Hungerford Smallpox Epidemic
- Orland French – Hastings County Road trips – In Search of Historic Plaques
- Richard Hughes – The Life of Botanist John Macoun

- Bill Fox – Indigenous History: Reading Between and Beyond the Lines
- Chris Rutty – It Works! Now What? J.B. Collip and the Discovery and Development of Insulin

The Zoom presentations were recorded, then uploaded to the Hastings County Historical Society's YouTube Channel. But first the recorded file has to be downloaded from Zoom. Then it has to be edited to exclude preamble with fade up from black at the front end and fade to black at the end. The video recording then has to be converted to a format that YouTube can use. A thumbnail screen has to be created to display on YouTube. I would usually incorporate the photos and information from the social media poster. Once uploaded, I would post the link to the Zoom recording on social media.

Stroll of Discovery

To promote the Stroll of Discovery booklet, I wrote and sent out a media release to coincide with President Richard Hughes' deputation to Belleville City Council. But first I had to create a list of media contacts. Local radio stations and newspapers picked up the release and helped promote the booklet. It was also promoted on social media. The Stroll of Discovery booklet proved to be quite a success, with distribution handled by the Chamber of Commerce and Public Library. We went through the first print run of 1,000 copies and ordered a second batch which will keep up the supply in 2022.

Social Media

Gerry Fraiberg

The Hastings County Historical Society social media presence consists of a Facebook page and Twitter account. Both of these have been used to promote Zoom presentations and the Stroll of Discovery self-guided walking tour booklets. Several of the Zoom presentation posts were shared or retweeted by viewers on their accounts, which resulted in more exposure. Occasional queries were fielded by Archivist Amanda Hill, Stanley Jones or myself.

Road Trips in Hastings County

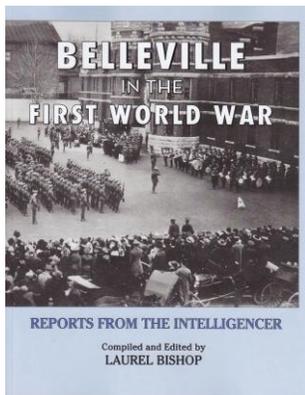
The "Road Trips in Hastings County" series of five minute vignettes was created by Richard Hughes and Orland French and produced by Cogeco's YourTV Quinte in 2020. In June of 2021, the 25 Road Trip videos were posted to our Facebook page with one video posted daily. To do that, the YouTube video link is included in a Facebook post along with a description of the video. Visitors to the Facebook page would see the "thumbnail" image from YouTube. Clicking on the image or the link would direct to the YourTV Quinte YouTube channel. These videos are very popular on Cogeco TV, and

posting them to our Facebook page increases audience reach as they're available on demand outside the scheduled broadcast time.

Publications for Sale

Michelle Hutchinson

Hastings County Historical Society offers some 40 books for sale, most written by local authors and historians. This is one way in which the Society endeavors to foster interest in the history of the community in which we live. For those who wish to shop in person, these publications are offered for sale at the bookstore, found in the Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County on the second floor of the Belleville Public Library.



Those who wish, especially during this time of COVID, may also peruse the selection on the Historical Society website. Arrangements can then be made to deliver the books to the purchaser. During non-COVID times, books are also displayed for purchase at the monthly Public Presentations at Maranatha Church. A small number of titles are also placed for sale at select local bookstores. In order to highlight the many interesting and informative books available, a brief overview continues to be featured in the Outlook newsletter, which is published nine times per year. The November newsletter featured a two-page insert

describing a number of books on offer. This resulted in brisk sales for the month of December.

Membership

Elizabeth Mitchell

The statistics in this report reflect the state of memberships as of December 31, 2021. The totals include people who have already renewed for 2022, as well as those who have not yet renewed.

In spite of the continuing pandemic, we have had another very good year in terms of memberships. We recorded 21 new memberships for 2021 and 4 new memberships so far for the year 2022. Because our membership year runs from January to December, to avoid complicated bookkeeping, anyone who joins from September to December is counted as a new member for the following year, so the 4 new memberships for 2022 actually joined between September and December of 2021. As of December 31, 2021, we have 247 memberships (237 in 2020), for a total of 314 members (290 in 2020).

Family and Senior Family memberships are counted as two people.] Sadly, two of our Life Members (Marion Fisher and William Wills) and one long-time Sponsor (Maurice Rollins) passed away during 2021. A chart on the following page shows the numbers of memberships of each type.

Many of our members like to renew in person at our monthly Public Presentations, usually between November and March. In spite of the fact that we have not been able to gather in person since February 2020, many of our members renewed for 2022 even before early November when we sent out a reminder letter with a membership form to all those who had not renewed for 2022. We had a great response in November and December, and we expect renewals will continue to arrive in January. Many people sent generous donations along with their membership cheques. By December 31, over 30% of our members had renewed for 2022.

We decided to extend the complimentary one-year memberships for our 2019 Banquet sponsors for another year. Many of these people and businesses have supported us year after year, so the *Outlook* arriving in their mail every month will remind them that we are still active and continuing to spread the word about Hastings County history.

Membership Statistics as at December 21, 2021

| Type | Number for type | Total members for type |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Banquet Sponsors | 20 | 20 |
| Family Memberships | 16 | 32 |
| Individual Memberships | 33 | 33 |
| Non-profit organizations | 4 | 4 |
| Senior memberships (65+) | 72 | 72 |
| Senior family memberships | 51 | 102 |
| Life memberships | 51 | 51 |
| Total | 247 | 314 |

Outlook Distribution Report

Elizabeth Mitchell

As of December 31, 2021, we had 378 names on our *Outlook* distribution list. This includes 247 personal members, 57 schools, and 74 places that receive courtesy copies. Courtesy copies are those that go to local media, retirement and nursing homes, government offices, politicians, museums, historical societies, and libraries.

Before the pandemic we used to have monthly “folding and stuffing parties” at the

Archives, where several volunteers would gather around the table to put the *Outlook* into the envelopes that were already prepared with labels and stamps. We could get a mailing ready easily in less than an hour. This is not possible currently, but volunteers, working at home, have stepped in to do the job. Richard labels and delivers the *Outlooks* to the School Board office, and rounds up a couple of Board members to stuff 50-60 envelopes each. Elizabeth looks after about 50, including a few that can be hand-delivered downtown.

Having the *Outlook* available electronically to those who request it has cut down greatly on both printing and mailing costs. At the end of 2021 we had 126 members who had opted for email delivery, and 123 who prefer paper copies. As well, 22 recipients of courtesy copies asked for electronic delivery, making a total of 148 copies that do not have to be sent by regular mail. Two of our Non-profit Organizations (Bay of Quinte Yacht Club and Heritage Belleville) have asked if they could have both email and paper delivery. No problem! This gives them two ways of making our newsletter available for their members to see.

Hastings County schools account for 79 copies. This includes 33 public elementary and secondary schools, plus the Hastings & Prince Edward School Board office; and 18 separate elementary and secondary schools plus the Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board office. Public and separate high schools get 3 copies each, addressed to the Principal, the Librarian, and the History Department. Elementary schools get one copy each. All these go to the Board office on Ann Street for delivery through the school board courier system.

In addition, we mail the *Outlook* to six independent schools: Sir James Whitney, Belleville and District Christian School, Quinte Mohawk School, Trenton Christian School, Albert College, and Quinte Christian High School.

According to my calculations, as of December 31, 2021, we required approximately 260 paper copies of the *Outlook* for members, courtesy copies, and schools. Under normal circumstances, we like to have a number of extra copies to take to the monthly Public Presentations for visitors to pick up. We still make some available at the Community Archives for visitors to pick up, as well as keeping copies for our own HCHS archives.