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*Preserving the past for
future generations*

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Port Hope, Ontario

Society Newsletter

Piece of Port Hope's History Discovered in a Box in London, Ontario

"It's not every day that a person stumbles across something so personal dated 150 years in the past, but that's exactly what happened to me in 2011," Jordon Andrew wrote in an email to the Society. The subject of his story appears on page three of this issue of our Newsletter. What follows below is Mr. Andrew's experience and how he "stumbled" across this intriguing piece of Port Hope history.



L-R, Joan, Jordon, Andrea

"My name is Jordan Andrew, and I am a 32-year-old occasional high school History and Geography teacher. Having grown up in Lucknow, Ontario, a twenty minute drive northwest of Goderich, I now reside with my wife Andrea in London. I have always enjoyed learning about community history, and my 98-year-old grandmother and I enjoy chatting about her family growing up in the farms and towns of Huron and Bruce counties. Andrea and I have been to the Port Hope region and have enjoyed the hillsides and waterfront.

"In late July 2011, Andrea and I packed up our downtown apartment and moved into the top half of a one and half storey bungalow in southeast London. As we settled in, we were introduced to our downstairs neighbour; a pleasant elderly gentleman by the name of Robert Caroll. Andrea and I would often have brief friendly chats with Robert as he would routinely sit outside and greet his friends and neighbours. Robert did not talk much about his personal life, but I did discover that he had a small family network out West, and had been living in the downstairs London apartment for almost 20 years.

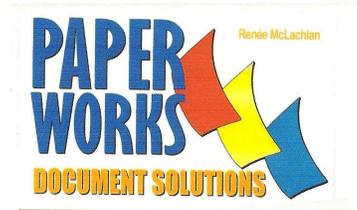
"Robert passed away just two months later from a heart attack. I do not know if Robert had a funeral. Two or three family members drove from Calgary to London to finalize his affairs and arrange his personal possessions. As his family returned to Alberta with a car full of Robert's history, it became evident to our landlord Robert's apartment was still quite full of his stuff which needed to be moved for cleaning and re-rental. Several of Robert's close friends in the neighbourhood came and gathered some furniture. The remaining furniture and goods were brought outside to be taken away to the regional dumpsite for disposal a few days later. During that time, I was out mowing the front lawn and something in his pile caught my eye. I walked over and took a look; it was the wooden box you have today.

Cont'd on Page 3

President's report



PHDHS [former EDHS] is pleased to have the support of the following business members



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Summer is here and we are getting busy with Dorothy's House Museum. I would like to express my appreciation for everyone's support over the past few months, despite the bad weather and low attendance at our last AGM at the GRCA Meeting Room on May 15, 2013. I would like to welcome Tim Austin to our board of directors, but we still have to find a couple more replacements who would be willing to serve the Society in this capacity.

While addressing the need for directors I would like to express my admiration for John Boughen who served us well as a director, but who is currently having to deal with serious health issues. John is a dedicated farmer and over the years has had a great passion for history of agricultural farming and family.

Dorothy's House Museum opened for the Special Event of Doors Open Northumberland 2013 on June 1 & 2. The tour included 26 sites throughout Northumberland County to celebrate the heritage and culture of our region. It was an overcast weekend, but 65-plus visitors stopped in to view Dorothy's House Museum. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped, including Karen O'Hara, who is a member of the Northumberland Tourism Doors Open Committee.

The PHDHS has received a few copies of a newly (2013) published book, *The Churches of Old Durham County* by Sherrell Leetooze. They are selling for \$40.00 each. It is a very informative book of all the churches that have existed in the former Durham County and will be on sale at DHM. Contact me if you would like to purchase a copy.

Don't forget to check out the Dorothy's House Museum's Huge Two-day Fundraiser Yard Sale of donated items with all proceeds going towards the upkeep and maintenance of the building and premises. This important event will take place at 3632 Ganaraska Road, Garden Hill, ON. See times and dates for all activities on Events Calendar, page 4.

Thank you everyone! Looking forward to seeing you all this summer at Dorothy's House Museum.

Joan Ashby Parrott
 President PHDHS

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Cont'd from page 1 — Jordon Andrew and Discovery of Box

Knowing the destination of these goods, I took the box inside and made sure the landlord didn't mind if I kept it.

"I knew that this box was very special, as it indicates there was a large group in the Port Hope community that saw fit to honour this great educator and author Dr. Adam Purslow. Assuming Purslow must have been somewhat of a public figure, I simply Googled the name, and Port Hope history in general. I found a lot of interesting information about Dr. Purslow and his relationship with Port Hope. It appears that as lead administrator for the high school system, he was appreciated throughout Port Hope for educating two generations. I contacted the Port Hope Historical Society and let the organization know about the box in late 2011. Unfortunately I was not able to deliver it to the Port Hope area until the summer of 2012. It was here that I met the gracious staff who toured us through Dorothy's House Museum. Thank you for that opportunity." — **Jordon, London, Ontario, January 22, 2013**

The following information is excerpted verbatim from *Port Hope Historical Sketches*, by W. Arnot Craick, published in 1901.



Dr. Adam Purslow

The PHDHS has reprinting rights for Mr. Craick's *Little Tales of Old Port Hope*, where Dr. Purslow is also mentioned. This book is available from the Port Hope and District Historical Society. Mr. Purslow died July 24, 1902.

The history of Port Hope High School as a teaching institution is identical with the history of secondary education in Port Hope. Until the establishment of a Grammar School in 1853, such instruction was given in private schools, of which there were several in existence from time to time. The real progenitor of the Grammar School, however, was the Seminary founded by the Rev James Coghlan in 1831 in the house near the Toronto Road, until recently occupied by Mr. James Kerr around 1901.

In 1851 the Government of Upper Canada passed an Act enabling towns like Port Hope to open Grammar Schools and to secure financial aid for their maintenance. Two years later Port Hope decided to take advantage of this legislation and to establish a Grammar School. Trustees were accordingly appointed, who immediately petitioned the Town Council for the use of a room in the newly-completed Town Hall. The Council readily complied and fitted up for school purposes a room in the south-east corner of the first floor of the Hall. Here the school was opened with Mr. Oliver T Miller, a Dublin scholar of fine attainments, as master. Mr. Miller remained in charge of the school until May, 1855, during which time the Trustees removed the classes to a separate building standing on the south-east corner of Dorset and Smith Streets. It may be of interest to note here a few of the scholars of that day who are still residents of the Town. Among them were H H Burnham, S S and J D Smith, F Benson and G M Furby.

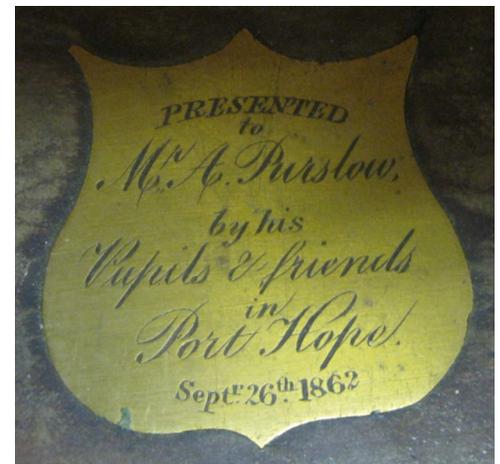
Photo: Courtesy Port Hope Archives

After the summer vacation of 1855 the school was reopened in a room above the store on Walton Street at present occupied by John Smith. Here Mr. Brooks P Lister from Christ Church, Oxford, taught for a year. History records that as a teacher he was a distinct failure. The Fall of 1866 witnessed the union of the Grammar and High Schools in Knowlson's Building, under the headmastership of Mr. John Gordon. Mr. Gordon continued to hold the post of Head Master until 1865, when he was appointed one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools in Ireland and left for that country. He came to Port Hope in middle-life - a cultured gentleman, who secured the universal favour of the Town by his interested and genuine devotion to his work. He was succeeded in the control of the Union School by Dr. Adam Purslow, who had been associated with him on the staff since 1859.

Legislation of 1871 changed Grammar to High and Common to Public Schools and rendered the latter free. The result was a great influx of pupils and the Union School Building was found to be much too small. Faced with this predicament, the Joint Board of Trustees purchased the 'Old Kirk' on Brown Street in the fall of 1872 and in January, 1873, opened it as a separate High School under the principalship of Dr. Purslow.

In those days there were four forms and three teachers in the school and the registered attendance was fifty boys and thirty-two girls. In 1878 representations were made of the necessity for a fourth teacher and at length in 1881 the Board appointed a Science Master. Since then a fifth assistant teacher has been added.

In July of 1894 Dr. Purslow resigned the Principalship and severed his connection with the teaching staff of the school. After thirty-six years of active service, during which the Doctor had successfully superintended the up-bringing of two generations, the time had come for him to seek a well-earned rest and the event of his retirement was made the opportunity by both pupils and ex-pupils of giving expression to the high esteem in which he had been held.



Bronze plaque embedded in the Box lid

Doors Open Northumberland

Dorothy's House Museum was privileged to be one of three places around Port Hope on the tour route of 26 stops in Northumberland County. More than sixty visitors made their way to the village of Garden Hill and walked through the "open doors" of DHM and saw the many artifacts on display. Dorothy's House Museum has been in operation for 32 years as the major part of the Port Hope and District Historical Society, which celebrated its 50th Anniversary in April this year.



L-R, Rod Parrott, Cal Morgan, Karen O'Hara, Open Doors Representative



New 2013 Executive Council: L-R, Cal Morgan–VP, Tim Austin –Director, Rod Parrott–Director, Joan Ashby Parrott-President, John Dietz –Sec. Treas., Larry Ashby-Director.

Events Calendar 2013

Public meetings will be scheduled on basis of opportunity and when needed. Such meetings will be held at the Ganaraska Conservation Authority Meeting Room, 2216 Hwy 28 North, Port Hope, ON

**Sat. & Sun. June 22,23rd.
Fundraiser**

Giant Yard Sale at DHM

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All proceeds from donated items go to support the Museum

Dorothy's House Museum

Begin Week-end Summer Hours

June 29, 30th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday July 13, 2013

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Great Pine Ridge Fibre Arts Guild
(Spinners & Weavers)

Sunday, August 18th

Community Church Service

Sunday, August 25th

Annual Monarch Butterfly

Tag & Release

Contact Information

PHDHS

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Joan Ashby Parrott

President

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Note: If no response please leave message at 905-797-2291

Membership Rates

Single \$15.00

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Stories, or story ideas, are always welcome. Email: cmorgan@eagle.ca