

# Society Newsletter

## The Village of Canton



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*Tim Austin*

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*Stephen Austin*

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**Treasurer**  
*Mary Brown*

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*Larry Ashby*  
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**Preserving the past for  
future generations**

We're on the Internet

[info@porthopehistorical.ca](mailto:info@porthopehistorical.ca)

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The Village of Canton formerly known as "Hope Church" was settled in 1805 by the families of Harris, Hawkins and Callander. The old general store was built in 1820 and was demolished by a controlled burn by the Colonel Giles Fire Department to allow for widening of County Road 10. There were several mills located on the Ganaraska River with one above and two below the present Mill which was built in 1886. In 1820 a log school house was built and later used as a place of worship. The present day church which is now a residence was erected in 1872. During the 1800's Canton had a boot and shoe shop, blacksmith shop, a tavern and a brick hotel. Since 1855 the village was known as Canton by the villagers. In 1859 a post office was started in the general store and in a public meeting there was an attempt to rename the village Hopeville but this did not take and the name reverted back to Canton

### Did You Know?

In 1912 John Helm, a wealthy industrialist stunned the United Counties of Northumberland and Durham. Upon his death he bequeathed the two Counties his home, 30 acres of land and \$100,000 towards building a county hospital on this site (present day Greenwood Towers).

At the time there was no hospital between Oshawa and Belleville. His bequest would have provided an easily accessible location for the two towns of Port Hope and Cobourg, as well as a small fortune to equip a modern day facility to serve the area from Bowmanville to Trenton.

Helm provided an alternative plan in case that the two County Councils turned down the property offer. If this was to occur the property would revert back to the Helm family and all monies would be divided such that both Port Hope and Cobourg would receive \$20,000 to build functional hospitals which was to occur within two years of his death. The remainder of the money would go to the Toronto General Hospital, Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto) and the Gravenhurst Sanitorium.

Due to the rivalry amongst the two county councilors the alternate bequest was established by a vote of 20 to 17. Port Hope opened it's own hospital at Ward and Hope St. and Cobourg opened theirs on the corner of Chapel and Darcy St.

**"Challenges are what make life interesting. Overcoming them is what makes life meaningful." (unknown)**



# President's Report

Welcome to the spring 2021 edition of the Port Hope and District Historical Society Newsletter.

Once again the executive Board has volunteered to remain intact until elections can be safely held.

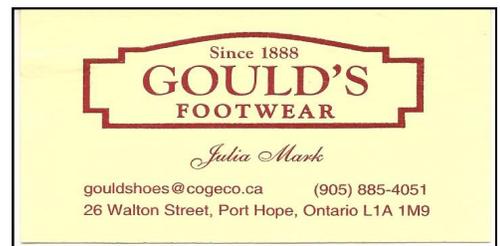
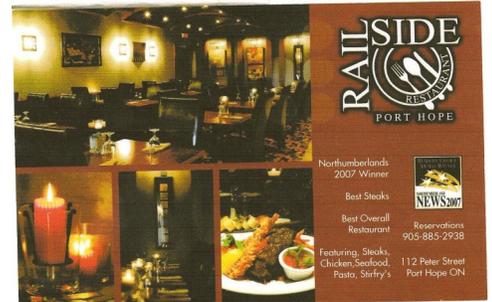
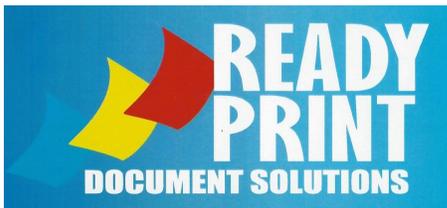
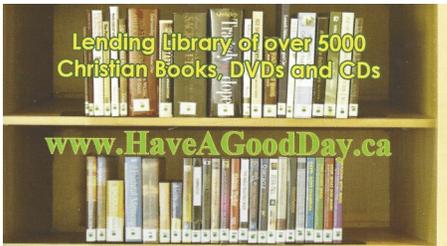
Our yearly events have again been put on hold due to the Covid 19 restrictions imposed by our government. We will try to hold the annual yard sale once the restrictions have been lifted. The yard sale profits help to pay our yearly expenses like hydro, property insurance and legislated government fees. All members who help at any of our events volunteer their time. Donations at this time would be greatly appreciated.

A number of planned repairs to Dorothy's House have also been put on hold, including painting and porch repairs as well as garden maintenance. Hopefully we can begin these repairs later this summer.

We hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy. Please remain safe during this pandemic. We are hopeful that all will return to normal by the fall of 2021.

Tim Austin,  
President

**PHDHS is pleased to have the support of the following business members**



**“As you get older you’ll find the only things you regret are the things you didn’t do.” (Zachary Scott)**

Embroidered pillow sham donated by Norma McNaughton who found it at a Flea Market in Quebec. It contains signatures of the graduating students of Port Hope High School in 1897.



K.E. Moir, T.A. Kirkconnell, Charlotte Ross, G.E. Mabie, Ira D. Breuls, Hattie Might, Olga Brand, Nellie Webster, Estella Philp, Louise Barker, Lottie Dayfoot, E. McNaughton, Ethel M. Sackville, Violet Roberts, David Fleming, W.G. Wood, Mamie Mitchell, Bella Coleman, Clara Beer, Kate G. Curtis, Minnie Weatherite, Katie Peacock, Allan Mitchell, Jennie Jackson, Annie Waller, Mary Mitchell, Fanny Boundy, Nellie Moore, Clara Carson, Helen Caldwell, Gretta Waddell, Flossie Chislett, Elma Walker, R. Hume, E. Thompson, Edith Campbell, Eva Galbraith, J. W. Moffatt, Gertie Meadows, Carrie Trenbeth, Mabel C. Tapscott, Gertrude Sing, Bert McLean, Harold Martyn, Marie E. Marlennen, Lucy Staples, Florence Penser, Emma Sackville, Ethel Rose, John Irwin, Gertrude Hudspeth, Lilian May Breuls, Bertha Galbraith, Rosa Henderson

### **A Brief History of Port Hope and District High School**

Prior to 1853 there were several area residences that served as schools in the town of Port Hope. In 1853 the Union Grammar School which served as a public school and a high school opened in the Knowlson Block which was located on the corners of Walton St. and Cavan St. In 1873 a separate high school opened in the "Old Kirk" (now demolished) at the corners of Brown St. and North St. In the year of 1897 the High School moved to what is known as Dr. Hawkins School on Pine St. The present Port Hope and District High School was built in 1955 on the corners of Highland Drive and Victoria St. Additions were added in the years 1962 and 1970

**"History is not a burden on the Memory but an illumination of the soul" (Lord Acton)**



The above painting was done in 2006 by William John Anderson at the age of 73. Mr. Anderson was from the Sarnia/Lambton area. He painted it from his memory of riding on a wagon with his grandfather and going to the Canton Mill when he was 9 years old. The painting was donated by Mr. Anderson’s nieces Gayle Buck, Jane Smith and Nancy Elliott.



**Canton Public School 1911** Teacher—Pearl Mason

**Back row L. to R.** George Finney, Harry O’Neill, Fred Anderson, Olivene Mason, Leo Cann, Berdina Graham, Allergra Palmer, Verna Cann, Myrtle Palmer, Wilber Peacock, Ewart Peters

**Second Row L. to R.** Irene Brown, Pearl Finnie, Harvey Meadows, Dorothy Anderson, May Gifford, Stan Gist, Ruby Graham, Allan Peters, Alice Kewboy, Bessie Anderson, Sherman Gifford

**Third Row L.to R.** Clarence Gist, Nettie Gifford, Hope Anderson, Charlie Gifford, Stella Courier, Marjorie Brown, Harold Gifford, Jim Graham, Hugh Anderson

**Fourth Row L.to R.** Fred Brown, Ceylor Gifford, Harold Graham, Elsie Peters, Evelyn Gist, Marjorie Courier, George O’Neill, Redy Peacock, George Palmer

**Events Calendar 2021**

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**Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7 p.m.**  
**AGM Meeting will be held at the Ganaraska Conservation Authority Meeting Room, 2216 Hwy 28 North, Port Hope, ON. (Cancelled)**

**Fri, Sat. Sun, June 25,26,27, 2021**  
**Three-day Fundraiser Yard Sale at Dorothy’s House Museum, Garden Hill, ON from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (To Be Announced)**

**July & August 2021**  
**Dorothy’s House Museum OPENS for summer months. Saturdays and Sundays from July 3rd to August 28th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (To Be Announced)**

**Saturday August 28, 2021**  
**12th Annual Monarch Butterfly Tag & Release at Dorothy’s House Museum, 3632 Ganaraska Road, Garden Hill, ON time to be announced. (To Be Announced)**

**September Fri. 17, Sat. 18. Sun. 19, 2021**  
**Port Hope Fall Fair. PHDHS will have a display at the Fair (Cancelled)**

**Contact Information**

**PH&DHS**  
**P.O. Box 116,**  
**Port Hope, ON**  
**L1A 3V9**  
**Web: [www.porthopehistorical.ca](http://www.porthopehistorical.ca)**

**President: Tim Austin**  
**cell : 905 396 2114**  
**Secretary: Joan Parrott**  
**Home: 905 885 2981**  
**Cell: 905 922 6439**

**Membership Rates**  
**Single \$15.00**  
**Couple \$25.00**  
**Business \$40.00**  
**Lifetime \$75.00**

**PHDHS is a registered charity and**

**“Life doesn’t allow for us to go back and fix what we have done wrong in the past, but does allow for us to live each day better than our last” (unknown)**