

Society Newsletter

Dorothy's House Museum celebrates its 30th year and still going strong



Port Hope & District
Historical Society

Executive Council

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Vice President

Cal Morgan

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John Dietz

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John Boughen

Fred Hodgson

Gary Ough

Rod Parrott

Preserving the past
for future generations

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We're on the Web!
www.porthopehistorical.ca

On Sunday, August 28, 2011, the Port Hope and District Historical Society celebrated the 30th year that Dorothy's House Museum has been open to the public. The humble, Garden Hill "mid-1850's workman's cottage" was officially designated as a museum in 1981.

Opposite, right, Sec.Tres., John Dietz is shown presenting a certificate to Society President Joan Parrott, on behalf of Liberal MPP, Lou Rinaldi, who "was pleased to extend special congratulations to DHM's 30th Anniversary." Calling it "an outstanding milestone," Mr. Rinaldi said we were "fortunate to have DHM in our community for the past 30 years." He wished us continued success.

The Garden Hill home was donated to the Society by Dorothy Wilson, who with her sisters, Ruby and Pearl grew up on a farm nearby. When her parents became ill, Dorothy being the oldest had to forego high school to look after her sisters. But that didn't hold her back. When her sisters were grown, Miss Wilson entered the Toronto Bible College and was accepted as an Anglican missionary in northern Ontario. She was also an accomplished musician and the organist for St. Paul's Anglican Church at Perrytown.

The story of her career is too long to record here. But the Society has documented details available outlining her significant contribution to the local community and further across Canada. Music and travel were the passion of all three sisters.



Below, the young Dorothy on
graduation day in Toronto



Dorothy Isobel Wilson [1901-1991]



[Society members honour Dorothy's sister, Ruby in 1997] Back row: L-R, Brian Hart [President], Nelson Hodgson, Joanne Hart, John van de Wall, Lucienne Boyton, Rolf Kenton, Brian Rose, Jackson Peacock. Front row: L-R, Marion Hodgson, Sybil van de Wall, Ida Wilson, Catharine Wilson, Ona Gardiner, Olive Kelly, Mary Gardiner, Marjorie Kenton, Susan Peacock, Geraldine Smith, Edna Dean, Fred Kelly. Seated: Ruby [Wilson] Wrixon.

President's report



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



The year has slipped by rather swiftly and activities at DHM have come to their seasonal end. Yard sales and attendance were reasonably successful. First I want to express a belated public welcome to the 2011 Executive Council and thank the members for their support.

On Sun. July 3, Milton Baulch with his wooden toy display [for sale], along with John Morand and his carvings of wooden bowls and pens added to the summer attendance. On Sat. Aug. 27th the second annual Monarch Butterfly Tag and Release with guest lecturer, Donald Davis, wowed the visitors once again. Mr. Davis tagged 113 Monarchs throughout the day.

On behalf of the Society condolences went out to the Peacock family on the recent passing of Susan Peacock, a loyal and life member of the Port Hope and District Historical Society. And a year earlier the Society lost another Society member with the passing of Sybil van de Wall.

On Sun. Aug. 28th the Hope Pastoral Charge held its annual joint summer worship service and afterwards helped celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Dorothy's House Museum with a pot luck luncheon, corn, cake and refreshments. Attendance was approximately 70 people.

The work on the barn and area is coming along nicely. The installation of boards and batten and re-nailing of loose boards will help keep nature's unwanted visitors from entering and taking up residence.

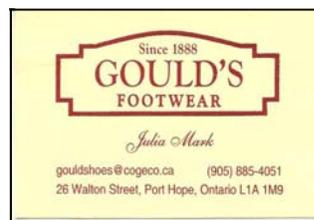
Once again, thank you all for your support. Your continued interest and membership in the Society is essential to its future success in our community.

Joan Ashby Parrott
President
Port Hope and District Historical Society

[Editor's Note] The Parrotts have done considerable repairs to the DHM premises this summer. And in addition to their volunteer labour, Rod and Joan presented Don Davis with a Monarch wooden clock in appreciation for his dedication to the Monarch Butterfly Tag and Release events — including volunteering his time at DHM for 2010 and 2011. It was a special gift in friendship from the Parrotts.



2011 PHDHS Executive Council: L-R, John Boughen, Fred Hodgson, Cal Morgan, Joan Parrott, Rodney Parrott, John Dietz, Gary Ough, Larry Ashby



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

He that blows the coals in a quarrel he has nothing to do with has no right to complain if the sparks fly in his face. — Benjamin Franklin

Monarch Butterfly tag and release draws more than 200 visitors attracting the very young and the very old

Once again Don Davis captured the attention of everyone who showed up at Dorothy's House Museum this year to watch the tagging and releasing of the Monarch Butterfly. Mr. Davis, a committed naturalist, teacher and lecturer is in demand around the country. On Labour Day Weekend this year he was at Presqu'ile Provincial Park at the Lighthouse Centre giving demonstrations. It is a popular event every year at the park.

According to Chief park naturalist David Bree, "These flying creatures tend to follow the shoreline of Lake Ontario, looking for an easy way across the big water."

Several butterflies tagged at this event have been later recovered as far south as Mexico and Texas.



Remembering Sybil and Susan: Life Members of PHDHS “The way they were”



Susan Peacock [1928-2011]

Susan was born February 9th, 1928 to Jenny and Ernie Powell, a farming couple in the Elizabethtown area. Living on the farm with limited transportation to the outside world at that time, made them a very close-knit family.

“Susan was always fond of reading, and would bring her book to the meal table, only to have [her] dad remove it until after she finished eating,” said her sister, Marguerite Walker, in a heart-warming tribute to the woman they all loved. “She was a very cute, curly haired little girl and the visitors that we often had would suggest taking her home with them.”

Susan graduated high school, attended normal school in Peterborough and became an elementary school teacher.

“Of all the wonderful things that can be said about Susan, there is one that stands out above all others — she had a beautiful soul. On the outside she always tried to do what was right and what was moral, guided by her deep Christian faith.”

She met and fell in love with the “handsome Jackson Peacock” and despite her own ambitions went with him, first to Atikokan, where they both taught school. The next year they went to Toronto where Jackson finished his graduate studies. In 1958 they moved to Kapuskasing. She supported her kids like a lioness and was always shoulder to shoulder with her husband, the rock of a truly remarkable marriage. She joined the Historical Society and for several years ran a fundraising pie contest.

In her mid seventies a terrible disease — Inclusion Body Myositis hit Susan, moved up her body, her brain and mind, but never her soul.

For more on Susan a lengthy Eulogy is available for those interested in reading further



Sybil van de Wall [1925-2010]

Sybil Hugill was born October 3, 1925 in Sunderland, County Durham, England. She eventually met and married John van de Wall. After the Second World War they emigrated to Canada in 1956 where both made a significant contribution to this country. Following some years in Toronto they moved to Elizabethtown in 1989.

They got involved in the community and among other things became life members of the East Durham Historical Society. In 1999 John was elected president. Meanwhile Sybil lived her own life while always standing with John as the “devoted and faithful wife to her husband and amazing mother with infinite love and patience to her son.”

Honest and forthright in her thoughts and opinions, she could always be counted on to do what she said. Always considerate of others, she made those around her feel at ease with her kind manner and great sense of humour.

Sybil was a hard worker with an appropriate sense of thrift; she had a generosity of spirit, a great heart for animals and contributed to many charities.

Gracious, dignified and strong, Sybil was always grateful for all she earned or was given. She possessed an adventurous nature and loved to travel.

Some lines included here were copied from *In Loving Memory of Sybil van de Wall*

Events Calendar

Regular Monthly meeting at the Ganaraska Conservation Authority Meeting Room, 2216 Hwy 28 North, Port Hope, ON

Wed. Sept 21st

Blake Holton

Topic: Wesleyville Church

Wed. Oct. 19th

Art Marvin

Topic: Marvin Farm & Farini connection

Wed. Nov. 16th

Craig Ross

Topic: Cemeteries & their history

Wed. Jan. 18, 2012

John Boughen

Topic: Local History

Dorothy's House Museum is open on weekends from end of June to end of August with special events announced when appropriate. Over the winter period all activities and visitation is shut down.

Contact Information

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

Note: A special 2-page collage is included with this issue of the Newsletter.