

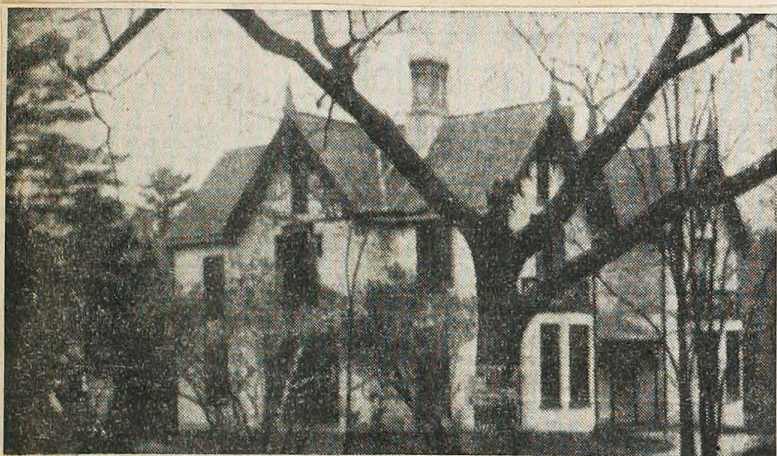
# Relics of pioneer skill, thrift

SEED wreathes were very popular as parlour decorations in the 19th Century. The Museum has some very fine examples. A Seed Wreath made in 1869 by Susanna Moore Ferguson was presented by her daughter, Miss Edith Ferguson.

The flowers, buds and foliage which form the wreath are made of coloured seeds glued to a cardboard base. Many kinds of flowers are represented, the seeds used being yellow, red, white, green, black and all shades of brown. Some flowers are made of snowy white popcorn with green centres. Brazil nuts, almonds, walnuts and butternuts are also used to embellish the wreathes, as well as beans, peas and pumpkin seeds.

At the Museum there are also some very fine Hair Wreathes, though the modern decorator would probably fail to find them attractive. Wire is used for the base of the flowers and leaves and the pioneer women used their needles skilfully to cover the form with human hair.

There is also a pretty Wool Wreath which uses coloured wool to make natural looking flowers. It was made in 1868 by Mrs. William Sharpe of Westwood. During the long winter evenings the pioneer women delighted in doing handwork, and showed great ingenuity in contriving decorations for the home from whatever materials were at hand.



**VICTORIA** Museum, the home of the Peterborough Town and County Historical Association, was formerly the home of Judge Robert Dennistoun. It was situated in Inverlea Park and following the death of Charlotte Nicholls the house and property was bought by the Nicholls Park Trust. In 1897 the building was turned over to the Historical Association which had been organized the previous year to be used as a museum. It remained as such until the Public Library was built, when the exhibit was moved to the second floor of the building. The house was torn down.

## Community Asset

SEPT. 15 1964

# Curator Lauds Proposed Museum

A museum on Armour Hill—Peterborough's proposed centennial project—promises to be an important asset to the community, says Mrs. Gwen Metcalfe, curator of Hamilton's Dundurn Castle museum.

About 60 people turned out at the public library Tuesday night for a meeting of the historical society and to hear Mrs. Metcalfe, who called Peterborough "a very going concern." "I couldn't get this many people out a meeting in Hamilton."

She said the interest of the society in the museum would grow as the latter edges closer to reality.

The city has applied for Dominion and provincial grants to establish the museum. The grants would have to be matched by a city contribution. Outlining the anatomy of a museum, Mrs. Metcalfe said the board of directors

should be comprised of people interested in museums and not be placed there simply because they are on the local "Who's Who" list.

She said the curator will take direction from the board regarding money policies, but the curator will advise the board on all matter pertaining to the museum.

"Remember . . . board members must work. They must pull their own weight and be interested in listening and not talking too much," said Mrs. Metcalfe.

She emphasized the importance of finances telling the meeting to "change around" the exhibits periodically and "tell stories about them."

Money could be raised by membership fees said Mrs. Metcalfe, and especially with school children who play a major role in museum life.

"Kids are very important. They can spark you along . . . they see things adults don't see."

As for legacies, she said they will be forthcoming if the museum is interesting.

Regarding collections, she said Peterborough has a rich history and pointed to the canoe factory and the Liftlock as possible sources of material.

"You must specialize in what you have locally. Must be an area museum. You will get a lot of people coming to you with old stuff out of their attics . . . don't become another attic."

She advocated building insurance, but said the collections should not be insured since they are irreplaceable.

Security precautions are important and therefore the fewer windows in the museum, the better.

The Peterborough Historical Society wants to catalogue all buildings that were erected before 1867 in the city and county. This project must be completed by Canada's centennial year.

At the society's annual meeting Tuesday, Mrs. C. W. Mann reviewed the work of the old buildings committee.

She said a questionnaire was drafted last year and sent to owners of these buildings but the response was poor.

"The city owners can be followed up with a telephone call but the county property owners present a problem."

The curator should be kept busy visiting other museums where feasible, attending important events regarding museums to keep himself honed and updated in museum functions.

Mrs. Metcalfe later told the Examiner, that museums are no longer gloomy, musty buildings bathed in silence and displaying arrays of dead animals and such.

She said Dundurn Castle has music piped in to provide a pleasant atmosphere, it is brightly illuminated, and to maintain interest—periodic "live" demonstrations are conducted reflective of the area's history.

"You might have someone demonstrating a spinning wheel . . . or someone else making soap like they used to," she said.



—(Yunge-Bateman Photo)

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF CITY STUDIED AT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEET  
By Mrs. Gordon Maniece, Mrs. James G. Wharry

# Poor Response Received By Old Building Project

She termed the project an ambitious task.

Mrs. Mann gave the report in the absence of the committee's chairman, Mrs. Ralph Honey.

Mrs. James Wharry, president said representatives of the Canadian National Railways will

be in Peterborough Jan. 29 to make the presentation of a locomotive bell donated by CNR president Donald Gordon. It is at the railways city freight yards.

The society obtained numerous farm and household articles of historical interest at a church sale during the year. These will be placed in the museum expected to be constructed in Peterborough by 1967.

In reviewing the year's work of that committee, Mrs. Edith Eastwood, committee chairman, said the main project this year was preparing the society's display for the International Plowing Match.

## Directors Named

Members of the board of directors of the Peterborough Historical Society appointed were Col. Robert Bolton, Miss Lahring Parsons, Miss Margaret McCullough and James Jones. The board will serve for a three-year term.

The executive will be appointed at a meeting of the executive committee Feb. 2.

"Owing to the efforts of the members who gave so willingly of their time, talents and energy, this proved a successful undertaking in spite of the bad weather and has helped to stimulate public interest in the society."

Mrs. Eastwood said the society has received a \$50 donation from the Ontario Plowman's Association in appreciation for its part in preparing the county exhibits.

**MANY DONATIONS**  
She said many other donations from brochures to chairs have been made to the society during the year.

"We have an excellent collection on hand but must continue to search for things if our long awaited museum is to be a success."

Miss Lahring Parsons, secretary, reviewed the society's activities for the year.

There were seven regular meetings held which featured guest speakers.

The directors met nine times during the year to handle the routine business.

The annual outing was held in June which included a bus tour to the Lindsay museum, Henry House in Oshawa and Bowmanville museum.

In the fall of the year, two directors resigned and were replaced. Miss Doris Burgess replaced A. T. Brown's term of office and George Cobb replaced Sheriff Stanley McBride on the board.

A tape-recorder was purchased during the year for interviews with older citizens and other connected with Peterborough's history.

Col. R. J. Bolton presented a revised constitution which was approved and adopted by the society.