

Upcoming Events

Special AHS Members-only Presentation



Sam Bugos, Community Relations and Issues Specialist at Metrolinx will give a special presentation for AHS members only on the current and upcoming work happening in Aurora for the GO Expansion project.

Monday, March 8, 2021
4:00 - 5:00 pm

Free, Advanced registration required. Contact the office to register. community@aurorahs.com • (905) 727-8991
Location: **This event will be virtual!**

Speakers Series 2021

Since the pandemic restrictions still prevent us from welcoming visitors into Hillary House, we are hosting some of our regular events online. Thank you to all that attended our first virtual Speaker Series event on Wednesday, February 24th. Check out our upcoming virtual event.



Lucy E. M. Black
*“Eleanor Courtown” & Medicine
in the 19th Century*

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

7:00 - 9:00 pm

\$7.00 per person

Advanced registration required.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 905-727-8991 or online through Eventbrite.

Location:

This event will be virtual!

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS](#)



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

7:00 pm

This event will be virtual.

Members and non-members are welcome to attend.

* Please register by contacting the office or clicking the button below.

[Register for AGM](#)

Once registered, a document package will be emailed to you along with the link to join the meeting online.

Agenda includes:

- A Year in Review
- Revisions to Bylaws
- Restore 2021
- Election of the 2021 Board of Directors

*Note: Only members in good standing are eligible to vote. Please ensure your membership is current by contacting the office. community@aurorahs.com • (905) 727-8991

In This Issue

- Verandah Restoration
- Gift Shop
- International Women's Day
- Guess the Artifact Recipe

President's Message

Patricia Wallace, AHS President



Just a short note to say we hope to see you (virtually) at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on March 24th. Your Board of Directors has been working on updating the AHS Bylaws to ensure they are in line with Ontario's Corporations

Act (and the pending Ontario's Not-for-profit Corporations Act). These revisions will require ratification by the members. You will need to register for the virtual meeting

so a link and advance documents can be sent to you.

The AGM will also give you an opportunity to be updated on how we have fared as an organization during the pandemic and what is being planned for the future. If you have any questions you would like addressed, please send them along to me in advance. (patricia.wallace@aurorahs.com)

If you are a member in good standing, please consider attending this important meeting.

Stay safe. Stay warm. See you soon!
Patricia Wallace

Restoring and Preserving our National Treasure

By Alan Lambert, Chair – Restoration Working Group

AHS is moving forward to preserve and restore Hillary House and has important progress to share. Like any house and property, Hillary House requires ongoing care and maintenance. Over the last few years, several areas of concern have been identified. With professional guidance and support from ERA Architects Inc., experts in heritage conservation, we are embarking on a series of high-priority projects.

Our focus is to ensure that the highest priority areas are dealt with first. These have been identified as the verandah, and foundation and brickwork. We know both of these will be very costly, and based on available monies in our Restricted Building and Grounds fund, we are proceeding first with the verandah project. We will, of course, require permits and approval of the Ontario



Heritage Trust to proceed, but we are about to release a tender to gauge the interest of contractors to undertake the project. All being well, we hope to have construction beginning in the spring or summer. We know safe access to the building is critical and repairs are necessary now before it becomes a safety concern. We also know the verandah is well known as an architectural showcase for historic homes in Canada, and we must do our best to preserve it.

We want to keep you updated on this important work. We also want to emphasize the importance of making the necessary investments to preserve our treasure.

In the meantime, we are in need of additional financial support to keep moving ahead with restoration and preservation projects. Please consider a donation to the RESTORE 2021 Campaign. Click on the "Donate Now" button and direct your donation to "Restore 2021".



Hillary House

Photographer Peter Cameron

The Her-story of Ontario Dentistry

By Kathleen Vahey, Curator

International Women's Day, happening this year on March 8th, is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. Unfortunately, it is often hard to research and retell the stories of women throughout history as they frequently only mentioned in relation to men, referred to only as daughters, then wives and mothers. Stepping out of the domestic sphere presented countless challenges, but there have been many remarkable women who have trail-blazed through these barriers. One of these women was Aurora's own Josephine Wells.

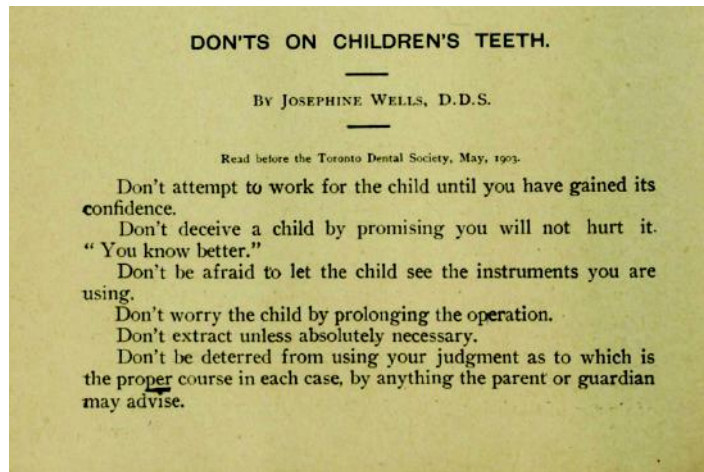


Caroline Louisa Josephine Irwin Wells.
Courtesy of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario.

Caroline Louisa Josephine was born in Aurora in 1856, the eldest child of Charles Irwin and Catherine Tyson. Josephine acquired a basic public-school education in Aurora and in 1877 at age 22, married John Wells. In the early years of their marriage, John had begun studying to become a dentist while Josephine gave birth to several children. At this time, to obtain a license in dentistry one had to complete a two-year course; eight months of studies at the Royal College of Dental Surgeons

of Ontario in Toronto, and another 16 months in an apprenticeship under a qualified dentist. In 1882, John graduated from the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, where he was listed as the gold medalist of his year. The family moved to Meaford where John practiced until 1887 before returning to Aurora.

Shortly after moving to Toronto in 1889 and opening a practice in their home, it became apparent that John was quite ill. In an attempt to ensure the future wellbeing of their family, John and Josephine contacted the members of the Ontario Dentists Regulatory Board in 1891 to petition for Josephine's entry into the Royal College of Dental Surgeons. It was common for wives to assist their husbands with work; however, no women had ever attempted to join the dental profession officially by seeking admission to the school. In her statement, it was noted by the Regulatory Board "that for some years she has



Josephine Wells was also the first Canadian woman to be published in a dental journal. This article was printed after she presented on the topic at a meeting of the Toronto Dental Society.

Dominion Dental Journal, vol. XV, no.6, June 1903, pg 360.

performed most of the work in the office" and she asked to be admitted to the College despite not having any of the necessary certifications. In March 1891, Josephine was admitted to the College and began her studies under her husband. Unlike the experiences of women who had joined other professions, there didn't seem to be any outward opposition or controversy over her application, and Josephine herself said she received "nothing else but kindness and help and encouragement from everybody". In 1893, she was granted a licentiate in dental surgery and became the first woman in Ontario to graduate from a dental program. She continued to treat patients out of her home office and even travelled to Aurora, King, Maple, Stouffville, and Woodbridge to offer her services, specializing in the treatment of children's teeth. In 1899, six years after obtaining her license to practice, she wrote the examinations and earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from Trinity College, earning the right to be called "Dr."

After already breaking through so many barriers to become the first woman in Ontario to obtain a degree in Dentistry, in 1899 Josephine was appointed as a dentist for provincial public institutions which had her travelling all over southern and central Ontario. Unfortunately, in 1904 Josephine's husband John

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Gift Shop



Hillary House is preparing to **RE-OPEN** and welcome you back to browse in our Gift Shop. We are currently in the “intake” stage and will gladly accept donations of new and gently used items such as gift ware, jewellery, home décor, and other household items. Unusual items are always popular!

We have a no-contact/after-hours drop off area available for your convenience. Call for details. (Thank you, but we cannot accept books, clothing, or cracked/broken items.) PLUS, watch our website for featured items!

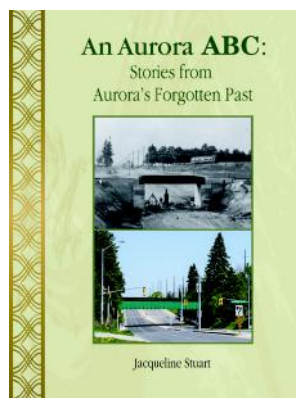
I Read Canadian Day 2021

We are thrilled that MP Tony Van Bynen chose to read from Jacqueline Stuart’s book, *An Aurora ABC: Stories from Aurora’s Forgotten Past* for his participation in “I Read Canadian Day” on February 17th! The goal is to raise awareness of Canadian books and celebrate the richness, diversity and breadth of Canadian literature.

We invite you to do the same.

While supplies last, AHS members may purchase this book from the Hillary House Gift Shop at a discounted price! If you already have a copy, maybe you have some new neighbours you’d like to welcome to the neighbourhood

with a copy. Or maybe there is a senior you know who doesn’t get out much nowadays. We are all looking for something nice to do for someone right now.



Take advantage of the offer while it lasts!

Regular price: \$20
Members only price: \$10
(while supplies last)

Wedding Bells

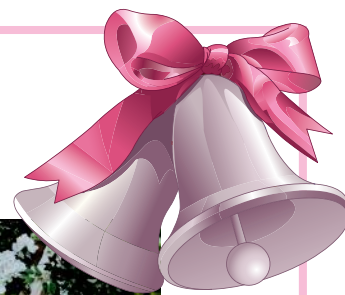
Are you looking for a romantic and intimate venue to hold your small wedding or take your wedding photos? Look no further than Hillary House and its beautiful grounds. Contact us for more information. Note: COVID-19 capacity restrictions and safety protocols will be in place.



Jessica and Winston
Photographer: Ever After Photographers



Jessica and Winston
Photographer: Ever After Photographers



Restore 2021 Campaign

Did you read the article about the Verandah Restoration Project? We are so excited to start work on this.

Please consider making a donation to the **Restore 2021 Campaign**.

Be part of heritage preservation in Aurora. It matters!

You can click on the link below, or call the Aurora Historical Society office today at 905-727-8991.

Donate Now



A big thank you to all the 2020 AHS Donors and Volunteers! You truly make a difference.

<https://aurorahs.com/canadahelps-donation-page>

In Memoriam

Sadly, Ivor Roberts passed away on January 25, 2021. With his wife Helen, former AHS President, Ivor was a great supporter and volunteer at the Aurora Historical Society. We were fortunate to have Ivor help on many projects, large and small, at Hillary House. We extend our condolences to Helen and family.



Bidding a fond farewell...

Aurora Historical Society founder, **Dr. Leslie Oliver and his wife, Mary Jean** have announced they are moving from their long-time home on Spruce Street in Aurora to Owen Sound.

Les tells us it will be the first time in 100 years that an Oliver did not live on Spruce St! We wish them all the best as they move to be close to their family. Les promises to stay in touch and hopes to memorialize his life's work with the AHS in future editions of The Attic.



Guess the Artifact

Do you know what this is?



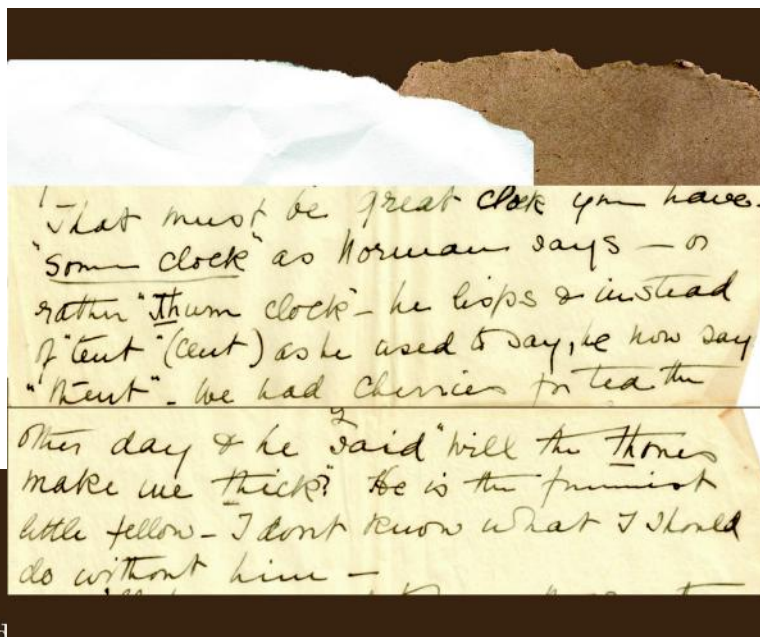
Found in the Hillary House dispensary, this artifact was an essential apparatus for 19th and early 20th century physicians and pharmacists when dispensing medicines.

Look for the answer on another page in this newsletter.

Transcription Project - Volunteers Wanted

By Kathleen Vahey

IT'S BACK! Here is your chance to be hands-on with history, right from your own home in your spare time. The Hillary House Collection has many hand-written letters that need to be transcribed for digital preservation. This project helps uncover long-lost stories and allows us to share this interesting historic information online! Volunteers will be emailed scans of a letter and are asked to type up the content and email it back to us. If you are up for a challenge, are good at reading handwriting, and would like to help out please send an email to: curator@aurorahs.com.



That must be great clock you have
"some clock" as Norman says – or
rather "thum clock" - he lips & instead
of "tent" (cent) as he used to say, he now says
"thent" - we had cherries for tea the
other day & he said "will the Thones
make me thick?" He is the funniest
little fellow – I don't know what I should
do without him.

The Her-story of Ontario Dentistry

Continued from page 3

died of heart failure while visiting his sister in Aurora, leaving Josephine to raise their youngest son by herself. But, like so many other times in her life, she persevered. In 1918, she retired from her private practice and was put in charge of dentistry for all provincial hospitals in Ontario, a position she held until 1928.

Josephine's achievements were significant; however, only a few other women pursued dentistry in the decades following because of the great stigma around women joining the workforce and the challenges it brought. This makes Josephine's story even more remarkable. Josephine is memorialized in

a stained-glass window at the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry Library. The window depicts St. Apollonia of Alexandria, the patron saint of dentistry and Josephine's image was used for the face of the saint. Josephine is buried at the Aurora Cemetery in the Irwin family plot.

Josephine's is just one story of an extraordinary woman who persevered through obstacles. We encourage you to search out the stories of other remarkable women who have left a mark on history!

Membership Update

by Julie Preston

Thank you for your continued support by renewing your 2021 membership.

Your AHS Membership not only entitles you to voting rights at the AGM, but also entitles you to **special members' discounts and members-only events**.


A strong membership base is also extremely important to successful grant applications. Having a strong membership base allows AHS to successfully apply for grants for operations or capital projects. For example, without the Town of Aurora's annual grant and the annual Community Museum's Operating Grant, AHS would not be able to keep Hillary House open to the public for tours, exhibits, programs, etc.

Annual memberships are valid from January 1 to December 31 of each calendar year.

Please help us in 2021 by becoming a member or renewing your annual membership.

Thank you to all who are Life Members – your continued support is a valued asset.

For more information contact community@aurorahs.com, call 905-727-8991 or mail in the membership/donation card below.

Membership Application or Renewal			
Annual Fees (January 1 to December 31)			
	Membership Fees	One Year	Two Years
Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10.00	
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$30.00	\$50.00
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$40.00	\$70.00

Town: _____			

Postal Code: _____			

Telephone: _____			

E-mail: _____			

Payment can be made by cash, cheque, credit, or debit.
Please make cheques payable to the Aurora Historical Society.
15372 Yonge Street, Aurora, ON L4G 1N8 (905) 727-8991
community@aurorahs.com www.aurorahs.com

We Need Your Support!

When you donate or become a member of the Aurora Historical Society, your contribution aids in the preservation, maintenance, and operation of Hillary House National Historic Site and its grounds.

We depend on donor support to provide relevant heritage programming to all ages.

Membership Rewards:

- Invitations to Members-only exhibit previews
- Members rates on rental of the Ballroom, grounds, and other areas
- Discounts on ticketed events
- Regular updates on upcoming events
- Voting rights at Member meetings such as the Annual General Meeting *Individual and Family memberships only

Donate Today to Support Local Heritage

YES! I would like to donate.

All donations \$25.00 and over will receive an income tax receipt.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

Donations may be made by cash, cheque, credit, debit, or through our website:

www.aurorahs.com.

Please make cheques payable to the Aurora Historical Society.

Recipe Corner

From the Hillary House Collection

*We have another recipe from the Hillary House collection!
Try it out, share your experiences on social media, and tag us!*

Beatrice (Bea) Hillary's Butterscotch Squares

- 1/3 cup butter
- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 ½ cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder

Mix all well. Spread in 9" x 13" pan.

- Beat
- 2 egg whites
 - 1 cup brown sugar

Mix in: 1 cup seedless raisins or cut up dates or a little ginger or nuts. Spread over first layer.

Bake 375°F – Time 30 minutes.



Beatrice Hillary, 1918

Guess the Artifact Answer:

A cork press; Used to create cork stoppers for medicine bottles.

AURORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2020

Board of Directors 2020

- President**..... Patricia Wallace
- Vice President**..... John Green
- Treasurer**Geoffrey Dawe
- Secretary**Anna Kroepflin
- Director**Peter Styrmo
- Director** Ronen Grunberg
- Director** Alan Lambert
- Director**Jeffrey Thom

Committees

- Landscaping Committee Chair**Dr. John Bare
- TOA Heritage Advisory Committee Rep** John Green
- Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Rep**Bob McRoberts

Staff

- Curator** Kathleen Vahey
- Administrative Assistant** Julie Preston
- Newsletter Production** Julie Preston
- Newsletter Editor, Volunteer**Christine McLure
- Newsletter Layout, Volunteer** Brenda Snape

We invite members to submit suggestions on what you would like added or improved to the newsletter. To submit your suggestions, please send an email to community@aurorahs.com.

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Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

