

**In This Issue**

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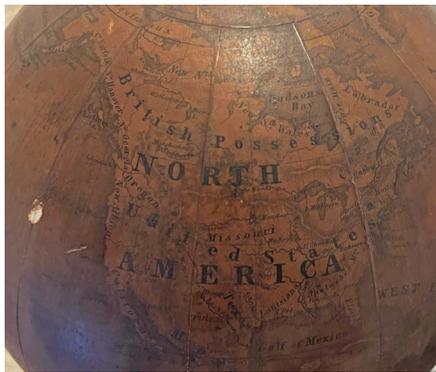
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- An Election Year

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## A Trip Around the (historic) Globe

*By Kathleen Vahey, Curator*

On the quietest of days at the museum, sometimes I let my imagination fly as I walk through the rooms of Hillary House. I imagine what the families were doing, and how they used each room and each artifact in their daily lives. I look at the musical instruments, games, and entertainment in the Study and think about what it was like before we had access to movie theatres, TVs, computers, and cell phones. I also like to think about the educational materials they had at the time and how those objects give us a glimpse into how people of the past understood the world around them.



*Hillary House globe identifying Canada as British Possessions*

Up high, on the top of a bookshelf in the corner of the Study are two unassuming globes. The standard tour guide notes explain that the larger of the two was made in Toronto in 1881; however, the only notes on the smaller one point out that is German made, has a built-in compass, and that it has Canada labeled as 'British Possessions' and Australia as 'New Holland'.

*This issue of The Attic is generously sponsored by:*

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*Aurora*  
*Inspired Retirement Living™*

As I stared up at the globes, I let my curiosity get the best of me – when was this globe from? I had to see it up close and investigate it further. I climbed onto a step ladder, carefully took it off its perch, brought it back to my desk, and started to examine it. The first thing I noticed was a maker's mark – 'C. Abel Klinger, Nuremburg' and as I continued to carefully turn the globe, I spotted a few peculiarities when comparing it to any modern globe. So, I set off to research!

Starting with the maker's mark on our globe, the C. Abel Klinger company was founded in 1790 by Johann Georg Klinger (1764 -1806), a Nuremburg art dealer and engraver. The company continued after his death, making a variety of globes until just after WW1. That means that our globe had to have been made between 1790 and 1918, quite the time-frame. Maybe some of the peculiarities on the globe can help narrow it down a bit.

*Continued on page 4*

## **WE'RE OPEN, Again!**

**Come and visit Hillary House,  
Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm.**

*Please call ahead to ensure staff availability.*

**While you're here, visit the Gift Shop.**

As always, we gladly accept donations of new and gently used items such as gift ware, jewellery, home décor, and other household items.

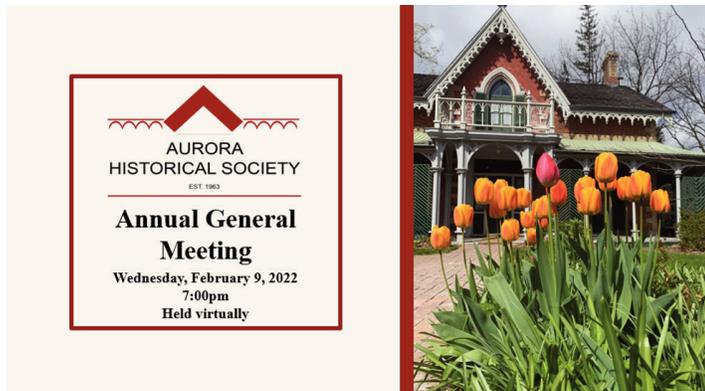
# In Case You Missed It...

Our Annual General Meeting was held virtually on February 9, 2022.

In addition to supportive, live messages from guests Mayor Tom Mrakas and MPP Christine Elliott, participants were updated on the operational and financial activities of 2021 and some exciting plans and opportunities for 2022 including:

- Matching grant funding offer from the Town of Aurora;
- Information on the proposed development on the neighbouring property and the steps taken by the AHS to protect Hillary House;
- Restoration projects recently completed and proposed for 2022;
- Upcoming exhibits, events and fundraisers.

To learn more, you can watch the recording at your own pace by clicking the image below



# 2022 Board of Directors

## AURORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2022

### Board of Directors 2022

<b>President</b> .....	Patricia Wallace
<b>Vice President</b> .....	Alan Lambert
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	Geoffrey Dawe
<b>Interim Secretary</b> .....	Geoffrey Dawe
<b>Director</b> .....	Ronen Grunberg
<b>Director</b> .....	Dan McGeown
<b>Director</b> .....	Martin Paivio
<b>Director</b> .....	Michelle Primeau
<b>Town of Aurora</b>	
<b>Council Representative</b> .....	Cllr. Sandra Humfries

### Committees

<b>Grounds Maintenance</b> .....	Alan Lambert
<b>TOA Heritage Advisory Committee Rep</b> .....	John Green
<b>Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Rep</b> .....	Bob McRoberts

### Staff

<b>Curator</b> .....	Kathleen Vahey
<b>Administrative Assistant</b> .....	Julie Preston
<b>Newsletter Production</b> .....	Julie Preston
<b>Newsletter Editor, Volunteer</b> .....	Christine McLure
<b>Newsletter Layout, Volunteer</b> .....	Brenda Snape

We invite members to submit suggestions for inclusion in the newsletter. Please email [community@aurorahs.com](mailto:community@aurorahs.com).

**\*Applications for Directors are still open.**

**Contact  
[president@aurorahs.com](mailto:president@aurorahs.com).**

# Upcoming Events

## Speaker Series

March 23rd

"Embedded: Two Journalists, a Burlesque Star, and the Expedition to Oust Louis Riel" with *Ted Glenn*

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS](#)



April

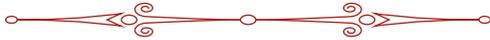
Details to be announced in April



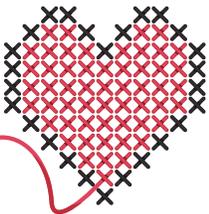
May 25th

"Niagara's Freedom Trail" with *Rochelle Bush*

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS](#)



## Cross Stitch Workshop



March 19th 1:00 – 3:00pm  
\$25/person

Have you ever wanted to try cross stitching? In this introductory workshop, you will create a bookmark using this easy to learn heritage

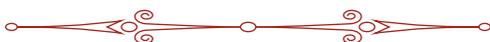
needle-craft. Workshop includes all materials. Taking place in the beautiful Hillary House National Historic Site Ballroom. Enjoy light refreshments, a short tour of Hillary House, and shop in the Gift Shop.

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

**Pre-registration required\***

Tickets: \$25/person and can be purchased on the AHS website.

Please note, the Ballroom is located on the second floor of Hillary House and is not accessible. No refunds. COVID-19 safety procedures in place.



## Easter Egg Decorating Workshop

April 9th – 1:00 – 3:00pm

Adults \$20.00, Children \$10.00

Come out to Hillary House and decorate your own Easter eggs! Try multiple techniques to create a half

dozen of your own blown eggs. Workshop includes all materials. Taking place in the beautiful Hillary House National Historic Site Ballroom. Enjoy light refreshments, a short tour of Hillary House, and shop in the Gift Shop.



[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

**Pre-registration required.** Tickets: Adults \$20.00, Children \$10.00 and can be purchased on the AHS website. Suitable for ages 6 & up. All children require adult accompaniment.

Please note, the Ballroom is located on the second floor of Hillary House and is not accessible. No refunds. COVID-19 safety procedures in place.



## Mother's Day Tea

May 8th – 12:00pm or 2:30pm

\$31.50/person

**Break out your fascinators, it's Tea Time!**

Treat the mom's in your life to a special afternoon tea inside Hillary House. In addition to your pot of tea, sandwiches, scones, and desserts, enjoy the ambiance of the beautiful Hillary House National Historic Site.

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

Pick from two seatings:

12:00pm or 2:30pm.

Tickets are \$31.50/person and can be purchased on the AHS website.

# A Trip Around the (historic) Globe

Continued from page 1

As I mentioned, what is now Canada, is identified as *British Possessions* on the globe. This makes me think it was made before Confederation in 1867 when Canada was still a British colony. I continued to examine the globe and confirmed that Australia is labelled as *New Holland*. This name originated in 1644 by Abel Tasman, a Dutch explorer in service of the Dutch East India Company. Even though British explorer James Cook claimed the eastern portion of the island for the British Crown and named it New South Wales in 1770, and after the British took control of the entire island, the name *New Holland* was still used on maps and globes to identify the entire island well into the mid-19th century. Although these two peculiarities on the globe don't help us too much, just a short look south of Australia does.



*Australia as New Holland and Tasmania as Van Diemen's Land*

The current country of Tasmania is identified as Van Diemen's Land on the globe. Abel Tasman also visited this island a couple of years earlier in 1642, and named it after Anthony van Diemen, the Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies who had sent him on the voyage of 'discovery'. The name was changed to Tasmania in 1855-56 after the enactment of the Constitution of Tasmania. Therefore, our globe had to have been made before 1855!

With this discovery, I've narrowed the creation of the globe down to between the start of the company in 1790 and the renaming of Tasmania in 1855. Back to the globe...

While looking around the eastern part of the world, I noticed a few other differences. While the Japanese Islands are identified as such, the main island now referred to as Honshu is labeled *Nippon*. The Japanese names for Japan are pronounced Nippon and Nihon, making me think the identification of the island as *Nippon* on our globe is just a combination of these two words. Nippon was also used to identify the Japanese island in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* published in 1851.

Looking a little farther east, I noticed the Hawaiian Islands are labeled as *Sandwich Islands*, a common name that James Cook gave to the area in the 1770s. As with Tasmania, the name was formally changed to the Hawaiian Islands after its Constitution in 1840; however, the names were used interchangeably between 1840-1865.

These two differences are from the time period that we've already established but don't give us any definitive dates to it narrow down.

And then I noticed it. Right at the bottom of the globe, the landmass we know as Antarctica is not fully identified. Three important places are labeled: Wilkes Land, South Victoria, and Mt. Erebus. These are great clues in my search to date the globe. Wilkes Land was identified by U.S. naval commander Charles Wilkes in 1840-42 when he first sighted this part of the Antarctic, and South Victoria and Mt. Erebus were discovered and identified by British Captain James Clark Ross in January 1841. (Fun fact, Captain Ross sailed on the HMS Erebus and HMS Terror during his Antarctic voyage which were later used by Sir John Franklin during his fatal Arctic expedition in northern Canada). Therefore, our globe had to have been made after these discoveries!



*Wilkes Land, South Victoria, and Mt. Erebus identified in Antarctica*

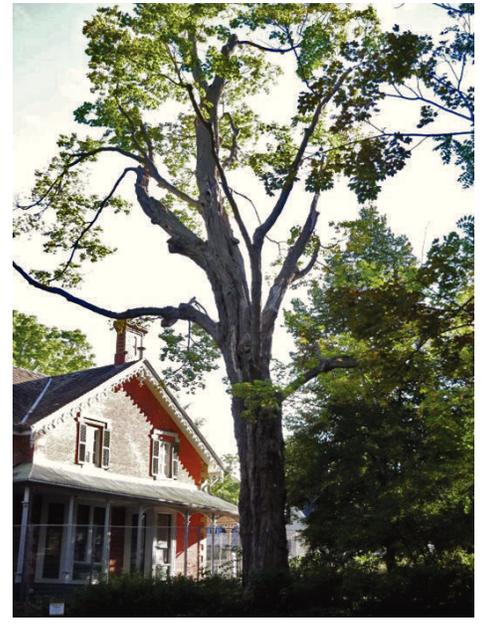
At the end of my research, I have narrowed down the time-line for the globe to a 14 year period. It had to have been made after the discoveries in the Antarctic in 1840-2 but before the Tasmanian Constitution that changed the name of the island in 1856.

It is incredible to think about how the world has changed, all while staying completely the same. Who knew you could learn so much from an old globe!

This globe is part of our 'Adopt an Artifact' program. For more information on this fundraising initiative, email us at [community@aurorahs.com](mailto:community@aurorahs.com).

# Farewell, Sugar Maple Tree

After a long (approximately) 160-year life, our beloved Sugar Maple tree to the south of Hillary House has been taken down. We have been steadily monitoring this tree over the years and trimming it as necessary, but were advised last year that it should be taken down. The tree has been a prominent feature of the property since the 1860s but had become a significant risk to the house in its old and fragile age. A substantial part of the trunk was left and the AHS will be exploring options to use it for a future art installation. A big thank you to the Town of Aurora and Weller Tree Service for assisting with the removal.



## 2022 Exhibits

### A Place to Grow Exhibition

The Aurora Historical Society is pleased to present *A Place to Grow*, a travelling exhibition created by the Royal Botanical Gardens. *A Place to Grow* highlights the history of gardening in a Canadian context, from agricultural crops that shaped Ontario's economic development to ornamental plants that influenced our social history. Also on display, a short history of Garden Aurora.



**On display  
March 7th –  
April 29th**

*A Place to Grow,  
developed by the  
Royal Botanical  
Gardens*

### Growing Up Aurora Exhibition

Did you grow up in Aurora and have a brain full of memories? Are your family members tired of hearing your stories? Tell us instead! We are looking for stories and memories from your childhood in Aurora for our upcoming exhibition; Growing Up Aurora

The exhibition will revolve around themes including:

- Town-wide Events (Ex. Horse Show, Canada Day, Street Sale, Farmer's Market, etc.)
- Sports/Clubs
- School
- Recreational Time (Ex. How did you spend your time, hang-out spots, has it changed)
- Aurora Businesses (Ex. Special memories, first job, first date, first car, etc.)
- Uniquely Aurora

*If you are interested in submitting your stories, click here (<https://aurorahs.com/growing-aurora>) or email us at [community@aurorahs.com](mailto:community@aurorahs.com). We are also looking for objects to be displayed for the exhibition. Let us know if you have something that goes along with your stories!*

# An Election Year, 1878...

By Kathleen Vahey, Curator

As Aurora prepares for not only a provincial election but also a municipal one in 2022, I find myself thinking back on past elections and one in particular that involved none other than Hillary House's Dr. Frederick Strange.

Frederick William Strange was born on September 9, 1844, in the county of Berkshire, England and studied medicine in Liverpool and London before taking his examinations and being admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons of England. By 1869, Dr. Strange had purchased Hillary House in Aurora and was on a ship with his wife and daughter to start their new lives in Canada. Once in Aurora, Dr. Strange wasted no time making sure his name was known throughout town. A professional notice appeared in the Aurora Banner detailing his qualifications as a doctor and surgeon, and he began to make grand renovations to his house (Hillary House). He widened the kitchen wing at the back of the house and added a second story that accommodated a formal reception area, said to have been used as a billiards room and replaced the simple wooden fireplace surrounds and mantelpieces in the Study and Drawing Rooms with Italian marble.



MUSEE MCCORD MUSEUM

*Dr Frederick Strange.  
Image courtesy of the  
McCord Museum, II-65091.1.*

In 1872, Dr. Strange was elected to the Aurora Village council for a 1-year term. Although short-lived, this marked his first foray into politics. By 1876, Dr. Strange and his family had moved to Toronto. An Aurora Banner article stated, "circumstances of a

private nature called upon him to take up his

residence elsewhere". In 1878, he was nominated as the Liberal-Conservative candidate for the riding of York North which included the present day towns of Aurora and Newmarket, and the townships of King, Whitchurch, East Gwillimbury, North Gwillimbury, and Georgina. Even though publications of the time described him as a poor public speaker, Dr. Strange won the seat, but by only 14 votes. Two months later, this narrow victory was the subject of an investigation after Dr. Strange had been accused of corruption. He had reportedly visited many of the polling stations personally during the election and there were allegations of bribery, intimidation, and 'treating' - providing free liquor in return for votes. Many of the cases were dismissed due to unreliable witnesses and even after an investigation where the accused admitted to attending the North Gwillimbury 'Gum Swamp' polling station (present day Elm Grove, at the intersection of Old Homestead Rd and Catering Rd in Sutton) and bringing liquor; however, denying it was used to bribe votes, Vice-Chancellor Samuel Hume Blake dismissed the charges and declared Dr. Strange as duly elected. Not the smooth-sailing start to his federal parliamentary career I'm sure he imagined, but he did go on to keep his seat until the next election in 1882. Years later, the Newmarket Era published a story about the Gum Swamp incident. At the time of the investigation, 'Jack the Trapper', the man believed to have supplied the whiskey at the polling station, had sworn there had only been one bottle of liquor, not enough to use to bribe votes, but the Newmarket Era article stated that when approached by the lawyer outside the courtroom, Jack said: "You asked me how many bottles there were and I said one. If you had asked me how many times that one bottle had been refilled, I couldn't have told you. The barrel was in the cellar".

This story is taken from 'The Story of Dr. Strange: A brief biography of Frederick W. Strange' by Jacqueline Stuart. Purchase your copy from the Hillary House Gift Shop.

The Aurora Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of:



Parks Canada

Ontario Trillium Foundation



Ontario

Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario



Canadian Heritage

Patrimoine canadien

Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



# On this Date

## Medical News: January 11, 1922

After over a year of work by Sir Frederick Banting, Charles Best, John Macleod, and James B Collip at the University of Toronto, insulin was used for the first time to treat diabetes in a person. Leonard Thompson, a 13 year old boy dying from type 1 diabetes in Toronto General Hospital, was the first to receive the treatment. After the first injection on January 11, Leonard's measurements didn't change drastically. This prompted Collip to work tirelessly to purify the extract even further. Leonard was given a second injection on January 23 and had great success. By the end of 1923, insulin was available around the world. Watch the Heritage Minute on the Discovery of Insulin here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amCeBhkNo50>

## Canadian News: April 23, 1851

For over 100 years, the postal system in Canada had been controlled by either France or Great Britain, resulting in the people of North America having no control over its operations. In 1851, Great Britain gave the Province of Canada responsibility for its own postal system and with that came the first 'Canadian' postage stamp. Designed by Sir Sandford Fleming, the Three-Pence Beaver stamp broke with the tradition observed in the British Empire of using the effigy of the monarch. Nonetheless, the stamp was issued on April 23rd and became Canada's first stamp used for domestic mail.



*The Three-Pence Beaver:  
Canada's First Postage Stamp.  
© Canada Post*

# A Few Messages From Our Community Partners

## Town of Aurora

Do you know someone special deserving of recognition? Nominate them for the Town of Aurora's Community Recognition Awards program. Learn more here ([www.aurora.ca/cra](http://www.aurora.ca/cra))

## Aurora Seniors' Centre

The Aurora Seniors' Centre in partnership with the Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario is hosting their annual Seniors' Active Living Fair on March 23rd from 9:00am to 4:00pm. For more information or to register, email [scww@aurora.ca](mailto:scww@aurora.ca) or call 905-727-3123 ext. 3615

## Aurora Sports Hall of Fame

Nominations for the 2022 Inductees to the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame will be accepted until 12:00pm, April 1st, 2022.



To learn more on the nomination process, read here (link <https://aurorashof.ca/nomination-process/>)

## Membership Update

*By Julie Preston, Administrative Assistant*

It is time to renew your membership for 2022! It's easy. Contact the office or visit our website to pay online or print off the membership form and mail it into the office (link <https://aurorahs.com/become-member>)

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

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

**Please help us in 2022 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 the AHS office by email at [community@aurorahs.com](mailto:community@aurorahs.com) or call 905-727-8991.