

Annual Report of the Hastings Historical Society June 2015-2016

The Historical Society has been busy as usual, with a large number of general research inquiries as well as some special projects. Here is a summary:

In February of 2015 we were thrilled when one of the photographs in our collection was showcased in a series of BBC podcasts called "The Five Photographs That (You Didn't Know) Changed Everything." Episode 2 covered the impact Henry Draper's 1880 photo of the Nebula in Orion had on both the scientific community and, more broadly, the world's imagination, with a discussion by Omar Nasim of the School of History at the University of Kent. If you're interested in listening to the podcast, Google "BBC five photos Orion" and you'll see the link at the top of your search results.

In October 2015 we had the debut of our exhibit "Hastings First Responders: Our Heroes Through the Years," which paid tribute to our police officers, volunteer firefighters and ambulance staff. Highlights included a profile of Hastings' first police officer, the history of the jail (the original "Cold Storage" down by the waterfront and our jail today), plus background and early photos of each of Hastings' fire companies: Protection Engine Company #1, Uniontown Hose Company #2, Hook & Ladder Company #1, Riverview Manor Hose Company #3, and the Ambulance Corps. We also had summaries of major fires and disasters over the years. Local response to the exhibit was extremely positive, with over 100 people in attendance on opening day.

Our fiscal year came to a close once again at our May 2016 An-

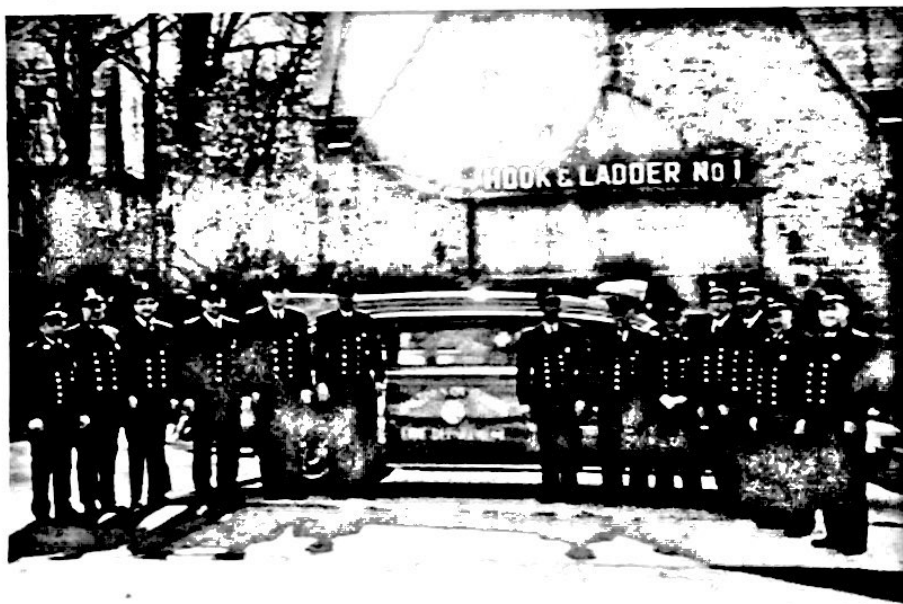
nual Meeting, run jointly with the Friends of the Library. After both groups summarized activities for the year, Evan Pritchard, founder and Director of the Center for Algonquin Culture, presented "The Loving Arm of the Sea, Honoring the Life-Giving Waters of the Mohicanituck (Hudson)." This was a fascinating discussion of the river and our area from a Native American perspective. Our volunteers found this presentation particularly useful and took careful notes, to preserve this information for our files.

Day to day, our volunteers continue in their efforts to keep Hastings' history alive. Our archivists respond to a larger-than-ever series of research requests; many of these are coming from young couples new to the village and curious about the history of their neighborhood and/or house. (As you can imagine, we try our hardest to convince them to become Historical Society members!) In fact, there was so much interest in

the general history of our village, we decided that it warranted some future exhibits on that topic.

Our volunteers also spend a significant amount of time recording, categorizing and maintaining our vast document, photography and artifact collections. Supporting this work, Muriel Olsson is head archivist, Eileen Forbes-Watkins does accessions, Beth Smith handles photographs, Jan Clough deals with artifacts, and Annette Borowitz and Ginny Kazura keep the files in order. One of our newest volunteers, Claudia Gisolfi, has been assisting in many of these efforts. Treasurer David Forbes-Watkins keeps us on a steady financial path. Sue Smith and Jan Clough work behind the scenes to maintain the physical plant of our historic Cottage, and Spike Barkin is our resident oral historian. We thank them all for their time and effort.

Many have told us how much they love receiving our quarterly



The Ambulance Corps posed with their red ambulance in front of the Hook & Ladder Company building on Main Street in 1958.

newsletter, the *Hastings Historian*. Kudos to our editorial staff, which consists of Judy Chamberlain, Barbara McManus and Muriel Olsson, for all their hard work.

With the help of volunteers Debby Beece May and Lindsey Taylor, we've introduced new merchandise items, including a water tower winter scene mug and a full-color reusable bag created by Hastings artist Costanza Mallol; both are available for sale on our website at *hastingshistorical.org*. We're grateful to Jenni Stern for managing our website and to Lindsey Taylor for maintaining our Facebook page. Find us on Facebook, if you haven't done so already, and check out the fun tid-

bits and family photos from Hastings' past, which appear weekly on "Throwback Thursdays."

While we are always looking to expand our merchandise offerings and bring in new revenue, we are constrained by budgetary realities. As you may know, the Historical Society continues to have annual expenses in excess of our income. We're still relying on our Endowment Fund to make up the shortfall, although our membership rolls are holding steady at around 625 members. Dues remain our primary source of income, which is why we so appreciate the support we receive from you, our members. Please spread the word to current and former

Hastings residents — tell them about the Historical Society, the work we do, and the value of getting our quarterly newsletter. Consider giving a Society membership as a gift, for a birthday or for the holidays!

If you live nearby or come back to Hastings to visit, we'd like to invite you to the Cottage during our regular hours to see our collection of materials or to check in with us; we're open on Mondays and Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm. We're also open the first Saturday of every month (September through June) from 2 to 4 pm. Stop by — we'd love to see you.

Respectfully,
Natalie Barry, *President*

**Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activities
for the Year ended December 31, 2015**

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$14,669
Inventory	18,288
Long Term Investments	
- Merrill Lynch	162,941
 Total property and equipment Net of accumulated depreciation	 201,757
 TOTAL ASSETS	 \$397,645

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Forbes-Watkins, Treasurer

Statement of Activities

Support and Revenue

Donations	\$6,923
Dues	18,251
Merchandise sold and misc.	4,014
Investment Income	<u>3,937</u>
Total Support & Revenue	\$33,125

Expense

Cottage Expenses & Maint.	24,899
Cost of Merchandise Sold	1,747
Professional Fees	2,200
Historian & postage	4,171
Insurance	4,233
Office and General	7,236
Investment Expense	2,056
Unrealized Loss on Investment	5,104
Total Expense	\$51,647

Increase/Decrease in Net Assets (18,522)	
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	415,167
Net Assets at Year End	\$ <u>397,645</u>