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Sir Sandford Fleming: the Canadian

Alan Wilson, the founding head of both History and Canadian Studies at Trent University used his fine story-telling skills, and exceptional knowledge of Sir Sandford Fleming to produce a most entertaining episode about Fleming in the History Television series, "The Canadians." It premiered on Wednesday, 25 September 2002, on History Television.

Fleming had a remarkable Canadian career as a surveyor and railway promoter. It began in Peterborough, when as a lad of 18 he emigrated from Kirkaldy, Scotland and stayed with his cousin, Dr John Hutchison, in what is now the Hutchison House Museum. Then after 35 years with several surveyors and railway companies, including the Intercolonial and the Canadian Pacific, he had another 35 year career as Chancellor of Queen's University. During these later years he was the great promoter of international standard time. The episode captured as well the importance Fleming attached to family and personal connections. He had a large family, and the connections from Peterborough served him well.

The film had good visual quality. There was live footage, as well as archival photos and comments by consultants, including Alan Wilson himself, and Jean Cole and Elwood Jones. Alan Wilson and the producers (Whitman and Matthew Trecartin of Tri-Media Production Services in Halifax) shot part of the film in Peterborough and the Owen Sound area, as well as in Halifax. Elwood Jones was taped in the archives of St John's Anglican Church, Peterborough, a church that Fleming sketched and attended during the 1840s. We are reminded again that national and international careers can be anchored in places such as Peterborough, a great place to come from.

The video is available from www.historytelevision.ca Blair Edwards wrote an interesting article on the project that appeared in *Peterborough This Week*, 20 September 2002. Probably in conjunction with its annual meeting, the Trent Valley Archives plans to arrange a public viewing of the video.

[This item appeared in Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley, 7, 3 \(November 2002\)](#)