



CIHC

CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE

LEARNING FROM OUR PAST,
BUILDING A STRONG FUTURE

October 2021

This newsletter is published by CIHC, an organization dedicated to preserving Canada's Industrial history.

About 1900, Brantford was Canada's third largest industrial producer of exports to the world. Its industrial history mirrors the growth of industry across Canada.

Our Address is
Canadian Industrial
Heritage Centre, P.O.
Box 23055, Brantford
Ontario, Canada
N3T 6K4

See our website:

www.canadianindustrialheritage.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CanadianIndustrial>

We are responsible for the TICCIH Canada website at

www.ticcihcanada.org

Please send submissions or inquiries to:

info@canadianindustrialheritage.com

REPORT FROM YOUR PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS OF CIHC

It has been a busy summer for the Directors of CIHC, especially those on the Facilities Committee for planning the interpretive centre of Industrial history at 66 Mohawk St. in Brantford. The FC members met with the other directors to get input and approval of their ideas for the design concept and uses of the property for creating the zoning bylaw. They held meetings with the Brantford Planning Department and with the architect at MMMC to work out details of the design.

With our summer student grant, we have kept Lauren Holmes busy working on various projects including indexing Mike Hand's books and organizing files, scanning the inventory of our holdings, organizing office files, both paper and digitized, assisting Christina with curating the Italian Community display at the Brant Museum, etc. She has been very helpful in spite of the fact she has had to work mostly from home.

Thanks to our Chairman John Kneale, National Trust has awarded CIHC a Launch Pad Coaching Grant to cover a training course in the steps we must take to launch our interpretive centre at 66 Mohawk St. in Brantford. The Directors began with their first session in late September and continue until December.

The Annual meeting covering 2020 events has been postponed.

Report From your Newsletter Editor Jean Farquharson

The unveiling of the public art piece at the Official Opening of Brantford City Hall was a thrilling moment for CIHC on Saturday September 18, 2021. The honours go to Rob Adlam for approaching City Council in March 2011 for

permission to rescue the foundry moulds when the Massey Harris factory buildings on the Mohawk-Greenwich brownfield site were being demolished, for storing them, and for originating the idea for the contest. It took 10 years for him to keep his promise to display them to the public. We thank Ana Olson, Director of Glenhyrst, for her hard work arranging the contest and the judging. Thank you, Don Harris, for being one of the judges.

“Guardians and Guides”

Below is the wording of the plaque attached to Guardians and Guides, the public art piece which is located in the hallway directly outside the new Council Chambers in Brantford City Hall:



Guardians and Guides *“Reflects Brantford’s industrial history. Building on the foundation of the city’s industrial and architectural heritage, the composition suggests a geometric inspired landscape. The development of this site-specific assemblage installation was inspired by salvaged foundry moulds and related heritage artefacts from Brantford’s historical industries. The pieces provided have been sensitively blended and transformed into design elements, with their industrial surfaces integrated, to complement the aesthetic of the site.”*

*“Guardians and Guides” considers chapters/eras of socio-economic shifts in Brantford’s diverse history. Optimism and hope are conveyed and encouraged as a catalyst for continued evolution and progress. Presenting a vision of pride, resilience and vibrancy, **Guardians and Guides** serves as a visual gateway to growth and expansive perspectives.*



Jane
Bowen,
September
2021

Views from
each side



About the Artist: Jane Bowen

Jane Bowen has exhibited throughout Ontario since her first solo exhibition in Elora, Ontario in 1989. While assemblage has been a consistent area of her focus, her exhibited bodies of work demonstrate her experience in a range of mediums including encaustic, sculpture, and oil and cold wax. Her evolving artwork draws on her surroundings and daily life, evoking thoughtful contemplation.



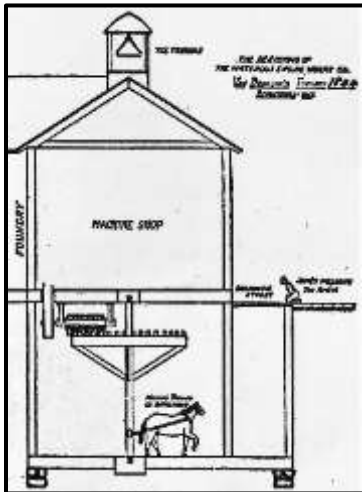
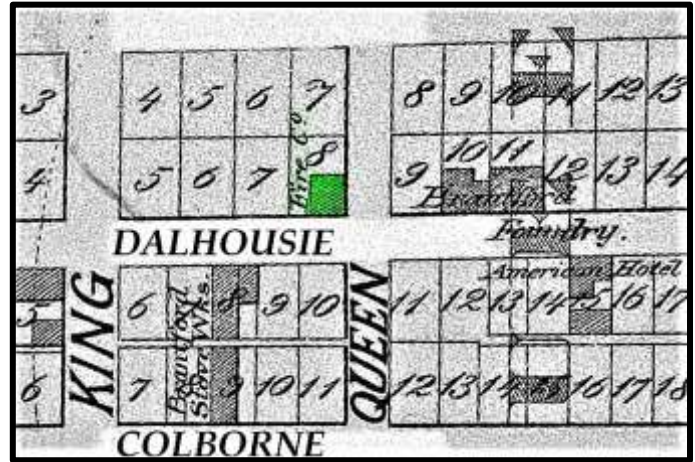
CIHC VP Christina Han; Director of Glenhyrst Ana Olsen; Artist Jane Bowen and Past Pres. of CIHC Rob Adlam

Heritage Review of 60-70 Dalhousie St. Submitted by Rob Adlam.

Rob is Past President of CIHC and a representative on Brantford's Heritage Committee

The site of Brantford's future City Hall has always been closely tied to both industry and public service uses. As such, the proposed public art project provides a tremendous opportunity to unite these two themes in a unique manner that will promote public education of Brantford's heritage, while also creating a visitor destination by means of arts and culture.

While Brantford was still a village, the site was the location of a foundry built by Philip C. Van Brocklin in 1844. Van Brocklin had initially come to Canada from the United States in the early 1830's to practice his trade as a moulder while working at the Long Point Furnace in Normandale, Ontario. The initial products of his Brantford foundry were utilitarian in nature and were targeted to serve the needs of the pioneering community; namely, plows, stoves, and fireplace accessories. This operation was the first foundry to be established in Brantford and is also recognized as Brantford's first industry. The foundry was located at Dalhousie and Queen Streets, as shown in the 1875 map of Brant County.



The original power plant for the foundry was a rather primitive operation that involved the use of a horse, housed in the basement and hitched to a sweep pole attached to a main vertical shaft. As the horse plodded around the in a large circular pattern, the shaft rotated and turned a series of gears and pulleys to supply power for machinery. Pictured right, is a sketch of the original foundry building showing the horse sweep, dating to 1845. Of note is the large triangle mounted in the building's tower. This was used to signal workers for the beginning and end of the workday. This triangle is housed as part the collection at the Brant Museum and Archives.

After a change in the initial partnership with Arunah Huntington, who would leave and pursue other business interests, and later a second partner F.P. Goold, Van Brocklin was joined by Charles H. Waterous in 1848. Within two years of Waterous' arrival, he began to change the product line from agricultural tools to steam engines, boilers and timber saws.

The re-organized business profited and grew greatly, and by 1854 Waterous bought out Van Brocklin. Waterous was a gifted engineer whose skill and commitment to produce quality machines would have Waterous products, and the Brantford name they bore, being exported around the globe. By 1874, the



business would be incorporated as the Waterous Engine Works.



Due to ever-expanding sales and product development, the original factory proved to be too small for the business to continue to prosper. The company chose to build a new factory on South Market St. in 1895, and the City of Brantford purchased the land and original factory from Waterous for \$40,000. After sitting mostly empty for the number of years, the city then sold the property to the Canadian government and the present Federal Building was constructed in 1913.

Now, the City of Brantford has purchased the property back

from the Canadian government and the building will be renovated as the new City Hall. It would seem that the history of the site is coming full-circle.

There is also a strong public service connection to various owners and Waterous family members. The following all served as mayors of Brantford:

- P.C. Van Brocklin, in 1850
- Arunah Huntington, in 1852
- C.H. Waterous Jr., from 1905-1906
- Reginald J. Waterous, from 1938-1940

This site is an entirely appropriate and fitting location for this public art project that will honour the heritage of the site and the thousands of Brantford's workers who have worked in foundry operations and other industries. Their toil skyrocketed Brantford to become the third largest exporter of manufactured goods in Canada in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This project will create an outstanding showcase for Brantford's heritage at its seat of government.



Rob also set up a temporary display of artefacts from his own personal collection showing some products of Brantford's industrial past. The following is an excerpt from the explanatory label he attached to the display, which is located right outside the door of the Council Chambers of Brantford's "New" City Hall:



The Van Brocklin foundry was the stimulus that would propel the village of Brantford to national fame as Canada's third largest exporter in the latter part of the 19th century, behind Montreal and Toronto, despite its vastly smaller population compared with these cities.

*Brantford's industries turned out everything from steam engines to stoves, and plows to windmills. As a result of this fervent activity, Brantford was largely responsible for supplying the needs of settlers opening the Canadian West. These facts would earn Brantford such distinguished titles as the "**Birmingham of Canada**" and "**Sheffield of the West**". The title "Made in Brantford", when carried across the globe on various lines of locally built agricultural implements, would proclaim innovation, quality, and be a source of hometown pride. This site is an entirely appropriate location for **Guardians and Guides**. This public art piece will acknowledge the heritage of the site and honour Brantford's workers who have laboured in foundry operations and other industries over the past 177 years.*



On display are several examples of pieces produced by Brantford's famous foundries from Rob's private Collection: **Koehring-Waterous-Forestry machinery identification plate; Cockshutt Plow Company Ltd. – Plow seat, circa 1883; Waterous Engine Works – Steam engine toolbox lid; Waterous Limited – Identification plate; and Brantford Coach & Body Company – Trailer axle hub.**



BITS AND PIECES A new play by *Brantford Expositor* reporter Vincent Ball, *The Footlocker*, will be performed by Brant Theatre Workshops at the Canadian Military Heritage Museum early next year. The play involves a prisoner of war and his girlfriend who works in the Cockshutt munitions plant during World War II. See the BTW website for updates on the performance.

Have a look at the museum's display of interesting Cockshutt artefacts.

A Year in the Life of Brant Theatre Workshops

By Peter Muir

Peter Muir is our partner representing Brant Theatre Workshops on the CIHC Facilities Committee. We hope to share in the use of the future site at 66 Mohawk St., including an amphitheatre where BTW can help bring our history to life.

In this article, Peter familiarizes us with the activities of BTW and shows us how he works with partners to make history alive by telling the stories of Brantford's people. We are fortunate to have Christina Han as our Vice-President. We thank her for all the work she is doing.



Dr. Christina Han hosts the first of 12 monthly episodes giving an inside view of the theatre company.

BTW has begun filming a monthly live podcast series featuring the people and subjects that inspire us. Over the year, each live, half-hour episode will feature a behind the scenes look at Brant Theatre Workshops, our passions, our community, music and characters with a behind-the-scenes perspective. The Year in the Life is presented with support from The Trillium Foundation.

The first of our podcasts took place on September 30, when host, Dr. Christina Han of Laurier Brantford dived deep into the Italian Immigrant experience. Featuring music from Sean Hauk, interviews of Italian elders and a view of her exhibit at the Museum along with selected scenes from Brant Theatre Workshop's production of "The Italian's Arrival" make for entertaining viewing and [the episode can be accessed here](#).

Our next podcast will play live on October 30 at 3 p.m., when podcast host, Dr. Van Helsing will guide you through the horror stories of Brant Theatre Workshops. Featuring Paul Amato as the character of Professor Van

Helsing, we will revisit the stories of Dracula, Frankenstein, Jack the Ripper and the horror of live theatre in Covid as we offer our interpretation of an “all-hallowed-eve”.

Each episode of “A Year in the Life” will give a glimpse into the triumphs and tragedies (*mostly humorous, we hope*) of a small but active Theatre Company in Brantford Ontario and conclude in August of 2022. Among the subjects to come will be war time experiences, substance use, a journey through colonialism, Peter Rabbit, the Chinese Immigrant Community and Johnny Cash.

Good News! Earlier this year the Adelaide Hunter Homestead was closed and put on the real estate market. It has been re-opened. The property is a National Historic Site owned by the Federated Women’s Institute of Canada. Because of many protests, the site was taken off the market and funding found to open it again. Its website is <https://www.adelaidehoodless.ca>

What talents can you use to contribute to our cause?

If you are interested in contributing an article about Canadian industrial history to our newsletter, help us with fundraising, publicity, research...please contact info@canadianindustrialheritage.com

See our special membership offer below. Become active in CIHC.

You are welcome to order our books online, including our three bestsellers, *Merchants Exchange: Ignatius Cockshutt, 1812-1901* and *The Cockshutt Plant News, 1943, and 1944*.

For industrial history of Brantford, read Mike Hand’s *A City’s Industrial Heritage: the growth and demise of fifteen major manufacturers in Brantford Ontario*. Mike Hand also wrote *Iron, Steam and Wood: 150 years with the Waterous Engine Works Company*.

These books and others are listed on our website for sale.

Go to <https://www.canadianindustrialheritage.com>

MEMBERSHIP DUES, DONATIONS AND ITEMS FOR SALE

Readers and members are invited to check our website. **Special Offer! Renew or join/rejoin CIHC now. It will cover your membership for the rest of 2021 as well as 2022. Memberships for 2021-2022 are available online for your convenience or you may fill out the form and mail it in. Donations are always welcome, especially now, when everything is opening up for our new Museum site at 66 Mohawk St.**

This newsletter is published by Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre, P.O. Box 23055, Brantford, Ontario, Canada N3T 6K4. See our website: www.canadianindustrialheritage.com Facebook: Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre CIHC. Submissions to our newsletter are welcome and are subject to editing. We are not responsible for errors. Please send submissions or inquiries to info@canadianindustrialheritage.com



CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE

Membership Form

Benefits of Membership in the CIHC...

- Participation in the Annual General meeting, and the election of directors.
- Regular updates on our activities through the CIHC Newsletter
- 10% Discount on most Purchases
- Special invitation to all CIHC events

Your Membership Helps us All...

- Expand and conserve the CIHC collection
- Advocate for the preservation of our extensive industrial heritage
- Promote awareness of the industrial and innovation heritage and its importance to our future and quality of life
- Liase with other national and regional heritage groups

MEMBERSHIP STATUS - RENEWAL NEW **DATE:** ___ / ___ / 201__

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Fees category: Student \$10 Individual \$20 Family \$25

Family Member(s) at Same Address _____

I hereby consent to receive information by electronic-transmission from CIHC

Yes ! I would like to make a donation to the CIHC of \$ _____

Donations of \$20 or more above membership fees are tax deductible.

Charitable number #861470623RR0001

Method of payment: - Cheque Cash Paypal

Please Make cheques payable to the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre.

Our mailing address is - P.O. Box 23055, Brantford, ON N3T 6K4

Membership Fees are for the Calendar Year. Those joining after October 1st will be entitled to membership through to the end of the following calendar year.

visit - www.canadianindustrialheritage.com/membership - To Pay on-line

Are you interested in volunteering with us ?

Areas of interest/comments/suggestions: _____

Information collected on this form is for CIHC membership records only.