



CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL
HERITAGE CENTRE

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Newsletter

September 2023

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 evolution 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

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

We are responsible for the TICCIIH Canada website at www.ticcihcanada.org

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President's Report

Dear members and friends of the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre, as the beautiful summer months come to a close, I hope this message finds you all in good health and spirits. It has been a season of hard work and exciting developments at CIHC, and I am delighted to share our progress

First, I would like to recognize Madeleine Littler, our summer student, who has successfully developed a comprehensive two-week history-theatre camp curriculum. We are eager to offer this engaging program to students next year, providing them with a unique opportunity to connect with our industrial heritage. In addition to her work on the camp materials, Madeleine continued the important task of archiving our extensive collection housed at the Waterford Heritage and Agriculture Museum.

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for a special Cockshutt exhibit set to open this November. Under the capable leadership of our Director, Rob Adlam, we are confident that the exhibit will shed light on the rich industrial history of our region and provide a valuable learning experience.

I am thrilled to introduce our newest team member, Jazmin Beddard, who has joined us as the Administrative Coordinator. Jazmin brings a wealth of expertise and experience in heritage management and conservation to our organization. Her insights and skills will undoubtedly be instrumental in advancing our mission and objectives.

One of the most exciting developments this summer was the approval of the **Trillium Resilient Community Grant** which will enable us to embark on a collaborative project with local museums in Brantford, Waterford, and Paris. Together, we will develop and rotate a series of three interactive multi-usage pop-up exhibitions focused on industrial heritage. By collaborating with our fellow museums, we aspire to encourage more people to visit and engage with the rich industrial heritage of our communities. These interactive exhibits will not only celebrate the stories of industry, people, and the environment but also foster a deeper appreciation for our shared heritage.

Thank you for your dedication to the CIHC, and together, let's continue to celebrate and preserve our industrial heritage.

Warm regards,

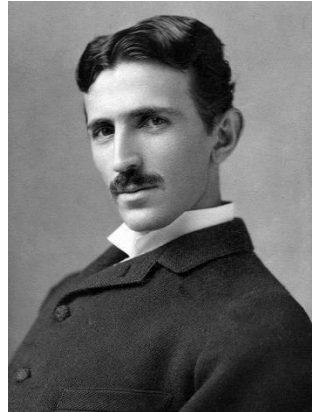
Christina Han

DID YOU KNOW?

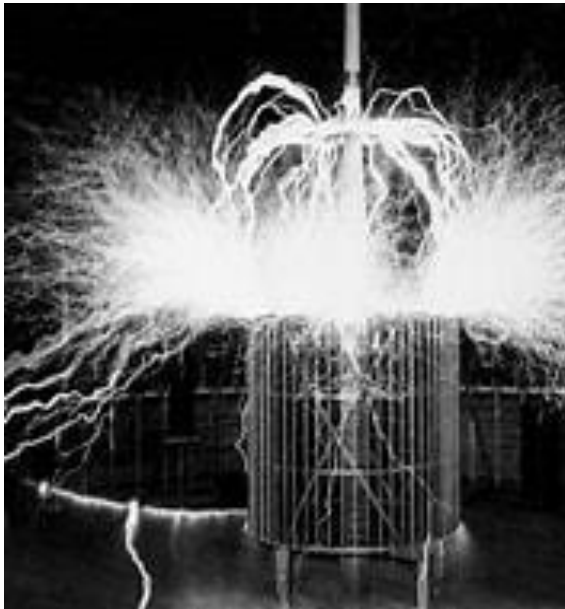
NICOLA TESLA, ELECTRICITY AND NIAGARA FALLS POWER

Why is a popular luxury electric car named Tesla? Why was the term “tesla” given to the SI unit measure for field strength of magnets by the General Conference on Weights and Measures? Why was a rock band named Tesla? They were named after a Serbian-American named Nicola Tesla. Who was he and why was he important enough to be so honoured?

The answer: Tesla was a genius - an inventor, electrical engineer, mechanical engineer, physicist and a visionary behind some of the world's greatest technological achievements. He patented over 300 inventions around the world in his lifetime, including 112 in the United States and seven in Canada. He is best known for contributing to the design of the modern alternating current which is used today to provide electricity to everyone.



When very young Nicola enjoyed inventing gadgets and toys. As a young man he received polytechnical training in engineering, and was commended for his brilliance. He began to think of alternating current and worked on it whenever he had time.

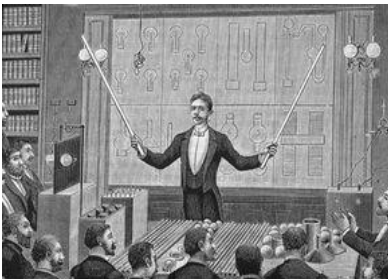


In 1882 he began working for Thomas Edison's company in France. Soon after he moved to the New York City and continued to work for Edison where he solved some of the company's most difficult problems. Edison did not accept the theory of alternating current. When Edison did not compensate him adequately as promised, Tesla left and formed his own company. This parting of the ways led to a lasting war between the two parties.

The Tesla Coil

Tesla was nicknamed the “mad scientist” by the thousands of followers worldwide who observed or read about his showman-like scientific demonstrations of many seemingly miraculous inventions.

After a bad financial deal and digging ditches to survive, Tesla found investors to support his major project. He also used the money from his prolific inventions and patents to build laboratories to continue work on more inventions and experiments. In 1887, Tesla filed for seven U.S. patents covering a complete AC system including his induction motor, generators, transformers, transmission lines and lighting. Tesla's AC generator produced electricity by electromagnetic induction.



In 1888, Tesla delivered his first large public lecture about the benefits that alternating current could bring to the world.

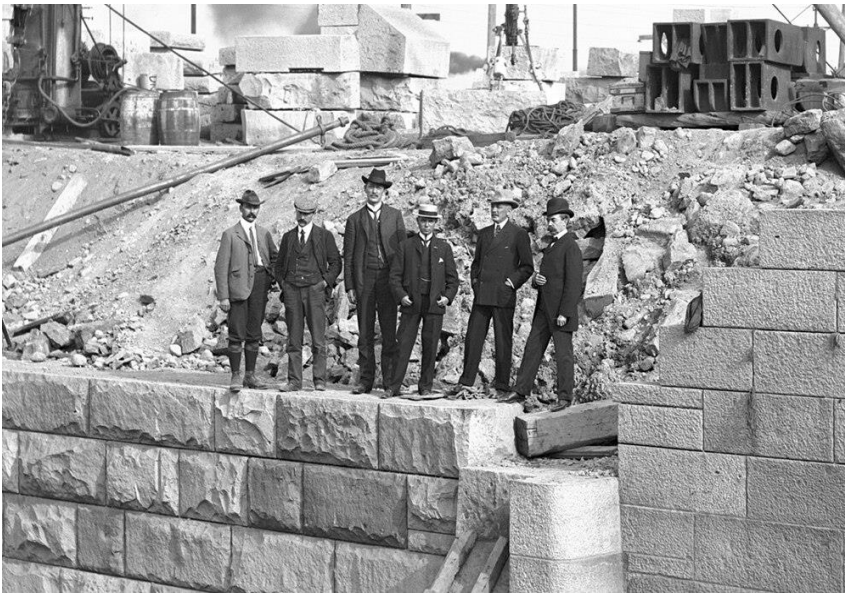
Engraving shows inventor Nikola Tesla delivering a lecture to the French Physical Society and The International Society of Electricians in the 1880s.

Kean Collection/Getty Images

George Westinghouse, an American engineer and entrepreneur, was in favour of his proposed alternating current system and needed the technology that Tesla was able to develop. The two reached an agreement in the summer of that same year and began to manufacture Tesla-based motors on a large scale. Their work introduced the concept of alternating current that changed the world. To generate electricity in a coil, either the coil should rotate with respect to a magnetic field, or a magnetic field should rotate with respect to the coil. The application would be made to power stations. The alternators inside the Niagara Parks Power Station used the latter approach. The armature coils remained stationary as the rotating magnetic flux associated with the rotor induced electricity in them.

Tesla and Westinghouse convinced the public enough that the theory of alternating current was superior to direct current, that their technology was chosen to light up 100,000 lightbulbs at the Chicago World's Fair attended by nearly 28 million people. The pair proved that alternating current technology was safe and efficient. Winning the contract for the 1893 World's Fair secured the future of alternating current and Westinghouse and Tesla continued to begin the next stage of electrical transmission development.

The application of their AC generator was used to harness the hydro power at Niagara Falls in New York and Canada. The key player American lawyer William Birch Rankine played a fundamental role in shaping the use of Niagara Falls for the production of electricity on both sides of the Niagara River. In 1889, inspired by the newly incorporated Niagara Falls Power Company on the American side of the Niagara River, Rankine sought potential investors in an effort to get involved in the exciting new power plant developments. He co-founded the Cataract Construction Company that same year and by 1892, at the age of 34, Rankine created the Canadian Niagara Power Company.



Rankine (pictured second from the right) was at the peak of his career by the time construction of the power station began in 1901

The Niagara Parks Power Station lasted many years with many improvements. It is now a museum leading the visitor through the large tunnel which was used to move the water to power the generator. Inside the Niagara Parks Power Station, nine of Tesla's patents shown include the **Electro Magnetic Motor**, the **Dynamo Electric Machine**, and **Electrical Transmission of Power**. His brilliant ideas had no boundaries..

Tesla had many dreams of how to use electricity. He believed that some day man

would be able to harvest energy in space. In 1904, backed by J.P. Morgan, he built the Wardenclyffe Plant, a tower on Long Island, where he hoped to demonstrate wireless transmission of electrical energy across the Atlantic. As he aged some of his extreme ideas were not accepted by scientists and his fame faded. He claimed he invented death rays and an electrical system that could be free to the world by using the earth as a conductor.

Among his inventions were Rotating Magnetic Field (1882), AC Motor (1883), Tesla coil (1890), and Radio (1897) although Guglielmo Marconi was given the actual credit.

Tesla was not a good businessman. Although many of his patents were used by Westinghouse, Tesla spent his last years impoverished. He received a pension from Westinghouse of \$125 per month and his rent was paid at the New Yorker Hotel. Never married, he spent his days feeding his favorite pigeons in the park. After a terrible fall, he temporarily recovered, but died on January 7th, 1943.

After his death, honours poured in. Museums, statues and plaques have been created around the world to honour this genius.



This statue, created by sculptor Les Drysdale of Hamilton pictures Tesla holding a top hat, with his coattails blowing in the wind (he always dressed immaculately), holding a cane with a pigeon carved in the handle, pointing to the generator he is standing upon. The statue is 15 feet tall and weighs over a ton. It is located in Victoria Park in Niagara Falls, Canada.

We hope see this and the tunnel Museum on a future field trip.

Keep Posted!

See <https://www.niagarafallstourism.com/site/assets/files/33843/tesla.1200x800.jpg> for another view.



The Roots of Eagle Place project which is still being developed was funded mainly by a *New Horizons Grant* which ended earlier this year. More Eagle Place events will follow and research added to our website. See further announcements.

Eagle Place Reflections 1910-1944: An Interview With Patricia Fedak

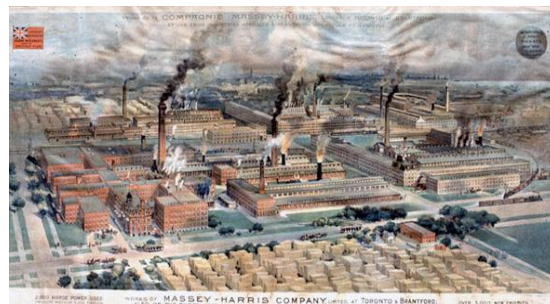
Interviewed by Jean Farquharson

THE LIFE OF A MASSEY HARRIS EMPLOYEE'S FAMILY

In 1910 my grandfather James Henry Beckham (1868-1944) moved with his family of seven daughters and one son from Woodstock where he had worked in a piano factory, then a flour mill as an engineer and fireman. He was listed as a blacksmith when he took out a mortgage and moved into 70 Eagle Ave in Eagle Place. Eagle Avenue was then called Wallace Street in Cockshutt's Survey of Parkdale in the Township of Brantford (1902).

James Beckham worked at Massey Harris Co Ltd Verity works for 20 or 30 years, I believe as a night watchman in his later years. Later his son Gene also worked at Massey Harris.

When Gene and his family moved from Brantford to Burtch, he carpooled with 4 other men who lived in Oakland and who also worked at Massey Harris. Like many of the workers, he used scrap materials from the mill to fashion presents for his family. His daughter has a knife he made while working there.



James Henry Beckham, a very religious man, held daily family prayer in the living room after lunch. A good family man, he had a great sense of humor which all his children inherited. Wages were extended to provide for them by James resoling everyone's shoes using a shoe lathe -- a necessity with eight children! The bountiful backyard vegetable garden provided fresh, healthy food and beautiful climbing roses on a trellis decorated the front yard. I recall him often sitting next to a radio listening to the news and always treating any visiting children with peanuts or candy. He was always a practical joker. For instance, when I was about four years old, I was shocked to discover he planted mustard in my baby Wetums doll.

WORKING AT PATERSON'S CANDY FACTORY



In 1863, H.B. Leeming and William Paterson established a wholesale confectionery and cigar manufactory. It was located on Colborne Street, near the Lorne Bridge, where the recent CTS project was supposed to locate. The firm had a large number of women employees, some of whom are pictured here on the roof of the factory. What makes this picture an interesting Brantford shot is the background skyline. The old firehall is in the background and to the right is the cupola that used to be part of the Expositor building.

Several of James Beckham's daughters (my aunts and my mother) worked at Paterson's Candy Factory next to the King Edward Hotel. Both buildings are now gone. My aunt Martina (born 1898), shown standing on left, wrote in her memoirs that she went to work at Paterson's at age 14 years, was paid 4 cents an hour, \$2.40 a week and paid \$1.00 a week board to her parents where she lived with all her siblings.

At that time there was a boardwalk through Eagle Place with a carbon light at every street corner. The streetcar went as far as Tutela Park which was only halfway home. Since the tickets cost her 8 for 25 cents, she would walk the whole way.

In those days, most kids left school at the end of Grade 8, having passed the entrance exam.

My mother, Dorsey, also went to work

at Paterson's after grade 8. She was a chocolate dipper and was the pitcher for the women's softball team. She enjoyed shopping at the ladies clothing stores on Colborne Street where they would allow her to take several dresses home to try on and return what she did not want. Trust that to happen nowadays! Dorsey was able to buy her own car, a model T Ford which had a rumble seat. Later as a child I remember riding in it. Cars lasted then! It is my understanding that married women were not allowed to work there so my mother kept her elopement to Don Gullen a secret.

My aunt Rita also worked at Paterson's and met her future husband Harold Simmons who worked there as did their son Ron Simmons in later years, although most employees were women. Harold and Ron worked in the marshmallow room. Ron went on to become a foreman and worked there for 20 or more years. In discussions with family members I was told a story from Ron's wife about one of the male workers harassing the women and they got fed up and dumped him on a sticky caramel flavoured candy conveyer belt.



Source Brantford Expositor
Although sold to the Weston chain in the 1920s, Paterson's candy factory continued to operate at the same location on Colborne Street until the mid-1970s. The majority of its employees were women and some of them are pictured here at work in 1962 on one of the factory's assembly lines.

LIFE IN EAGLE PLACE DURING WORLD WAR II

In my immediate family my father worked at the Cockshutt Moulded Aircraft Plant during World War II. We lived at 45 Emily Street in Eagle Place and had several boarders who came to do war work from other parts of Canada. Two of them, sisters Ann and Norah came from somewhere in the west to work at Cockshutts. They were lovely girls and became like family and were friends for many years. Workers at the Moulded Aircraft Plant often took home interesting scraps of wood left over from making planes. My father made a gorgeous jewel box for my mother from left over wood scraps. He was an excellent carpenter for most of his life.



My uncle Bob Penny also worked in the Cockshutt Moulded Aircraft Plant and became a foreman. In later years I found a small booklet of his with instructions on "How to Supervise Women." It instructed the boss how to treat the women gently to prevent them from crying. Uncle Bob had a beautiful bass voice and belonged to the Cockshutt men's choir. He also made a jewel box for his wife.

Another incident I recall was the excitement when during the war a plane

flew over dropping some kind of leaflets. I do not know what they said, just the memory of the air full of flying pages and the terrific noise and nearness of the plane overhead.

We left Eagle Place in 1944 to move to the country where my father used his carpentry skills to build us a brand new house. Being a good citizen, he served as a school trustee. I remember him bursting into the country one room school shared by children in eight grades to announce "The War is over... and everyone may go home"!



THE DIVERSITY OF GENEALOGY IN SETTLEMENT ALONG THE GRAND RIVER

REPORT ON CIHC's PARTICIPATION IN THE OGS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

One of CIHC's policies is to partner with other groups. The OGS/Ontario Families Virtual Conference occurred on September 8th, 9th and 10th, 2023. Beginning in 2022, CIHC Directors Ray Wright and Jean Farquharson represented CIHC on the *OGS Ontario Ancestors Planning Committee*, attending weekly Zoom meetings. Their jobs were to contribute names of possible speakers for the 24 sessions and the keynote speaker and obtain local sponsors. Jean wrote an article for May and August (2023) issues of *OGS Families* on the theme of the conference. A leader of the *Genealogy Lounge*, a Conference "chat session", visited Brantford for orientation on the Conference theme. Jean gave him a bird's-eye heritage tour of Brantford area and Ray toured him through the OGS Brant Branch Library.

Our keynote speaker, archeologist Dr. Gary Warrick (Laurier Brantford) spoke about indigenous history on the Grand, a "grand" start to the conference.

Two of CIHC's Directors spoke at the Conference: Bill Darfler's presentation was *Two Hundred Years of the Haldimand Proclamation: A Proposal*. The proposal is to create a badly needed all-encompassing book about the Grand River to celebrate the proclamation's anniversary 11 years from now. He proposed chapters for the book and asked for volunteers to *Help Make It Happen*. This was followed by a slide presentation of historic sites along the Grand.

Christina's *Spatial Genealogy of Early Armenian and Italian Industrial Workers in Brantford* showed a layered map, created using statistical records and censuses, to compare the Italian and Armenian immigrant people as they entered Brantford between 1900 and 1920 -- the numbers, where they lived, where they worked. Christina added newspaper clippings which gave glimpses of the social life of the people. **Right on for CIHC!**

SEPTEMBER EVENT

Brantford's annual "Memories of Immigrant Communities Ukrainian event September 23-24.



CIHC is again partnering with the Brant Historical Society, Brant Theatre Workshops, Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre and Laurier Brantford in Brantford's annual "Memories of Immigrant Communities" project, this year on **Brantford's Ukrainian Community**. It is expanding this year with a full schedule of events on Saturday September 23 and 24. With the first known immigrants arriving in 1901, the contributions of the Ukrainian community have been significant.

On September 23, this year's events begin with a **HISTORICAL BUS TOUR** of significant Ukrainian locations in Brantford created by Brian Moore and Bill Darfler. The first tour at 1:30 is translated into Ukrainian and the second tour at 3:00 is in English. Both tours depart from the Brant County Museum at 57 Charlotte St.

At 2:45 our museum exhibit curated by Dr. Christina Han, **"GOLDEN FIELDS AND BLUE SKIES"** will have its grand opening at the Brant County Museum.

At 4:00 the action moves to the Laurier Academic Centre with **UKRAINIAN MUSIC** in the lobby. The music will be provided by Ukrainian Folk Singer, Tanita Nova followed by Cello and Piano music by Natalia Vilkovska and Christina Han.

At 5:15 an authentic **UKRAINIAN DINNER** will be served and at 6:30 we will hear about the **UKRAINIAN EXPERIENCE** in Brantford in the Stephen Kun theatre.



At 7:00 Brant Theatre Workshops will present the premiere of their original play, **HOMELESS, A BRANTFORD AND UKRAINIAN STORY**. On September 24 the Museum will be open at 1:00 with the "Golden Fields and Blue Skies" exhibit. At 2:00 Folk Singer Tanita Nova will sing her folk songs at the Stephen Kun Theatre followed by Brant Theatre Workshops performance of Homeless, A Brantford and Ukrainian Story.

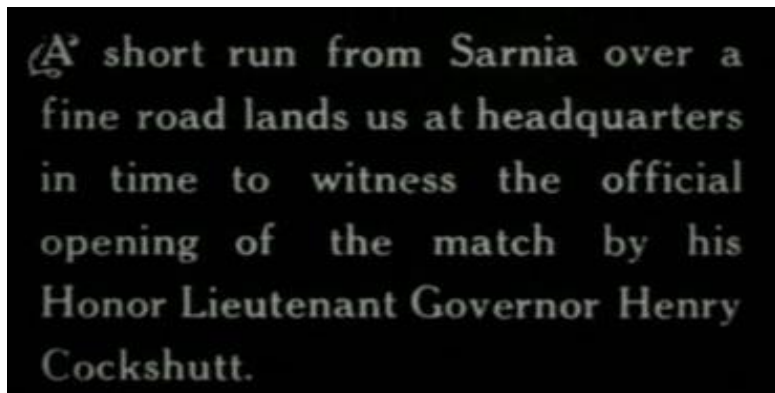
Admission to all events are by donation with the exception of Dinner (\$20) and the Bus tour (\$15). To register, or to find out more information, please visit branttheatre.com/memories. For further information call Peter Muir at 226-938-1930 or email btheatre@rogers.com.

NOVEMBER EVENT

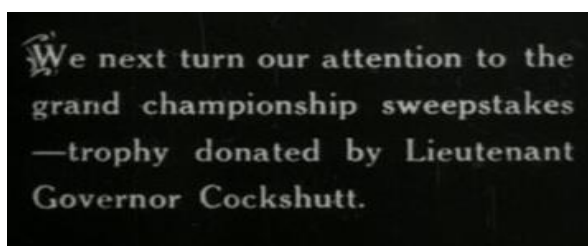
Cockshutt Plow Company Highlight Exhibit Opening in November

The latest collaboration event to be produced between the CIHC and the Waterford Heritage & Agricultural Museum will be an exhibit that will highlight the history of the International Plowing Match, plows produced by the Cockshutt Plow Co., and Waterford area competitive plowman, William Lemery.

The exhibit will launch on Saturday, November 4 with a special opening ceremony. Guests will hear presentations on the legacy of the International Plowing Match and the special relationship of the Cockshutt Plow Co. with this mainstay event in rural life, as well as Cockshutt featured products and users, such as William Lemery. Visitors will be able to experience his history through a variety of Cockshutt artifacts, images, and period video footage from the 1920s and 1940s. As a major implement manufacturer, Cockshutt plows had been regularly used in competition at the International Plowing Match since its first event in 1913. During the period of 1921- 1927 this connection was enhanced by the presence and



participation of Colonel Harry Cockshutt, in his role as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. In his capacity as the Vice-Regal representative of the Crown, he would attend the annual plowing match and mingle with the public. In this same era the Government of Ontario operated a film branch that captured and communicated news and events of the day that were of public interest. The CIHC is fortunate to have certain copies of these films in its collection that cover the International Plowing match.



Ontario Government
film footage of the
1923 International
Plowing Match held in
Sarnia, Ontario.



The exhibit will also showcase an example of a Cockshutt model 17A single furrow walking plow that was developed by the company in the 1930s. This plow was specifically designed for competition.



The model 17A Competition Plow (above), developed by Cockshutt in the 1930s will be a focal point of the display.

Film images of the Cockshutt Plow Co. display at the 1941 Plowing Match in Peterborough (right) and William Lemery competing with Cockshutt equipment (lower right).

The exhibit will be on display at the Waterford Heritage & Agricultural Museum, 159 Nichol St., Waterford, Ontario until the end of February, 2024. Further updates and announcements will be made in the upcoming weeks

The achievements of Waterford area competitive plowman William Lemery will be honoured, with a focus on his involvement in the International Plowing Match of 1941, held in Peterborough, Ontario.

Mr. Lemery competed in this match with a Cockshutt tractor and plow. Members of the Lemery family have graciously loaned photos and other memorabilia for display.



Cotributed by Rob Adlam

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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
- Liaise with other national and regional heritage groups

MEMBERSHIP STATUS - **RENEWAL** ☐ **NEW** ☐ **DATE:** ____ / ____ / 202__

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

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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** ☐ **OnLine** ☐

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.