



SEPTEMBER 2022

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 is the microcosm which mirrors the macrocosm which represents the evolution of industry across Canada.

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

Our website and the TICCIH Canada website are being re-structured and combined and might not be available for awhile. Look for our launch this fall.

www.canadianindustrialheritage.com

www.ticcihcanada.org

Please send submissions or inquiries to:

info@canadianindustrialheritage.com

COMING EVENTS

Mark your Calendar

Brantford's Chinese Community
October 22nd. See ad on page 2

CIHC 20th Birthday Event Nov. 5th,
11:30 -1:30 at Canadian Military
Heritage Museum

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Partners of the CIHC,

I hope everyone is enjoying the nice fall weather. Throughout the summer, our directors and summer employees worked hard on a number of projects. All three summer students successfully completed their work terms. The educational, archival, and promotional materials they created will be shared on our new website, scheduled to launch in November, in time for our 20th anniversary!

End of August, I had the pleasure of attending the **TICCIH Congress** in Montreal. We were one of the key partners for the event held at the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM). Our Chairperson John Kneale, his wife and our member Cheryl, and myself represented the CIHC at the event. I was asked to chair a two-part session entitled "Industry Rediscovered: Technical Knowledge as Critical to Understanding Industrial Sites in Eastern Canada." Each session included three enlightening presentations by scholars and experts specializing in industrial history of Eastern Canada. Both sessions were well-attended, and we had a lively discussion afterwards. I hope to invite some of the presenters as guest speakers for our lectures and workshops in the future.

John and I had a chance to interact with TICCIH delegates and members from all around the world. The Congress truly was an eye-opening experience for me. Most importantly, I was encouraged by the dedication and hard work of all the attendees who strive to preserve and promote industrial heritage in their country and region. I also came to learn that despite not having a physical home, compared to other industrial heritage organizations, the CIHC has done amazing work in creating educational programs and events particularly during the pandemic. I shared about our latest projects with the Congress attendees, and many were inspired by our work, especially our projects on industrial workers and immigrant communities, and our collaboration with Brant Theatre Workshops. This newsletter includes updates on some of these high-value projects.

We will be celebrating our **20th anniversary** on November 5, Saturday, 11:30am-1:30pm at the **Canadian Military Heritage Museum**. We have an exciting afternoon of celebration planned for our members and the community at large. I want to thank you for your continued support for the CIHC and hope to see you all at our anniversary event!

Christina

REPORT FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Congratulations to our President Christina – she has been appointed with an additional role as Director of the **Laurier Hub for Community Solutions**.

Christina has been keeping us very busy this summer, with many exciting activities coming up!

Don't miss our exciting *Brantford Chinese Immigrant Experience* on October 22nd, including a Chinese orchestra -WOW!

CIHC is starting to make plans for holding a conference in Brantford, probably in February. Watch for more news.

Also, we have been invited by **Ontario Ancestors (Ontario Genealogical Society)** to participate in their **Annual Conference** in June 2023 which will be held virtual and onsite at the Best Western in Brantford. The theme is **"The Settlement Along the Grand."**

Our theme in this newsletter is Labour Day, labour unions, strikes and the workers in Eagle Place, and Massey's decline and exit from Brantford. Thanks to the Directors and Sharyl Hudson for their contributions.

Watch for our new logo.

Jean Farquharson, Editor

PRESS RELEASE! For Immediate Release – September 13, 2022

LAUNDRIES, CHOPSTICKS, MEDICINE!

IMMIGRANT MEMORIES OF BRANTFORD
SATURDAY OCT 22, 2022

If you can't go to China, the Chinese will come to you! CHINA'S EXTRAORDINARY IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE is coming to Brantford, Ontario on October 22, 2022 to the BRANT COUNTY MUSEUM, 57 Charlotte Street, Brantford, Ontario.

Brant Theatre Workshops (BTW), the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre (CIHC), Laurier Brantford and the Brant Historical Society are sponsoring this event. These same partners enlivened the Jewish immigrant experience in 2019 which attracted the attention of the CBC and filled the Stephen Kun Theatre at Laurier Brantford while breaking all attendance records at the Brant County Museum. In 2021 "Immigrant Memories of Brantford" brought "The Italians Arrival" to Brantford's "Rossini Lodge" and a packed house. We are proud to announce our next event – A CELEBRATION OF

Immigrant MEMORIES OF BRANTFORD

CHINESE Community
移民往事

Saturday 22-OCTOBER-2022

BRANT MUSEUM & ARCHIVES 57 Charlotte St	LAURIER BRANTFORD Research & Academic Centre - West Building 150 Dalhousie St
2:30 Laundries Chopsticks Medicine - Museum Exhibit Opening	3:30 Grand River Chinese Orchestra
2:45 Heritage Walk	5:00 Dinner & Multimedia Display
4:00 Heritage Walk	6:00 Video Highlights
	6:30 Welcome & Lecture
	7:00 Play - Tomb Sweeping

memoriesofbrantford.ca
For tickets visit branttheatre.com/memories

CIHC Brant theatre workshops LAURIER Inspiring Lives. BRANT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Your History Matters

Ontario Samuel W. Stedman Foundation

BRANTFORD'S CHINESE COMMUNITY: A day long theatrical/heritage experience. To create this incredible event the Chinese Memories Committee has interviewed Chinese elders and combed through hundreds of historical documents.

We begin with the live exhibit titled, “Laundries, Chopsticks, Medicine” where you will witness Brantford through the eyes of the earliest Chinese immigrants who settled here. Next, HISTORICAL WALKING tours hosted by Brian Moore will be happening throughout the day which culminates in a concert by the Grand River Chinese Orchestra, food, video, and “Tombsweeping” – a play which celebrates the Chinese annual Qingming Festival and celebration of life.

Register online at www.branttheatre.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 226.938.1930 | BRANT THEATRE WORKSHOPS: Artistic Director – Peter Muir or 519.761.0781 General Manager – Sharyl Hudson

TOMB SWEEPING, also called “The Qingming Festival” usually falls in the spring of each new year. It is associated with a public holiday in China from April 3 to April 5. Families go to the graveyards of their ancestors to sweep tombs and commemorate the past. It is a sign of great respect to ancestors. The Qingming Festival started in the Zhou Dynasty (1046-221BC), and has a history of over 2,500 years. It originated from the extravagant ceremonies that many emperors and wealthy officials held in honor of their ancestors. They offered sacrifices and beseeched their ancestors to bless the country with prosperity, peace and good harvests. In Chinese, Qingming means ‘clearness’ and ‘brightness’. At the beginning of the spring, it becomes noticeably warmer and brighter. The day before Tomb Sweeping Day was the traditional Chinese ‘Cold Food Day’. On the day of the cold food festival, people used no fire and ate only cold food. The custom of eating cold food has been passed on to the Qingming Festival.

The traditional Qingming foods include sweet green rice balls, peach blossom porridge, crispy cakes, Qingming snails and eggs. These foods are usually cooked in one or two days before the arrival of the festival. In the play titled “Tomb Sweeping”, produced by Brant Theatre Workshops and directed by Peter Muir, we begin with a Chinese family who meets at the graveyard to honour the passing of their grandparents during Qingming.

They tell stories of the sacrifices and hardships of those Chinese who emigrated to a young Canada. Through these stories, the grandchildren come to know the strength of their grandparents, the triumphs and the tragedies, and the resilience of all those who came before.

Sharyl Hudson

REPORT ON THE TICCIIH CONGRESS

August 28 to September 03, 2022.

John Kneale, Board Chairman of CIHC

TICCIIH is The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage. CIHC's President, Christina Han, and I attended the TICCIIH International Congress which was held this year in Montreal after two postponements. Delegates to the Congress were from all over the world, attracting over 300 registered delegates, less than the typical 400 to 500 but quite impressive in light of current travel restrictions and complications. Naturally the largest contingent was from Quebec.



Delegates' registration packages contained synopses of all the presentations at the Congress and detailed contact information on the presenters, as well as the complete program. This will be valuable reference information for CIHC since we are planning a conference for next year.

Theme of the Congress was ***Industrial Heritage Reloaded***. Participants were invited to take part in the renewal of research, policies and practices in industrial heritage, and discuss the future of industrial heritage. Topics included *Deindustrialization and the Politics of Our Time*.

I found all the presentations I attended to be of a routinely high quality. The Congress was well run and well attended but limited by its focus on Montreal and Quebec. One of the keynote speakers was a prominent representative of Parks Canada, whose lecture was billed as "A Glimpse of Industrial Heritage in Canada"; in fact, it was almost entirely about southern Quebec. Christina chaired two panels on Eastern Canada. The two sessions were well-received. One of our reasons for attending the Congress was to meet contacts, make people aware of CIHC and the need for TICCIH Canada to represent our industry from coast to coast; as well, to meet Dr. Miles Oglethorpe, President of TICCIH, from England. There were some prominent delegates from Canada, such as Steven High from Concordia and Susan Ross from Carleton. I had interesting discussions with both the American and Australian National Representatives, which could lead to useful cooperation.

I met Professor Lucie Morisset, organizer of the event and Canada Research Chair in Urban Heritage at l'Université du Québec à Montréal. In her opening remarks, Lucie thanked me and the CIHC board for our repeated offers to help with a tour of important industrial heritage sites in Ontario, though in the end this had to be canceled because of high participant costs.

For his part, Dr. Oglethorpe expressed interest in the CIHC project and in our long-standing efforts to create a national chapter of TICCIH. I will follow up with him by email. I'm a bit mystified as to what exactly is TICCIH's focus. In one short period they "officially" approved the regional event in Quebec and an earlier conflicting thematic or sectoral event in Petrolia, Ontario, the Fairbanks' Heritage Oilfield site, which was to be part of our Ontario tour. What the role of CIHC should be and what we should focus on will be the main theme of my future communication with Dr. Oglethorpe.

John Kneale, Board Chairman CIHC

WE ARE CELEBRATING THREE BIRTHDAYS IN 2022!

CIHC was invited by the **Paris Museum and Historical Society** to set up a display at **An Afternoon in the Park** on Sunday, afternoon on September 18, at the **Lion's Park** Pavilion in Paris.

Jean prepared displays to help celebrate the **Paris Museum and Historical Society's 50th Anniversary**, **CIHC's 20th Anniversary** and the **opening of the gypsum mines in Paris 200 years ago**. Christina and Peter were introduced to the audience and each gave a talk to introduce CIHC and our projects and to celebrate. Winners of CIHC memberships: David Bailey and Jason Jones.



AND THE WINNER IS.....AT THE ANNUAL LABOUR DAY SOAP BOX DERBY

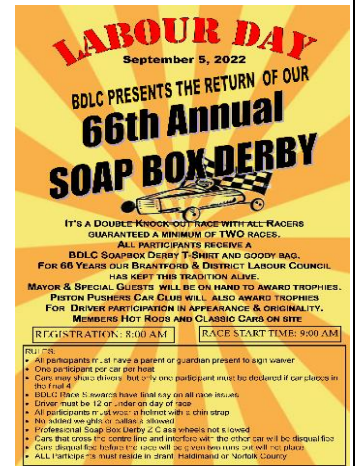


The **Brant District Labour Council** held its annual **Soap Box Derby** on September 5 to celebrate **Labour Day**. Crowds lined ICOM Drive. The weatherman cooperated with rain sprinkling just before and after but not during the event, with a cool breeze reminding us that fall is almost here.

CIHC accepted an invitation from **Brantford District Labour Council** to set up our tent with a display and handouts. President Christina Han, and Directors Bill Darfler, Peter Muir and Jean Farquharson were on hand to greet visitors which included Brantford Councillors Carpenter and VanTilborg, and Mandy Samwell , a “Brantford Councillor hopeful” who is also President of

the **Eagle Place Neighbourhood Association**.

Registration began at 8 a.m. and the runs began at nine. By noon all the heats were over. There were 28 entries of soap boxes constructed of various materials, colours and shapes. Many proud parents, volunteers and visitors lined the drive at the new ramp and at various posts. After several heats, the two finalists were awarded cups donated by the Council and **Piston Pushers**. The **Piston Pushers** dominated the scene with their antique cars parked along ICOM Drive



The District Labour Council is helping CIHC interview labouring families who lived in **Eagle Place** when Brantford's industries were booming -- a project funded by a **New Horizons Grant**. With the grant, we plan to place the interviews on our new website and mount metal signs to relate Brantford's **INDUSTRY** on the fence surrounding our leased property at 66 Mohawk St. **If you can link us to a story, please contact Sharyl Hudson at shudsonmuir@gmail.com or 519-761-0781.**

LABOUR DAY – WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT? By Jean Farquharson

On the first Monday, every September, we look forward to the last holiday of the summer before school starts and we get busy with fall activities. But have we ever thought what **Labour Day** is all about? In the Brantford area, we celebrate with a **Soapbox Derby**. What has that to do with **Labour Day**?

The very first **Labour Day** was celebrated in 1882 in the U.S. and it became the first federal holiday in 1894. Manhattan held the first Labour Day parade with 20,000 people marching and celebrating. Canada followed suit with a national holiday. The history of labour and working classes dates away back in history, but issues became prominent during the **Industrial Revolution** when small mills evolved into huge factories.

In the changing economy the dream was that workers could hold steady jobs with a living wage which would pay enough for them to afford a comfortable home, a family and a better life for their children.

If workmen were lucky, their employers were good church-going folk like Ignatius Cockshutt and his family, who cared about their employees, gave them some respect, rewarded them for expected good work and their ideas to improve methods and products. They also sponsored immigrant workers and provided infrastructure and social needs as the towns grew. Some employers, however, fought tooth and nail to prevent any further costs which might affect their profits.

In the nineteenth and early 20th century, workers were required to work 10 or more hours every day except Sunday. Working conditions could be grimy, exhausting and very unhealthy, with hot polluted air making it hard to breathe, and many other unsafe conditions.

Canada's labour movement has a long history of improving workers' everyday lives. Their leaders fought for shorter working hours, better pay, health and safety protection, workman's compensation, pensions, childcare and many other features to make life more liveable.

In Toronto, in March, 1872, **Toronto Typographical Union** members walked off the job in an attempt to get a nine-hour day. With a crowd of 10,000 supporters at a rally at Queen's Park, arrests were made, but the community supported those arrested. This event instigated **Prime Minister John A. Macdonald** to introduce the **Trade Union Act**, legalizing and protecting unions. This in turn galvanized the movement for workers to form and join unions. Industries in Brantford thrived under Macdonald's **National Policy** which offered tariff protection. As well, agriculture in the West was opening up and demand was great for equipment. The big agricultural industries, Massey and Cockshutt in Brantford expanded quickly worldwide.

As times changed, fluctuating economic conditions led to unemployment and reduced wages. Some businesses thrived and others fell to the wayside. Unemployed people had to work in government camps to survive. The **Winnipeg General Strike** of 1919 brought police violence and deaths. Conditions inspired the public to introduce *unemployment insurance* by 1940. Windsor's Ford Strike in 1945 instigated *binding arbitration*.

In 1956 the **Canadian Labour Congress** was created. The time had come for a country-wide labour organization to help unions to work together around common goals. From the 60s to the 80s conditions fluctuated. See Craig Sitter's article below about **Massey Ferguson's** strike and fate.

The **Free Trade Agreement** in 1989 meant that protective tariffs no longer existed, and industries suffered tremendously. They had to compete with other countries where wages and costs were less. When markets shrank, the companies faced money problems. Employment went into a tailspin, factories closed or moved elsewhere. Workers' protests and strikes dominated the scene. The recession of 1992-3 began to take hold in Brantford's economy, and by 1994 unemployment increased to 14%. Politicians looked desperately for help. They applied for funding for a building to centralize services for workers.

With Federal and municipal help, the **Brantford District Labour Centre** was completed by 1995. It houses the **Brantford District Labour Council**, a non-profit organization which gives workers a one-stop centralized access to services -- agencies such as employment, legal services, the **Food Bank**, union offices and various other tenants, with a double classroom, boardroom and breakaway room for the use of tenants and community partners. CIHC is working with BDLC to gather the stories of workers and their families .




MASSEY FERGUSON LABOUR STRIFE IN BRANTFORD

Note: Craig is an expert on Massey Ferguson and has his own amazing collection. He was was an organizer at the annual Massey Ferguson event in Milton. Rob Adlam also prepared and manned a special display for CIHC. They will report in the next newsletter.

In the midst of a serious decline in sales of combines, **Massey Ferguson** proposed wage and benefit reductions to its 1,600 employees at its **North American Combine Plant** located in Brantford. As the three-year master agreement between Massey Ferguson and the **UAW** expired on September 1, 1983, and as the union failed to reach a new contract, picket lines were set up on September 8 and the plant ceased production. The **UAW** had offered a one year extension of the current agreement, with no monetary improvement, but that position had been rejected by the company. The strike was the first one incurred by Massey Ferguson in 10 years.



Amazingly, the strike was settled in less than 48 hours, as a result of almost continuous bargaining, and the picket lines disappeared. The old agreement was extended for two years, with no general wage increase, and a reduction in a bonus for good work attendance. However, the cost-of living provision in the old contract remained, which was poised to gradually increase the average assembler's wage rate of \$13.25 per hour.



This strike, and quick settlement, was but a step in the decline of the company's fortunes. Sales in the first six months of 1983 had fallen by 23%, and losses had been mounting up for the company since 1978. The company had indicated, prior to the negotiations, that despite the outcome, temporary layoffs were looming on the horizon. The facility's ability to produce product greatly exceeded the market demand, and considerable inventory was languishing on the ground. As we all know now, the facility was doomed, and now sits as a constant reminder, the words "Massey Ferguson" still ghosted on the exterior of what was the largest combine assembly plant in the world.

Director Craig Sitter

Johnny Cash In Eagle Place



One of the plays performed at the annual *Bell Summer Theatre Festival* is **Johnny Cash in Eagle Place**. This play is written by Peter Muir of Brant Theatre Workshops. Peter is also a Director of CIHC. The plans for an interpretive centre for industrial history at 66 Mohawk St. involves a partnership of CIHC with BTW to include an amphitheatre and indoor stage to produce plays such as this written locally to combine heritage and theatre. Peter's wife, Sharyl Hudson, also a member of CIHC, writes many of the plays and participates in the productions. BTW has existed for 17 years, producing plays locally, and touring provincially, nationally and internationally, and trains young actors through the educational community.

The Bell Summer Theatre Festival program includes a page sponsored by Brantford Labour Council, CIHC, BTW and Eagle Place Community

Association. We are soliciting help from the public in gathering the memories from Eagle Place of the workers and their families and the industrial history. "Help Us Find the Roots of Eagle Place."

Anyone who can help make connections is asked to contact Sharyl Hudson at 519-761-0781 or email shudson-muir@gmail.com. She has had great response so far.

The 32 degree humid heat wave of Sunday afternoon, August 7th, did not deter people from attending the last presentation of *Johnny Cash in Eagle Place*, a musical/historical drama about a group of people from Eagle Place who worked at Massey Ferguson Combines Plant during the 80s. These were the last difficult years before the plug was pulled and the company went belly-up in Brantford in 1988.



Dave Shakespeare Sings Johnny Cash

For the Bell Summer Theatre Festival, playwright and director, Peter Muir, has woven together the stories of Eagle Place working families with the music of Johnny Cash. Dave Shakespeare plays Jack in the play, a worker who idolizes and sings like Johnny Cash. "No, I Won't Back Down"; "These Are My People ... In Brotherhood"; "They were born and lived by the land, worked by hard-working hands" work into the theme of the play.

Joline is a secretary and represents the executives in the office. She relates the facts and statistics to show the company's worsening economic state and the decline in worldwide sales.

Layoffs, strikes, lockouts, opposition to scab labour, violence, and picketing at Massey Ferguson, and support to striking Chicago Rawhide workers to show union solidarity – all this is covered in the dark times and struggles of these Eagle

Place folk. It culminates in the shutdown of the plant. One day Boss "shows up on the doorstep drunker than a monkey's uncle" and with a gun. He announces "They shut us down! Sold out! It's over."

Sadly, in the struggle that follows, the gun goes off and Boss dies. An announcer on radio station CKPC relates the incident.

Massey combines Corporation closed down and 5000 workers lost their jobs and the older employees fought to obtain their pensions. In the recession of the 80s, 10,000 jobs are lost in Brantford as many of the businesses that had made Brantford a flourishing city closed down or moved away. Downtown Brantford becomes infamous as the worst downtown in Canada.

Over the years, times have changed and conditions improved. The tough people of Eagle Place have survived the hard times, and in the last scene of the play, the appearance of Joline's daughter graduating from Laurier University, Brantford campus, demonstrates that Brantford's future looks much better for the new generations.

There are many stories to be told by the people who have lived in Eagle Place. Please help us connect with them if you can.

Jean Farquharson

This newsletter is published by Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre, P.O. Box 23055, Brantford, Ontario, Canada N3T 6K4. Mail in a membership or join CIHC by using a credit card on our website:

<https://www.canadianindustrialheritage.com>. Keep updated with the latest events on our Facebook page.

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.