



*Learning from our past, building a strong future*

## President's Report

Dear Friends and Members of the CIHC,

I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful May weather.

I am thrilled to report the success of our Inaugural Virtual Symposium. Hosted over Zoom on March 16th, 2024, the event featured a list of distinguished speakers who delivered insightful presentations on the 3Rs of Industrial Heritage Renewal: Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Regeneration. For those who could not attend, the recording is now available on our website. I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported this important new initiative. Your participation and enthusiasm made it a truly memorable event.

We are also pleased to announce that the CIHC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Brantford regarding the ownership of historic Building Elements. These elements, which originated from various historic buildings within Brantford, include:

- Façade pieces from the former Esquire Theatre at 65 Colborne Street.
- Façade pieces from the former Adams Wagon Company at 22 Mohawk Street.
- Façade pieces from the former Cockshutt Plow Company at 66 Mohawk Street.
- A pallet of bricks from the Cockshutt Plow Company building at 66 Mohawk Street.

The CIHC will incorporate these elements into our future facility at the 66 Mohawk Street Site, preserving and showcasing Brantford's rich industrial heritage. I would like to thank our Director, Rob Adlam, for his leadership and help with this important milestone. (Cont'd on page 2)

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](http://www.canadianindustrialheritage.com)

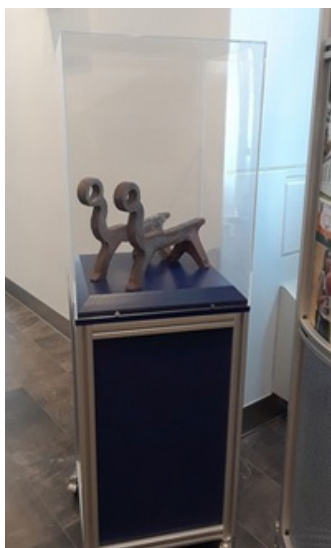
Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/CanadianIndustrialHistory>

We are responsible for the TICCIH Canada website at  
[www.ticcihcanada.org](http://www.ticcihcanada.org)

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[info@canadianindustrialheritage.com](mailto:info@canadianindustrialheritage.com)

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Van Brocklin andirons

I am also excited to announce the upcoming exhibit at City Hall, which will feature a set of cast iron fireplace andirons made in Van Brocklin's foundry circa 1845. The Van Brocklin foundry, established on Dalhousie Street in 1844, is considered to be the starting point of Brantford's Industrial Heritage.

These andirons, marked with "P. C. VAN BROCKLIN – BRANTFORD C.W. (Canada West)," were used in the Waterous family home for over a century and are the oldest known pieces from the original Van Brocklin foundry. The unveiling will take place on June 24 at City Hall. I would again like to extend my sincere thanks to Director Rob Adlam for his research and curation.

Our pop-up exhibit, funded by the Ontario Trillium Resilient Community grant, will open on June 22 at the Paris Museum and Historical Society. More information can be found on page 7 of this newsletter, and details will be available on our website soon.

Lastly, our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for Saturday, June 29th at 10:00am via Zoom. The AGM package will be made available to all members. This is an important opportunity for us to reflect on our achievements, discuss future plans, and elect new board members.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to preserving our industrial heritage.

Warm regards,

Christina Han  
President

## DID YOU KNOW?

Alexander Graham Bell's original invention of the telephone could not have been developed unless there were people making more sophisticated applications than connecting two people by fence wire.

In Brantford area one man was responsible for phone manufacture, and others for connecting the phone lines to many peoples' phones using exchange systems as its use expanded from local to worldwide.

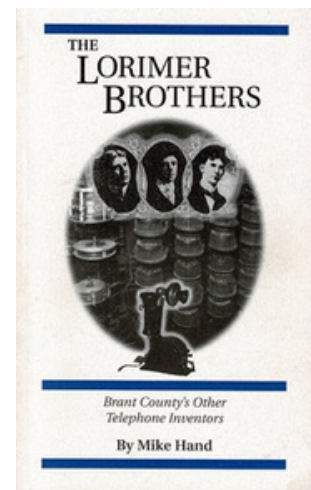


## **The Manufacture of the Telephone**

Alexander G. Bell was acquainted with young James Cowherd, a Brantford scientist talented in electricity. When Bell needed someone to manufacture the telephone, he sent for James to come to Boston to supervise its development. In 1878 James returned to Brantford and set up a shop on Wharfe St. below Market Square where he began manufacturing Bell's invention. Unfortunately, Cowherd developed tuberculosis and died at the age of 31. The building has since been torn down.

## **The Lorimer Brothers Launch a Canadian Switching System**

At first, telephone systems were developed with small exchanges run by operators linking customers manually. See one in the Brant Museum and Archives. Then as systems grew in number, switching systems were developed to link customers within a system, and by long distance to various other systems. As telephone companies grew, manual connections linked customers they needed to interconnect their increasing number of customers using switches. Manual exchanges had to be replaced by automatic switches which would connect customers speedily. Inventors competed to develop them.



In St. George, the Lorimer brothers became interested in telephone switching. In Brantford, Romaine Callender had founded the Callender Telephone Exchange Company. He employed George and Hoyt Lorimer to develop a series of switching systems with patents from 1892-1896. Unfortunately all failed. They went with Callender to New York and helped him develop the Callender Exchange which put through 12 calls automatically. They returned to Brantford, and Callender went off to England, leaving the brothers on their own. Continuing their research, they opened up their own company, the Canadian Machine Telephone Company in 1897. They worked in Brantford and Peterborough.

They developed a primitive model with a company in Ohio, the American Machine Telephone, and in 1900, began to manufacture and sell the model with their own patent in Canada and U.S. The switching system handled 6000 lines and they hoped to expand to 10,000. By 1905, they found a major customer in Edmonton to demonstrate their product. However, production was too slow and they lost out to a competitor with an inferior product. When they tried again in France, they were slow and unable to deliver. They declared bankruptcy in 1923. After they were placed in receivership, Bell bought them out. Their work was not in vain. The concept of their invention has been used by Bell, A.T. & T. and Western Electric for many years.

If you wish to read a more detailed story of the Lorimer Brothers, you may order the book *The Lorimer Brothers*, written by one of CIHC's members, Mike Hand, from our website.



## 150TH BELL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN 2024

Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone is being celebrated in Brantford this year after 150 years.

Here are highlights of the events planned by Brian Wood, curator of the Bell Homestead, which is a National Historic Site run by the City of Brantford:

### **Schedule for the “Thanks Mr. Bell” 150th Anniversary of the Telephone Celebration**

- July 26th, 7:00pm, Harmony Square – Music in the Square featuring a Tribute to the Telephone by the Avalon Music Academy of Brantford
- July 27th, 1:00pm to 4:00pm, Bell Homestead NHS – 150th Garden Party featuring:
  - Ribbon Cutting of “Life on the Line: The Evolution of the Bell Telephone”, the museum's new telephone exhibition gallery.
  - Book Launch – My Dear Aleck: Selected Letters of the Bell Family, 1878-1881, the 4th and final book in the Bell Letters series.
  - Performance of dance celebrating the 150th anniversary of the telephone choreographed by Elsie Myers Martin, great granddaughter of Alexander Graham Bell, and performed by the Academy of Dance, Brantford.
  - Musical entertainment by the Telephone City Music Society and AILM+Celtic Musicians
- July 27th, 7:30pm, Bell Homestead NHS – “Helen, Annie and Alec”, produced and performed by Brant Theatre Workshops.
- July 28th, 9:00am to 4:00pm, Harmony Square – Telephone Trail Trek Challenge – an 18km walk, run, bike along the trail from Brantford to Paris, celebrating the world's first successful long-distance telephone call by Alexander Graham Bell. The event finishes at the Paris Museum & Historical Society at the Syl Apps Centre.



The Telegraph Office in Paris

- Summer Music Series and day camps will also follow the 150th theme.
- Lorne Park will be planted in celebration of the 150th and pole banners placed on Veteran's Memorial Parkway.
- Renovation of the new telephone exhibit gallery began during this period. A small telephone exhibit has been installed in the visitor centre in the meantime.





## THE ARMENIAN IMMIGRANTS

On March 23rd, we had a preview event of this year's project on Brantford's Armenian immigrants, which was held at the Brant Military Heritage Museum.

Master of Ceremonies Peter Muir introduced Bill Darfler who outlined his research about the Armenians' serious struggle to survive and reach a new safe home in Brantford. By 1908, there were 520 in Brantford, but since then, many families have moved away.

Published history of Armenians in Brantford is scarce. Using unusual sources, Nathan Etherington, Curator at the Brant Museum and Archives, pieced together their story fitting together details about the families by using censuses, Brantford city directories, glass photographic plates, newspaper articles, and advertisements. He created a map to show where they lived in Brantford. Following his presentation, the audience then sampled a colourful, tasty lunch prepared by a Toronto Armenian restaurant.

Peter and his Brant Theatre Workshop team of performers gave a smooth, well-acted reading of the new play "Me, You and the Armenian" that Peter has written and is directing, and the group are interpreting for the big event on September 28th and 29th. Delighted Armenian members of the audience contributed with corrected pronunciation of names.

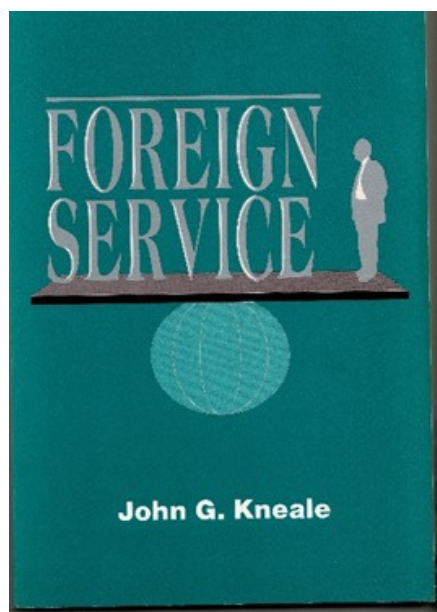


Peter (Right) and his team during the reading of "Me, You and the Armenian"

Christina Han will prepare a display which will open in Brant Museum and Archives on September 28th. Brian Moore will lead a tour of downtown Brantford while telling the Armenian stories. There will be food again, music and videos, followed by the play.

Committee members of the Immigrant Memories of Brantford are looking for people who have Armenian stories to tell. Their interviews are being recorded and made available on the group's website <https://memoriesofbrantford.ca/>. Also look For some videos already online which can be accessed at <http://branttheatre.com/memories/>. If you have something to contribute, contact Peter Muir at [btheatre@rogers.com](mailto:btheatre@rogers.com).

This event is made possible through funding by The Ontario Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility and the participating organizations – Brant Historical Society, Laurier, and CIHC. To sign up for this event in September, check at Brant Theatre Workshop's website <http://branttheatre.com>



## **CIHC DIRECTORS - WHO ARE WE?**

Board Chair: John Kneale

I joined the board of the CIHC as a director in 2009 at the invitation of Donna Stewart. She and a little band of supporters were trying to build on the success of the Cockshutt Homecoming, held in 2001, which had made plain the strength of local feelings about the manufacturing companies that had given jobs to so many people and produced so many fine products for a hundred years.

I had grown up in Brantford, attending Dufferin Public School and the BCI before going to university and law school, but I was then living in Ottawa in retirement from a career in the Foreign Service.

That turned out to be an asset because I could deal with government agencies and national heritage associations in between monthly trips to Brantford.

I became president of the CIHC board in 2013 and had to hold the organization together during the dark years after the fire that severely damaged the Cockshutt office building. Fortunately, there was a tiny group of people who shared my vision of a museum to celebrate Brantford's extraordinary industrial history, and gradually the CIHC has become stronger, with defined goals and architectural plans, and key partners like the City of Brantford and Brant Theatre Workshops.

Brantford and Brant County have so much history to offer indigenous history, telephone history, military history and sports history, on top of the history of the innovative manufacturers who transformed North America and attracted thousands of immigrants to work in their plants and put down permanent roots here.

I had a debilitating stroke in 2021 and have been unable to participate fully in the board's work since then. The other board members kindly elected me to the position of board chair so I could continue to provide advice to the new executive. I will be leaving that position at the next Annual General Meeting.

## **FIRST SUCCESSFUL VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM HELD MARCH 16, 2024**



CIHC produced its first virtual symposium in March; the symposium committee had been planning it for months. With a grant from Brant Community Foundation, the committee decided to invite five speakers to give short talks on the theme 'Industrial Heritage Renewal'. If you missed it, you may access it from our [website](#). Stay tuned for details regarding the 2025 symposium!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Pop-Up Exhibit: Funded by the Ontario Trillium Resilient Community Grant

The Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre (CIHC) is cultivating a collaborative project that will enhance community cultural offerings and foster a deeper appreciation for Canada's industrial heritage!

The CIHC is an organization dedicated to local industrial history as it mirrors the evolution of industry across Canada. We have recently received an Ontario Trillium Resilient Community Grant to create and circulate three traveling pop-up exhibits on Canada's industrial heritage, working in partnership with local museums in the County of Brant, Brantford, and Norfolk County.



By collaborating with local museums, we aspire to rekindle interest in museum visits and engage visitors in a dynamic and educational exploration of our heritage. The exhibits will celebrate the history of local industries, the remarkable individuals behind them, and their impact on both society and the environment. The first of the three exhibits focuses on the theme of **Inventors, Industries, and Marketing**, and includes artifacts from the Brant Museum and Archives, Paris Museum and Historical Society, South Dumfries Historical Society/St. George Museum and Archives, and Waterford Heritage and Agricultural Museum.

Another objective of this project is to unearth the rich industrial heritage-related collections and archival materials that often remain hidden within the confines of a museum's storage, and make them accessible to the public by bringing these artifacts directly to audiences. Through our joint efforts, we aim to bring these stories to life by creating interactive fold-up exhibits that can be easily packed up, transported, and set up in other museums or community locales.

The pop-up exhibits will rotate among the participating museums, spending three months at each location. Our gala unveiling of the first pop-up installation will be held at the

**Paris Museum & Historical Society (51 William St, Paris, ON N3L 1L2) on Saturday, June 22nd from 1:00 - 2:30pm.**

Take a sneak peak of our Pop-up exhibit artifact brainstorming (above).

### Annual General Meeting - June 29, 2024

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 29th at 10:00am via Zoom. The AGM package (including the Zoom link) will be made available to all members. Memberships must be paid up for 2024 if you wish to vote.





CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL  
HERITAGE CENTRE

# 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:** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 202\_\_

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** ☐ **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](http://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.