

CIHC FALL NEWSLETTER

FALL 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear CIHC members:

With the new season upon us the **CIHC** is ramping up its activities. A key item on our agenda this fall is the Industrial Heritage Park at 66 Mohawk. The CIHC board of directors has been preparing for meetings over the next few months related to our proposal for 66 Mohawk. As previously reported, we've laid out our concept in meetings with Brantford City Council and community groups, but in order to move forward we need to flesh out our ideas in more detail.

This past summer we retained the Brantford architectural firm MMMC and worked with them to create a series of sketches of what the Industrial Heritage Park could look like. These are not final designs by any means, merely a rendering of a potential park that can serve as a basis for discussions with others about what they would like to see there.



Courtesy MMMC ARCHITECTS

We've also drafted a plan that lays out timelines and estimated costs for the project. We foresee three phases implemented over two to three years: creation of the greenspace and outdoor structures; repair of the building exteriors (the Time Office and the historic Portico); and fitting up of the Interpretive Centre inside the Time Office.



Courtesy MMMC ARCHITECTS

City officials have begun a process of public consultations to determine what will go into the 52 acre Mohawk-Greenwich site once remediation is completed next year. We want to be active participants in that discussion. We have an attractive and well developed proposal that could bring a new look to the neighborhood very soon. We also want to work with groups that are proposing a new life for Mohawk Lake and the Canal. We feel the two projects could add significantly to Brantford's attractions for visitors and residents alike.



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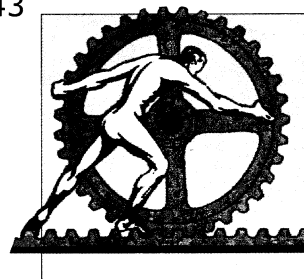
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued*

Another accomplishment this summer was the publication of the 1943 Cockshutt Plant Newsletters. These newsletters, written by and for the employees of the company and its aircraft subsidiaries during the difficult years of the Second World War, provide a fascinating look inside the lives of plant workers; the training of women in high precision machining and welding; innovative factory work practices; and the over 300 men and women who became part of Canada's Armed Forces from these plants.



We believe this work is an important addition to the knowledge of Brantford's industrial history and innovative workforce – (there are articles on techniques such as precision machining for Lancaster Bomber landing gears, high temperature aircraft exhaust manifolds, and many others). This fall we will be looking for ways to exhibit the Newsletters to as many people as possible.



A third area where we hope to make progress this fall is with the Canadian network of industrial heritage groups. A few months ago, the CIHC was asked to take on the leadership of the Canadian chapter of TICCIIH, The International Committee for the Preservation of the Industrial Heritage. We have been working to create a corporate structure, an improved network of organizations and a better website. This fall we hope to establish an interim board of directors for the group to provide guidance for the future.

Please let us know if you have questions about any of these topics, and any others that you feel the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre should be pursuing. You can contact us through our website www.canadianindustrialheritage.com, or by mail at CIHC, Royal Victoria Place, 136 Dalhousie Street, Brantford, ON, N3T 2J3.

Have a wonderful autumn !

John Kneale, President

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The Reproduction of The COCKSHUTT PLANT NEWS:

CIHC owns (as part of the extensive collection Rob Adlam has been maintaining for us) a complete set of the Cockshutt Plant News for the years 1943 and 1944, as well as some issues of the 1942 and 1945 years. In discussing ways to share the fascinating history in these publications, it was decided that the best way would be to completely replicate them in annual volumes. To make it a valuable resource, we would need to create an index to list all those named throughout the monthly issues, whether they were workers in the factory, family members that were part of the armed forces, or other people who had some interface with the plant work. We decided that we would start with the 1943 issues, or Volume 2 as it was titled, as we had all the issues for that year. Indexing the names is relatively straight forward, even if tedious, but the process of reading the pages to gather the names led to the realization that these issues were more than a treasure trove of names; they are a fascinating look at life in Canada in the middle of the Second World War.



THE COCKSHUTT PLANT NEWS
A Wartime Chronicle

**Vol. 2
1943**



There are stories of bringing "girls" from Nova Scotia and Port Arthur to be trained and to work in the factories; the significance of social support schemes such as Group Insurance; the creation of a "day nursery facility" so that mothers could work in the factory; the many different contributions to various parts of war planes; and letters from family and friends serving overseas. This led to the creation of a second index – the "Special Interest Articles". The work became more than a collection of plant news issues – it became "A Wartime Chronicle". We plan to reproduce and index the 1944 issues as soon as we can arrange the many volunteers that go into such a project. We expect that will be a fascinating perspective of the D-Day Landings and the progress of the war during 1944.

The Cockshutt Plant News – A Wartime Chronicle – Vol. 2 - 1943 is available for purchase at not-for-profit organizations in the Brantford area, and on our [web-site](http://www.canadianindustrialheritage.com). We completed the publication of the first print run of the 122 page 1943 issue in the "tabloid" size of the original 'News' in August, and are arranging distribution in local organizations for reference and resale. The publication is now available on our website for direct purchase.

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KEEPING IN TOUCH - LETTING US KNOW HOW WE CAN SERVE YOU

Our Website:

We are continuously making improvements to our web-site www.CanadianIndustrialHeritage.com by the expansion and addition of articles, linkages to other web-sites, and making

e-commerce easier for purchasing materials, such as The Cockshutt Plant News, and for memberships and donations. We are using PayPal as our secure payment interface, so that you can confidently use your bank and credit cards. We appreciate your feedback on the web-site – for example, ease of use, relevance, topics that we need to address.

You can e-mail us at info@CanadianIndustrialHeritage.com.

CIHC

CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE

LEARNING FROM OUR PAST,
BUILDING A STRONG FUTURE

2016 Membership:

The 2016 membership year is fast approaching. You can easily renew your membership on-line; if you have no changes to make to your address information we have on file, simply click on "[Membership](#)", scroll down, enter your name, select type of membership, and click paypal (you do not need a PayPal account). We will be informed that you have renewed via the PayPal system. If you need to change your information, you can print a [membership form](#), complete it and mail it into us. Please consider a donation as well. Membership renewals (or new) after October 1, 2015, cover you through December 31, 2016; we will issue a 2015 donation receipt if an added donation is received prior to December 31.

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CIHC would like to acknowledge the diligent work of the Brant Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society in indexing the names for the Cockshutt Plant News project.

