



CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE

Learning from Our Past: Building a Strong Future

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

This newsletter is published by CIHC, an organization dedicated to preserving Canada's industrial history. Brantford was once Canada's third largest industrial producer of exports to the world.

Its industrial history is a microcosm of the development 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/CanadianIndustrialHistory>

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REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends of the CIHC,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the spring weather. As always, we have much to update you on. The past few months have been productive and exciting for the CIHC. We are thrilled to announce the successful completion of our **Roots of Eagle Place** project.

Thanks to our partners, **Eagle Place Neighbourhood Association**, **Brantford and District Labour Council**, and **Brant Theatre Workshops**, we have produced large public infographics that describe the history of the Eagle Place neighbourhood through the decades. We have also created a digital archive of resources, including old newspaper articles and images, that tell us of the rich history of the neighbourhood and its connection to industry and industrial workers. The public signs and interview videos will be shared with the community in the summer during a big public celebration of the Eagle Place neighbourhood.

We would like to congratulate everyone who was involved in the very successful preview of our **Memories of Ukrainian Community** event. It was a moving experience to see so many members of the Ukrainian community, especially newcomers who have just arrived in Brantford and fled Ukraine in search of a safe life for their family. We thank Peter Muir, Bill Darfler, and all those who attended the event. We eagerly look forward to the main event in September.

Thanks to our collaboration with the **Copp Scholars Program** at **Laurier Centre for the Study of Canada (LCSC)**, we were provided with funding for a research assistant for the digitization of our collection. Robert Singleton, our research assistant, has done a lot of work over the past eight months, and you can read his report in this newsletter.

Our website has also seen significant improvements, thanks to the great work by Kayla Kendall. She has created our first virtual exhibit, helped organize our educational resources page, and created a shop. You can read her report in this newsletter as well.

We have also been working on fostering our collaboration with **Waterford Agricultural Heritage Museum (WHAM)**. Rob Adlam has been instrumental in facilitating the discussion that will lead to new exciting partnership projects, including a new exhibit of our Cockshutt collection there. Rob will continue to represent the CIHC at Brantford's

Heritage Committee. We thank Rob for his continued dedication to preserving and sharing Brantford's and Canada's industrial heritage.

The CIHC has hired **Pro Bono**, a consulting firm in Brantford that provides non-profit organizations with legal support, to help us revise our bylaws. The **Bylaw Steering Committee** will work with them to keep our bylaws up to date with new government requirements.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held virtually on June 17 (Saturday) from 2-3:30 pm. We will be electing a new director to fill one outstanding position. Members will receive the AGM package via email soon.

Finally, on June 2, starting at 1 pm, the CIHC will be participating in the **TH&B Bridge Public Art Project**. We will be painting three panels of the bridge: one panel about Brantford's industrial history, one about Eagle Place, and one about our *Memories of Brantford* project. Big thanks to Lauren Holmes for producing the design for us.

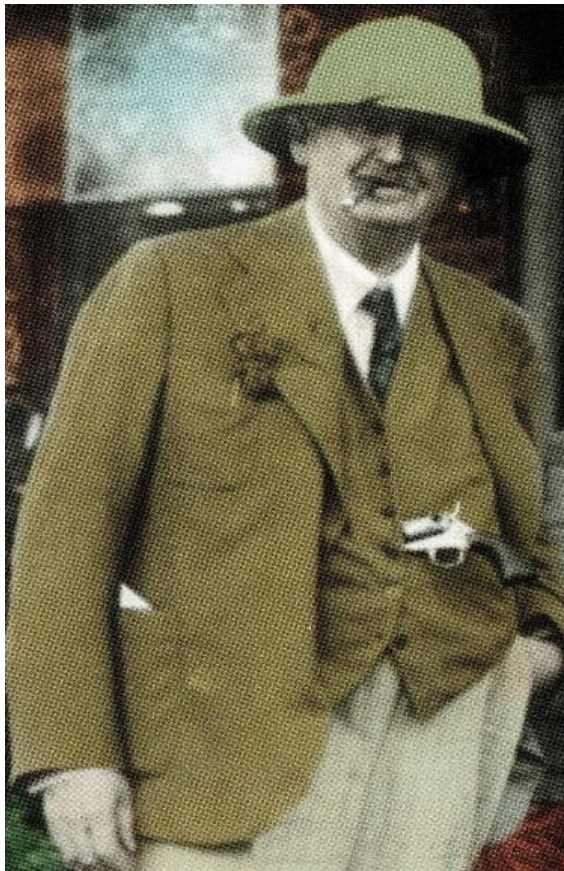
As you can see, it's going to be another busy summer for the CIHC. Please visit our website to check out our resources, exhibit, and shop. Thank you for your continued support for the CIHC. We wish you all a wonderful summer!

Christina Han



REPORT FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Did You Know?



THE ROBERTSON SCREWDRIVER IS A CANADIAN INVENTION

If you use screwdrivers very often for jobs around the house, you have probably been totally frustrated (as have I) trying to install a screw using a slotted screwdriver. You would position everything, clench your jaw to concentrate, and finally after a struggle engage it in the slot of the screw, begin turning, and thenit would slip out. Drat! Try again.



Necessity is the mother of invention - when the right person appears.

P.L. Robertson was that person.

Born in Haldimand County in 1879, P.L. found someone else's patented idea that he worked on and developed a design depending on a square shaped head on a screwdriver that made secure contact with a square shaped indentation on the head of the screw. The design worked so well only one hand was required for rotation. Robertson started a factory in Milton in 1908 and patented the

invention in 1909.

The Steel Company of Canada disliked his invention and even went as far as to try unsuccessfully to undermine his patents.

The Ford Motor company in Detroit was excited when they used the screws in their cars, because it saved them time on the assembly line. They wanted to buy the exclusive rights but P.L. refused their offer.

Such events limited the adaptation of the invention by manufacturers in U.S. and many other countries, and other models such as the Phillips came into use. However, the Robertson Screw became a favorite in Canada, and remains so. The company still exists and has its head office in Burlington, but the square-headed screw is now being manufactured in China.

A funny incident happened several years ago. A project manager for a large hospital project in Ontario required a \$100,000 piece of machinery manufactured and shipped to the hospital from Germany. When the team unpacked the huge crate, they found the machine to be the wrong item. This affected their building schedule and reduced company profits. The upset project manager had his team pack it up and fasten it with Robertson screws and sent it back to Germany for replacement. The German company phoned the project manager and asked him how they were going to open the crate. He replied, "Go to your local hardware store in Neuremburg and get a Robertson bit." He never found out how they opened the crate, but they sure got the message!

Jean Farquharson

Memories of Brantford's Immigrants: UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY PREVIEW EVENT DRAWS CROWD OF 150



From toddlers to oldsters, the crowd that attended the *Immigrant Memories of Brantford Preview Event* on March 25th at the Brantford Slavic Full Gospel Church enjoyed an introduction to/review of the culture of Brantford's immigrant Ukrainian community. Brant Theatre Workshops Artistic Director, Peter Muir, and Sharyl Hudson organized the event. Peter is a Director of CIHC and Sharyl is also a member.

This is the fourth year the Committee representing Laurier Brantford, Brant Museum and Archives, CIHC and BTW are working together to perform a very popular event which includes interviews of family members of immigrant groups showing on their website - <https://memoriesofbrantford.ca/>. It also includes a curated display at Brant Museum and Archives, walking tours, musical performances, ethnic foods, music and a play written by Peter Muir to include stories. A stirring video of Ukrainian history featured Dave Levac.

Many of the attendees were Ukrainian, some of them newly arrived from their war-torn homeland. A translator was available to translate in both directions. Many of the people talked to me and thanked me for attending. I was very impressed by their outgoing friendliness and their hospitality. Many young couples who attended with their well-disciplined children sang along and clapped their hands to the music. The guest singer, Tatiana, a recent immigrant, included many folksongs in her lively repertoire.

The delicious free Ukrainian food was supplemented with pizza for the unexpectedly large crowd.

CHRISTINA HAN & JACK JACKOWETZ OBSERVE



BTW PLAYERS GIVING A PREVIEW READING OF PETER MUIR'S PLAY, "HOMELESS, A UKRAINIAN STORY"

Part of the story features characters from Marsha Skrypuch's novel, *Stolen Girl*, about a young Ukrainian girl who, after World War II, is rescued and adopted by a couple who migrate to Brantford. She has been brain-

washed by a German family to believe she is German, and must be convinced she is Ukrainian.

The performers will entertain the audience at the main event coming up on September 23rd. Please check our new website and the BTW website for details: www.canadianindustrialheritage.com and www.branttheatre.com.

By Jean Farquharson

Photos courtesy of Jack Jacowetz and Peter Muir





CIHC is one of the local groups contributing to the Ontario Genealogical Society/Ontario Ancestors Virtual Convention 2023, *Diversity in Genealogy – Settlement Along the Grand River*, on September 8, 9, and 10, 2023. There will be two consecutive streams of presentations, one genealogical, and the other historical. Haldimand historian, Karen Richardson, will be the keynote speaker on Friday evening. CIHC directors Christina Han and Bill Darfler will also give presentations. See the registration website giving more details about the program and talks at www.conference2023.ogs.on.ca

COLLABORATION WITH WHAM

Research and Collections Committee Report for Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre April 18, 2023

On March 30, 2023, a meeting was held at the Waterford Heritage and Agricultural Museum (WHAM) with James Christison, the Curator at Waterford, and Christina Han and Rob Adlam representing the CIHC Research and Collections Committee. Rob Adlam reported that the following items were discussed, and actions agreed upon:

- The newly revised loan agreement form has been received relisting and updating the CIHC pieces on loan from the 2008 agreement. It meets the new museum standard. Proper wording will define a long-term loan.
- Rob Adlam will perform an audit of all CIHC collection pieces listed to be on loan to WHAM. Over nearly 15 years, of the 85 pieces, only 49 have been accounted for so far. The reason some are missing is the turnover of staff and volunteers over 15 years, and the lack of procedures and paperwork to confirm when the artifacts were received. Our volunteers were unaware of procedures.
- A new working agreement is being drafted collaboratively by museum professionals Christina and James for CIHC and WHAM. It will be reviewed annually by both organizations. It will include an outline of collaborative work, including finances, responsibilities, an outline to establish a permanent Cockshutt exhibit and an additional annual exhibition. They will work together on the design, scope and overall message of the permanent exhibit. They will return artifacts from private collectors currently on exhibit to provide space for the new exhibit.
- WHAM will provide a dedicated space for the William Cockshutt Archive in WHAM's archive room with controlled environment. Christina and Rob will work together to review the Cockshutt archive material. James has purchased archival folders for storing the collection. They will review other materials needed and the room space and make changes as needed.

Christina and Rob planned to meet again with James in late April.

OUR NEW WEBSITE

One of our Laurier Brantford history student employees, **Kayla Kendall**, reports on the splendid work she and other students have been doing for CIHC:

"Work on the new CIHC website is progressing steadily! We are in the process of creating [several digital collections](#) related to the roots of Brantford's Eagle Place neighborhood. We have also created an [exciting page for educators](#), which showcases lesson plans for grades 1 through 12 connected to Canada's industrial

heritage, designed by **Siobhan Prow**. These lessons make connections to Ontario's curriculum, and teachers can download worksheets and slideshows for use in the classroom! There is a lot more work to be done, but the new site is slowly taking shape. This is a very exciting time for CIHC!

In other exciting news, the CIHC now has merchandise! If you want to show your support for our work, you can visit <https://canadianindustrialheritage.com/shop> and browse our new collection which includes t-shirts, stickers, hats, and more. And don't forget to renew your membership online!

OUR COLLECTION OF ARTIFACTS

Our diligent Laurier Brantford history student/archivist **Robert Singleton** also has a report for our newsletter:

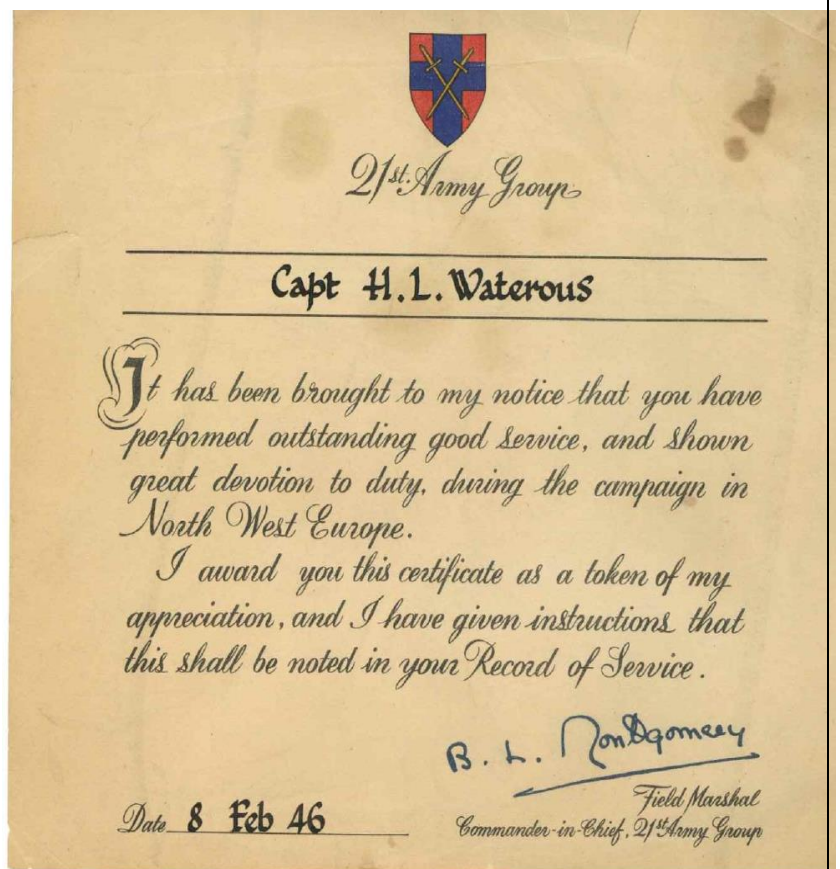
"Since the summer of 2022, I have had the privilege to work for the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre as an archivist. Over the course of my first summer with the CIHC, I began cataloguing the artifacts, part of the collection. In mid-fall of this year, I was able to begin scanning and digitizing the artifacts, while continuing to catalogue other artifacts composing the collection.

Each artifact is given an accession number, which is composed of two letters related to the name of the artifact, the year it was made, and a number indicating the repetition of those first digits. For example, an artifact entitled "John's Journal" from 1942 would be given the accession number of JJ.1942.1; other important information relating to the artifacts is also added to the catalogue, such as donor, location, and a brief description. As of May of 2023, there are currently 569 artifacts digitized and 1,011 artifacts catalogued.

Many of these artifacts are multi-page documents, such as industrial patents, inter-company correspondence from Waterous Limited, family letters, and other important documents.

Some of the more notable artifacts that I have recently scanned include the death notice that Charles Waterous' mother received when he was killed in the Second World War in Sicily, letters that Hewitt Waterous wrote home during the war, and a collection of large, unique, bibles belonging to the Cockshutt family in the mid-20th century. The collection provides an insight not only into the operation of the major industrial companies that dominated Canada, but also provides an insight into the families that ran them.

Moving forward, I will hopefully continue to digitize and catalogue the CIHC's collection in order to prepare for the creation of an online collection database. I will also be hoping to reorganize the physical boxes to make the locating and management of the archive more efficient and allow for the collection to be organized in a method more congruent with easy access of materials.

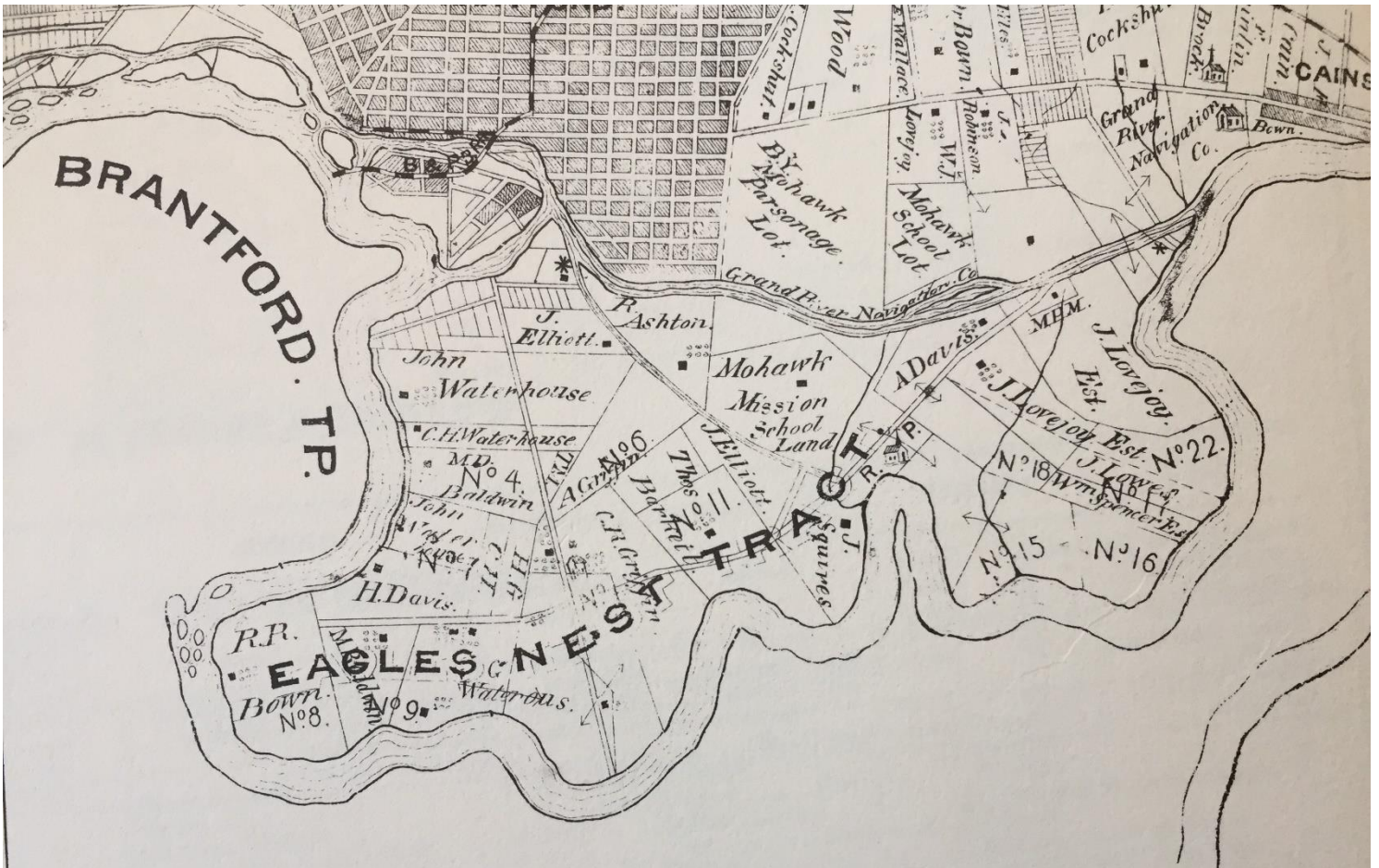


Captain Hewitt Waterous' Commendation from Allied Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery. 1946.

Note: CIHC and BTW members have been given wonderful response from the many people who came forward to tell their stories about living and working in Eagle Place. You will find much that our team has collected on our website. The following article is the first of a series for the newsletter. Retired historian, teacher and politician David Neumann, one of CIHC's Directors, who has spent many years of his life in Eagle Place, gives us an introduction to the area where its dedicated families and faithful and innovative workers have sacrificed and contributed so much to create Brantford as it was and is today.

EAGLE PLACE – ITS STORY

By David Neumann



The above map is from the 1875 *Historical Atlas of Oxford and Brant Counties*.

Eagle Place started out as **Eagles Nest Tract**, as seen from this map of 1875. Here it is bounded by the Grand River on the west, south and east sides. The northern boundary appears to be the Grand River Navigation Company canal stretching from the river in the east to the river just south of the downtown.

There was a time when the centre of Brantford was a port receiving goods transported up the river and through the canal system. This trade, much of it between Buffalo and Brantford, stimulated the growth of our community.

Today Eagle Place is a friendly neighbourhood with a variety of forms of housing. It has provided affordable housing over the years. Most of Eagle Place is made up of Grand River floodplain land. Over the years residents lobbied for better flood protection. The dyking system was re-built and enhanced in the 1980s. It is modeled on provided protection from flooding that would occur should a storm the size of the legendary Hurricane Hazel storm occur in the Grand River valley.

Eagle Place has beautiful trails for walking and hiking, including those established on top of the earthen dykes. On the west side the dyke is a concrete wall with a walkway along the wall.

Many acres of the **Eagles Nest Tract** became land for industrial development. Some of Brantford's most innovative and successful industries located here, (including Massey Harris, Verity, Waterous, and Cockshutt Plow) and providing jobs for area residents. After the industries closed, and the buildings were removed along Mohawk Street, this brownfield area was cleaned up and prepared for re-development. The city has approved a plan for this to happen. A remnant on Mohawk Street has inspired the plan to tell and preserve the very interesting story of **Brantford's Industrial Heritage**. I am honoured to serve on the local CIHC board that is moving this goal along.

My family and I have lived in Eagle Place since 1974, and like it very much. I keep hearing stories about past residents who accomplished great things. In our block alone we have identified some noteworthy examples: The founder and owner of **Days Business School**, the inventor of egg cartons, the founder and owner of **Galloway Furniture**, pharmacy owner, Gord Pronger, Dr Fred Bullen who was the head of the **Baptist Federation of Canada**, and Rick Shaver, who inspired the development of our current **Canadian Military Heritage Museum**.

That's from just within one block; imagine the wealth of creativity that would be found if the entire neighborhood were studied and investigated for interesting stories about creative thinkers and innovators. We know that Eagle Place spawned some of our elected officials, including mayors, MPPs and School board representatives, such as Don Dowden and Jean Anderson. Former MPP, Dave Levac, grew up in Eagle Place.

We are fortunate to have indigenous heritage in the area. In 1984, the **Mohawk Chapel** was officially declared as a National Historic site by Queen Elizabeth II, who was here with Prince Phillip on that occasion.

Also, the **Woodland Cultural Centre** is located on the grounds of the former **Mohawk Institute and Indian Residential School**. The **Woodland Cultural Centre** helps preserve and interpret the history of what happened there. Furthermore, active promotion of indigenous art and culture is an active component of the work of the **Woodland Cultural Centre**, an agency respected world-wide. It works to ensure that our community respects and understands the significance of indigenous history and culture. We must acknowledge that our community was built on Haldimand Tract land.

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 PayPal 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

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 - 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.