



CIHC

CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE

LEARNING FROM OUR PAST,
BUILDING A STRONG FUTURE

JULY 2022

This Newsletter is published by CIHC, an organization dedicated to preserving Canada's Industrial History.

About 1900, Brantford, Ontario was Canada's third largest industrial producer of exports to the world. Its industrial history mirrors the evolution of industry across Canada.

And we are proud to be headquartered in Brantford.

Our Mailing Address is

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

Please visit our website:

www.canadianindustrialheritage.com

And our Facebook page

facebook.com/CanadianIndustrialHistory

We are also responsible for the

Canadian website of TICCIH

International please visit

www.ticcihcanada.org

Please send any submissions or inquiries to:

info@canadianindustrialheritage.com

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REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends of the CIHC!

Our 2021 Annual General Meeting went very well, and we had much to celebrate. Our Chairperson John Kneale and Secretary-Treasurer Ray Wright were both re-elected for another three-year term. We thank them for renewing their commitment to the CIHC.

Following the AGM, members and directors in attendance watched presentations about the *Memories of Brantford* project and our new site plan of 66 Mohawk. We had a lively discussion about the future developments of the CIHC.

The 66 Mohawk Steering Committee had a fruitful meeting with the City's Planning Department. We were provided with more updates regarding capping of the site and restoration of the Timekeeper's office and the portico. The committee is working with our architect, Craig Newsome at MMMC, on our final site plans to be submitted to the city as part of our rezoning application.

We are also making progress with our *Roots of Eagle Place* project. We have identified more people we can interview. Our new website, being developed by BluePrint Agencies, is also under way.

Three summer students started their positions as Collections Archivist, Education Program Planner, and Web Communications Manager. They have been making great strides. You can read about their profiles and projects in this newsletter.

On November 9, 2022, the CIHC will mark its 20th anniversary! Despite many challenges and setbacks, we have grown to become a resilient and innovative organization. The board will be planning a special public event to celebrate our past, present, and future. More details will be available in the next newsletter.

I wish all of you a wonderful summer! Sincerely,

Christina Han

REPORT FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

We have lots more to report!

This summer, we are pleased to employ three university students working on Canada Summer Grants. Since we do not have our own office, Peter Muir has generously offered the use of the Studio of Brant Theatre Workshops at 543 Greenwich St., Unit 4, for them to work on Mondays and Wednesdays. The rest of their hours are filled at home. Christina meets with them regularly. They have written their own reports for the newsletter.

Hi! I'm Siobhan (pronounced shove-on). I am a recent graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University with a double major in Youth and Children's Studies & History. I am excited to have my first job which combines these two majors with the CIHC! I am the Educational Program Planner for the summer, which involves making fun, interesting, and educational programs for school-age children involving local and Canadian industrial history. After this, I plan on doing my Master's and eventually becoming a museum curator.



Hi, my name is Robert Singleton and I am originally from Whitby. I am a history major at Laurier Brantford entering my third year of study. I am minoring in criminology and working towards a certificate in Global Crime and Justice. I am very passionate about local history and heritage, and so I am excited for the opportunity to work as an archivist for the CIHC this summer. Outside of the CIHC, I plan on spending my summer at the cottage. In the future, I would like to pursue my Master's and my Doctorate.

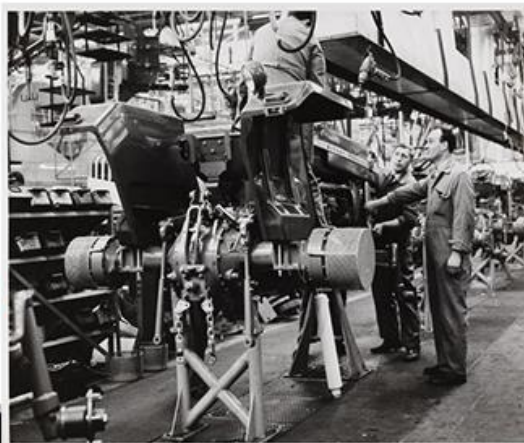


My name is Lauren Holmes. I have a BA (2018) and an MA (2019) in history, both from Wilfrid Laurier University. This is my third summer working for the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre and this summer I am fulfilling the role of Web Communications Manager. Some of my projects include expanding our list of partners, researching grants, and coming up with a communications plan for the next three years. I am excited to see what we can all accomplish together!

Brant Theatre Workshops

Peter Muir, one of CIHCs Directors, is also artistic director of Brant Theatre Workshops. As well as providing workspace for our students, Peter has been writing and rehearsing a play, *Johnny Cash in Eagle Place*, which will be produced this summer by **Brant Theatre Workshops** in the *Bell Summer Theatre Festival Series*. Relating to Brantford's industrial history, it is based on the big strike of 1968 by Massey Ferguson employees. See more about it at www.BrantTheatreWorkshops.com

Johnny Cash in Eagle Place



**Johnny Cash's biggest fan
has to go on strike - How
would Johnny handle it?**

**Bell Homestead
July 30 to Aug 8**



SOAP BOX DERBY- Monday, September 5th

On Labour Day, CIHC is booked to set up a tent with a display and some of our books for sale at the top of the hill on ICCOM Drive, where the annual Labour Day Soapbox Derby will be launched by the Brantford District Labour Council. We were rained out on May 1st and postponed until Sept. 5th.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Peter and Christina have been making the rounds to pass the word about CIHC and the Eagle Place project to various service clubs and other organizations. If you wish to invite a speaker from CIHC, please contact us through info@canadianindustrialheritage.com.

RESEARCH AND COLLECTION COMMITTEE to VISIT CRAIG SITTER'S IMPRESSIVE MHF COLLECTION

The Research and Collections Committee will visit our Director Craig Sitter at his home in Hagersville to see his amazing Massey-Harris-Ferguson Collection. See the report in our next newsletter.

CELEBRATE MEMORIES OF BRANTFORD'S IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Part of the Chinese event was held in the spring, and the main event will be held in October:

MAIN EVENT
SAT 22-OCT-2022

CHINESE Community
移民往事

The Downtown Historical Walk: Brian Moore's Walk will look at the downtown area and long-gone vestiges of laundries and cafes. The Downtown Business Improvement Area has kindly offered to sponsor the walk this year.

The Museum Exhibit: Dr. Christina Han has been diligently pursuing and researching the community's artifacts and stories. The exhibit will open on October 22, 2022, at the Brant County Museum and Archives

The Play -Tomb Sweeping: The play is set during the Haang San Festival which is known as a day for cleaning up the graves and headstones of one's ancestors. During the festivities, we look back at those who came before and paved the way for future and current immigrants from China. The play is currently being developed at the Brant Theatre Workshops space on Greenwich Street.

HELP US FIND THE ROOTS OF EAGLE PLACE

Did you, a friend or family member work in one of the large industries of Brantford?

We want to hear your stories!

The **Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre** is excited to announce a new heritage program focused on retaining the memories of Eagle Place and its industrial heritage. From the early 1800s to the present day, the history of Eagles Nest Tract is a fascinating one. Beginning in the 19th century, factories were constructed for the Cockshutt Plow Company, Koehring Waterous, Massey Harris/Ferguson and a variety of other industries. Thousands of their workers made Brantford one of the largest manufacturing centres in Canada.

Many of the families of workers in the factories still have valuable memories of these times and the work done in the industries of the area. We want to collect these and bring them to life again.

Working with the Eagle Place Community Association, the Brantford and District Labour Council and Brant Theatre Workshops, **we will be producing a series of activities and events to share those memories.** Each of our organizations is currently located in Eagle Place.

Contact Sharyl Hudson at shudsonmuir@gmail.com or 519-761-0781.

PARIS CELEBRATES 200TH YEAR SINCE THE GYPSUM MINES WERE OPENED BY WILLIAM HOLME



Paris Museum and Historical Society has lots to celebrate this year

One of our partners in the Brant Museum and Galleries Association, Paris Museum and Historical Society, is celebrating the **50th** year since it was founded. Paris has a wonderful museum and archives situated in the old Apps Arena. We congratulate them on their great success with many talented volunteers! See their website at www.theparismuseum.com

But also, Paris is celebrating the **200th** anniversary of when its first settler, William Holme, opened what was the first gypsum mine in Ontario. The year was 1822!

On April 5th, 1793, Augustus Jones, the Deputy-Surveyor of Upper Canada was in the process of surveying what was to become known as Governor's Road. The work had been commissioned by John Graves Simcoe, the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada as part of his plan to build a military road connecting Dundas with London. When he came to the Grand River, Jones spotted a light patch of rock along the shore, which he discovered, upon examination, to be gypsum, the rock that is used to make Plaster of Paris.

When the Holme family purchased 1000 acres and created their estate, they took advantage of the deposit and had their servants digging the gypsum which they called "land plaster" out of the bank. They chopped it up to sell to new settlers as a type of fertilizer or soil conditioner for preparing their croplands. The next year, Holme opened the first gypsum mill to grind the land plaster.

Holme sold out to Hiram Capron in 1829 and bought land in what became known as Holmedale, which became part of the City of Brantford. The enterprising Capron founded the town of Paris on the lands he purchased from Holme. He also took on partners and continued to mine the gypsum in several mines located along the Grand River. They built mills to grind and process the gypsum into Plaster of Paris, land plaster, Alabastine paint and other products.

Over the years, other people, including William Dickson, John Smith, and David Brown became involved and companies were formed that opened mines all along the Grand in Haldimand County. With the creation of the Grand River Navigation Company, gypsum could be shipped far and wide down the Grand River and into Lakes Erie and Ontario and through the Welland Canal to Buffalo. This was the beginning of several companies which expanded – including the Alabastine Company, Gypsum Lime and Alabastine, and eventually DomTar (Dominion Tar and Chemical), Georgia Pacific and the Canadian Gypsum Co.

The mines in Paris area lasted until about 1905 when the operations moved to Caledonia, but the head office on William Street remained open for many years. Over the years, many companies handling gypsum were amalgamated, names were changed, some went out of business, and some diversified into other products. A few years ago, the mines and mill in Caledonia operated by Georgia Pacific were closed, but the gypsum industry is still functioning near Hagersville under the name the Canadian Gypsum Company, with a mill located on site to manufacture various products made from gypsum - mainly drywall, a product we find in every house.

If you wish to have more details, see the presentation I made to the Brant Historical Society (another of our BMGA partners) a few years ago, at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nog0_MGKwg.

Explore the BHS website and you will discover many interesting talks involving Brantford and Brant's industrial history.

Jean Farquharson

A NEW PROJECT FOR 2023

With the *Memories of Brantford's Chinese Community* final event being performed on October 22nd, 2022, the Memories of Brantford's Immigrants Committee (represented by members of CIHC, Brant Historical Society, and Laurier) decided to select Brantford's Ukrainians for the 2023 project.

Our President Christina Han and I attended and thoroughly enjoyed the Ukrainian Village event to make contacts with Brantford's Ukrainian Community. See theukrainianvillage@gmail.com.

Many Ukrainians worked at Cockshutt, Massey, Waterous and other large industries at the height of Brantford's industrial development, and lost their jobs when the large factories closed or moved away. We are gathering the untold stories of the workers and the Ukrainian family's way of life and contributions to Brantford's story. We are eager to hear from anyone who can contribute or lead us to those who can. Contact info@canadianindustrialheritage.com.

The Committee will research and create an event and a permanent display on the website *Memories of Brantford Immigrant Communities*. Here is my report. Jean Farquharson



A NIGHT OF UNITY

A SUCCESSFUL
FUNDRAISER FOR
UKRAINIANS IN
BRANTFORD UKRAINIAN
VILLAGE AT THE POLISH
POLONAISE HALL



Although the International Villages Festival was cancelled for a second year, Village Ukraina organizers partnered with the Polish Polonaise and staged four shows on July 9 at their hall at 154 Pearl St. The July 9 event, called *A Night of Unity*, was a fundraiser for Ukrainian relief efforts. Proceeds will help Ukrainian families in the Brantford area.

Chris Tolhurst, promotional chair for the Village Ukraina dancers' committee, said "Our goal is to raise over \$10,000. That can be a pretty steep goal to raise in one day, especially with the challenges of the past few years."

The Polish came to the rescue to find a venue that they could house enough people in," he said. "It's kind of a natural partnership, seeing what's happening over in Europe where Poland has basically taken in one-third of Ukraine."

Dancers began practicing last September, but the pandemic dashed their hopes. The Ukraina Committee decided in February to forge ahead with its own event. The group's senior dancers performed on April 30 at the *United We Stand 80's Video Dance Party* at the Gunners Club on Henry Street, which was also a fundraiser for Ukrainian relief efforts.



Senior dancers Bohan Matwijiw (left) and Evan Ziotek perform high kicks during a practice for Village Ukraina dancers on Tuesday evening in Brantford. Photo by Brian Thompson /The Expositor

We congratulate the team that organized and ran this well-orchestrated event, with delicious food for sale, a bar and souvenir desk. When we signed in upon arrival, volunteers stamped our tickets and handed us door prize tickets to fill out and deposit in a blue and yellow box, and we were encouraged to drop some money in with our tickets.

The well-trained energetic dance teams, junior, intermediate, and senior, performed to lively Ukrainian music with exciting jumps, leaps, stamping, kicks and twirls while the enthusiastic audience clapped to the music. Our placemats efficiently provided the menu with prices, program, acknowledgements, and ads.

Also contributing to the fundraiser was the Brantford Pipe and Drum Corps with Highland dancers. We enjoyed several favorite rousing pieces, and they exited the hall playing *Auld Lang Syne*.



From the website <https://www.angelfire.com/wi/brantfordukrainians/Ukes.html> I found this information:

The first Ukrainian families who came to Brantford left Buffalo, New York in 1902. Three years later, in 1905, another fifty (50) families arrived from Detroit, Michigan. These Ukrainian families established the oldest Ukrainian Catholic Church Community in Ontario.

These early groups of Ukrainians came from the western mountain ranges of Ukraine called Lemkiwshchyna and were called "LEMKOS". These Ukrainians named the Church Community, "Ruthenian Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist" in honour of their own home community in Ukraine which is now part of Poland. Today, the name is "UKRAINIAN Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist". The first Ukrainians who arrived in Brantford settled on Buffalo Street, which got its name from the first people to settle there who were also from Buffalo, NY. Some of the original families still live on Buffalo Street. They shared their adventures, joys and sorrows during those early days.

The life of the first Ukrainians in Brantford was difficult. They encountered many hardships, the worst of which was their inability to speak English. They quickly learned the language and brought with them their faith, hope and love for their own traditions, customs and church life, which was the centre of their community.

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://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 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.