

CIHC

Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre

Winter 2009

COLLECTING A COLLECTION...!

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The CIHC is pleased and honoured to announce that it has been the recipient of a highly significant collection of archival material from Bill Cockshutt and his son, Dean. The large collection contains rare and unique documents from the Brantford - based company that was a household name in farm equipment for much of the 20th century.

A reception was held in Bill's honour on Sunday November 9, at Spruce Row Museum, in Waterford. The announcement of this generous donation was made at that time to members, friends, and family and samples from the collection were on display. The event was also an opportunity to wish Bill and his wife, Helen, a fond farewell before they relocated to Saskatchewan in December. Photographs shown here are from that event.

Bill Cockshutt, a great grandson of the founder of the Cockshutt Plow Company, joined Cockshutt Farm Equipment Limited in 1952 when he was sent to Winnipeg to join the marketing team. His father, Ashton was a part of the business from an early age,

and his grandfather, W.F. Cockshutt was a Member of Parliament for Brantford. Bill's son, Dean, has stated that he is "very pleased that the CIHC will take custody of this important piece of Canadiana" and that the quality of its contents, thanks to his father's meticulous work, will appeal to future researchers.

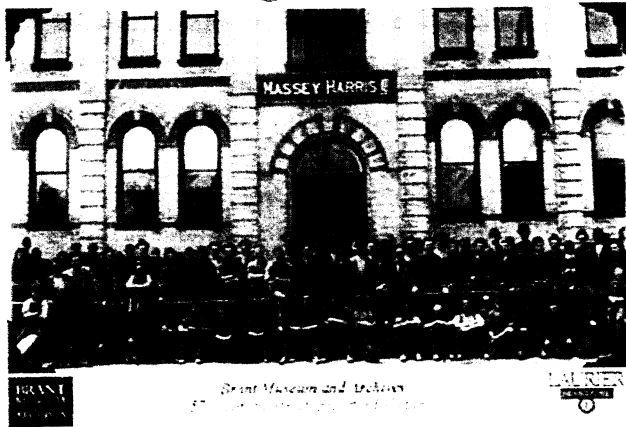
Bill has been involved in the CIHC for many years, has served on the Board of Directors, and is a Life Member. The CIHC celebrated with him when he launched his book, *About Cockshutt*. Bill was the first one to fully document the rise and fall of the company from the perspective of a family descendant. Many items in the archival collection are related to the research he conducted in the course of writing his book.

Among the items in the extensive collection are original 19th century brochures from the Plow Works and carriage manufacturing, catalogues from the 1880s to the 1930s, machine price lists, original engineering notebooks, the presentation by Canada Post when it issued the Cockshutt '30' stamp, a set of 78rpm records of the Cockshutt Choir, pictorial history albums, and maps. The Spruce Row Museum, in Waterford, has kindly allowed us some storage space for this material but it is easily accessed.

We are extremely grateful to Bill and his family for entrusting this collection to the care of the CIHC. It is significant show of support for the value and potential of the CIHC as a heritage organization and will be an integral part of our development. Thank you Bill, Helen, Dean, and family!
more photographs on page 5...



Working at Massey



Where did it go? By Donna Stewart

This is a story about a Cockshutt Tractor that will resonate with most hunters and collectors of Cockshutt or any other brand as well. You know that tractor that you have driven by for so many years you can't even remember when you first noticed it, and you have often wondered about it, and maybe even stopped in to see if it was for sale? Well, my husband Dennis and I have spotted a number of these seemingly abandoned tractors over the years and we have tried to buy a few but often the owner just wasn't interested in selling at the time. So, one day you drive by and poof! It is gone. Such is the case with the Cockshutt 770 that sat for 22 years on the front lawn of a farmhouse on number 2 highway just outside of Paris, ON. Well, we wondered what happened to that tractor and we were a little leery of approaching the farmer, as Dennis' first encounter with him was rather daunting. Dennis dropped in one day to see if the fellow was interested in selling. His response was "Why, is that tractor bothering you?" Dennis said, "Not at all! I just wondered if you were interested in selling it." "Do you see a for sale sign on it?" was his reply or snarl. So, Dennis apologized for bothering him and we left thinking what a shame it sits out in the open like that. Well, today, Sunday January 4, 2009; we found it and we are so pleased with whom and where we found it. Cockshutt Club member Stan Roberts of Woodstock, Ontario was the lucky guy who was able to purchase that tractor. And you wouldn't recognize it today, from the one that stood out in the cold for so many years! I have included some before and after pictures but they do not do this tractor justice. Stan told us the story of how he was able to buy the tractor, and as with most things timing is everything. Stan was also driving by and watching that tractor, and had heard that the owner was less than friendly, but he also knew the owner had come upon some hard times. So, he pulled his truck in the lane way and sat and thought about it for a few minutes and then decided what the heck, and got out of his truck.

continued on page 5...

"Working At Massey"

A new exhibition entitled "Working at Massey" opened at the Brant Museum and Archives on 17 November 2008. The exhibit profiles work at the Brantford Massey plants from the late 19th century until its closure in the 1980s. Topics addressed include early craft unionism, the rise of industrial unionism and the United Auto Workers (UAW/CAW), wartime production and the role of women workers, work and technology and more.

The exhibit was prepared by Laurier Brantford students enrolled in Professor Rob Kristofferson's third year "Canadian Labour History" course. "Instead of getting students to read books that other people had written about an unfamiliar event in the past or read about an alphabet soup of Canadian unionism," explains Kristofferson, "my hope was that mounting this exhibition would allow students to appreciate how the big things that were happening in the national labour movement happened in one plant locally." Indeed, by putting together the exhibition, Kristofferson's students got to handle primary historical sources and talk to former Massey employees about what it was like to work in the plant. Kristofferson explains: "Judging from how my students did on the final exam, the exhibition helped give them a better understanding of how the larger Canadian labour movement took shape."

"Working at Massey" is the first programming initiative of a larger project called "Labour & Leisure in Brantford" headed by Kristofferson (also a CIHC Director) and his Laurier colleague Dr. Peter Farrugia with initial financial support granted by the university. Other sections of this project include the development of secondary school curriculum and the gathering of oral histories from community residents to put in the archive.

As the first part of this part of this larger project Kristofferson says, "I think this exhibit is a good example of one of our chief objectives at Laurier Brantford – building meaningful bridges with the community."

Board of Directors 2008-2009

Mike O'Byrne, President, Bill Darfler, Vice-President,
Donna Stewart, Past-President, Steve Wood, Treasurer
Greg Brown, Bill Cockshutt, Art Greenwood, Rob Adlam,
Brenda Louch, Rob Kristofferson

President's Message

Based on my involvement in the museum/heritage preservation movement I have concluded that unlike other similar organizations the CIHC is very much like the "The Little Engine That Could and Will".

The past few months have been quite remarkable, gratifying, sometimes disappointing but always challenging. We tried and will continue to try to promote and implement the concept of a super museum destination as detailed in the Ribbon Through Time document. Implementation of the concepts of that document will be the salvation of the local museum organizations that have the will and the stamina to survive.

The Brant Heritage Partner's group that is trying to promote the Ribbon Through Time concept suffered what maybe perceived as a setback when one of the organizations decided to withdraw from the partnership. The positive result of that development is that the remaining partners now have an opportunity to proceed. We are no longer encumbered by the negativity that has hampered this project since the onset.

The CIHC has entered into what has evolved into a wonderful working relationship with the Sprucerow Museum, Waterford. We have been provided with exhibition and archival space but more particularly, a welcoming spirit of mutual co-operation. Melissa Collver, Curator at Sprucerow has been a wonderful help.

Finally, the CIHC has been very successful in obtaining collections and archive materials related to our industrial past. Sincerest thanks to those who have faith in our ability to handle their collections responsibly. The CIHC will be actively participating in several local industrial heritage workshops and we have several other irons in the fire.

I am optimistic that the CIHC will be a major player in promoting and making available items of our rich industrial heritage and giving it the status it deserves rather than seeing it neglected and forgotten. Brantford and Brant County achieved industrial greatness largely due to the labour of those working in the fields, factories, shops and stores. We owe it to them to have their stories heard.

Mike O'Byrne

The essential matter of history is not what happened but what people thought or said about it.

Frederic William Maitland

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

There is a website produced by Ontario Heritage Connection that is a one-stop place to find out what is going on in heritage in our province. It covers everything from museum programs, community heritage, and natural heritage conservation. Any organization may post an update or upcoming event notice. The CIHC looks forward to participating. Check it out!

www.ontarioheritageconnection.org



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Royal Victoria Place
136 Dalhousie Street, Suite 203
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519-732-1000

info@canadianindustrialheritage.org



"FIRST IN THE FIELD" - 6 hour set of 5 - DVD's produced by the Cockshutt Plow Company and the Government of Ontario from 1922 to 1955

NOW \$75.00 Cdn./\$72.00 U.S.
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(shipping / taxes included)

My Cockshutt Connection

By Rob Adlam

The Glenhyrst Estate

Perhaps one of the lesser-known sons of Ignatius Cockshutt was his fifth son Edmund Lister Cockshutt (1861 – 1956). Although he was a director and minor shareholder in the Cockshutt Plow Company, his overall involvement was much more limited than that of his father and brothers. Edmund Cockshutt's interests were strongly rooted in the arts, travel, horticulture and social philanthropy (a Cockshutt family tradition)...

In 1914 he purchased 16 acres of land overlooking the Grand River in Brantford from the Stratford family. The name *Glenhyrst* is derived from one of the previous owner's residences, *Glenhyrst Lodge*, which was located nearby. Due to the shortage of building materials that was a result of the First World War, Edmund could not construct his home immediately so his focus was turned to landscaping his new property. As a well known and gifted horticulturalist, he became the first commercial grower of hothouse tomatoes and mushrooms, maintaining his greenhouses at another location. In his lower gardens that were situated on a plateau near the river he grew exotic and experimental plants that were not native to Southern Ontario. He also planted Lindens and Jack Pines on the property and today the gardens are now classified as an arboretum with over 200 trees labelled for the public to enjoy. Many members of the ICCI will remember and appreciate the Glenhyrst grounds from the portion of the Cockshutt Homecoming Festival held there in 2000.

He had many publically known acts of generosity. Brantford needed a treatment centre for tuberculosis and opened the Brant Sanatorium in 1913 in a facility that Edmund Cockshutt funded substantially and donated the 5 acres of land where it was located. He also helped found and/or support social organizations such as the Social Service League and the YMCA. His most enduring legacy came following his death in 1956 at the age of 95. In his will he donated his beloved home and gardens to the City of Brantford to be used as an arts centre.

During his lifetime; however, Edmund Cockshutt employed a staff at Glenhyrst to assist him with the large task of maintaining his estate. This staff consisted of a maid, butler, chauffeur and a succession of gardeners. The last gardener to work for Edmund Cockshutt was my great-great uncle, Bob Force. Uncle Bob was a farmer from Saskatchewan who came to



Brantford and spent many years working and living at Glenhyrst, though his skills as a horticulturalist were also in demand from other organizations.

Although all of these accounts happened before I was born, I will attempt to paint a picture for you of life at Glenhyrst as recounted by my parents who spent a good deal of time there during Uncle Bob's tenure, as well as the personal account of my uncle Don Rogelstad who worked as Uncle Bob's assistant for 3 summers in the early 1950's. Don had the opportunity to meet Edmund Cockshutt when he was introduced to him by the butler and his wife.

All of the staff had their own living quarters either in the Main

House or somewhere else on the grounds. Uncle Bob and Aunt Clara lived in the small Gardener's Cottage near the main gate. It had no plumbing and was heated by an oil stove in the middle of the living room. This building is preserved today and has served as a restaurant in the past, but is now part of the art gallery. The other building still in existence is the Coach House where Mr. Cockshutt's two cars were kept; a 1941 Dodge Coupe and a 1952 Chrysler.

Growing up under his father Ignatius' example, Edmund Cockshutt learned the finer points of running a sound financial ship. Suffice it to say, he learned it very well. While he was a generous public benefactor, things around Glenhyrst were funded on a tight budget. As I mentioned earlier the Gardener's Cottage had no plumbing because it wasn't considered necessary by the landlord. This prudent financial policy is also the source of a humorous story that I can remember being told in my family from the time of my childhood. Uncle Bob had the use of an old pickup truck for his work on the grounds. This truck was, in Bob's opinion, in bad repair but he wasn't allowed to spend any money on it. He came up with a plan as to convince Edmund to replace the truck. He drove the truck up to the Main House and loosed the carburetor off of the manifold and then brought Edmund out to look at it. When he tried to start it there was so much smoke and back firing that it alarmed Edmund so much that he told Uncle Bob, "Robert, you go downtown and get a new truck". Pleased with his success so far, Bob tried to press the issue a little further and asked if the new truck could have a heater so he could transport plants in the winter. Edmund said he could have that option included. Risking one more venture, Bob asked if he could have a radio in it. The answer came back as a definite NO. There wasn't even a radio allowed in the Main House! Regardless, Uncle Bob had a new truck the next day.

Since his living quarters didn't have plumbing, Uncle Bob would, from time to time, have to move the outhouse that was used at the cottage. After he filled it in he would plant vegetables over the spot and they would grow quite well. He would take the vegetables up to the Main House where they really enjoyed them until the day came when it was found out where he got all those vegetables from and then they wouldn't eat them anymore!

These amusing stories hearken back to a different time and give us a glimpse of an employer who was somewhat eccentric, and his employee who was some what of a character and their unique working relationship. In the end, their relationship did work and, through their combined efforts, Glenhyrst was a magnificent showpiece.

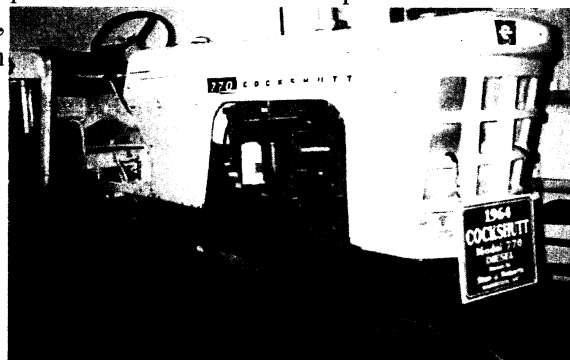
My parents, Bill and Selma Adlam, remember Glenhyrst as a peaceful place where the off-hours from work were spent visiting on the porch swing of the cottage. Inside the cottage; however, my father still laments his checker game losses over fifty years later, to Uncle Bob and my grandfather who were both very competitive players and would occasionally allow him to win only out of pity. In all, their memories of time spent there were of good times, fun and laughter.

As a final act of kindness and respect, the will of Edmund Cockshutt stated that although the estate was to be given to the City of Brantford, Uncle Bob was to be allowed to live in the Gardener's Cottage at Glenhyrst for the rest of his life, which he did until his own death 13 years later. Today the site is named **Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant**, fulfilling Edmund Cockshutt's grand vision by offering art lessons, exhibitions and cultural events to several thousand visitors each year.

Note: This piece is the second of two parts of Rob's article on his Cockshutt connections. To view the entire article, please visit our website: www.canadianindustrialheritage.org

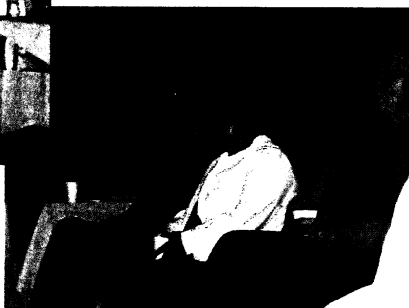
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Stan was also driving by and watching that tractor, and had heard that the owner was less than friendly, but he also knew the owner had come upon some hard times. So, he pulled his truck in the lane way and sat and thought about it for a few minutes and then decided what the heck, and got out of his truck. The owner came out front and asked what he wanted. I would like to take a picture of that tractor if you don't mind," said Stan. "That tractor is sold!" said the owner, "A guy bought it, but he hasn't come back for it yet." "Is that so?" said Stan, "So he paid you the full amount and hasn't come back?" "No," says the owner he left a hundred dollars, but I lost his phone number and I guess he lost mine, because I haven't heard from him." "Tell you what," said Stan, "here's a hundred dollars, if that guy comes back give him back his hundred and I will buy it instead. And if I don't come back your up a hundred dollars." The owner followed Stan to his truck, in disbelief. They agreed upon a price that was much less than the other deal (according to the farmer), but he agreed to the deal and Stan bought the tractor. "It took a half a day to dig that tractor out of the muck and the fuel system was full of water, but it was worth it!" says Stan, who spared no expense having the tractor restored to its former beauty, in fact better than new condition, right down to having the decals custom made because he couldn't get any. And what a beauty she is today! Dennis was so pleased to see her all done up. You see a lot of Oliver 770's at the shows but not many, if any Cockshutt 770's. So, we are looking forward to seeing this one at the summer show. Stan offered to let Dennis drive it in the Great Tractor Drive in Waterford next September 19th, and you know I think Dennis will! Stan also took the time to show Dennis, Mervin and Brenda Louch and myself, his personal tractor and memorabilia collection which was magnificent. And to think, we met Stan on our way to the Paisley Show in 2005, along the side of the road while we made a road side stop. He wanted to take some pictures of our tractors, and said he was interested in buying some. At that time he owned one tractor and not a Cockshutt. Today he owns about 55 tractors including one of every kind of Cockshutt (except a 35 L and a 50)



After plus many other implements, toys, and literature which he has nicely displayed in a private setting. Currently he is restoring a 40 Perkins Diesel he hopes to have ready for the Summer Show in Milton. It does my heart good to see our history treasured and restored so well by people who understand the story behind each tractor. Well done Stan! And thanks for the opportunity to find out where it went.

More photographs from event for Bill Cockshutt...



Names for group photograph on page 1 (left to right): Ray Simpson, Brenda Louch, John Ovens, Jeanette Ovens, Rob Adlam, Dennis Stewart, Mervin Louch, Bill Cockshutt, Mike O'Byrne, Helen Cockshutt, Keith Swift, Donna Stewart

We need all the help we can get...!

As with many community organizations, the CIHC relies on volunteer support to carry out its mandate and develop its activities and events. Whether you are able to help us once in awhile or on a regular basis, we need you! A form is available that gives us an idea of your areas of interest, your time availability, and your contact information. If you wish to fill one out, please contact us and we will forward one to you. The following are volunteer jobs for which we are presently looking for assistance.

- distribution of brochures, flyers, and newsletters
- collection organization, research, and exhibit set up
- help with information booths at events
- serve on sub-committees
- help with refreshments for events & meetings
- take photographs at events
- assist with marketing and distribution of DVDs
- help with set up and take down at CIHC events

Thank you for your continued interest and support!

Notice for all members:

• The Annual Meeting for the CIHC is Saturday June 6, 2009. We will be looking for nominations for the Board of Directors. Details to follow.

• Memberships are due by March 31. If your membership is due you will be receiving a renewal notice in the mail shortly. If you have any questions regarding your membership status, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer at 519-732-1000 or info@canadianindustrialheritage.org

Thank you!

Deadline for submissions to the Summer edition of the newsletter is May 21, 2009.

CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Please make cheques payable to the *Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre*. Our address is P.O. Box 23055, Brantford, ON N3T 6K4.

Method of payment: _____cheque _____cash

Donations of \$10 or more, above membership fees, are tax deductible.

Charitable number #861470623RR0001

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Become a member today and enjoy these new benefits!

• A members-only section of the website, to include:

- access to the newsletter online
- view photographs from special events and activities
- Collectors Exchange - queries, news, links, etc.
- contribute to a registry of industrial artifacts and information or share your memories with us!

• 10% discount on special events, DVDs, and other merchandise offered by the CIHC

• Join us for an annual industrial heritage tour - of an industrial site or a personal collection

• be the first to view our much-anticipated virtual museum, once developed

• serve on our Board of Directors

• vote at the Annual Meeting

• enjoy the opportunity of supporting the education and promotion of our industrial heritage in our community and beyond!

Questions? Call 519-732-1000