



CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL
HERITAGE CENTRE

CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE

Newsletter

December 2025

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

About 1900, Brantford was Canada's third largest exporter of manufactured goods 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

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www.canadianindustrialheritage.com

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President's Report

Dear Members and Friends of CIHC,

As 2025 draws to a close, I want to thank each of you for your continued support of the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre. This has been a year filled with exciting events, meaningful partnerships, and important progress in our shared mission to preserve and promote Canada's industrial history. Your enthusiasm and commitment have made it all possible.

We began the year with the successful Brantford Bicycle Symposium, which brought together community members and historians to explore the city's proud cycling manufacturing legacy. This was followed by our regional pop-up exhibit showcasing key stories and artifacts from Brantford, Brant County, and Norfolk County's industrial past—an initiative that helped raise awareness and build new connections across communities.

Our biggest event of the year was undoubtedly Doors Open Brantford at the Cockshutt Moulded Aircraft Factory. This rare opportunity to explore a historic industrial site drew remarkable public interest. I want to give a special thanks to all the directors and volunteers, especially, Rob Adlam and his family, whose dedication and generosity played a major role in making this event such a standout success.

Just last month, we hosted the Memories of Brantford's Black Community event, a vibrant gathering that celebrated local Black history through performance, food, and storytelling. The accompanying exhibition, *Roots and Routes: Black Brantford*, is now on view at the Brant Museum and Archives. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our student researchers, performers, and volunteers, whose energy and insight brought this project to life.

Behind the scenes, the Cockshutt Letter Book Digitization Project is progressing well. Under my supervision, Dale Leonard, a History student from Laurier Brantford, has nearly completed scanning and transcribing the first volume. We look forward to sharing these valuable historical records on our website soon. Our thanks to Farrington Church's Heritage Committee for their partnership and support.

This month, we also gathered to honour Rob Adlam, who has served the CIHC with great distinction as both a past president and long-time director. In

recognition of his lifelong commitment to preserving and sharing our industrial heritage, the CIHC Board has awarded Rob a Lifetime Membership, a well-deserved tribute to his enduring impact.

Looking ahead, we hope to welcome new volunteers and collaborators in 2026. Whether you're interested in research, outreach, digital projects, or helping behind the scenes, there are many ways to get involved. Please reach out if you'd like to contribute.

On behalf of the entire CIHC board, I wish you a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year. Thank you once again for making 2025 such a rewarding year. We look forward to continuing this important work together in 2026.

Warm regards,
Christina Han
President, Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre



Know Your Directors: Meet Our President: Dr. Christina Han

Dr. Christina Han is a cultural historian, curator, and educator with a passion for public history and community storytelling. She holds a BA in Cultural Studies from York University and an MA and PhD in East Asian Studies from the University of Toronto. During her graduate years, she began working with the Royal Ontario Museum as a curatorial assistant for the Korean collection. She later became the museum's guest curator and served as a long-time curatorial consultant, leading projects and public programs for over 15 years.

Christina moved to Brantford in 2013 with her family when she joined Wilfrid Laurier University's History program. It was here that her deep interest in Brantford's industrial and immigration history began. Since she joined the CIHC's Board of Directors in 2019, she has worked on dozens of public history initiatives, including the award-winning *Memories of Brantford* series, and has curated exhibitions celebrating the stories of Jewish, Italian, Chinese, Ukrainian, Armenian, and Black communities.

As President of the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre since 2022, Christina has led the organization through a period of growth and renewed vision. Under her leadership, the CIHC has hosted landmark events such as the pop-up exhibits, symposia, and the Doors Open event at the historic Cockshutt Moulded Aircraft Factory. She has also overseen the collection research projects, spearheaded funding efforts, strengthened partnerships, and mentored the next generation of researchers and public historians.

In addition to her role at CIHC, Christina is the Director of the Laurier Hub for Community Solutions, where she connects academic research with community needs. Her teaching and research span East Asian intellectual history, Canadian immigration and industrial heritage, public history, and digital humanities. She has published widely on these subjects and continues to bridge academic scholarship with community engagement.

Christina enjoys creative projects and lifelong learning. She is especially proud of having earned her private pilot's license last year—so don't be surprised if you catch a glimpse of her flying over Brantford skies!

Celebration and Presentation to Rob Adlam



On November 11th, The Directors of CIHC presented Rob Adlam with a Life membership in CIHC at a dinner for him and his wife Jennifer. Rob has given selflessly over many years of his time and talents and has shared showing his private collection at events. He will be giving a presentation to the Brant Historical Society in March at the Brant Military Heritage Museum about Cockshutt's part in World War II.

Waterford Lions Club Pumpkinfest Parade



On October 18th, Rob Adlam represented CIHC in the **Pumpkinfest Parade** driving the Cockshutt Tractor owned by CIHC that is on display at the Waterford Heritage and Agricultural Museum.



Special mention and appreciation should be extended to Ken Irwin and Lyle Kaiser who repaired for free the rear tires on the tractor that allowed it to be showcased in the parade. This was the first major extended drive for the CIHC's tractor since it has not been out of the museum at Waterford since 2018.

Other Historical Societies Having Common Interests With CIHC



Middleport Historical Society

<https://www.middleportheritage.ca/>

Here are some recent activities of Middleport Historical Society, which represents Onondaga area of Brant County.

On June 10, 2025, the 195-year-old bell from **The Red Jacket**, a paddle boat steamer that transported passengers between Brantford and Buffalo in the 1830s was mounted on a **Grand River Cruises** boat, for a heritage society fundraising event.

In November, a presentation included a tribute to a WWI local hero and also the story of the farmerettes who lent a hand during and after the war by replacing male farm workers who had left to serve in the War.



Brant Railway Heritage Society

CIHC has a common interest in the Brant Railway Heritage Society which meets in Mt. Pleasant. <https://brantrailwayheritagesociety.ca>

It is an organization dedicated to the history of railroading in Brantford, Brant County and surrounding area.

Their biggest project is the restoration of the Mt. Pleasant station built in 1916 for the Lake Erie and Northern Railway. LE and N was an electric railway owned by CPR, operating between Galt and Port Dover in southern Ontario.



The Mount Pleasant station in 1955 and today. Pictures from their website.



Members have been working on the project for several years with the intent to have a museum in the park in Mt. Pleasant

Brantford Gears Up for a Party! In 2027, the city will celebrate its 150th year as a city and its 180th anniversary of incorporation as a town. CIHC hopes to celebrate with Brantford.

See these Displays at Brant Museum & Archives!

Common Threads: A Pop-Up Display of Textiles, Fabrics and Fibres which opened on September 26, 2025. It will be on display there until January.

This is the second display of three which were funded by a Trillium Grant in 2024. Any questions about the exhibit itself – can be forwarded to lillia.dockree@brantmuseums.ca.



BRANTFORD'S BLACK COMMUNITY

Don't forget to see the wonderful display curated by **Christina Han** of artifacts and stories collected about Black families that recounts their lives in Brant. This is part of the annual collaborative effort -**Immigrant Memories of Brantford Project** - created by CIHC, Brant Historical Society, Laurier Brantford, and Brant Theatre Workshops. Viewable at Brant Museum



One of the themes is about **Cavel Wright**, a worker who has come every year since 1986 to work in **Canada's Seasonal Agricultural Worker's Program** on farms in Brant area. Cavel participated in person at the Grand Opening Event by attending the ribbon-cutting and giving a short talk. He was also available to chat.





Another display theme was about the legendary **Jimmy Wilkes** whose professional baseball career from 1953 to 1965 in the **Brantford Red Sox** era, involved playing and coaching. After signing up for \$500 per month he soon became a fan favorite.



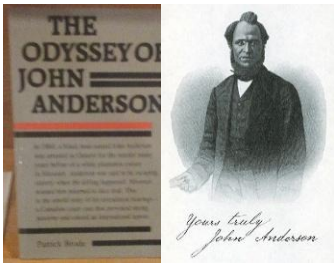
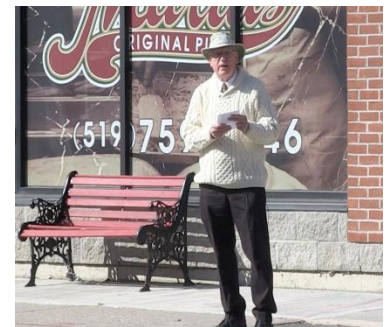
The display takes up two rooms of the museum and portrays several black people and families

Brantford's Black community event began on the sunny afternoon of October



18th with a ribbon cutting ceremony at Brant Museum and Archives to celebrate Christina Han's curated display **Roots and Routes**.

It was followed by a *Black Heritage Walk* of Alexandra Park led by Brian Moore.



Later at Laurier, **Brant Theatre Workshops** performed its latest play, **Matter of Colour**, at the **Stephen Kun Theatre**. It consisted of a series of stories told on stage and screen.

Audiences were very impressed by **Tracy Lee's** warm smooth vocal styling that are influenced by Gospel, Jazz and RnB. Her contralto vocal range has been compared to artist like Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald and Anita Baker to

name a few, but Tracy has a styling of her own that combines many of the greats. Tracy lived in Brantford for years and the story of her search for her family's roots in the freedom seekers of the Underground Railroad enthralled audiences.



Spoken-word poetry was performed by **Marie-Lauren Gregoire** during a panel discussion, **Being Black in Brantford**.

A lip-smacking Caribbean Supper was provided by **The Irie Grill**. The owners of the grill were interviewed on screen as part of the play. They told the story of how they started their restaurant.



DID YOU KNOW?: Waterous Engine Works was an important family industry that helped make Brantford thrive? By Jean Farquharson

In 2000, **Mike Hand**, a retired engineer, and a long-time member of CIHC, wrote ***Iron, Steam and Wood: 150 years with the Waterous Engine Works Company***. Also, Rob Adlam contributed a detailed article which is on CIHC's website www.canadianindustrialheritage.com.

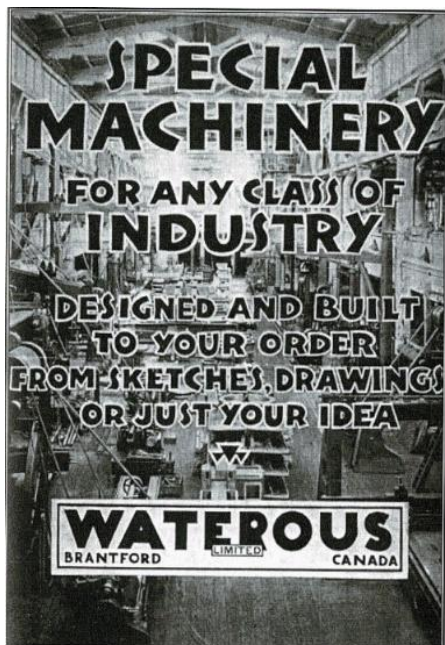
The following is a brief history:

In 1848, **Charles Waterous**, an enterprising American from Vermont with clear thinking skills and talent and experience in metal manufacturing and engineering moved with his wife Martha Jeune and their family to the small village of Brantford to become a partner with **P C VanBrocklin** who had built Brantford's first industry -- a foundry -- in 1844, on the site of what is now Brantford's City Hall. At this time, they manufactured mostly stoves, plows and fireplace accessories.

Waterous had little money to invest but with his skills he received a salary and 25% of the company's profits. The agreement was for Waterous to run the machine shop and foundry to develop and build sawmills and steam engines. This was the beginning of three generations of a very successful family business with a diversity



of products. In his book, Mike Hand has listed two pages of some products made by the company from 1844 to 1993.



Advertisement designed to generate business at beginning of depression, 1931. (Courtesy Roy Helshaw archives)

How did Charles Waterous obtain the skills to build such a large industry making so many specialized products? Orphaned at 14, he was apprenticed to a blacksmith, **Thomas Davenport**, who soon gave up his business, and so Charles switched to a machine shop to finish his apprenticeship. He worked for a few years in several machine shops in Ohio. By the age of 24, he was Chief Engineer on the lake steamer **Governor Mansy**. Earlier he had been experimenting with Davenport to develop an electric motor which was unsuccessful. Davenport persisted and Waterous became a partner with him in producing an electric motor which ran a printing press, but did not prove to be economical. He rubbed elbows in the same building with **Samuel Morse** who was developing his telegraph system. Waterous borrowed money and opened his own machine shop in Sandusky with a friend. Bad economic times and a fire proved unfortunate for them and for other ventures. When he moved to Brantford his fortunes changed.

March, 1878 THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE 71

THE "CHAMPION" RECORD FOR 1877.

Over Thirty-five Thousand Machines Sold.

NO BREAKAGES—No vexatious delays in gathering the crops—NO CROPS DAMAGED while waiting for repairs—No telegraphing for repairs—NO REPAIRS TO BUY—No exorbitant charges to pay—Easily adjusted to all kinds and conditions of grass or grain—A CHILD CAN MANAGE IT—LIGHT IN DRAUGHT—A PERFECT MOWER—THE BEST REAPER—The most simple and durable of all Harvesters—The best and cheapest machine in the market.

Purchasers Always Entirely Satisfied.

FOR 1878.

Forty Thousand Machines are being built, Steel Frames being substituted for Wrought Iron Frames, Malleable Iron chiefly used in place of Cast Iron. Only Five Pieces of Cast Iron in Combined Machines (Weight thereby reduced over Three Hundred Pounds). Single Reapers, or Light Mowers.

The result is that the "Champion" will be the lightest in weight and draught of any machine in the market, and at the same time equally as strong and durable, and so free from liability to break as those built in 1877. The manufacturers are determined that in their record is every preference of other machines offered, regarding first cost, and have therefore taken this UNPRECEDENTED STEP IN ADVANCE OF ALL THEIR COMPETITORS—the manufacture of Harvesting Machines. For further information, address—

JOSEPH HALL MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OSHAWA, ONTARIO.

WE BEG TO CALL THE ATTENTION OF ALL FARMERS TO OUR

Wonderful FIRE-PROOF CHAMPION ENGINE

FOR THE SPECIAL USE OF FARMERS AND THRESHERS!

Our Engines are SAFE from FIRE, and INSURANCE COMPANIES make us EXTRA CHARGE in their rates when it is used.

It will do any work that an Engine of its size is capable of doing

THRESHING, GRINDING FEED, GRINDING FEED, SAWING WOOD, CUTTING STRAW, SAWING SHINGLES.

It will drive a 12 H. Cylinder Saw for cutting Lumber, and will cut 200 ft. per hour of Lumber.

One-hall Cord of Wood, and from 10 to 15 Barrels of Water will run Engine all day.

THE WATEROUS ENGINE WORKS COMPANY (LIMITED), BRANTFORD, ONT.

SEEDS, SEEDS

For 1878, from Frank and Son, Brantford, Ontario.

THE CHAMPION CHOPPER

Will pay for itself in saving of soil alone in feeding ten bushels of stock one winter. It will grind 6,000 bushels without requiring plow. This would save 600 bushels, sufficient to buy one year's stock, to more than pay for Machine. Time saved going to mill will equal cost and trouble of running Chopper. New Patent, \$50.00 per Pair. Send the following:

Address, The Waterous Engine Works Co., Brantford, Ont.



The business grew rapidly and by 1854 occupied four buildings between Dalhousie and Darling Streets and employed 45 men. That year, Van Brocklin sold out and Waterous became a partner with Joseph Ganson. Fortunately for them their company was partially financed by Ignatius Cockshutt who recognized the needs for their products and their talents and worked with Waterous on many projects.

Waterous' success was owed to his demand for high standards, quality, and customer satisfaction. He developed the products his customers wanted. He bought patents or used his inventive skills to patent many power machines, sawmills, engines, boilers to support the demands wherever he saw needs -- in agriculture, wood harvesting, pulp and paper, fire protection, the new oil industry, etc. Over tough economic and good times, with the help of Cockshutt, the company continued to prosper.

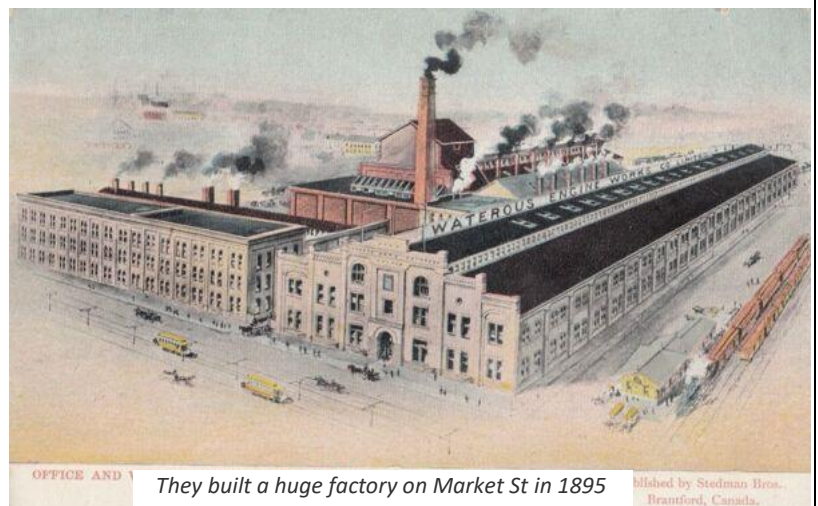
Charles and Martha Waterous raised six sons and a daughter. Over the years several members of the Waterous family and the families they married into were involved in the business and became prominent in the community.

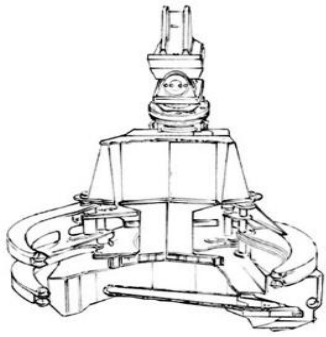
In 1886 Waterous opened a US Branch in St. Paul, Minnesota. It was later registered as a separate company. They produced the first gas-powered fire engine.

As product development expanded, the company outgrew its site. They built a huge factory on Market Street in 1895.

By 1947, the family no longer had control of the business. **Modern Tool Works** of Toronto bought into the business and took over control, with **Alex Vasey** as President. The company issued public stocks to get more investment. They profit shared with their employees and provided them with a pension plan. Donald Waterous became President of the company.

In 1952, **Koehring Company** of Milwaukee, a major manufacturer of heavy equipment, decided to expand to Canada. When they took over the company it was named **Koehring-Waterous**. As demands changed with the times, they introduced new products, dropped some of the products and sold off some of the branch businesses located in Canada.





A felling head is a grapple (an instrument for grabbing or gripping) with a bar saw attached perpendicular to the grapple. It is capable of cutting trees and controlling the direction of fall. This was attached to large forestry machines to harvest trees efficiently.

Eventually corporate plans changed and the Canadian company was sold to **Dominion Bridge**. Many products were dropped, and the company was sold again, this time to **Timberjack Equipment** of Woodstock which produced log skidders and woodland equipment. The very popular best seller **disc saw felling head** was the only product not discarded -- a very important and efficient invention.

Its production was moved to Woodstock. This was the end in Brantford. The factory was closed down and employees lost their jobs. After an auction, the huge factory sat empty and was eventually razed and replaced by a grocery store and plaza. Many of the engineers, managers and experienced tradesmen went on to work for other companies, such as **Tigercat International Inc.** which is active today in Paris and Woodstock. <https://www.tigercat.com>. They specialize in high quality forestry and off-road industrial machinery.

In 2000, **Timberjack** in Woodstock was absorbed into **John Deere**, a worldwide leader in forestry equipment.

Waterous quality products in U.S. were in the fire pump and waterworks industries. Today the **Waterous Company** still exists in St. Paul, Minnesota producing firefighting equipment including compressed air foam systems.

The Waterous name is not forgotten. From a 1-horsepower foundry to today's highly automated factories, their products have fascinated curious-minded folks. Collectors and public and private museums all over the world today search for and treasure the machines, manuals and products produced by **Waterous**.

The Barnard Foundries

By Jack Jackowetz

This industry operated in Brantford between 1951 and 1967. It was located at 13 Dundas Street East.

Brantford had a history of small foundries opening and closing with regularity. The Barnard Foundries story begins with the opening of the **Brantford Brass Foundry** on 7 September 1920. They were located at 22 Leonard Street in Holmedale. The company made aluminum, brass, and bronze castings, builders' hardware, and art ware. **David L. Webster** was the proprietor, and **Alfred Serjeant** was the plant Superintendent. Serjeant was born in London, England. He was a master moulder and metallurgist. Between about 1928 and 1933, Serjeant operated his own company, **Serjeant Bronze and Aluminum**, in Paris. The company filed for bankruptcy on 5 June 1933.

BARNARD FOUNDRIES
A Division of Local Industries Ltd.

Are Specialists In the Production of Aluminum, Brass,
Bronze and Copper Alloy Castings in Sand and
Shell Moulds.

PATTERNS and MATCH PLATES
Are Produced In Our Own Shop

Castings Produced In Our Foundry
Are Sold Directly To . . .

Husmann Refrigerator Company Ltd., Brantford — Refrigerators
Pumps and Softeners Limited, London — Impellers
Epps Manufacturing, Clinton — Sink and Bath Faucets
Canadian General Electric — Washing Machine Parts
Worthington (Canada) Ltd., Brantford — Aluminum Pistons
Koehring-Waterous Ltd., Brantford — Bronze Castings

BARNARD FOUNDRIES
13 Dundas Street East — Brantford
A DIVISION OF LOCAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED
NEWMARKET

Serjeant then started **Zenith Alloys** in 1934. It was located at 13 Dundas Street East. The company produced bronze and aluminum castings, as well as wood and metal patterns. **Zenith** focused on bronze plaques, memorial tablets, and honour rolls.

A waterless cooker is designed to cook food using minimal or no water, relying on the natural moisture of the ingredients. It typically has a thick bottom and a close-fitting lid to create a vapour seal, allowing food to cook evenly and healthily.



For a short time they also made waterless cookers but these were phased out at the end of 1935. The plaque for the **Bell Memorial** was made by **Zenith** and was installed on 30 November 1936. By 1950, Serjeant's health began to fail; Zenith Alloy filed for bankruptcy on 6 September 1950. The company was put up for sale by tender in November 1950.

Line & Cable Accessories of Newmarket, Ontario acquired the company in February 1951, and renamed it **Barnard Foundries**. Zenith had employed twelve, but after the acquisition, employment increased to twenty. The company continued to produce aluminum, brass, bronze, and copper alloy casting and moulds, and also began producing line and cable accessories. Alfred was retained as Operations Manager for a short time; he passed away on 12 May 1951.

The foundry installed the City's first electric furnace in October 1959. The company could produce castings from half an ounce to one ton.

In 1960, the company sold a strip of its property along West Street. It housed a service station until 1995, when a Tim Hortons opened on the site.



Industrial Wire & Cable Company of Toronto purchased **Line & Cable Accessories** in July 1964. The company employed 25 people and operated a 10,000-square-foot plant. The foundry operated until March 1967, when production was moved to a new foundry in Newmarket. The building, built in 1906 and enlarged by Zenith in 1947, was demolished in June 1966.



CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE

Membership Form

CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL
HERITAGE CENTRE

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.