



*Learning from our past, building a strong future*

## President's Report

Dear Friends and Members of the CIHC,

I'm pleased to share updates on the exciting developments at the CIHC. As always, your continued support makes it possible for us to expand our initiatives and preserve our region's rich industrial history.

We are delighted to welcome Jack Jackowetz to our board. A well-known local historian and artist, Jack brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to CIHC. His deep understanding of Brantford's history and his artistic perspective will be invaluable to our ongoing projects.

Our team continues to grow with talented individuals contributing to our archival and outreach efforts. Emma Kennedy, our Copp Scholar, has started her role as an archive assistant. Her position is funded by Wilfrid Laurier University's Copp Scholars Program, which supports students working on hands-on historical projects. Emma has been working under my supervision, focusing on cataloging and digitization.

Two additional university students will join us in March to assist with the digitization of our newsletter archive to do their placement.

A part-time intern, Sathya Suresh, was recently hired. She will be supporting us with website updates and social media content development, strengthening our digital presence.

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

About 1900, Brantford was Canada's third largest industrial producer of exports 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

See our website:  
[www.canadianindustrialheritage.com](http://www.canadianindustrialheritage.com)

Facebook:  
[@CanadianIndustrialHistory](https://www.facebook.com/CanadianIndustrialHistory)

Instagram:  
[@canadianindustrialheritage](https://www.instagram.com/canadianindustrialheritage)

We are responsible for the TICCIH Canada website at  
[www.ticcihcanada.org](http://www.ticcihcanada.org)

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We are pleased with the success of our exhibition, Swords and Plowshares Revisited, at the Waterford Heritage and Agricultural Museum (WHAM). The exhibit has received excellent media coverage, and we are thrilled by the community's positive response.

Our Ontario Trillium Foundation-funded pop-up exhibit has also been progressing through its tour. Having moved from the Paris Museum to Myrtleville House Museum, it will be installed at WHAM in mid-March. These travelling exhibits continue to engage and educate the public about the region's industrial past, with artifacts on loan from several local museums.

We are gearing up for our second annual symposium, which promises to feature insightful discussions. With many exciting projects on the horizon, we encourage everyone to stay tuned for more updates. Your continued support enables us to grow and enhance our programming.

Warm regards,

Christina Han  
President, Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre

## UPDATE ABOUT 66 MOHAWK

We have been keeping in touch with the planners for the City of Brantford about the "mothballing" of the Cockshutt Timekeeper's Office and the portico/entryway to the Cockshutt Office, all that is left of the buildings. CIHC has a lease from the City on a 2-acre plot, a small part of where the Cockshutt and Massey factory 52-acre complex existed. The 52-acre brownfield site has been restored and our site is part of the plan of the Mohawk Lake Heritage District. The building remnants are deteriorating, and Brantford hired a company to mothball them until we can get access to the property. However, nothing was done last year by the company, and the City has hired another company to do the job. This is within the Mohawk Institute property to be searched by the Survivors' Secretariat.

## Did You Know? About Indigenous Innovations and Inventions

Did you know that syringes were being used for first aid by indigenous North Americans long before they were used by modern medical people? They created them from hollow bird bones and animal bladders, taken from their natural surroundings. This is one example of the innovations and inventions they have contributed to the world.



Earliest settlers coming to Upper Canada found that indigenous people lived in a completely different world and way of life from their “civilization” in the colonies or Europe. The early arrivals had to follow wild waterways and narrow trails to build their log homes in vast lonely forests, with no roads and few neighbours. Many settlers would not have survived their first long cold winters with little food if their “Indian” neighbours had not shared with them and taught them survival skills using natural materials in harmony with their environment – how to hunt, trap and fish, gather native plants and berries, tap trees to make maple syrup using birch bark “pails”, make herbal remedies, tools, and so on. Many of their innovations and inventions have lasted and been adapted into our everyday lives.

Six Nations people, when they accompanied Joseph Brant to settle along the Grand River, had already used items they liked and adopted many European skills from their Palatine friends who had lived beside them in the Finger Lakes. They were already building log homes, establishing gardens and farms, and combining European clothes with their own native fashions, fine china with their own pottery. Later, Mechanics’ Institutes and schools were established locally to help educate them and help them to refine their agriculture and work skills. Native people in the Americas did not receive recognition for many of their contributions adapted into the modern world. We are familiar with some of the inventions made by them but many are surprising! Did you know.....?

They developed ecological engineering skills to grow “The Three Sisters” -- corn, beans and squash. Corn was bred from maize, to grow larger kernels in a shorter maturity period. Dry kernels could be stored for up to two years. Corn was planted together with beans which climbed up the corn stalks and enriched the soil with nitrogen, and squash covered the ground to prevent weeds and preserve moisture. Recent farmers have adopted these methods, called companion planting. Mostly women were the gardeners, and they also grew strawberries, sunflowers, popping corn and tobacco. They developed 15 to 17 distinct varieties of maize, six varieties of beans, eight squashes. Their famous Indian corn soup is still made from dried corn softened by soaking the hard kernels in water mixed with ashes which also add needed calcium to their diets. They had 34 wild fruits, including peaches.



Learning from observation and practice, native people discovered how to use medicinal herbs – seeds, flowers, leaves, bark, and roots - to cure ailments and treat injuries, such as willow bark to kill pain. Recognizing the need for family survival in their threatening wild environment, the women limited family size by practising birth control, using stoneseed root. Papoose babies were carried in cradleboards or backpacks, lined with mosses which served as diapers.

In Canada, challenged by harsh winters, the Longhouse people built permanent abodes, housing several families – town houses. They shared areas with central fires burning, and each family had a private area walled off with bunk beds for comfort and privacy. Many longhouses were located close together in villages surrounded by palisades. By 1800, the Six Nations on the Grand people were living in individual homes and practicing agriculture.

Some tribes traded valuable flint and chert with other tribes across large areas of the continent. They quarried and flint knapped tools with extraordinarily sharp blades to make other very effective tools -- spear tips, cutting blades, arrowheads, hatchets, tomahawks. Natives north of Lake Superior mined and fashioned copper to create arrowheads. They soon adapted to iron introduced by Europeans – such as axes, hatchets, cooking pots. We still use their inventions created to travel. Kayaks and canoes and voyageur freight canoes were created by Inuit, First Peoples and Metis. Crees and Ojibways created snowshoes to travel easily and safely in deep snow. They used toboggans to pull loads in winter and travois and sleds to pull loads in all weather, using dogs to haul materials.

Written language was developed by Europeans for communication and record-keeping. Without a written language, First Nations successfully kept their records through oral tradition and other methods. To register agreements and treaties they artfully designed beautiful belts, creating symbols with wampum beads. (Wampum, made of shells with holes were strung and used for money: six beads worth a penny.) Orators were trained to recite for hours.

They used nature to make signs along trails by marking trees and bending tree limbs to grow and point the traveler in the right direction. Braves, trained as runners to deliver messages to distant destinations along Indian trails or waterways, carried carved message sticks with symbols painted on them which reinforced the messages they had memorized to deliver orally. Smoke signals and sign language were developed by Native People. During World War I and II, native American soldiers were the expert Code Talkers, using their complex unwritten language with coding to help the allies win.

In jungle areas, latex was tapped from trees to make rubber items-- shoe soles, rubber balls, sealing containers, etc.

In dry area of America the natives developed irrigation systems covering miles of land that allowed them to maintain and water plants. Floating gardens called chinampas were created in Mexico to cultivate crops.

The Tlingits in the Northwest practiced ecological aquaculture, creating stone traps along the shores to manage fish populations. Remnants of ancient fishing nets have been discovered by archaeologists.

The Incas practiced engineering by building a vast highway across mountainous areas linked by 200 sturdy swinging suspension bridges, with some so well-built they still survive. They were wide and stable enough to safely transport alpacas.

We have hardly scratched the surface! Here is a link to one of several YouTube sites that describe Indigenous Inventions in more detail: [8 INCREDIBLE INVENTIONS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS | History ... Countdown - https://histv.co/countdown](https://histv.co/countdown). This will lead you to many more videos on YouTube.

Historians of industry have a role to teach others about the errors our people have made in the past so that we will no longer pollute and destroy our environment and threaten our planet and its future. We are now listening to our indigenous neighbors to learn their forestry methods developed over many centuries to prevent the uncontrollable forest fires we have been experiencing recently - caused by global warming. In Canada, First Peoples are now working with government departments to preserve the chinook salmon and caribou whose existence has been threatened. Tech skills are being taught locally at Six Nations Polytechnic adapting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) to STEAM, the "A" referring to the Arts, an important part of their culture.

Indigenous contributors have often been given little recognition for important contributions: for example, Arnold Anderson was a [Six Nations](#) Tuscarora tribal member who worked as a chemical engineer on the [Manhattan Project](#) to help the United States develop the first [atomic bombs](#). He was president and founding member of the [American Indian Science and Engineering Society](#) which was founded in 1977 with six other American Indian scientists.

Recent outstanding but generally unrecognized contributions made by some very intelligent American indigenous scientists, mathematicians, engineers, see 10 Forgotten Native American Inventors and Their Inventions at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfk2YvQXZU>

By the way, you may be interested in the latest fascinating theories being patchworked together by archaeologists, scientists, etc. about the previously unknown American civilizations being discovered on sites, some underwater, from the Arctic to the tip of South America. These professionals are using new DNA techniques and other methods to date clues of older inhabitants, such as footprints in the desert sands dating back 30,000 years! See Ancient DNA: Solving the Mystery of the First Americans – A Groundbreaking Genetic Discovery <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4do3VKDM1P4>

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## **CIHC DIRECTORS - WHO ARE WE?**

Our newest director: Jack Jackowetz

Jack is an artist, writer, and historian. He was born and raised in Brantford. He graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University with a degree in Business Administration.

After spending thirty years working in corporate Canada and America, engaged in marketing, client relationship management, and software development, Jack focused on his arts and culture interests, developing his unique and distinctive style. His first exhibit was at the Brant Museum and Archives in November 2007.

Jack began writing a history column for the paper BScene in October 2015. The column has covered a serialized history of Brantford, the former townships of Brant County, Paris, and Waterford. He has recently written about the economic development of Ontario, Canadian football, hydro-electricity development, and radio broadcasting.

Jack self-published his first book about Geneva, NY in the fall of 2012. He has since published six more titles including books featuring Paris and Waterford.

Jack served as president of the Brant Historical Society for two years, chaired the City of Brantford's Tourism Advisory Committee for five years, the Brantford Heritage Committee for two years, and Brantford Arts Block for one year. He has also been involved with the Downtown Action Committee, the Brantford Cultural Advisory Committee, and Stage 88. Jack participates in the arts and culture community in Brant and Norfolk Counties, Waterloo Region, and the Finger Lakes Region.

Welcome, Jack, as a new Director of CIHC!

## **SWORDS AND PLOWSHARES REVISITED**

We saw lots of smiling faces when CIHC Directors and friends gathered on November 3rd to celebrate the gala opening at Waterford Heritage and Agricultural Museum of a wonderful and very extensive display of artifacts, curated by CIHC's Rob Adlam and WHAM's curator, James Christison. Swords and Plowshares Revisited displayed many of the Cockshutt artifacts, selected from the CIHC collection stored at WHAM or borrowed from other collections. It covered Cockshutt's participation in three wars, World War I and II and the Cold War and included women's contribution and the Cockshutt Molded Aircraft Plant. There was also a display of Harry Cockshutt's story and a wheel full of Cockshutt collectibles recently donated to CIHC.

See our website for Rob's full story. [www.canadianindustrialheritage.com](http://www.canadianindustrialheritage.com)



## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP APPRECIATION DAY**

CIHC President Christina Han is the originator and inaugural Director of the Laurier Hub For Community Solutions (LHCS) which provides opportunities for Laurier to collaborate with the local community organizations on innovative projects. The experiences provide training and educational opportunities for Laurier's faculty, staff and students, while supporting and collaborating with local organizations to carry out partnerships on creative projects.

On this anniversary occasion, the collaborating groups made presentations to demonstrate the very successful and innovative projects they were involved in. Bill Darfler and Peter Muir were among other groups who made presentations. They described how CIHC and Brant Theatre Workshops worked with Brant Historical Society and Laurier to collaborate on the annual Brantford Immigrant Experience, which in 2024, told the story of the Armenians.

We congratulate Christina on her successful mission to establish the Hub and thus strengthen the relationship of Laurier Brantford with the community.



## STUDENT ASSISTANTS VOLUNTEERING THEIR SKILLS

During the month of March, two of Christina's Laurier students are volunteering with Jean Farquharson and Christina Han for three hours per week, Dale to scan and add CIHC newsletters not already on the website, dating from 2003.



*Dale Leonard (on left) Gary & Kyle Prince with Christina*

Gary, with the help of his son, Kyle, is working on the Grand River Heritage Mines Society's newsletters. GRHM Society existed from 1993 to 2003, and there is much valuable information about the gypsum mines and mills in the Grand River Watershed.

The scanned copies will be donated to CIHC and two museums with permanent gypsum displays, Paris Museum and Archives and Edinburgh Square in Caledonia. They will select and add some articles to the CIHC website.

Sathya Suresh has been attending our ZOOM meetings to help us prepare for the Bike Symposium. She will help us market the event and perform other tasks. She has written a few lines to introduce herself:

*I am the social media and web content intern at Canadian Industrial Heritage, where I manage social media platforms and create marketing materials to promote Canada's industrial history. My work includes designing social media content, developing web materials and crafting promotional campaigns to increase public awareness and engagement.*



Meanwhile, Emma Kennedy, our Copp Scholar, carries on the Cataloguing project for CIHC at Waterford:

*I am a fourth-year History student at Wilfrid Laurier University, excited to begin my MA studies this fall. Currently, I am working on developing a digitized archive for the CIHC. This project includes categorizing, documenting and photographing CIHC artifacts with the goal of making the CIHC collection more accessible.*

## EVENTS: ONGOING AND NEW



Don't miss the display "Forget Me Not", curated by Christina Han, which features artifacts collected by Armenian families that tell the story of their lives in Brantford.

This is part of the annual Memories of Brantford Immigrants Project created by CIHC, Brant Historical Society, and Laurier Brantford.

Viewable at Brant Museum and Archives until September 20th

## **POP UP DISPLAY AT WATERFORD MARCH UNTIL MAY**

On March 11th, a team of CIHC Directors volunteered to set up the Pop-Up Travelling Display with the theme Inventions, Industrialists and Marketers. It includes artifacts from local museum collections. It has already been displayed at Paris Museum and Archives and at Myrtleville. It is now on view at Waterford Heritage and Agricultural Museum.



This is part of a program funded by a Trillium grant in 2023-4 to create a set of versatile fold-up display boxes which can hold artifacts on loan from local museums to CIHC to increase interest in collections on local themes and visits to museums. Our next theme will be Fibres and Fabrics which was also funded by Ontario Trillium Foundation.

For those who have not yet seen this display or the permanent exhibit at Waterford of CIHC's collection of mostly Cockshutt artifacts, now is your chance! See both on one visit! The Museum is open Wed.-Sat. 10-4 and the entrance fee is by donation.

## EVENTS: ONGOING AND NEW

Exciting Announcement: BACK IN PRINT! Brant Historical Society has re-published Bruce Hill's popular book *The Grand River Navigation Company*, with the help of some students from Laurier Brantford. Available at Brant Museum.

### CIHC Presents:

#### ***Bikes! Bikes! Bikes! Brantford's Bike Industry, Bikers and Collections*** **A Free Hybrid Symposium: Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. In Person or by Zoom**

On April 26, at 10 a.m. we will meet at the Research and Academic Centre (RCW203) on Wilfrid Laurier University's Brantford Campus and online by Zoom to celebrate the bicycle and Brantford's part in its manufacture, and much more! Keynote speaker will be Jamie McGregor, the owner of a local private bicycle collection, who exhibits his collection every year. Other speakers and later a panel will discuss bicycle clubs, local bicycle trails and bicycle trips around the world.

We will connect by Zoom with Louise Trotter, who is travelling around the world on a bicycle, following the path of Karl Kreelman, who, in 1897, rode a Brantford Red Bird bike around the world. Louise has a blog and reports every week to interested followers.

We invite you to attend, either in person or by Zoom. To register watch for details on our website. [www.canadianindustrialheritage.com](http://www.canadianindustrialheritage.com). Refreshments will be served and Donations accepted to support CIHC to help cover costs.



Note also, another event in connection with bikes - Delhi Tobacco Museum and Heritage Centre will be featuring a display:

*"Delhi's Team Takes the Lead": Norfolk's Golden Era of Bike Racing*

On Display: September - December 2025

"Bikes blaze around the track at an astonishing 70 km per hour and a 55-degree angle as they navigate the corners of the Delhi velodrome. Local cyclists had one of the most modern indoor circuits in the province and it was built by one of its own. Albert Coulier went on to build tracks around the world and raced in his fair share. This new exhibit explores Norfolk's champions, builders, and innovators in a sport not for the faint of heart." – Courtesy Norfolk County Heritage & Culture website.

## **EVENTS: ONGOING AND NEW**

**CIHC PARTICIPATES IN** Doors Open on May 10th, 10:00am - 4:00pm  
This Factory Is Still Standing at 148 Mohawk Street!

Would you like to visit the Cockshutt Moulded Aircraft building? Have you ever wondered what the inside of an aircraft factory looks like? If so, an opportunity may be coming your way. The building at 148 Mohawk St. was built during World War II to manufacture fighter bombers.

Brantford, Brant County and Six Nations are partnering to participate in Doors Open, a provincially sponsored event to allow building owners a chance to allow the public behind those normally closed doors. The CIHC is partnering with the building owner to host a display and tours on Saturday May 10 from 10:00 am - 4:00pm.

Even though the aircraft manufacturing equipment is long gone, the inside of the building is truly spectacular. We will also have several interpretive displays set up to showcase the incredible history of this building and excerpts from *Footlocker*, a play which involves this building, written by Vincent Ball and directed by CIHC Director Peter Muir with Brant Theatre Workshop.

Come See! Watch for further details on our website [www.Canadianindustrialheritage.com](http://www.Canadianindustrialheritage.com) and Brant Theatre Workshop at <https://www.branttheatre.com/>



## EVENTS: ONGOING AND NEW



For our new project, Brantford's Black Immigrant Community, the Brantford Public Library is now a partner in our work. This year, the Memories of Brantford's Immigrant Communities project is taking a deep dive into the black community in Brantford. In partnership with the Library, and curated by the CIHC's board member Bill Darfler, we are bringing in authors who have written about Brantford's Black Community as a kick-off for our upcoming events.

On April 9, Jerry Prager, author of “Laying the Bed”, “Exodus and Arrival” and “Blood in the Mortar” will be talking on the research he did in writing his series of books on fugitive slaves and the Queen’s Bush settlement.

On May 14 Andrew Hunter, the author of “It Was Dark There All The Time” talks about his book on Sophia Burthen Pooley, Joseph Brant’s slave.

On June 11 Paul Allen, the author of “Bright Lights, Black Stars” discusses his book on the Negro League baseball players.

On July 16 Professor Paul Lovejoy, the editor of “Busha’s Mistress” talks about his work rediscovering an early book on the slave trade in Jamaica.

On August 13 Dr. Elaine Brown Spencer, the Executive Producer of Kaleo Productions talks about her book, “The Black Church in Canada”.

In September, Patrick Brode, the retired Senior Legal Counsel for the City of Windsor and the author of “The Odyssey of John Anderson” discusses the important case that shaped Canada's early nationhood.

We are beginning interviews now of people who may have knowledge of Brantford's black community. If you know anyone who would like to share this knowledge, or may have artifacts please contact Peter Muir at [btheatre@rogers.com](mailto:btheatre@rogers.com). We would love to speak with you. Out of the interviews we develop a theatre piece, a historical exhibit at the Museum and hold a weekend festival in October with music, food, historical walks, discussions and displays at the Museum, the Laurier Academic Centre and the Stephen Kun Theatre. For further information visit [branttheatre.com](http://branttheatre.com) or [memoriesofbrantford.ca](http://memoriesofbrantford.ca).



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](http://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.