



NEWSLETTER

September 2019

Editor's Note:

This is a special edition of our newsletter, to inform you about the exciting events coming up this fall. We invite you to attend and enjoy them. This has been a busy year, and important things are about to happen. Our President, John Kneale, has a Report to update the membership on all current happenings.

If you wish to become involved as a volunteer, let us know. Use the attached form to join, rejoin or renew your membership. Be sure to see our newly revised website www.canadianindustrialheritage.com where you can also pay for your membership, donate, or order our publications. Join our Facebook group which is maintained by Rob Adlam.

Brantford Brownfields Committee have created an online tour of the brownfields in Brantford, and you can find it at www.brantford.ca. The City has just approved signage at each brownfield site.

Your editor, Jean Farquharson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we begin a new season of activity, the CIHC is embarking on a completely fresh venture: a partnership with Brant Theatre Workshops. The concept, which is still being worked out in detail, is to share physical space and collaborate on programming. The CIHC has been in discussions with the City of Brantford for several years, seeking a lease of a two acre parcel at 66 Mohawk Street in order to create an Industrial Heritage Park using the vestiges of the Cockshutt Farm Equipment Company. Brant Theatre Workshops has been seeking a larger performance space, as well as ancillary rehearsal and storage space, in order to expand its program of presenting short dramatic pieces featuring people and events from Brantford's past. These two visions fit beautifully together.

Our concept will be unveiled for the public at the upcoming Brownfields Celebration Event on Sunday, September 29th, at Mohawk Park where the City will showcase its plans for the redevelopment of the Mohawk Lake District. We hope to have lots of visitors to our joint exhibit and to get useful feedback from the public.

Another project which is taking shape rapidly is Shtetl on the Grand, which will celebrate the contributions of the Jewish community to Brantford's growth and its cultural richness. An event on November 26th will feature a walking tour of sites associated with Jewish businesses, an invited speaker, and performances by Brant Theatre Workshops. This project is being led by CIHC board director Bill Darfler and BTW artistic director Peter Muir.

There is so much more that the CIHC is doing. We are marketing our suite of publications about Brantford (you can see a list elsewhere in this newsletter), we are researching the fascinating wartime history of the Cockshutt Moulded Aircraft Plant, and we are planning to commission a professional work on Sir John A. Macdonald's National Policy and how it led to Brantford businesses becoming the chief suppliers to settlers in the Canadian

West. We are also organizing a donation of industrial artifacts as public art for the new City Hall (this project is being spearheaded by former CIHC president Rob Adlam), and we are collaborating with an international organization to bring people from 94 countries to a conference in 2021 showcasing Canada's extraordinary industrial history.

I encourage you to renew your membership for 2019 if you haven't already (we can't do all this without money, eh?) and especially to come out and visit our joint exhibit with Brant Theatre Workshops at Mohawk Park on September 29th.

John Kneale, President, on behalf of the CIHC board of directors.

Celebration Event for Mohawk Lake Region

We invite you to come, bring your family, and enjoy the *Celebration Event for the Mohawk Lake Region* on Sunday, Sept. 29th, from 12 to 4, in the upper parking lot and soccer field at Mohawk Park. The City and Brantford Brownfields Committee want to celebrate the completion of the brownfield cleanup, and want to show future plans. The **Brantford Brownfields Committee** has donated \$5000 to hold this free event, part of the celebration of **Culture Days** in Brantford and Brant County. They ask the public to bring money or food donations for the **Food Bank**. The City of Brantford will provide background support and a display of the proposed development of the Mohawk Lake Region.

Opening Program at noon: Brantford's Town Crier, David McKee, will be there; Senior Planner Tara Tran will organize an Opening Ceremony and has invited local county and city officials to make brief remarks.

Displays we are working on include antique cars, fire engines, a Jeep, a tractor, an Adams Wagon, display booths for CIHC, Brantford City Planning, Canadian Military Heritage Museum.

The theme is Brantford in the 1940s and '50s. Re-enactors dressed as Cockshutt employees will provide **historical entertainment**.

Live music will be provided by **The Brownfields**. **Face painting** and **free food and drink** will be supplied.

Shtetl project by Bill Darfler

The Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre is one of the proud sponsors of an organization that is planning an event to be held on November 26th at the Research and Academic Centre at Laurier Brantford. The program focuses on Brantford's Jewish community's importance to the City's commercial history.

Before the First World War, Brantford was one of the most important manufacturing centres in the Dominion, but also, and not coincidentally, the city with the highest proportion of "foreign born" residents in Canada. The influx of immigrants to the area in the last few years of the nineteenth century provided the manpower to build the economic miracle that was Brantford. The CIHC is focusing on telling this story by examining the roots of this chapter in Canadian history.

The Russian Jewish immigrants played an important role in the industrial history of Brantford by fulfilling the need for the collection and recycling of the scrap metals generated by the City's industries. Junk collection was one of the few roles allowed to the Jews of Eastern Europe and they brought their expertise to Brantford. The sons and daughters of these pioneers founded many of the retail shops in Brantford's downtown. In the 1960's it is estimated that half of the businesses in the core were Jewish. The third generation of this community left Brantford for professional careers in the big cities and the story came to a close.

Gerald Tulchinsky's life reflected this story. His grandparents were in the scrap business and his parents ran a women's wear shop on the south side of Colborne Street. Jerry grew up on Terrace Hill, went to BCI and then on to the University of Toronto, beginning an academic career that had him become the expert on Canadian Jewish History at Queens. In his retirement, he wrote a book of reminiscences of his youth and early manhood entitled "Shtetl on the Grand". Jerry died two years ago, before being able to return to his hometown to promote the book.

The November event is intended to focus on his book and to interpret the history of this particular immigrant community. It will feature lectures, the staging of dramatic interpretations of a few of the stories in the book, the results of research by Laurier Brantford, food, music and lots of conversations. There will be exhibits at the Brantford Museum and Archives and a guided walk through the downtown.

For more information on this event, please go to the CIHC website and follow the links. We hope to see you there!

The Mohawk-Greenwich Region: How Brantford's Early Agricultural Industries Evolved into Giants, by Jean Farquharson

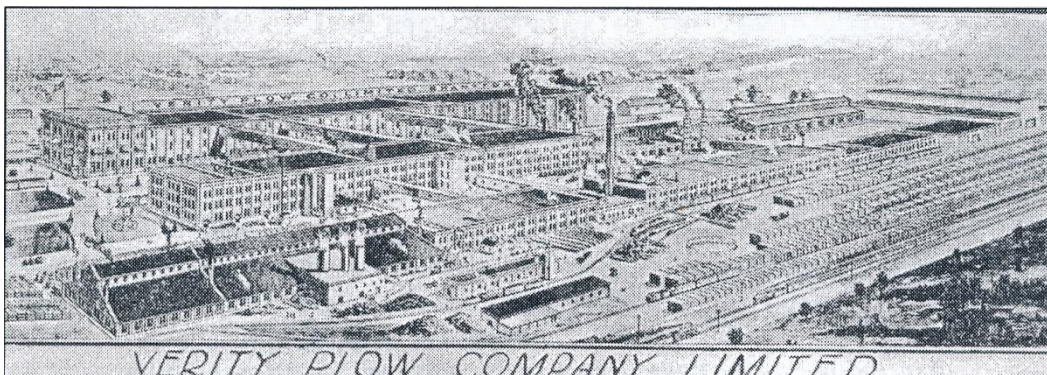
On the reclaimed brownfield Mohawk Greenwich site, Brantford is planning to allow CIHC to build an interpretive centre, an outdoor amphitheatre and park, to commemorate the early industrial history of Brantford. In the 1800s three very successful industries began their businesses there: the **Verity Plow Co.**, **Cockshutt Plow Company**, and **Adams Wagon Works**, which evolved into companies that became industrial giants in the farm machinery industry.

This brownfield site has now been cleaned up, and the City has been reaching out to its citizens to determine the land uses of this large property. CIHC is now hoping to obtain a lease so that we may begin planning and fund-raising. Here is a little of the history of these three pioneer industries.

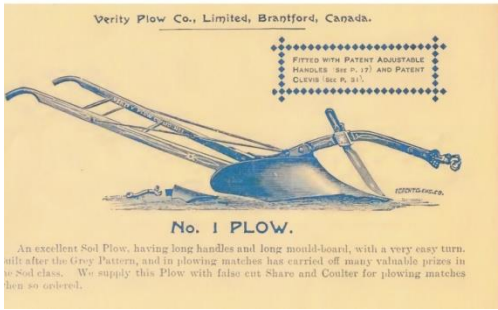
347 Greenwich Street: Verity Plow Company

In 1857, W.H. Verity established a shop in Exeter to manufacture quality plows, straw cutters, pulpers, wood sawing machines, plows, mowers, reapers and stoves. W.H. Verity & Son relocated its operation in 1892, from Exeter to Brantford, producing cultivating equipment and plows.

At that time, it changed its name to the Verity Plow Company. In 1897, fire destroyed much of their premises on Wellington St., but undeterred, they relocated and rebuilt about 1898 on 27 acres at 347 Greenwich St. The company's affiliation with Massey-Harris in 1895 opened it up to the markets of the world. Its products were marketed exclusively by Massey-Harris.



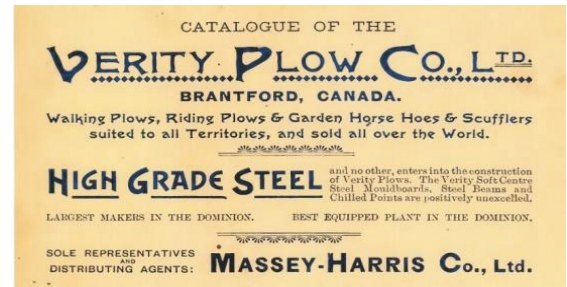
The company had a nation-wide reputation for excellent products and service, and it grew quickly. The office/warehouse fronted on Greenwich St., with foundry and machine shop behind them. Several other buildings were added to the southeast of these buildings, to meet their increasing needs – blacksmith shops, foundries, paint shops, machine shops, welding, grinding, press and casting rooms, and storage.



They spent considerable time designing and patenting many models of plows of from 2 to 12 furrows 2 and 3 furrow sulky gang plows and all kinds of walking plows, land rollers, scufflers, harrows and grain grinders.

About 1926, the company sold out to Massey-Harris Co. Ltd., which later became Massey-Ferguson. The Verity name is still in Brantford operating under the name Crown Verity, still depending on quality to sell its products.

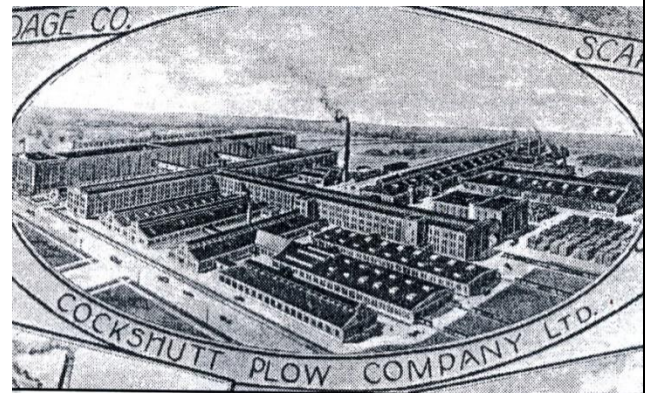
A reprint has recently been published: *Catalogue of the Verity Plow Co. Ltd.* It is also available online in pdf format.



66 Mohawk St: Cockshutt Plow Company

From its early beginnings, Ignatius Cockshutt and his very active family were involved with developing Brantford and many of its businesses and industries as partners, investors, politicians and philanthropists.

One son, James G. Cockshutt, practical and inventive, started a small operation in 1877, on Market Street, producing a riding plow which he specially designed for plowing the virgin soils of the West. It was unbelievably successful and became the foundation of a company that grew rapidly, leading in the development and marketing of farm machinery for the world.



In 1882 Cockshutt Plow Company was incorporated as a joint stock company, with James as President. When James died in 1885, other family members became involved in running and expanding the business. As the company expanded, it added many buildings to the plant, tore down and rebuilt. All eventually became inadequate for the business, and the company acquired 33 acres on Mohawk St. and moved into a new plant in 1903.

Part of the Cockshutt family's success was because of the business and marketing skills they had acquired from Ignatius. In 1911 the Cockshutt Plow Company purchased the business and premises of the Adams Wagon Company Ltd. and the Brantford Carriage Co., and managed sales with their own sales organization. The Head Office was in Brantford, with offices operating across Canada. Besides handling domestic trade, farm equipment was shipped all over the world. During World War II, Cockshutt built the **Cockshutt Moulded Aircraft Plant**, which was used by various industries, and the building is still intact, adjacent to the brownfield area, at 148 Mohawk St.

In 1961, the Cockshutt business was unexpectedly taken over, and later renamed White Farm Equipment, which eventually went bankrupt and ceased operations. A variety of businesses used the buildings since then. An explosion and fire destroyed one of the buildings in 1992, and another was destroyed by fire in 1997. Other buildings were demolished. Now all that is left is the portico of the office building and the timekeeping building. Both were designated by the City of Brantford. In 2013 City Council directed Staff to enter into a lease agreement with the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre with the intent to use these



buildings in a future outdoor museum, amphitheatre and park. We are eager to begin!

Our readers can find out more of the company's history and about the Cockshutt Family in books that CIHC has for sale, including *Merchant's Exchange: Ignatius Cockshutt, 1812-1901: Canadian Entrepreneur*, written by Wm. H. Cockshutt.

22 Mohawk Street: The Adams Wagon Works

In 1863, **Peter Adams** developed the horse-drawn Adams Wagon at the request of his customers in his blacksmith shop on the river flats in downtown Paris. Thanks to the wagon's quality and dependability, demand for it grew locally and spread quickly across Canada, from the East to the expanding West. The business was soon reorganized with Adams' two sons as partners. Sales were handled by Cockshutt outlets in the West, and supply could not keep up with demand. Adams invented and patented improvements to make the wagon stronger and less likely to break down when heavily loaded.



The company added a new partner, **John A.**

Sanderson, a clever businessman, as manager.

Henry Cockshutt, then senior executive in the **Cockshutt Plow Co.**

convinced the Adams Company to build its next factory at 22 Mohawk St. in Brantford. The new company became a subsidiary of Cockshutt, and was named the

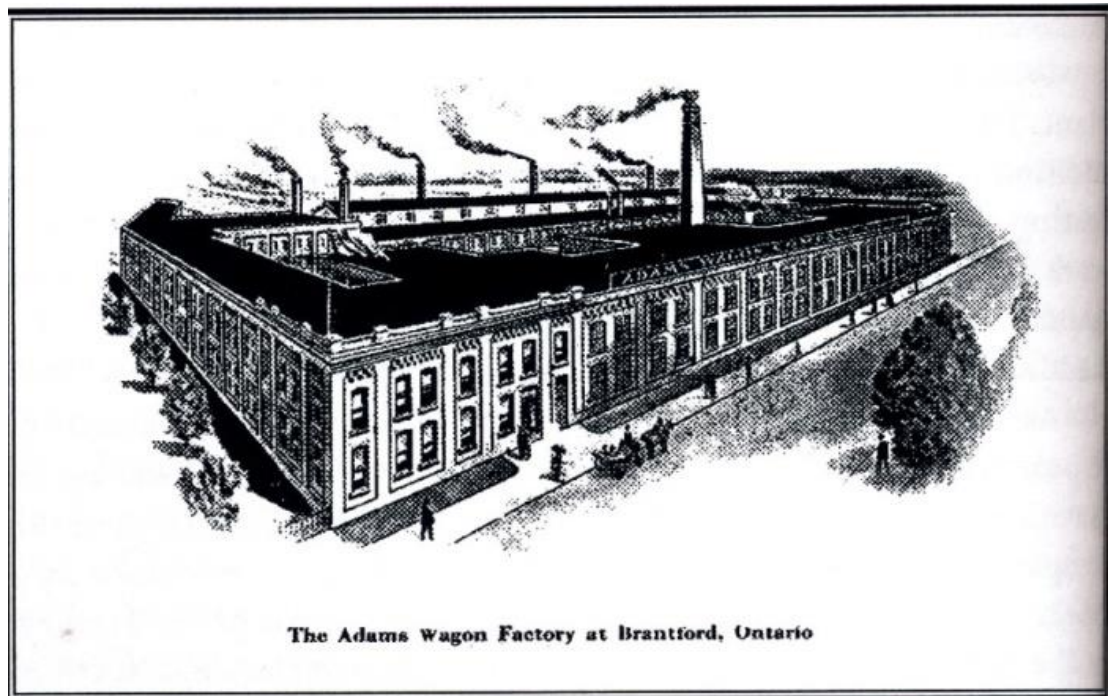
Adams Waggon Co. Ltd., and included 27 shareholders, with the executive members including Sanderson as President, and David and

James Adams and **C.H. Waterous** as Directors. Production by now included a two-horse lorry for cartage agents and

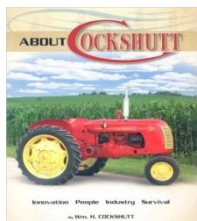
railway companies, hay and stock racks, various sleighs, including heavy teaming and logging sleighs, and dump wagons.

Adjacent property on Mohawk Street was purchased to expand the plant to accommodate hub and spoke machinery and kilns to dry the lumber. Another railway siding was built. When Peter Adams died in 1911, Cockshutt purchased all the shares of Adams Waggon Co. Ltd. for \$465,000, with no change in management, and a promise that the Adams name would be kept on all farm wagons produced. During World War I, Adams Wagon Works received a contract to produce army wagons. This helped boost Brantford's economy.

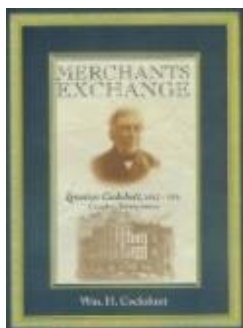
Over the years, a complicated pattern of carriage, body, coach and trailer businesses were interconnected, with name changes and mergers. Among others, they include Adams Wagon Co., Brantford Coach & Body, Brantford Trailer & Body, Canadian Coach & Body, Fruehauf and Trailmobile. 22 Mohawk Street, now vacant land, is a designated Heritage property listed by the City of Brantford, containing 15.9 acres. One of Mike Hand's books, *From Wagon to Trailer: A History of Trailmobile Canada and its Forerunners*, covers the complete history of the various companies, beginning with Adams Wagon. It is the source of much of the information in this article, and the illustrations are also taken from it. To obtain a copy, you may order it from the CIHC website.



Books For Sale: See our website: www.canadianindustrialheritage.com for prices and ordering information.



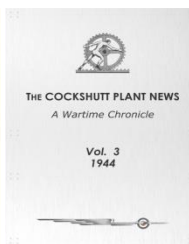
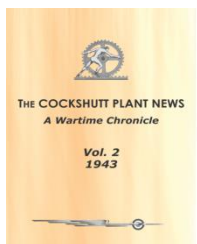
About Cockshutt: If you are interested in Cockshutt you will want to add this excellent book to your library. Covers complete detailed information on products they manufactured including tractors, machinery, plows, mowers, wagons, grain binders, combines, truck bodies, semis, trailers and much more. It is the definitive history of the Cockshutt Co. covering the 85 years of quality manufacturing of machinery and tractors.



Merchants Exchange: Ignatius Cockshutt, 1812- 1901

Written by the late Bill Cockshutt. This popular book fills in much of the early history of Brantford.

Much of the information was taken from copybooks of Ignatius' business letters rescued from a dumpster. Mike Hand assisted Bill in writing the book before Bill passed away.



The Cockshutt Plant News – A Wartime Chronicle: Volume 2 – 1943, Volume 3 – 1944.

Each volume contains 12 issues in a single bound volume at the full size at which they were originally issued. Includes a comprehensive alphabetical index of names mentioned in the 12 issues - including 331 men and women identified as part of the Brantford Cockshutt “family” in the armed services; a special “Honour Roll” listing those men who died, were wounded, who went missing, or became a prisoner of war; and a Topical Index of interesting articles. It also includes the *Cockshutt Moulded Aircraft Plant News*.

Several of Mike Hand's books about Brantford's industrial heritage may also be purchased on our website, including:

From Wagon to Trailer: A history of Trailmobile Canada and its forerunner

Where Did They Go? Several Ontario industries that were once the community mainstay

Iron Steam & Wood: Waterous Engine Works company supplied machinery to fuel the growth of Canada.

Steam Engines & Threshers An historical look at manufacturers in this industry in Southern Ontario.

A City's Industrial Heritage: the growth and demise of fifteen major manufacturers in Brantford , Ontario

This newsletter is published by Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre, P.O. Box 23055, Brantford Ontario, Canada N3T 6K4

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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: _____

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City, Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____

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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.