



CIHC

Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre



NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2
SUMMER 2003

Telling the InduSTORY By Donna Stewart, Chair CIHC

Greetings Friends and Supporters of the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre Project! We are pleased to present the second edition of our newsletter. In this issue you will find an update on our progress and some very interesting articles that pertain to industrial heritage.

Having recently completed our Second Annual Strategic Planning Session, we are bursting with great ideas of how our centre will look and function. Helen Scutt-Wallis of the Ontario Department of Culture, Tourism and Recreation facilitated the full-day session. She professionally and capably led us from visualization to priorities and planning. In our next newsletter we will circulate an overview of our proposed Business Plan.

Helen's first piece of advice was to get very specific about what we needed to do in the short term – in effect, an early win that all of our members and the general public can celebrate. Canadian Industry is such a broad topic! You can appreciate our challenge in narrowing it down to a workable scenario that would function well as both a human story and a showcase

for the artifacts in interactive displays or activities.

We decided to take a very practical approach. We have designed a story model that will enable us to take any item manufactured in Canada and tell how and where it was made as well as the impact this product has had on our world.

For example, we will begin with the story of the plow and how it led to the development of the tractor. Then we will take the manufacturing process of the tractor studying it as a whole and as individual parts.

Just to make a tractor takes elements from every aspect of our industrial heritage: technology, education and apprenticeship, innovation, economic constraints, environmental impact, owners and managers, products and raw materials, people who actually made the product and its parts by their craft, people who bought and used the products as well as those who sold or marketed them, and the communities that supported the industry or industries involved.

That's how we will illustrate and tell the InduSTORY about each product.

We bounced around some great ideas for our centre including departments for a MentorCentre, InventorCentre and an archive on Industrial Evolution.

We are very interested in your input. What would you like to see at our centre? Tell us your vision. Let's work together to create something that makes people say, "WOW, I can't wait to go back and see what they'll do next!"

In other news it appears that the city of Brantford is taking a proactive approach to brownfield remediation and has affirmed that our site and 347 Greenwich will have number one priority. They have allocated up to \$500,000 per year to clean up Brownfields and will be looking to partner with other levels of government and organizations to help get the job done. Rumour has it that the tax sale process may be started before year-end.

(continued on page 2)

InduSTORY (cont'd from page 1)

If all goes well, we hope to have resolution of the 66 Mohawk site by the spring!

But we're not sitting here waiting – there are many things we can do right now before that building is up and running. We can arrange and circulate mobile displays of our artifacts to various communities through Fall Fairs and even to their museums as traveling exhibits. We are also looking for temporary store front space to display our artifacts and begin building our interactive displays to tell the InduSTORY.

But we need the resources and funding to make this happen. We also need more volunteers and more artifacts!

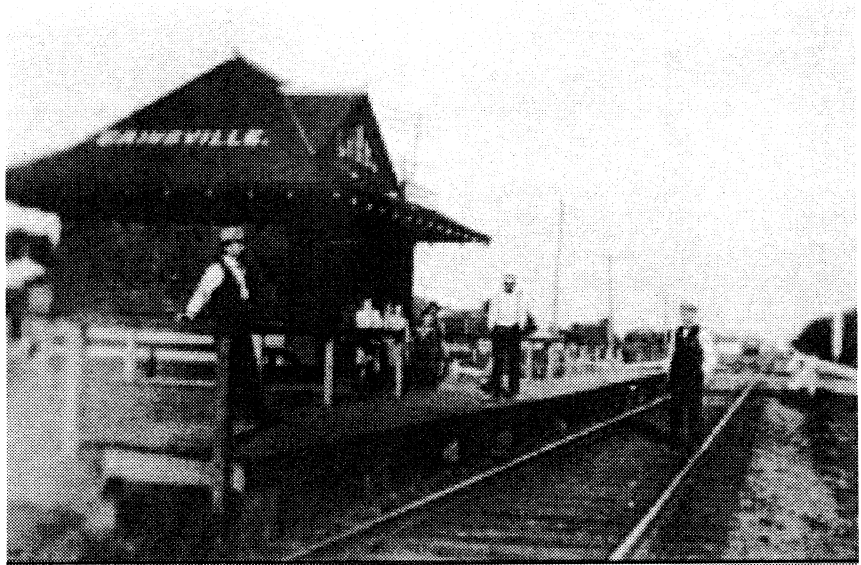
CIHC writes charitable tax receipts for donors, so don't hesitate to contact us if you want to play an important role in preserving our Canadian Industrial Heritage and helping to tell our InduSTORY! No matter how you can help, with your time, some money or a fabulous idea, we want to hear from you.

If you wish to make a donation or have some ideas to share, contact us at:

**Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre,
P.O. Box 23055,
Brantford ON N3T 6K4
or e-mail me directly at
dmstewart@bfree.on.ca**



Donna Stewart
Chair, CIHC



Cainsville Grand Trunk Railway
Station in the early 1900's
Photo courtesy of Ruth Lefler

Rob Adlam and Wendy Oldham With New Roles on the CIHC Board of Directors.

Rob Adlam has been appointed Vice-Chair of the Board replacing Tom Oldham. Tom resigned because of his responsibilities on Brantford's Brownfield Committee. Tom remains a member of CIHC and a great resource to us all with his sage advice. Rob Adlam has taken on his new role as Vice-Chair with great energy and dedication. He is known for his hard work and thoughtful, thorough approach. Congratulations Rob!

Wendy Oldham, past Secretary to the Board has accepted the position of Treasurer, replacing Franke Sturgeon. Franke is incredibly busy this year as the head of the Regional Chapter of Rebeccas (Odd Fellows) and will be missed. She tries to get out to CIHC meetings when her time permits. Wendy Oldham is known to CIHC members for her high energy, good humour and hard work. Congratulations Wendy!

“ “

New Book on the History of Brant County

Ruth Lefler, member of the Board of Directors of CIHC, has recently had another book published. Ruth co-authored (with Angela Files) *County of Brant: Simply Grand – 1852-2002, A Celebration*. Supported by both the County of Brant and the Brant Historical Society, the book was made possible by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the province's Ministry of Culture.

Trains were critical to the success of industry in the 19th century. But they were also vitally important to ordinary people in communities the line passed through.

The authors write:

“With the coming of the iron horse, railway companies built small train stations in Ontario communities to link villages and towns to the railway system. Before the turn of the 20th century, the Cainsville station, along with many others, was known as a flag station. Railway workers flagged down trains to stop if there were passengers or goods waiting to be transported to other destinations.”

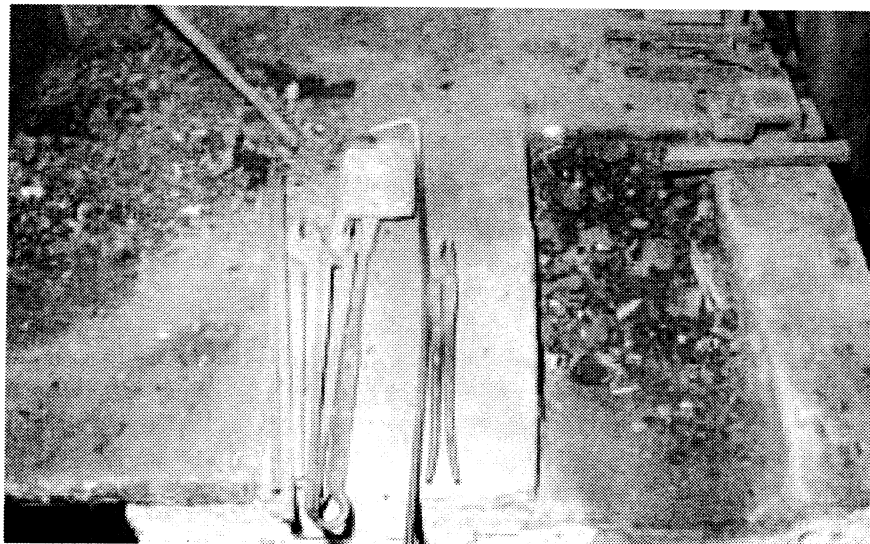
The book is sold at Fairview Photo lab and the Brant Museum.



Checking Out a Possible Donation

Bill Cockshutt, Director CIHC, looks over the bellows crank at a working blacksmith shop. The owner is considering a possible donation to the Centre.

Below is a close up of the forge area and some of the blacksmith's tools.



Dennis Stewart, Director, CIHC examines the joists of the blacksmith shed. Just behind Dennis, Rob Adlam, Vice-Chair CIHC, looks at some hand-forged tooling.

CIHC would hope to preserve the entire workshop including the shed as an interactive demonstration of the art of smithing.

Do You Just Belong?

Are you an active member?
The kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the flock?
Or do you just stay at home
And criticize and knock?

Do you ever go to visit
A member who is sick,
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?

So come to the meetings often
And help with hand and heart.
Don't be just a member,
Dig in and do your part.

Think this over, member –
You know right from wrong.
Are you an active member,
Or do you just belong?

Submitted by CIHC Director Art Berry who has carried the poem in his wallet for many, many years. We don't know the author so if you do, please write and let us know. For the record, Art is over 80 years young but is our most enthusiastic volunteer at displays and events. He is standing and chatting with the public long after most of us have put up our feet to rest. Hats off to Art Berry who really walks the talk!

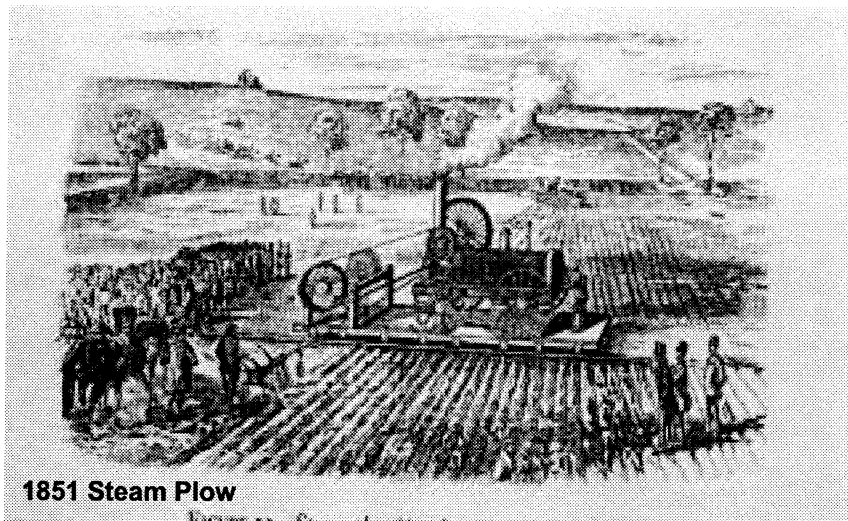


Art Berry
Director, CIHC

Curator's Corner

By Jennifer Dunkerson

Most people are familiar with the expression, "If you build it, they will come!". Well, with the CIHC, we may not have 'built' it yet but people are already coming! That is, coming forward with donations of artifacts. We are very grateful for the show of interest and support reflected in these donations. As I have the privilege of documenting these items, I would like to share with you a selection of what we have received.



1851 Steam Plow

Honours!

Besides the wonderful collection of wooden patterns for foundry moulds mentioned in the first newsletter, John Waterous has also donated many other things including a bobsled made by his grandfather in 1922. He has given us a box of full of American and Canadian patent documents for manufacturing equipment designed in Brantford or utilized in Brantford plants in the 1930s and 1940s. These documents include full specifications for equipment such as a wood pulp grinding machine, magnetic valves, concrete carriers for dump trucks and a snow plow.

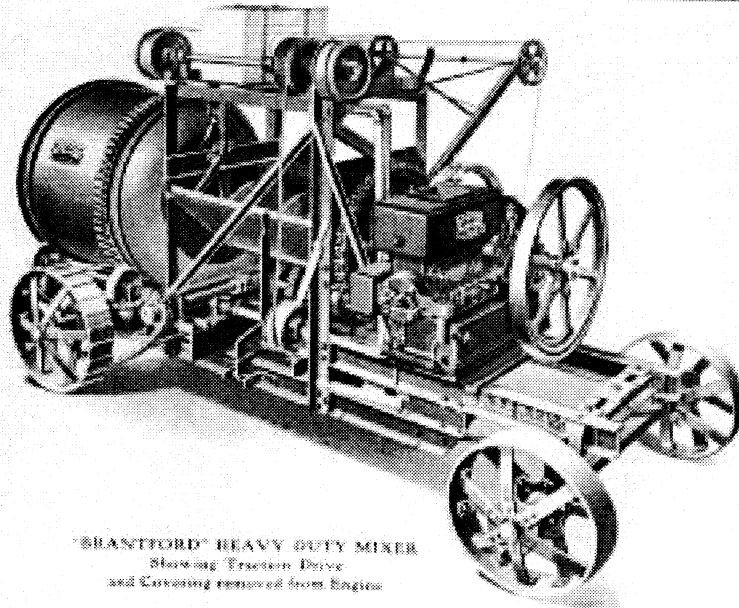
Arthur R. Greenwood has kindly donated a copy of the "Cockshutt Farm Equipment Operating Instructions" for the '570' tractor. Unfortunately, no date is found on the booklet – can anyone help here? Another notable contribution is a copy of the history of the J.D. Adams Co. Ltd., written in August 1986.

These are just some of the items that are coming forward. As I continue to organize our growing collection, I look forward to what might come our way next!

We are pleased to announce that Ruth Leffler, another one of our busy and valuable Directors, received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for her community service along with our Chair Donna Stewart. The ceremony took place at the Mayor's Levee on January 1st 2003. Both Ruth and Donna felt honoured to have been selected for such a prestigious award. Ruth has been very busy writing some wonderful books on the history of Brant County (see an excerpt from her latest on page 2 of this newsletter).

Dennis and Donna Stewart have collected, beyond their tractors, a set of four Merriman photographs depicting Cockshutt plows in use in 1927, including two photographs of a horse team at work. A 1910 mounted photograph of employees in the Cockshutt Company's Calgary showroom, and some editions of "The Cockshutt Plant News" from 1943 through 1945 also form part of the Stewarts' contribution.

Marguerite Rice has donated a photograph of the Cockshutt General Office staff in 1943 when she was working there.



"BRANTFORD" HEAVY DUTY MIXER
Showing Traction Drive
and Connecting removed from Engine

The Goold, Shapely & Muir Company made cement mixers like this one as well as pumps and engines

Wartime Ingenuity: The Linen Thread Story

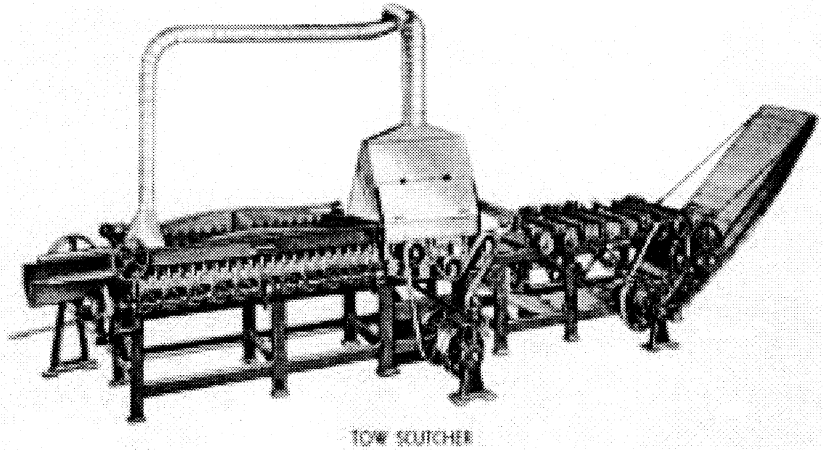
by Bill Cockshutt, Director CIHC
(excerpt from his upcoming book)

During the Second World War, Canada's War Ministry asked industry whether linen thread could be made in Canada. The answer was "Yes we can" although it would require the cooperation of three dissimilar industries working together for the first time!

Our Ontario linen industry had been virtually wiped out after 1900 by low cost competition from Russia, France and Belgium. By 1939, however, France and Belgium were under Nazi control and Russia had conscripted most of its farm labour into the army. This meant there was a desperate shortage of linen thread for the Allies to make cloth to cover aircraft wings, army webbing or even to sew shoes. Great Britain asked Canada to help and we got busy working on what needed to be done.

Flax expert, Howard Fraleigh, assisted by the Dominion Experimental Farm in Ottawa, produced the seed necessary for Quebec and Ontario farmers to grow the long-stemmed variety of flax required. A Quebec steel working company (Forano Manufacturing) was given the job of producing copies of a Belgian machine to pull the crop and lay it on the ground to dry.

There are three-foot long flax threads just inside the thin outer shell that forms a sheath around the pulpy center core of the stem. These threads are what's needed. After it is cut, the flax straw must lie in the field for three weeks so that both the hard outer shell and the inner core dry and become brittle. Then it has to be picked up and transported to a mill for further processing.



As a boy, Bill saw this flax processing machine as the "Loch Ness Monster"!

As in wartime Russia, Ontario didn't have enough farm labour to gather the stems and tie them in bundles.

Another firm (Frost & Wood) was asked to design a machine for this part of the operation. The result was a combination of hay loader and grain binder with a conveyor tacked on behind. It looked like a strange sort of 'camel' but it worked. This machine lifted the flax straw from the ground, conveyed it to the knotter, tied twine around it and dropped it back on the field, clear of the remaining swaths. These sheaves were then picked up and transported to district flax mills in Ontario and Quebec.

At the mills these sheaves were passed through crimper rolls to fracture and loosen the pulpy interior from the exterior hull. All that remained was to free the long threads from the waste and take away any short or broken fibres. What was needed was a 'tow scutcher'. Here was another challenge!



A bi-product of the flax milling process was something called "tow" – as the dictionary puts it, "the coarse or broken part (fibres) of the flax separated by a hatchel or swingle (a scutcher), ready for spinning". Hence the name 'tow scutcher'!

The design for this machine needed a complicated table of rollers, wire fingers and suction tubes to do the separating. To me, as a small boy, the final product looked like some weird version of the Loch Ness monster! But it worked, despite appearances, and the end result was skeins of thread ready for shipment to Great Britain.

The farmers grew the flax, the farm equipment firms made the machinery, and the mills cleaned the flax, making thread for shipment. This effort required ingenuity at every step – we had to adapt European agricultural and technology approaches to a low labour environment. With cooperation between three separate industries and good old Canadian know-how we successfully pulled it off. Our nation called, and industry responded, "Yes we can"!

ANNOUNCEMENT New Board Members Sought for CIHC!

CIHC has two vacancies on its Board of Directors. One is for the position of Secretary to the Board and the other is for a Director at large.

Please send a note of your interest to cihc_secretary@hotmail.com or Selection Committee, Chair, Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre, P.O. Box 23055, Brantford, ON N3T 6K4.

Election of the Board of Directors, including incumbents, will take place at the CIHC Annual General Meeting in November. All paid up members have voting privileges.

NOTICE CIHC Annual General Meeting November 16, 2003 2-4 pm – Location TBA

The CIHC Annual General Meeting is open to all members in good standing. Election of Officers and Board of Directors will take place (all members may vote).

Attendees will hear a report from the Chair, from honoured guests and a special speaker on Industrial Heritage. It's also a chance to meet and mingle over coffee and cake. Please make a note to attend on that date. We will contact you with details once the agenda is finalized and the location set.

In Memoriam

We regret to inform you of the loss of one of our beloved directors Mr. Clarence Kellam who passed away just before Christmas. Clarence farmed with Cockshutt Equipment for many years. He was a savvy businessman and an enthusiastic supporter of CIHC. We will miss him very much.

2003 Plowman's Dinner a Success!

Our 2nd Annual Plowman's Dinner/Dance Fundraiser was held on March 15th. A large group sat down to the hearty dinner of turkey and all the trimmings. Along with many local folks, we had guests and new members who came from the United States as well as other parts of Ontario! A good time was had by all in aid of a very worthwhile cause, developing CIHC into the best Industrial Heritage facility in North America!

How to Become a CIHC Member!

The 2003 Membership fees are as follows:

Individual (one person) \$20.00 annually

Family (up to 4) \$25.00 annually

To become a member or renew for 2004, please contact us at:

Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre,

P.O. Box 23055,

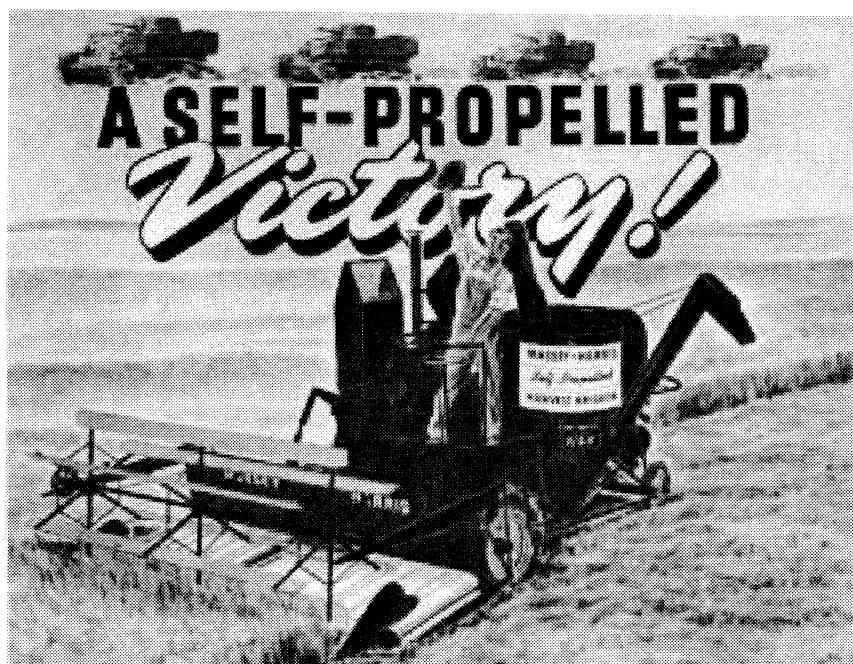
Brantford On

N3T 6K4

or

e-mail

cihc_secretary@hotmail.com



With so many anniversaries of World War II events these days, it's important to remember the role our farm equipment industry played. Above is a Massey ad showcasing their war effort.

To the left is Sir Winston Churchill using Massey farm equipment while on a much needed break at his beloved estate, Chartwell, midway through the war.