



## July 2021

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

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About 1900, Brantford was Canada's third largest industrial producer of exports to the world. Its industrial history mirrors the growth of industry across Canada.

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Our Address is  
Canadian Industrial  
Heritage Centre, P.O.  
Box 23055, Brantford  
Ontario, Canada  
N3T 6K4

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See our website:

[www.canadianindustrialheritage.com](http://www.canadianindustrialheritage.com)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CanadianIndustrial>

We are responsible for the TICCIH Canada website at

[www.ticcihcanada.org](http://www.ticcihcanada.org)

Please send submissions or inquiries to:

[info@canadianindustrialheritage.com](mailto:info@canadianindustrialheritage.com)

## FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jean Farquharson

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The **Facilities Committee** planning the CIHC project at 66 Mohawk Street in Brantford to build an **interpretive centre** for Brantford's outstanding industrial history are working hard on the **draft business plan, the preliminary step before** we can begin fundraising, etc. *CIHC's* representatives, Dr. Christina Han and Bill Darfler, are working with our partners Peter Muir and Gerry Lafleur from *Brant Theatre Workshops*. They are gathering innovative ideas that we can use on the site, both jointly and individually, as well as to make the site available to other organizations.

The **Facilities Committee** will design a venue that will attract tourists from afar, educators, local residents from pre-school-age to seniors, and families of employees of Brantford's industries. We want to satisfy the needs of our neighbours in Eagle Place, build a relationship with our new neighbours - the *Aboriginal Health Centre* and the *Lansdowne Centre*.

The latest news from the front lines: the last steps in gaining access to the brownfield site are moving slowly. This is new territory for *CIHC* and for the *City Planning Department*, and *CIHC* is working closely with Brantford planners and councillors to make sure everything is being done properly so that we can provide flexible uses for the site by carefully wording the zoning bylaw. There is no news yet on the capping which must also be completed to seal any remaining pollution.

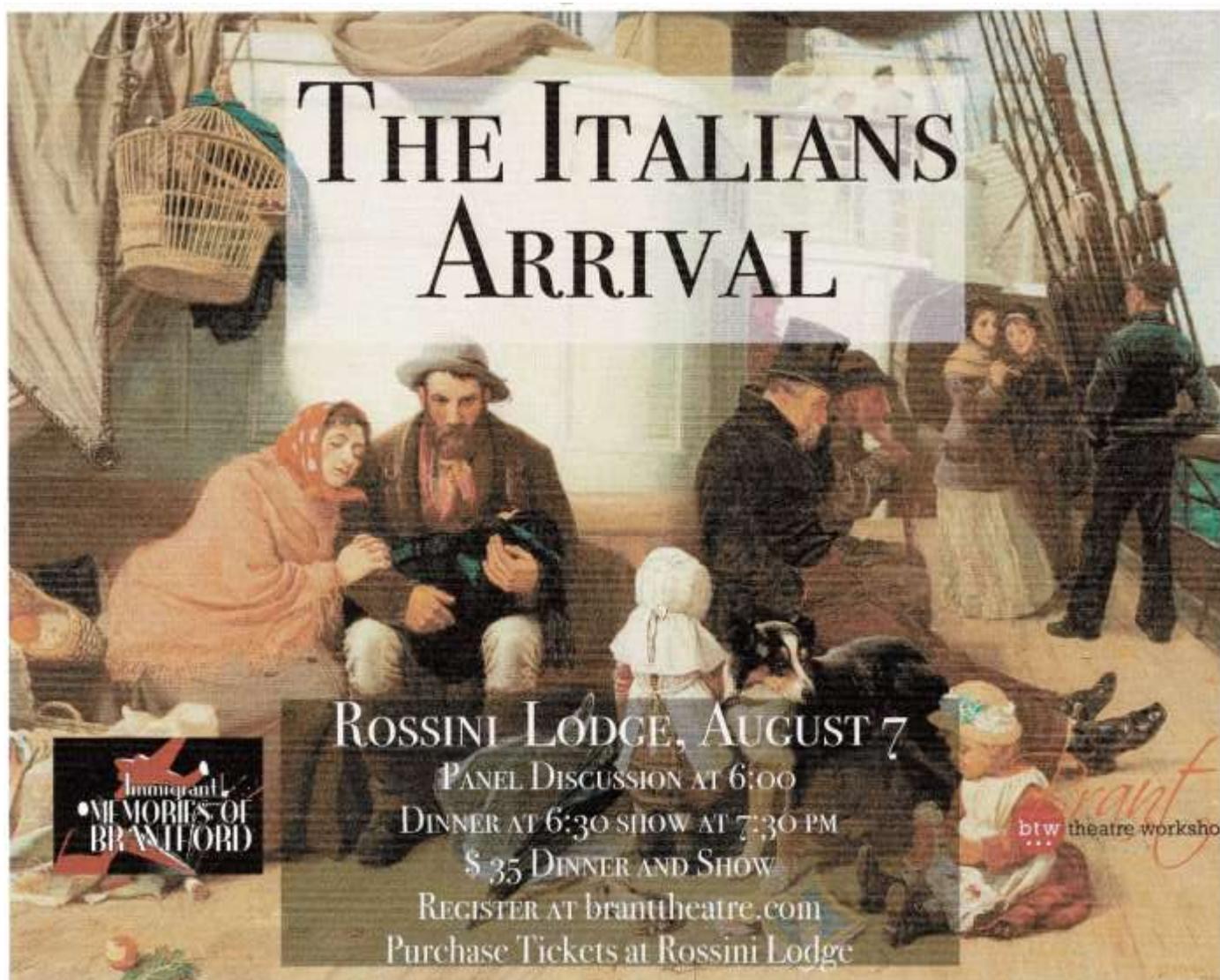
Our Chairman, John Kneale, has arranged with the *National Trust* that we will receive free **Launch Pad Coaching** to get our project off the ground. Robert Pajot is our Ottawa contact of *National Trust*. He is already familiar with

Brantford through Myrtleville and his participation in the *Brant Museum & Galleries Association*.

The Province of Ontario recently passed a private member's bill to create **Ontario Day**, to be celebrated every year on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The announcement was made by Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, while announcing extra funding to support local museums to reestablish their programs after Covid. "Ontario Day is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the significant roles that Ontario and Ontarians have played and continue to play in Canada."

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We have been awaiting the Province's lifting of restrictions on Covid-19 activities so that we can continue with **Brantford's Italian Immigrant Experience** CIHC is sharing with Laurier, Brant County Museum and Brant Theatre Workshops. Part of the event was celebrated earlier and the other activities were postponed. See the attached exciting announcements from Peter Muir.



# THE ITALIANS ARRIVAL

**ROSSINI LODGE, AUGUST 7**  
PANEL DISCUSSION AT 6:00  
DINNER AT 6:30 SHOW AT 7:30 PM  
\$ 35 DINNER AND SHOW  
REGISTER AT [branttheatre.com](http://branttheatre.com)  
Purchase Tickets at Rossini Lodge

Immigrant  
MEMORIES OF  
BRANTFORD

btw theatre workshop



For Immediate Release July 13, 2021

## The Italians arrive!

If you can't go to Italy, the Italians will come to you... Their rich immigrant experience of is coming on August 7 to the Brant County Museum.

Brant Theatre Workshops, Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre, Laurier Brantford and the Brant Historical Society are sponsoring this event. These same partners enlivened the Jewish immigrant experience in 2019. Attracting the attention of CBC and filling the Stephen Kun Theatre at Laurier Brantford, the event broke all attendance records at the Brant County Museum.

We can now announce our next event - the celebration of Brantford's Italian immigrant experience through a day-long event held throughout Brantford. To create this theatrical/heritage event the committee has mined the memories of 20 Italian elders, combed through thousands of documents and posted 16 half hour episodes to their Vimeo Channel. The following is our August 7 schedule: *(Events require registration on-line due to Covid restrictions)*

### **August 7**

#### **At the Museum and downtown**

12:30 opening of exhibit at the Brant County Museum curated by Dr. Christina Han.  
*(Limit of 5 - half hour visits from 12:30 to 6:30 by donation)*

2:00, 3:00, 4:00 Inner City Historical Walk curated by Brian Moore at the Brant County Museum *(limit of 20 per walk by donation)*

5:00 Rossini Lodge Spaghetti Dinner Delivery with Trivia Sheet *(limit of 30 delivered within Brantford \$20 each)*

#### **At Rossini Lodge**

6:00 Panel Discussion *(limit of 150 - \$35 includes dinner, play and discussion)*

7:00 Dinner, Music, Videos

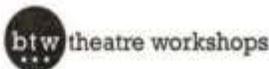
7:30 The Italians Arrival, a serious, irreverent and humorous play based on a community's memory of Brantford curated by Brant Theatre Workshops

You can register for the event or link to the event on-line on Aug 7 beginning at 2 p.m. In-person tickets are available at Rossini Lodge.

Check out <http://branttheatre.com/memories/> to register for events or for the live stream link.

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For further information: [btheatre@rogers.com](mailto:btheatre@rogers.com) or call Peter Muir at 226-938-1930



519-761-0781 Email: [btheatre@rogers.com](mailto:btheatre@rogers.com) Website: [branttheatre.com](http://branttheatre.com)  
Mailing Address: 260 St. Paul Ave. Brantford, ON, N3R 7X4 Studio Address: 340 Henry St. Unit 2

CIHC is also dedicated to celebrating the industrial history of not only communities along the Grand, but also extending to Southern Ontario, all of Ontario and the rest of Canada. With this in mind, we will look at the history of the **Normandale Iron Furnace**, one of Ontario's earliest foundries. Normandale hit the headlines of the *Brantford Expositor* this week. The Province decided instead of selling it, to attach the *Normandale Furnace Historic Site* and the beautiful beach at Normandale to *Turkey Point Provincial Park* so that the public has continued access. It was the inventive entrepreneurs who invested in the ironworks at Normandale who later founded several communities in Southern Ontario – Tillsonburg, London, Paris and Brantford. Look for an article about this in our next newsletter.

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Our directors and volunteers are proud of Brantford's industrial history and want to showcase it so that everyone is aware of this part of Brantford's history that has been ignored for many years. Bill Darfler has contributed an interesting story about one of Brantford's largest industries, Massey-Harris, and its 21#A self-propelled combine that contributed to Canada's war effort.

## THE HARVEST BRIGADE

By Bill Darfler



In 1944, the Massey-Harris #21A self-propelled combine came to the rescue of the war effort. The war had diverted the agricultural manpower of the U.S. and Canada to fight overseas; over two million men left the farm. The need for wheat was enormous and the tractor-pulled machines were inefficient and slow. The new technology was available but critical shortages of materials and factory workers prevented the production of sufficient numbers of the new agricultural machines.

W. K. Hyslop and Joe Tucker of the Massey-Harris Corporation in Toronto and Racine led the effort to get permission from the War Production Board to build 500 combines that were then sold to custom operators who agreed to harvest a minimum of 2,000 acres each. The result was the harvesting of 1,020,000 acres of land and 25,000,000 bushels of grain in a matter of months. This program saved 33,000 man-hours of labour and 500,00 gallons of fuel.



The 1945 wheat harvest was the largest in history, one-third more than the prewar years and the #21A rose to the challenge.

The Canadian government then rewarded Massey-Harris by exempting it from further war-work allowing M-H to convert back to peacetime production months before the competition and to capitalize on the publicity generated by the “Harvest Brigade”.

Indeed, the movie “Wild Harvest” in 1947 made the story known to an enormous audience. In addition, the business of custom harvesting was born.

In that year, combine production increased ten-fold.



*The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage* Conference in Montreal and the Post-Conference bus tour planned for September 2021 have been postponed until 2022 owing to Covid-19.

One of our projects is to locate women who worked in Brantford factories during World War II. Some came from in the Maritimes and out West and returned there after their stint was over. Many of their stories are told in the *Cockshutt Plant News: A Wartime Chronicle, 1943 and 1944*. These two compilations were indexed and published by CIHC in 2015 and 2017. Copies are still available. We are still looking for newsletters from other years to reprint in other volumes. Do you have any? We would be delighted to hear from you at [info@canadianindustrialheritage.com](mailto:info@canadianindustrialheritage.com).

## ITEMS FOR SALE, MEMERSHIP DUES, AND DONATIONS

If you can support us in any way, we would be grateful: become a member, a donor, a volunteer, or just tell us your story. Please pass this newsletter to others who might be interested in CIHC.

You are welcome to order our books online, including our three bestsellers, *Merchants Exchange: Ignatius Cockshutt, 1812-1901* and *The Cockshutt Plant News ,v.2 1943*, and *v.4, 1944*. Mike Hand’s books are also available.

Readers and members are invited to check our website. Memberships for 2021 are available online for your convenience or you may fill out the form and mail it in. Donations are always welcome, especially now.

This newsletter is published by Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre, P.O. Box 23055, Brantford, Ontario, Canada N3T 6K4. See our website: [www.canadianindustrialheritage.com](http://www.canadianindustrialheritage.com) Facebook: Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre CIHC. Submissions to our newsletter are welcome and are subject to editing. We are not responsible for errors. Please send submissions or inquiries to [info@canadianindustrialheritage.com](mailto:info@canadianindustrialheritage.com)



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**  **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](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.