



May 2021

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 growth 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

Facebook:

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

We are responsible for the TICCIH Canada website at

www.ticcihcanada.org

Please send submissions or inquiries to:

info@canadianindustrialheritage.com

FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Let Us Celebrate



Members of CIHC are anxious to fulfill our dream--to celebrate Brantford's industrial heritage! We have planned for many years to build a centre including an amphitheatre to interpret Brantford's industrial history, and recently CIHC has become a partner with Brant Theatre Workshops, on the old Cockshutt property at 66 Mohawk St., part of a huge brownfield site recently released by the Province of Ontario to Brantford for redevelopment.

Since our last newsletter in December, there was little to report on the Project while we waited patiently for the next stages to occur. It has been a waiting game for our Directors, but we have been working and planning in the background. In this issue, our President Don Harris reports briefly on our 2020 annual meeting and will give an update on the series of events relating to our long-awaited lease at 66 Mohawk and the rezoning, which has deterred any fund-raising. Meanwhile, CIHC has remained active in working with other groups to create lively activities about the immigrant groups who have supported Brant's industries. Peter Muir reports on the latest creation.

Jean Farquharson, Editor

CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE President's Report

This has been an interesting and active first part of 2021. In January CIHC held the 2020 Annual Meeting (delayed from June 2020) via Zoom and appointed a new slate of officers and directors as well as creating the position of Chair. The first Chair is John Kneale with Don Harris being now officially the President. Ray Wright continues in the role of Secretary Treasurer and Christina Han was named the Vice President. The remaining directors are Jean Farquharson, Michael O'Byrne and William Darfler. We will need to hold another Annual Meeting this year to cover the events of 2020.

Our new Vice President, Prof. Christina Han has acquired a student grant to hire an Administrative Assistant for summer 2021; she has hired Lauren Holmes to help us maintain and expand primarily our membership lists and other contacts, and organize our virtual office/ library, and inventory of artefacts.

At a Board meeting held on April 19th, the **Facilities Committee** presented a report including a **Draft Memorandum of Understanding** between CIHC and Brant Theatre Workshops, with an understanding of how we will share the site at 66 Mohawk, with an addendum, action plan and outline of a business plan. Peter Muir is a member of CIHC and represents Brant Theatre Workshops on the Facilities Committee. After discussion the CIHC Directors agreed with BTW that the wording is “creatively combining heritage and theatre in unique locations,” and that it can be modified over time as our plans are developed.

It was also agreed that there is a need for a proper sustainable **Business Plan** for the operation of 66 Mohawk. As we get information from the City, CIHC will develop this plan.

Re Brantford Italian Community Project: we sent a notice to members and friends of CIHC regarding the events. The *Spaghetti Dinner* from Rossini Lodge, the first part of the project, was successful, including a trivia quiz. The next part has been postponed until June 26 or later, depending upon the Covid-19 situation. The partners have made 25 interviews (available on the BTW website). Christina and a volunteer John Campbell have been working on displays. See more details in Peter’s Report.

Relative to status of the lease of 66 Mohawk Bill Darfler reported that he has been working with Brantford’s Senior Planner **Tara Tran**. Remediation of the entire 55 acres includes the CIHC’s 2 acres as part of the whole unit. Since our site contained only the Cockshutt warehouse and office, it is clean on the map. However, the Province’s **Certificate of Use** requires that the whole area be capped with a membrane on the surface and a from 1 ½ to 5 feet of topsoil spread on the surface. Part of the whole site requires a hard cap with a concrete surface. Since we are leasing the site, the City as owner must pay for the remediation. Rezoning of this parcel of land is the responsibility of the City and the Facilities Committee is working with Tara Tran to make the plan as flexible as possible for many uses.

Craig Newsome of MMMC Architects provided us a cost estimate for improvement of the project. Dave Levac and Bob Yuhasz of Dave Levac & Associates have made a proposal to provide advice and assistance relative to fundraising and their possible role as consultants. Levac encouraged us to invite Councilors as ex-officio in our planning. They recommended a three-phase approach. We need to have a plan with a conceptual picture before we begin.

Subsequently on May 15 the Directors held a special meeting specifically to discuss fund raising and communications. A committee made up of Christina Han, Jean Farquharson, Peter Muir from BTW and Don Harris was named. Peter Muir is using his expertise to help us prepare a **Communications Strategy** which includes the **Communications Plan for Fundraising**.

We have applied to the **National Trust** for participation in their *Launch Pad Coaching* program which if successful will be provided pro bono. National Trust provides much assistance to heritage groups trying to save historic buildings. This week their professionals provided us with a free seminar on *Creative Ways to Engage your Heritage Donors*.

Most recently four Directors met with our architect, a mason and our landscape advisor along with city officials at the 66 Mohawk site. This is the first opportunity that we have had to actually get on the site, and I will leave you with the statement, “It was an eye opener!”

Respectfully submitted

J Donald Harris, President May 17, 2021

PICTURES FROM THE TOUR

OF 66 MOHAWK

on May 14th, 2021



President Don with the Mason

Note: The date 1877 on the stonework indicates when the Cockshutt Plow Company on Market Street was incorporated. The plant was moved to 66 Mohawk in 1903. We believe the architect was Holabird, famous for designing stadiums in New York and Chicago. We wonder where the bricks were made.



Original Brickwork



Stonework



*Brick showing lettering which
might be a clue to its manufacture*

Making More Memories ...Italian this time!

By Peter Muir

Another one-of-a-kind event came to the Rossini Lodge on March 27. An afternoon of heritage displays, video presentations, Italian music, Italian food and a play based on the immigrant memories of Brantford's Italian Community.

The unique partnerships of CIHC, Brant Theatre Workshops, Brant Historical Society and Laurier Brantford once again teamed up to present this second event in the "Immigrant Memories" series. The success of the first event, Memories of Brantford's Jewish Community led to the group creating a multi-media heritage/cultural event that brought the risky, migratory experience to life.



Local actor and playwright John Centorrino, describes his father coming to Brantford, in the Memories play performed by Brant Theatre Workshops at the Rossini Lodge.

Although many more wanted to attend, the live audience was restricted to a minimal size due to Covid. However, we rose to the occasion, delivering the experience to 30 doorsteps as well as providing the experience through a free-live stream to many others.

By far the most creative aspect had to be the hand delivery of spaghetti and meatball dinners for people to dine on while they watched the live-stream...sort of a homestyle dinner theatre. Included was an educational quiz and

information about the Italian community. Thanks to CIHC Board Member Bill Darfler for helping deliver dinners and introducing the event.

The preview of the multi-media historical display created by Dr. Christina Han, another CIHC Board Member, was stunning with a large timeline and a full suit of Italian Armour fabricated in Brantford.

The final phase of the Italian project culminates on June 26 (Covid dependent) with a day of events at the Brant County Museum and the Rossini Lodge. You can participate (or watch live) in a Historical Walk, Panel Discussion, a Historical Display unveiling, Dinner, Music and even attend Live Theatre under the stars.

As part of the project a series of 15 half-hour videos of Italian Memories, including research and source materials are available on branttheatre.com. After the event the display can be seen at the Brant County Museum at 57. Charlotte Street.

Quiz Question

8. What term(s) would best describe the reason that many citizens from the same Italian village would settle in Brantford?

- a) Chain Migration
- b) First come, first served
- c) Sponsorship programs
- d) Kinship bonds

Answer: Tough Question! a) Chain Migration c) Sponsorship programs d) Kinship bonds



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. This will give CIHC more time to complete work on the websites and the tour.

The Motto of CIHC is **LEARNING FROM OUR PAST: BUILDING A STRONG FUTURE.** We are on the same wavelength as TICCIH.

In this excerpt from his report in the latest Bulletin, the President of TICCIH, Dr. Miles Oglethorpe, provides us with some food for thought, regarding the responsibility and opportunity for industrial heritage organizations to educate the public and make intergenerational contact to teach our youth new attitudes toward industrial production and consumption of our resources with sustainable development as our goal:

“Without doubt, the biggest issue facing us all is our climate crisis. The pandemic has radically altered patterns and volumes of human consumption and changed behaviour. Some of this transformation will be temporary, but some of it will not...”

“We believe that the historic environment has a big part to play in the battle against climate change...”

“I am confident that industrial heritage is better placed than most branches of our built environment to help with the battles to come, and to align with many of the UN’s Sustainable Development goals. It is strongly rooted in communities across the world...”

It is extraordinarily well placed to encourage sustainable development and regeneration based on adaptive re-use, the rescuing of embodied energy and the encouragement of a second life for industrial buildings and structures. Projects taking this approach are far more likely to generate or create a sense of place, and to give working communities a renewed sense of pride and a sense of their shared histories and identity. No other built heritage

has quite such a strong bond between the tangible and the intangible, the maintenance of which depends on inter-generational contact and, in particular, the passing down of traditional skills and knowledge.

“This in turn stresses the educational value of industrial heritage. Quite apart from its propensity to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at all levels of education, it is also a useful weapon in fighting the scourge of uncritical, passive mass consumption. If we are going to reduce the impact of climate change, we need to change behaviours, and one way of doing this is to encourage young consumers to take a greater interest in what it is they are consuming, and in the material environment around them on which they depend.”

News from the City of Brantford

It was recently announced that CIHC at 66 Mohawk will have new neighbours! The City has memoranda of agreement to sell adjacent property to the Lansdowne Children’s Centre and De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre. Plans for the rest of the brownfield site are undecided.



A Cultural Hub Task Force and recently formed **Consolidated Museum and Archives Task Force** were both created by the City of Brantford to look for support and space which is badly lacking for use by heritage and cultural groups. However, these committees might be superseded by a new task force proposed by Councillor Dan McCreary. The City is considering his proposal to form a new **Community Heritage and Cultural Space Task Force** to examine the possibility of creating a shared space that could be used by **museums**, arts groups, for musical and theatrical performances and by the *Brantford Market*. It could be used for the *Brantford Symphony Orchestra’s Annual Book Fair* and the annual *Christmas Baskets*. We are uncertain how CIHC might be involved in this.

MEMBERSHIP DUES, DONATIONS AND ITEMS FOR SALE

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.

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

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



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 - 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.