

FALL 2014

CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE



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201-136 Dalhousie St.
PO Box 23055
Brantford, Ontario
N3T 6K4

President's Message

As we begin a new season of activity, the CIHC is ready to enter a new and significant phase of development.

It's already been a busy year. We hosted two successful events in the spring: the International Cockshutt Club visit to Brantford on April 4th, and the annual Fourth Pillar Forum on May 22nd. Over the summer, we launched a new website (www.canadianindustrialheritage.com), which I encourage all members to visit and comment on. We were disappointed, however, that we could not get access to 66 Mohawk to begin work on the Industrial Heritage Park. This project will have to wait until soil remediation is complete on the former Mohawk-Greenwich brown-field site.

I'm pleased to announce that we have hired a part-time Office Manager. Ashley Fournier was formerly Operations Manager with the Arts Block and brings experience and expertise in media relations, partnership development, event planning and fund-raising, all areas of prime importance for the CIHC. Ashley started work in September.

The challenge before us now is to find a permanent home. We may have to start with smaller quarters while we raise funds, but we feel it's essential to have a place where at least part of our collection can be exhibited. With that as a starting point, we can hold more events to promote our vision and increase our activity in every respect.

This exciting new phase will be the focus of the 2014 Annual General Meeting. The AGM will be held on Wednesday, November 5th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Brantford Arts Block, located at Unit 21 111 Sherwood Drive in Brantford. We will not have a guest speaker this year. Instead we hope to have an open-ended and wide-ranging discussion about the future of the CIHC. Topics that we want your views on include where you would like to see us established, how our collection can be increased, and how we can raise the necessary funds. You will see the program for the evening elsewhere in this newsletter. Please come and share your thoughts with us. This is a crucial moment for the CIHC and we want to know your views.

John Kneale

The Products of Greenwich-Mohawk

By: Rob Adlam

One of the best kept secrets about the City of Brantford is that during the early part of the 20th century, its industrial prominence ranked it third in Canada, behind Montreal and Toronto, based on the export value of its manufactured goods globally. A major contributor to this phenomenal achievement was the factory district located on the 52 acre site bordered by Greenwich and Mohawk Streets.

To celebrate the exploits of the companies that were once located there, a six-part series will briefly introduce the background of each of these industries, their products and their lasting impact on Canada and the world market.

Sternson Limited *No Mystery... Just Chemistry*

Once located on the smallest of the three parcels of land in the district at 22 Mohawk St. (the area outlined in red below), Sternson Limited was an example of one man's entrepreneurial initiative and the success of a family-owned company.



In 1896 George F. Sterne began experimenting with the manufacture of stove polish and cement to be used in mounting and repairing furnaces. His daytime job was with the Buck Stoveworks, so this sideline was done at night out of his home. The business met with success and would eventually grow to include products for domestic hot water and steam boilers.

By 1906 a factory was built on property purchased on Bruce St., and G.F. Sterne was joined in the business by his sons.



During this period of growth and activity, G.F. Sterne & Sons were supplying products to a large portion of the stove and furnace manufacturers across Canada.

In 1922, the company was incorporated, but still owned by the Sterne family. By 1927, the product line had grown further to include supplies for the building trade such as material to waterproof concrete and surface hardening compounds. Another major specialty was the Fine Chemical line which produced flavourings, essences, extracts and food colours.

A larger production facility was needed to meet the demands of the business and in 1967 Sternson Limited (the name was changed in 1932) moved into a vacant factory complex at 22 Mohawk St. that once produced wagons, truck bodies and semi-trailers.



The business of producing construction products, industrial chemicals and water treatment systems and chemicals continued and in 1979 the Sterne family sold the company to M.T. Bright Holdings Ltd.

The facility closed in 1998 and the factory buildings were torn down. Today it awaits its rebirth as part of the larger brownfield redevelopment planned for the entire site.



The CIHC congratulates author and historian Mike Hand (shown in the centre) receiving a City of Brantford Heritage Award this past spring from Heritage Committee Chair Brad Emsley (shown on the left) and Mayor Chris Friel (shown on the right) at a presentation ceremony at City Hall along with other community heritage advocates who were also honoured that night.

Mike is a CIHC member and has authored three books on Brantford's industrial heritage; "Iron, Steam and Wood", "From Wagon to Trailer", and "A City's Industrial Heritage".

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre will be held on **Wednesday, November 5th, 2014** at the Brantford Arts Block, located at Unit 21, 111 Sherwood Drive in Brantford. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Introduction of the Board of Directors
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM, held on October 30th, 2013
4. Annual Report and President's Remarks
5. Financial Report, Approval of Audit, and Nomination of Auditor
6. Election of Directors (a report from the Nominating Committee will be sent to Members prior to the meeting)
7. Report on the CIHC collection
8. Open discussion
9. Adjournment

Membership fees are due annually on April 1st. If you have not done so already, we hope you will renew your membership in the CIHC for the 2014-2015 year. For your convenience, you will find a membership renewal form enclosed. Only paid up members are entitled to vote at the meeting.

Thank you for your support of the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre and our efforts to preserve and exhibit examples of Brantford's - and Canada's - industrial history.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on November 5th.

CIHC MEMBERSHIP

Privileges of Membership in the CIHC...

- ◆ Participation in the Annual General Meeting, with a special guest speaker and the election of directors
- ◆ Eligibility to serve on your Board of Directors
- ◆ Regular updates on our activities through the CIHC Newsletter
- ◆ Special invitation to all CIHC events

Your Membership Helps Us All...

- ◆ Expand and preserve the CIHC collection
- ◆ Advocate the protection of Brantford's extensive industrial heritage
- ◆ Promote awareness of the arts/culture/heritage sector and its importance to Brantford's quality of life
- ◆ Liaise with other national and regional heritage groups

Date: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Membership category:

Student \$10 _____ Individual \$20 _____ Family \$25 _____

Method of payment: Cheque _____ Cash _____

Please make cheques payable to the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre.

Our mailing address is

P.O. Box 23055, Brantford, ON N3T 6K4

Donations of \$10 or more, above membership fees, are tax deductible.

Charitable number #861470623RR0001

Areas of interest/comments/suggestions:

Are you interested in volunteering with us? _____

Office use only:

Membership card issued: _____ New: _____ Renewal: _____ Letter/package sent: _____

Newsletter: _____ (Date: _____)

Tax receipt issued: _____ Entered: _____ Volunteer form completed: _____

Information collected on this form is for CIHC membership records only.