



## August 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)

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We are responsible for the  
TICCIH Canada website at

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inquiries to:

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## FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR, Jean Farquharson

### "ITALIAN IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE CELEBRATED"

(Brantford Expositor front page headline, Tuesday August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021')

**They have done it again!**

CONGRATULATIONS! THE UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP OF THE BRANT THEATRE WORKSHOPS, CIHC, LAURIER. BRANT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES created a day's experience, *Making More Memories ...Italian this time!*

After several delays owing to Covid, the event was held finally on Saturday August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and began at the Brant Museum and Archives, with access to visitors by appointment. Credit goes to Laurier's Associate Professor Christina Han and her capable assistants John Campbell and summer student Lauren Holmes for curating a display of the rich cultural heritage of Brantford's Italian Community. Christina is the Vice President of CIHC. The showing includes



Jean Farquharson & Dr. Christina Han

a

large timeline and a full suit of Roman Armour fabricated in Brantford by the late Louis Torti.



*Roman armour hand crafted*

Many families have contributed items for the display which will be available to observe until March 1, 2022. We invite you to come and see it at the Brant County Museum and listen to and read about the fascinating stories of Brantford's Italian immigrant families.

The next event a walking tour began at 2 p.m. led by local historian, Brian Moore, a member of both Brant Historical Society and CIHC. He described how the Italian immigrants contributed much to Brantford's social and economic life often in the beginning coming with no money and just a suitcase. They initially laboured in factories or on construction while they learned English. They often established their own fruit and vegetable markets, bakeries and restaurants because they wanted foods that would make them feel more at home. The tour led to St. Mary's Church, the

focal point of their strong Catholic faith. The Rossini Lodge served the Italian community and events always including their foods and music which was always the central point of their gatherings.



*Bill Darfler*

At 6 p.m., the main event began at Rossini Lodge, an Italian community association banquet hall. Local historian Bill Darfler, a Director of CIHC, opened the ceremony by explaining what the annual project is about and how it started with the **Jewish Immigrant Experience** in 2019, based on the book, *Shtetl on the Grand*, by Gerald Tulchinsky. The Italian experience is based on research done by Arcangelo Martino in *Italian Roots and Canadian Blossoms*. Bill then left to deliver spaghetti dinners ordered before by stay-at-homers. Attendees were served a spaghetti dinner as part of the package for the evening out.

Previously, for several months, the group had interviewed and taped several Italian immigrants and their descendants to tell their "families' hopes, hardships and resilience." The tapes have been deposited in the Brant County Museum.

The next item on the program was a panel discussion of these Italian immigrants and/or their descendants introduced by local historian Jack Jackowetz. They described their family stories



*Jack Jackowetz*

with great nostalgia. The screen was cleverly used throughout the evening to connect the various parts of the Italian project – panel discussion with the interviews, the play with the museum display, etc.



*Upper left: Museum display*

*Upper right: the shoemaker scene in the play showing museum display projected on screen as part of the set.*

*Lower right: One of the performers on the screen was Sean Hauk, professional singer, dancer and actor, who performed four years at Stratford and across Canada. He was part of the on-screen entertainment during dinner. He was a guest at our table and could enjoy on screen the performance he previously recorded.*

*Lower left: Director of the evening's play, Peter Muir, a talented member of CIHC and Brant Theatre Workshops, and his assistant.*

Peter represents BTW on the Facilities Committee of CIHC which is developing a partnership agreement between CIHC and BTW to share the 2 acres at 66 Mohawk St. where the interpretive centre for Brantford's industrial history is to be created – **The Time Office**. The plan includes an amphitheatre.

BTW has toured internationally. They create plays in partnership with heritage groups such as the Bell Homestead to produce theatre, some of which is focused on heritage themes.



The highlight of the night, the play, *The Italians Arrival*, is a comedy of generations, written and performed by John Centorrino, and it is the story of his father and mother coming to Brantford and raising their children in Brantford.

*Left: The driver converses with the passenger in the back seat of his car.*

*Centre: Intergenerational conversation among family members*

*Right: Participants of interviews made for the past year at Brant Museum & Archives*

*Lower: The telephone wedding scene*



We congratulate all the team members who worked so hard fitting everything together.

Since this is an annual event, we are anxious to find out what the plans are for next year. What immigrant group is next? To keep receiving our newsletter, see our special offer.

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## **BITS AND PIECES**

**We have a special offer for members and non-members: Join or renew your membership in CIHC now. It will cover the rest of this year and 2022 as well! Use the form on page 8.**

We have been informed that the Official Opening of Brantford City Hall (the old post office/federal building) will occur on September 18<sup>th</sup>. This includes the unveiling of the public art project created by contest winner Jane Bowen using industrial molds saved from manufacturing plants on the Mohawk brownfield site. The project was inspired by Rob Adlam on behalf of CIHC, and Ana Olson, Director of Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant, organized the contest.

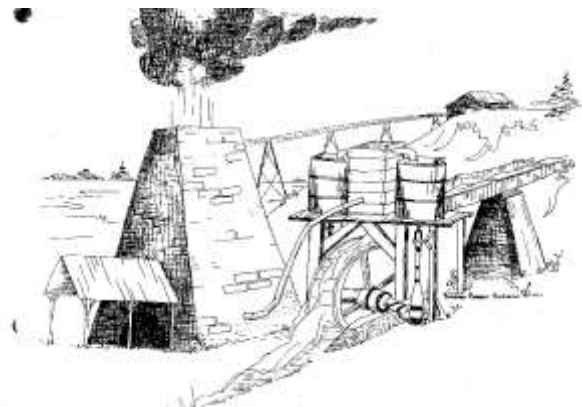
A brand-new fire station, No. 2, has opened up on Fairview Drive in Brantford near the Highway 403 exit. It is a replica of an earlier station. The Heritage Room displays a Ronald Company Steam Fire Pumper circa 1892 with a Waterous boiler made in Brantford.

*Emancipation Day* was celebrated for the first time on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Freedom from slavery. will be celebrated every August<sup>st</sup> from now on.



No new news. *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 September 2022. Check their web site for updates.

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As promised, we are including an article on the Normandale Furnace. People involved with this enterprise moved on to found other pioneer industries and communities in Upper Canada; George Tillson built a forge and sawmill and founded Tillsonburg, Hiram Capron took over the gypsum mines in Paris and had Surveyor Lewis Burwell map out the town. Van Brocklin moved on to Brantford to build its first foundry – guess where? More about that in the next newsletter

## The Birth of Canada's Industry: Ironworks

When early settlers landed on the shores of the vast empty wilderness of Canada, they needed many bare essentials to establish their families on their new homesteads. While trekking for miles through the forest paths, an immigrant could not drag everything from his homeland that he needed to build a shelter, clear his lands and plant his crops. A few settlers sought out ways to supplement their livelihood by providing essential services and products. They- built sawmills, grist mills, blacksmith shops, opened general stores, etc.

There was a brisk market for ironware -woodstoves, cooking pots, utensils, axes and shovels, ploughs, and various tools, without much competition. Some of the earliest ironworks to manufacture these in Canada were established, at **Forges Saint Maurice**, near Trois Rivieres, Quebec, at **Marmora Ironworks**, near Peterborough, and at **Normandale**, a small sleepy hamlet east of Turkey Point on Lake Erie.

Normandale bustled with activity in the early 1800s. John Mason, an English iron manufacturer, emigrated to the Long Point Settlement by 1818. He met Noah Fairchild who told him about the bog iron deposits at the mouth of Potter's Creek which flowed through Normandale.



*Bog Iron*

What is bog iron? Used as a source of iron during the Iron Age, porous lumps of impure metal, peroxide of iron, are found in bogs and swamps on the flood plains. They are formed when iron-bearing groundwater emerging from springs is oxidized by iron bacteria or chemicals and precipitates. Bog iron deposits extended within a radius of ten to twelve miles of Normandale. Since the government patents reserved all the mines and minerals to the Crown, Mason applied for and obtained the permit to mine bog iron and began to build a smelter in 1818.

He dug a sluice to provide power for the bellows and other power equipment. Charcoal for smelting was abundant and cheap, provided by the settlers when they cleared their lands.

The brick smelter was 30 feet high and the molten iron was drawn off at the bottom onto a flat area of sand which provided a molding area.

Mason died before the furnace was complete, and his wife sold it in 1821 to Joseph Van Norman, George Tillson (who later founded Tillsonburg), Hiram Capron (later founder of Paris) and John White, who formed **The Long Point Furnace Company**. They produced a small amount of iron, but took five years to complete the construction before going into full production. Their first products were cookstoves and Franklin stoves.

In a letter to his parents Hiram Capron reported that the operation was doing very well, and that he was making good money on his investment.

Toronto, January 17th, 1838. 9 ff.

**THE** Subscribers are now receiving  
**1000 STOVES**  
 From the Foundry of JOSEPH VAN NORMAN,  
 of Normandale, Long Point, Upper Canada,  
 consisting of

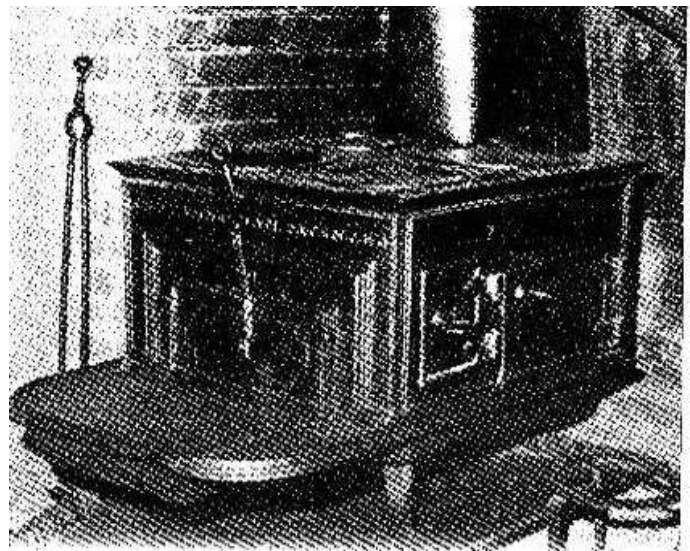
20 Inch.	}	Plate Stoves—elegant patterns
22 do.		
24 do.		
30 do.		
33 do.		
40 do.		

**OVAL STOVES—double plate.**  
 Also—All sizes of the very justly celebrated  
**VAN NORMAN COOKING STOVE,**  
 Which for simplicity of construction, economy in fuel, and really good oven, cannot be excelled, if equalled, by any other Stove in the Market.

**Dog Irons,  
 Bake Pans,  
 Belly Pots,  
 Spiders, &c. &c.**

which will be offered to the trade on very advantageous terms.  
**CHAMPION, BROTHERS, & Co.**  
 Wholesale Hardware Merchants.  
 22 Yonge Street, Sept. 1837. 4

Notopaper advertisement in Toronto Patriot, March 1838, indicates quantity of production

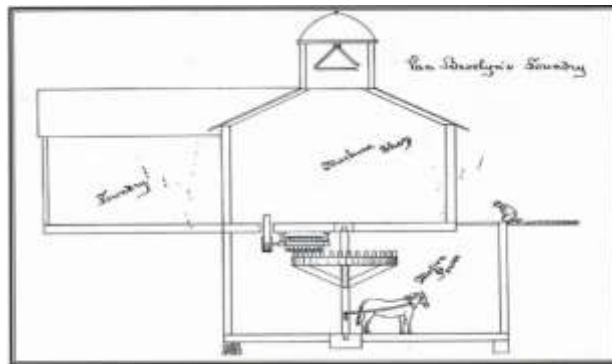


*The Van Norman  
 Cooking Stove*



P.C. Van Brocklin joined the company but he soon left to start up a foundry briefly in St. Thomas, and then moved to Brantford to start up a foundry on Dalhousie St. in 1844.

In his *History of the County of Brant*, F. Douglas Reville stated that “Mr. Van Brocklin may be termed the father of Brantford factories.” The early power for his small factory was a horse in the basement turning a geared shaft to drive belt pulleys. His thriving business produced ploughs, stoves and fireplace irons.



Diagrammatic sketch of horse sweep used in the Dalhousie factory of Van Brocklin, 1845 (Courtesy Waterous family)

#### **Sources**

Bannister, Dr. J.A. “The Famous Normandale Furnace”. Article in *Historical Highlights of Norfolk County* comp. by Bruce M. Pearce. Bruce M. Pearce, c1973.

Barrett, Harry. *Lore & Legends of Long Point II*. Patterson’s Creek Press, c2013.

Hand, Mike. *A City’s Industrial History*. London, Ontario: Mike Hand, c2010.

Hand, Mike. *Iron, Steam and Wood: 150 years with the Waterous Engine Works Co*. Brantford: Brant Historical Society, c2000.

If you are interested in contributing an article about Canadian industry to our newsletter, please contact [info@canadianindustrialheritage.com](mailto:info@canadianindustrialheritage.com)

For Industrial history of Brantford, read Mike Hand’s *Iron, Steam and Wood: 150 years with the Waterous Engine Works company*. Mike Hand also wrote *A City’s Industrial Heritage: the growth and demise of fifteen major manufacturers in Brantford Ontario*, including Buck Stove Company, J.O. Wisner, Massey Harris, Cockshutt Plow Company, Goold, Shapley and Muir, Verity Plow Company, Ham & Nott, Pratt & Letchworth, Brantford Cordage, and Adams Wagon Works.

These books and others are listed on our website for sale.

Go to <https://www.canadianindustrialheritage.com>

## **MEMBERSHIP DUES, DONATIONS AND ITEMS FOR SALE**

Readers and members are invited to check our website. **Special Offer! Renew or join/rejoin CIHC now. It will cover your membership for the rest of 2021 as well as 2022. Memberships for 2021-2022 are available online for your convenience or you may fill out the form and mail it in. Donations are always welcome, especially now, when everything is opening up for our new Museum site at 66 Mohawk St.**

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](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.