

It's About Time...

NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

BACK TO "OLD" SCHOOL...



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Back To "Old" School: A Brief History of Schools in Port Hope	1
Archivists' Message	2
At the Port Hope Fair...	3
Notes from the Chair...	3
Cheers & Thanks!	4

Going back to school is a tell-tale sign that fall has arrived. While many students dread the time when their bright and sunny summers are drawn to a close, there is a certain nostalgia for those of us who no longer call the classroom home. Yearbooks and class photos play a major part in the spreading of this sentimental feeling which reaches all of us as we get older. Flipping through the pages of an ever-so-slightly dusty yearbook can bring a certain satisfaction. And, it should be noted, that even as kids giggle and groan at being forced to review antiquated (or as we like to call "Vintage") hair and clothing choices; year-

books and other school ephemera are very important to our collective social history.

The saga of schooling in Port Hope began in 1792, when Capt. Elias Smith commissioned a building on King Street to serve as a store on the ground floor, and a school on the upper. Schools in the area remained these private institutions until government aid was handed out in 1842. Government funding in this instance amounted to the sum of \$182.50—to pay for supplies, and salaries. It also involved the appoint-

ment of a School Superintendent, and a Board of Trustees to run all of the schools in a given area.

Led by Mr. William Barrett, the Board decided to erect two new schools in Port Hope. These original East and West Primary schools were octagonal in shape and were supposed to divide the student population in Port Hope.

The fates of these 2



Students of West Primary School, 1919

... A BRIEF HISTORY OF SCHOOLS IN PORT HOPE

Schools were very different. East Primary School was replaced by a brick structure in 1868 at the corner of McCaul and Elgin Streets which was demolished in 1924. However, while West Primary was also replaced (in 1873); and moved to a site

on the corner of Bruton and Bramley Streets, it remained in use until 1997. The school had a very interesting history wherein it served as home to a school for children with intellectual disabilities, a nursery school, and even a dance school!

In addition to the East and West Primary Schools, a third school was opened in the mid-19th century. The Union School opened in 1867, and served as a joint Grammar and Common school (in other words, an elementary and a high

"Yearbooks and other school ephemera are very important to our collective social history."

Cont'd on Page 2...

HISTORY OF SCHOOLS CONT'D

school). Eventually, this school housed a Model School for temporary teacher training. In 1912, the building was demolished due to the construction of the Central School right behind it.

Central School is a heritage staple in Port Hope. Built in 1912, it was in use until this past spring, when the Ganaraska Trail Public School opened. This

new school has replaced both the Central School and Howard Jordan Public School. Ganaraska Trail is just the most recent addition to the long story of public schooling in Port Hope, a story which is continually growing and changing with the ring of each school bell.

I would like to end this tale with a note to our present day students...

Cherish your school days,

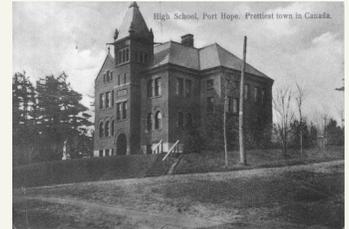
for soon they will be gone, and all that will remain are the 2D memories gracing the pages of your year-books.

For more information on schools in the area contact the PHA at archives@porthope.ca.

Sources:

J. George Hodgins, *The Establishment of Schools and Colleges in Ontario, 1792-1910*, volume 1, 1910.

R.T.O./E.R.O. District 30 Northumberland, *School Days in Northumberland*, 2001.



The old Port Hope High School, postcard ca. 1900s.



ARCHIVISTS' MESSAGE

Erin Walsh, B.A.H., M.I.S.T

Hello All!

I would just like to say what an honour it is to have been given the opportunity to be your archivist as the PHA ushers in a new and exciting era! While it will take me some time to get to know all of you, you can take this opportunity to learn something about me right now...

I was born and raised in Oshawa, Ontario; a city which first fostered my love of history. After high school I decided to follow my passion to Trent University, home of some of the most eclectic and talented historians you would ever want to meet. At this point, I was on the track toward being a teacher. I was not 100% sure of this decision however, and one afternoon I made an appointment with a career counselor. "What should I do with my History

Degree?" I asked, with some trepidation. To which she replied: "Be a journalist, a teacher, a historian or researcher, a lawyer, a librarian, or an ARCHIVIST." Hmm... being an archivist had not occurred to me... and so I had a new goal!

Volunteering at the Peterborough Centennial Museum & Archives cemented my decision to attend the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto. This is where I moved my studies to after my convocation from Trent in the spring of 2007. FIS was a wonderful and vibrant place which opened doors to many opportunities for me. The list included: working for the University College Archives, Oshawa Public Libraries, a placement at the Ontario Association of Art Galleries, and a brief summer

stint working at Clarington Museums and Archives. Sadly, all good things must come to an end, and so upon graduating in June 2009 with a Master of Information Studies in Archival & Library Science, my education was complete. Yet, this seems to only have been a fantastic beginning and not an end after all!

I have been more fortunate than I ever could have imagined in being welcomed into the PHA family almost right out of school. It is my hope that as I grow professionally, so might the PHA grow alongside me. Both of us are now on a path together, using our own histories to embrace a bright and promising future!

Thank you all!

Your new Archivist,

Erin



Erin Walsh holds an Honours Bachelor Degree in History with an Emphasis in Teacher Education; and a Master of Information Studies in Archives & Records Management and Library Science. She looks forward to becoming the new face of the PHA in our community!

PHA @ THE FALL FAIR!



The Port Hope Fall Fair has been an annual tradition for over 175 years!

A long standing tradition since 1831, the Port Hope Fall Fair is a favourite of many. That includes us at the Port Hope Archives! The weekend of September 18-20th, PHA could be found with a booth dedicated to our Let's Make History project. While we did not really get to enjoy tasty treats and topsy-turvy rides, we took in the ambiance of over 175 years.

Run initially by the Port Hope Agricultural Society, and then

the East Durham Agricultural Society, the fair obtained its own land in 1875, when a parcel of land was rented for \$80 per year. This occurred until 1889 when the fair moved to its current home at Ward and Elgin Streets, what is now known as the Town Agricultural Park. The fair celebrated its 175th anniversary at the park in 2006.

Fair-goers seemed to be fairly interested in our booth, which was nestled between a bird show, and a shop. We gave out lots of newsletters and LMH forms, which hopefully will bring a good return for our ambitious project! Overall, it was lots of fun, and we are looking forward to our display at the fair next year!

*For more information on the Port Hope Fall Fair visit their website @

<http://www.porthopefair.com>



Our new Archivist, Erin, with our Let's Make History display at the Port Hope Fall Fair 2009



"A long standing tradition since 1831, the Port Hope Fall Fair is a favourite of many."

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...

I'd like to introduce our new Archivist, Erin Walsh. She started a short time ago and has already made the Port Hope Archives her "home." Please pop in to say "Hello" and to ask Erin about volunteering in the Archives.

We wish our former Archivist, Krista Taylor, all the best and lots of happiness. Needless to say Krista's departure created quite a void at the Archives. We knew we had to keep the Archives open while we searched for a new Archivist. I think the entire Board deserves a pat-on-the-back for not only keeping the Port Hope Archives open, but for not missing one special event throughout the busy summer and early fall season. We attended Estival, Family Day in Canton, Farmer's Market Heritage Day, and the Port Hope Fall Fair. Peter and Barbara Bolton put in a lot of extra time to make sure we were open regularly during the afternoons every week and deserve a special mention.

With the \$14,000 Trillium grant we received earlier this summer we've begun the Let's Make History Awareness Initiative. It was the major theme of all of our displays and will become a major project for us. It is to let people know we are here, and what we are doing. We've just begun, but the results are encouraging. The grant money will allow us to purchase the computers, printers, and software we need for the Let's Make History Program, and also to carry on the regular business of the Archives. Our equipment and software badly needed the updates, so thank you Trillium Foundation for your support!

Charles Taws, Chair

CHECK OUT OUR NEW SITE!
WWW.PORTHOPEARCHIVES.COM

PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

17 Mill Street North
Port Hope, Ontario
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Phone: (905) 885-1673
E-mail: archives@porthope.ca
Website: www.porthopearchives.com

Our Mandate:

The Port Hope Archives exists to collect and preserve archival materials which illustrate the growth and development of the Municipality of Port Hope or which pertain in whole or in part to activities within the geographic boundaries of the Municipality of Port Hope.

Donations:

All donations of \$25 or more are eligible for a tax receipt.
The Port Hope Archives is a registered charity.
Charitable Registration
#83789 8675 RR0001

Board of Directors:

Charles Taws, Chair
Peter Bolton, Vice-Chair
John Bennett, Treasurer
Don Seller, Secretary
Barbara Bolton
Jim Campbell
Lori Stephenson-Brittain
Donna Strong
Dave Doherty
Pam Robinson

HOURS:

Wednesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*We are closed EVERYDAY from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

CHEERS & THANKS!

The Port Hope Archives wants to extend its thanks to all the board members and volunteers that have lent a hand to us over the summer months! Your efforts are much appreciated! Without volunteers the Archives would not be able to be the positive presence in the community it has become.

Our wonderful volunteers have made many events possible throughout the past few months, including:

- Our booth at the Port Hope Fall Fair;
- And our Annual Fall Fundraising Yard Sale.

THANKS! ☺

*If you would like to get involved, contact us at

archives@porthope.ca



Don surveying the goods at our Annual Fall Yard Sale

Vintage Movie Lover?

During the Vintage Film festival, posters from vintage films will be available for purchase. Partial proceeds to benefit the PHA!

Where? Stuff! 25 Queen Street across from the Capitol Theatre

When? Friday October 23—Sunday October 25

Why? To support your heritage; and decorate your home with nostalgia