

It's About Time...

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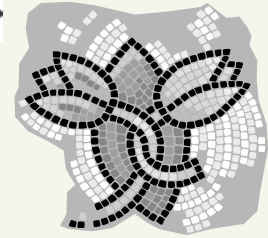
Ontario
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de l'Ontario

Spring 2011

It's About Time...



NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

A WATERY HISTORY OF PORT HOPE

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Bottom Left: Two men taking photos of flooding at Queen & Walton Sts., 1937 (PHA 2008-16-2-3036)

Bottom Right: Surveying the damage at the Chrysler Dealer on Mill St., 1936 (PHA 999-4-1-661)

Where were you during the great Port Hope flood of March 1980?

Whether you were wading through 3-foot-deep water, watching it all from a distance (or your living room), listening to the radio, or not born yet; that flood is one which will live forever in the minds of Port Hoppers.

Our "Ganny" has been a source of power and industry in Port Hope since before Peter Smith re-named the area "Smith's Creek" c.

1791. In fact, it was the natives of the area who referred to their small fishing village as "Ganaraske" - starting a love-hate relationship with the river that's lasted through many, many flood events.

While the flooding of the river has been recorded since 1813, it's not until the population and industrial boom of the mid-19th century that floods began to have devastating effects on businesses, town infrastructure, and homes.

Linked to the stripping of natural flood-inhibitors, and the spring thaw or a very heavy rain; there were over forty major flood events in the town and township between 1850 and 1940.

Our omnipotent Ganny always seems to target the area surrounding the downtown core, including what is now: Walton Street, Mill Street, Cavan Street, Ontario Street and Queen Street. Floods have been

known to wash trees, ice floes, debris, vehicles, even structures down to Lake Ontario with the current.

The connection between Port Hope and the overflowing banks of the Ganaraska has been well documented. In fact, the PHA is home to a large collection of flood photos, beginning in 1909 and ending with the massive event in 1980.

March 12th, 2011 marked the 75th anniversary of a gruesome flooding of the downtown. This is a flood which is largely lost in time, but was comparable to that which occurred in 1980; one which can be known as a last-straw of sorts for Port Hoppers.

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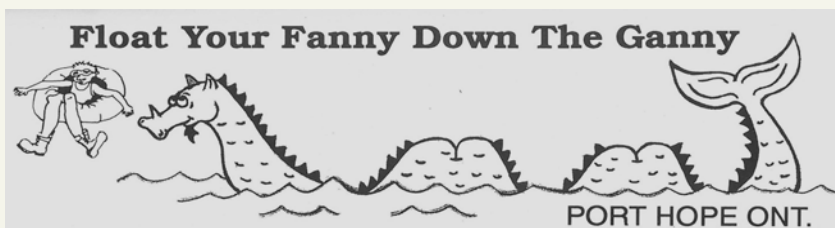
HISTORY OF FLOODS, CONT'D

Cont'd from Page 1...

It began with the slight swelling of the river at Cavan Street due to ice build up on the March 8, 1936. The 12th saw massive 4 feet thick ice floes clogging up Queen Street and 3 feet of water flowing freely down Walton Street and adjacent areas in the downtown. In total, destruction to Town Hall, the Peter Street Bridge, Nicholson File Factory, and town infrastructure such as street surfaces, caused nearly \$100,000 in damages smack in the middle of the great depression. Yet another major flood occurred in 1937, forcing the town to begin a reaction that would eventually change the face of the Ganny forever.

The 1936 flood kick-started a chain of changes that was to culminate with the creation of the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (1946), and the addition of green-space along the river (1980s), along with other measures to lower the flood risk to downtown Port Hope.

So, if you float YOUR fanny down the ganny, remember to show her some respect or she might just strike again!



*Float Your Fanny Down the Ganny
Bumper Sticker PHA 995-18-5-2*

ARCHIVISTS' MESSAGE

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

It's a bit cliché to say "it's that time of year again" again... BUT Spring has sprung, and just in the knick of time!

While winters at the PHA are always busy and practically fly by, it's still nice to see green grass, the blooms on our rose bush, and flowers in the urns that flank our front steps.

We have much to look forward to in the Spring season: the Port Hope & District Historical Society's History Festival (Mar 27) and a brand-new date for our Annual Spring Open House! (May 14).

All that being said, the change of seasons always leaves us a bit nostalgic as we move forward.

Our AGM in January marked the last meeting for two of our own: Charles Taws and Donna Strong. We'd like to send our sincerest thank you to you both for all the hard-work, enthusiasm, and knowledge, you brought to our board. You will both be sorely missed!

As our out-going chair, Charles worked tirelessly to make sure the archives was going to be in good hands upon his departure—which it will be

with our new chair, Pam Robinson.

We're also welcoming a new member to our PHA team: Inga Belge. Inga has already had wonderful ideas, and will make a great addition to the board of directors. Welcome!

On the note of filling vacancies, the archives is still looking to fill two empty seats on our board. Please contact myself or Pam at the archives if you're interested or have any questions about the positions.

Happy Spring everyone!

Erin



Archivist, Erin Walsh at the PHA Booth, Northumberland Mall Heritage Days, Feb 25-26, 2011.



Out-going Chair & Board Member, Charles Taws & Donna Strong at the PHA AGM, January 2011

Notes from the Chair...

Sometimes life just gets in the way, and that's what happened to me when our annual AGM rolled around in January. Thus I was unable to be present when our new board was announced, and we bid farewell to our wonderful Chair, Charles Taws, and our long standing board member, Donna Strong. Their enthusiastic and knowledgeable contributions will be sorely missed as we forge ahead.

In 2011 we face many challenges, and it is my greatest hope that you, our members, will help us with growth and stability. We are always seeking new members, volunteers and board members. As with any organization, we need and appreciate new faces and fresh ideas to prosper and continue our work in the community. Succession planning is an ongoing project. I urge you to talk about the Archives with your neighbours and friends. Consider that there are many worthy groups in this community dedicated to preserving and maintaining its history. In doing so, the Port Hope Archives is often the first stop for research and information. We are proud of our collection and encourage residents to get involved!

Recently I stumbled upon an interesting article in the Toronto Star entitled "Every House Has a Story" (<http://www.yourhome.ca/homes/newsfeatures/article/939156--every-house-has-a-story>). It provides tips and guidelines for researching the history of your house, starting ... where else ... at your local Archives. Here at the PHA we've been encouraging people to file a Let's Make History form about their house. By participating in this project you'll ensure that future house historians can find information about their homes and the life of the municipality in the early 21st century.

Spring is almost upon us, and we are ready. On May 14th we throw open the doors and invite everyone to our Annual Open House. Assuming the squirrels didn't get them, the bulbs should be blooming in our front gardens. Find out how to participate in Let's Make History, take a peek at some of our newest acquisitions, see a demonstration of our new Flickr page, admire our newly cleaned Queen Victoria! Most of all help us celebrate the living, breathing, changing history of Port Hope. Because that's what our archives is: an ever evolving record of this community, both private and public. Our history lives here, and I heartily encourage you to become a part of it!

Pam Robinson
Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS!

March 27: Port Hope & District
Historical Society Historical Festival –Lions Centre, 10am-4pm

May 14: Archives' Annual Open House

Come on out! New date and
time: May 14 @ 12-4pm

BOARD MEMBERS WANTED!



If you're interested in preserving the history of your community, like a challenge, have fundraising experience, or any other skills you think might benefit the PHA Board of Directors, contact us at archives@porthope.ca or by phone at 905-885-1673 or just drop on by!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!
WWW.PORTHOPEARCHIVES.COM

PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

17 Mill Street North
Port Hope, Ontario
L1A 2T1

Phone: (905) 885-1673
E-mail: archives@porthope.ca
Website: www.porthopearchives.com
Twitter: www.twitter.com/PHArchives

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:

Pam Robinson, Chair
Marielle Lambert, Vice-Chair
John Bennett, Treasurer
Dave Doherty, Secretary
Inga Belge
Barbara Coleman
Deanna Moses

HOURS:

Tuesday to Friday 1:00pm—5:00pm
1st Saturday (October to May) 9:00am—1:00pm
OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT

FROM THE PHOTO DATABASE...

“The Harbour, Port Hope, Ont., Canada” Post Card

PHA 2011-1-1-4177 “Throughout the World”

Creator: Valentine & Sons Co.

Description: Colour postcard, 1913.

Postmarked May 1913 to Miss Maggie Beatty, Perrytown, ON

On verso: "Newtonville Wed Morning. Hello Maggi, re: you call. OK and was glad to hear from you, I heard you were in town Sat I would of been their but only I had to go to meet the four train from the West. Well they have changed the anniversary service until the 25 now so you and Charlie come out and bring Gertie also on the 24 and a ball game I think. Let me know, Loraine."



This photograph can be found in our Flickr photostream:

www.flickr.com/photos/porthopearchives

Welcome Inga to PHA's Board of Directors!

Watching the movers carry furniture and boxes from the truck, into the house up the street on this beautiful spring-like day, I smile. New neighbours! New friends soon enough too I suspect. This street, or rather, this avenue, because Blooms Grove is, The Avenue - is lined with beautiful homes and wonderful people. I've met most of them, since I moved in nine months ago. Met most of them, and now happily call so many of them friends.

I don't know how much my new neighbours know about 'The Avenue' or about Port Hope itself. I don't know what brought them here. I will soon, I'm sure. The Avenue, and Port Hope itself, is just like that. You talk to people here. You get to know your neighbours. I know what I will tell them; that I fell in love with the place about ten years ago, and held onto a little dream of leaving Toronto and moving out here, to begin life anew, and that sure enough, that dream came true.

Born and raised in Toronto, I worked in the TV News business for over twenty years. I was the Assignment Editor at Global TV and briefly worked the Desk at both CTV and the CBC. It was great work; I enjoyed it and was good at it. But as I have become fond of saying, I tired of my best days usually being other people's worst days - covering car crashes, murders, natural disasters and such - it takes its toll. So, in a big brave move, I decided to leave the only career I have ever known, and the only city in which I had ever lived, to start a new life here in Port Hope.

Too young to retire, a reinvented career in journalism remains an option, but my greatest desire, is to pursue a new career path here in Northumberland County, and do work that truly sings to my soul - being of service to seniors. I am passionate about doing what I can to enrich and enhance the lives of the elderly. I am confident that will happen. I know I will find work that makes me happy and work that allows me to make a significant contribution to my new community. While I search for that opportunity I am happy to continue volunteering at the Roseglan Village for Seniors on Wellington Street, where I've had the pleasure of meeting some pretty amazing people and many long-time residents of Port Hope, all of whom, have taught me so much about this dynamic community I am now proud to call my new home.

Back to Blooms Grove. With the arrival of my new neighbours up the street, I am no longer the newest resident of 'The Avenue'. I look forward to meeting them. I look forward to sharing my limited but ever growing knowledge of all things Port Hope - the place, the people, its history and its future. I know that being a member of the Port Hope Archives will help me on all fronts. I look forward to serving the Archives and my community, as much as it already has, and will continue, to serve me.

Inga Belge

NEWS FROM THE COLLECTION!

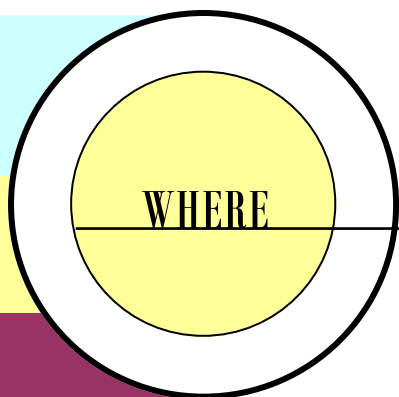
This "Our Gang" Crown Bottling Works label was purchased by the archives, with fundraising assistance, from a private seller off of Kijiji. It was originally brought to our attention by a member via email who was eyeing the label for himself, and instead generously showed it to our archivist. Erin contacted the seller and arranged the purchase, the first of the New Year. So, we're off to a wonderful start of our 2011 collection.

Crown Bottling Works was a company owned by (Israel) Itheel Walters (b. 1870, d. 1953). It occupied the building behind the St. Lawrence Hotel, which was converted into a boy's club by the Salvation Army, according the *Port Hope Evening Guide*, 10 Jan 1942. The company only sold a few types of bottled beverages, including Ginger Beer, as seen in this label. According to our research, Itheel Walters was born to William Walters and Rebecca Wood in Clarke Township, 1870. He married Cora Wilson (daughter of Joseph Wilson, and Mary Ann Bloom) 28 Nov 1893. The couple is listed in the 1911 Canadian census as living in Port Hope "Ridout." Cora, Norman & Harold Walters are also listed in the record. Itheel died in 1953, and is buried in Port Hope Union Cemetery.



*"Our Gang" Crown Bottling Works Label
PHA 2011.1.2*





Port Hope Archives
17 Mill Street North, Port Hope, ON

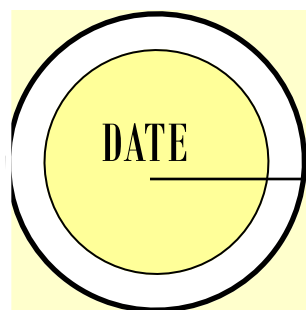


Port Hope Archives' Spring Open House

Come on over and tour your community archives! Check out neat items from our collection and take some time out to ask our archivist a question or two!



12:00 to
4:00pm



Saturday May 14, 2011

Email: archives@porthope.ca Phone: 905-885-1673

