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Spring 2016

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

ASSESSING THE PAST: THE "TOWN OF PORT HOPE FONDS" RETURNS HOME

The "Town of Port Hope fonds" is a collection of papers created by the former Town of Port Hope, and serve to document a large block of time in the history of our community. The collection includes, but is not limited to: Tax Assessment Rolls for the years 1874-1959; Minute Books; Historic Ledgers and Cashbooks; Miscellaneous Land Records; and Assorted Files of the Port Hope Harbour Commission. All together, the collection is comprised of 15 metres of material, being brought back to its first home from the Archives of Ontario, where it has been housed since the 1980s.

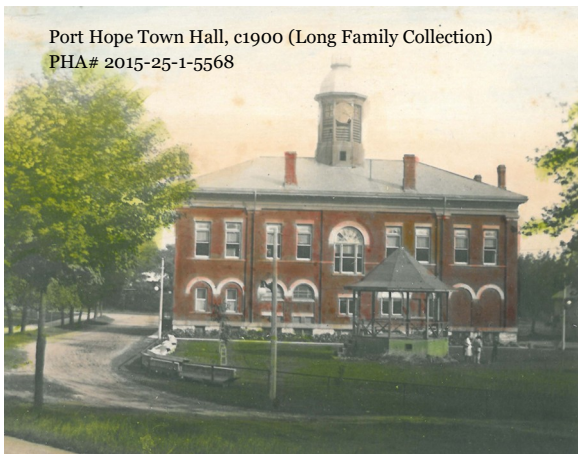
The Archives of Ontario is the official provincial repository for records documenting the history of the Government of Ontario. They are currently looking to repatriate, or return, certain collections of papers back to their original communities of origin. This means that for the first time in over 30 years, these records will be available to Port Hope residents and researchers from a facility based in Port Hope. Previously, researchers would have had to travel to Toronto to access the materials.

As of Monday January 25th, 2016, the "Town of Port Hope fonds" was transferred to its new long-term storage facility at the Port Hope Archives; and will be available to the public after inspection and cataloguing are complete.

Richard Henry Carlson wrote "A Brief History of Property Tax" in 2004. In it he notes: "Taxation has existed in various forms since civilization began. In days of old the source of wealth was land and its proceeds. Before the existence of a monetary system, taxes were paid by a percentage of crops raised."

In ancient Egypt, taxes were levied against the value of grain, cattle, oil, beer and land. Since only one person in 100 was literate, that person became the local scribe and tax assessor. If a person (most often farmers) was unable to pay, they were brought before the courts. The tax assessor was viewed as so important to the survival of society, when the Pharoh died, he was often the only person of the court who was not sent to eternal rest in the tomb to serve the Pharoh in the afterlife.

Port Hope Town Hall, c1900 (Long Family Collection)
PHA# 2015-25-1-5568



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PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

17 Mill Street North
Port Hope, ON L1A 2T1
porthopearchives.com
archives@porthope.ca
905-885-1673

HOURS

Monday 1-5PM
Tuesday to Thursday 9:30-5
Friday 1-5pm

We're flexible! Other times by appointment.

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marie Jones, Chair
Evelyn Conn, Vice-Chair
Peter Hunt, Treasurer
Leah-Ann Logel, Secretary
Carl Ross, Membership
Suzanne Camm, Outreach
Cathy Moore

The Port Hope Archives is a registered charity.

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**COMMUNITY HISTORY
HAPPENS HERE!**



The Greek general Aristides, who lived from 530-468 BCE, reformed the tax assessment system in Athens while he served as treasurer. He became known as the most "competent and impartial person who ever held the position in Athens... His prestige was so great that he became known as Aristides the just." (*Richard Henry Carlson*)

During Medieval times "an average peasant paid 1/10th of the value of crops to the lord who then passed on a percentage to the King. Peasants were also required to give either an additional 1/10th of their crop to the church, or spend 1/10th of their labour working for the church." (*Richard Henry Carlson*)

Sometime after 1066, William the Conqueror developed a form of modern land taxation. Town officials were now required to keep detailed lists and records of everyone who owned property. They also had to measure each parcel of land and estimate its value. This information was recorded in a record known as the "Domesday Book," a name which is still used to refer to an assessor's book in some areas of England today.

In Canada, the earliest system of taxation was a uniform tax based on the value of owned property. This means that property must have been assessed in some way, and in Ontario that has been done by municipalities for over 200 years.

According to MPAC, the *Municipal Property Assessment Corporation*: "Although property assessment originally came under the jurisdiction of Upper Canada, it was transferred to Ontario municipalities in 1849. Over time, each municipality developed its

own assessment system and methods of valuing property. This resulted in inconsistencies in property assessment and the distribution of property taxes. Within a municipality, properties with a similar appearance and value could have very different assessments."

In 1963, the Government of Ontario appointed a committee to study taxation and report on recommended changes. This report led to the "Market Value Assessment" method, which was used from 1970 to 1997; and finally the "Ontario fair Market System," which is the current tax assessment method utilized by municipalities in Ontario.

So, what does all of this have to do with Tax Assessment Rolls? And why would we need to store them in an archives?

Assessment Rolls are records listing all properties in the Municipality. They are public records which may be accessed by members of the greater community. These types of records are very important because they track the history of property ownership in the Municipality of Port Hope (and of course, all municipalities across the province, and beyond).

Tax books are sizable ledgers and can contain crucial information on properties which may assist researchers who wish to know about the history of their own house, or the home of an ancestor.

"Assessment rolls, created for property tax collection, contain some or all of the following information: the name, occupation, salary, and religion of the "head of household" (usually male, although women appear when widowed or single), and the description, ownership, and assessed value of the property. Assessment rolls were created for every year." (*The City of Toronto Archives*)

With our most recent transfer of records from the Archives of Ontario, and the assessment rolls already at the Port Hope Archives as part of the Municipality of Port Hope Collection; we currently hold tax information on properties in both the former Town of Port Hope, Hope Township, and the current Municipality of Port Hope for the years 1850-2010!

Port Hope Archives has new hours!

Monday 1-5pm

Tuesday to Thursday 9:30am-5pm

Friday 1-5pm

Closed from 12-12:30pm for lunch

We're flexible! Please contact us to request an appointment to suit your schedule.

REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

This year the Port Hope Archives Board of Directors has a new look. Joining us are four new members, Suzanne Camm, Leah-Ann Logel, Cathy Moore and Carl Ross. They bring with them a wealth of experience and knowledge which will result in new ideas as we identify objectives and goals for 2016. They are a very enthusiastic group and we are excited to have them!

We would also like to acknowledge those past board members who devoted much of their time serving on the board. We thank Barb Coleman, David Doherty, David Elliott, Adam Ross and Stephanie Wright for their support and commitment. A big thank you goes to Marielle Lambert who has served on the board for many years, as Chair for two of those and advisor to me, as I step into her shoes.

A major focus of the past few months has been a need to expand our current storage to accommodate future growth of the permanent collection. With a generous donation from Architectural Conservancy Ontario, Port Hope branch in Dec. and a substantial grant from the Department Of Canadian Heritage our goal to install modern compact storage will be complete in the next few months.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Port Hope Archives.

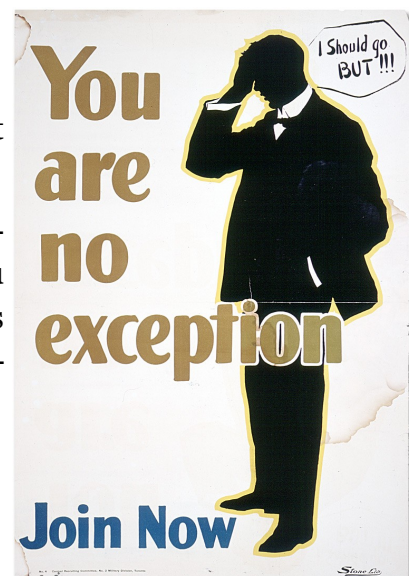
MARIE JONES

BOARD MEMBERS WANTED!

We're looking for new board members! Do YOU have what it takes?

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

"You are no exception" World War I Poster courtesy of the Archives of Ontario



"I can only note that the past is beautiful because one never realises an emotion at the time. It expands later, and thus we don't have complete emotions about the present, only about the past."
- Virginia Woolf, author

FROM THE PHOTO DATABASE



Frank Gibson Long, aged 2, c1922

PHA# 2015-25-1-5634 (Long Family Collection)

Description: B&W photograph of Frank Gibson Long (1920-1976), son of Alfred Henry Clark Long, taken c1922 at Dickinson's Farm, Hope Township.

Alfred Henry Clark Long (1877-1929) was born in Port Hope to Thomas and Sarah Long, on 13 Jul 1877. He married Edna Alice Gibson, and the couple had at least four sons: Herbert Kitchener (1914-1967), Alfred Keith (1913-1943), Norman Thomas (1916-1992) and Frank Gibson (1920-1976). Alfred was an insurance and ticket agent in Port Hope before passing the business (Long Bros.) along to his relatives. He died on 17 Jun 1929, and is buried at St. John's Anglican Cemetery.

This photo and others can be found in our
Flickr photostream:

www.flickr.com/photos/porthopearchives

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday April 24th: Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Port Hope Branch 12th Annual Antiques & Artifacts Auction and Tag Sale—Preview and Tag Sale at 10 AM—Auction at 12:30 PM @ Town Park Recreation Centre, 62 McCaul Street, Port Hope

Sunday May 1st: Port Hope & District Historical Society Heritage Fair -- 10 AM to 4 PM @ the Lion's Centre, 29 Thomas Street, Port Hope

Sunday May 29th: Friends of Wesleyville Village Country Market & Nature Fest—10 AM to 4 PM @ Wesleyville Church, 2082 Lakeshore Road, Port Hope



PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

17 MILL STREET NORTH | PORT HOPE, ONTARIO L1A 2T1

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INTRODUCING... OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Our family of five moved from Chicago to Port Hope in the fall of 1999. From the onset, I was both attracted by the varied and deep-rooted history of this place and impressed by the commitment of many to preserve and celebrate this legacy. Initially, my own efforts focused on a sympathetic restoration of our Edwardian home on King Street. This has proven to be an ongoing undertaking! In 2001, with the encouragement and support of A. K. Sculthorpe, I launched Northumberland Architectural Ornaments, producing five limited edition pewter replicas of Port Hope landmark properties for purchase. The project was designed to produce a total of 20 ornaments over a four year period. One of the most gratifying aspects of its success was the wealth of information and narratives related to me by longtime family residents. Now that my husband and I are both officially retired, the opportunity to serve on the Board of the Port Hope Archives seems like a good fit for my historical interests and skill set. I sincerely hope I am able to contribute to its continued relevance and vitality.

SUZANNE CAMM

My name is Leah-Ann Logel and some of you might remember me from when I filled in as Archivist when Erin Walsh was on maternity leave. It is nice to be back at the Port Hope Archives, however I now have a completely different role; secretary on the Board of Directors. For those of you who do not know me, I completed my Bachelors of Arts at Trent University with a major in history. I then received a Post Graduate Degree in Museum Management and Curatorship at Fleming College. I recently became an insurance broker and I am

now working here in Port Hope at Elliott Insurance Services. I am very excited to be on the Board of Directors of the Archives and to have a different role with this organization. I am looking forward to working with the other members of the board, volunteers and staff on a number of projects and also reconnecting with the members of Port Hope Archives.



LEAH-ANN LOGEL

INTRODUCING... OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

My family's history in the Port Hope area is a long one. The Hawkins arrived here in the late 1790s from Vermont. My mother always said that she was a listed "Daughter of the American Revolution," so then coming to Upper Canada wasn't because they were Loyalists, don't hold that against me!

My father's family came from Irish German stock and ran a creamery in a little town, up in the Bruce county called Teeswater. My Mother and Father met during the Second World War, were married and moved back to Port Hope shortly after the war. I was born in 1952 and my childhood memories of growing up here are truly great ones.

When I was 10, I became a paper boy for the Toronto Star, this after school job allowed me to meet and get to know many old and interesting Port Hope families. One of these families was the Ted Austin family on Cavan Street. Ted Loved to dig up old Native burial grounds in Port Hope, and this started my passion for digging things up. My first area of attack was around the Brewery Pond on Cavan St. It provided me with old glass beer bottles, and the pond itself provided me with many speckled trout.

Talking to older people about their memories of growing up here in Port Hope has always been a great source of entertainment for me. The stories of "Tom Foolery," make the people that lived here and do live here the town's strongest asset.

My Dad always said that you don't have to live in Paris, because it all happens here.

I know the deeper you dig the older things get, and that's what Port Hope is all about.

With a shovel in hand. Yours,

CARL ROSS

When I arrived in Port Hope in 1978 I joined the ACO and worked closely with A.K. Sculthorpe on the house tours (we were hosting two or three per year) and finally whittled it down to once yearly. I worked with James Matheson and Honor Sylvester on a project to catalogue over 150 houses in town which the ACO published a number of years ago. I was involved with Olde Tyme Christmas in the early 80s and have fond memories of the Grand Winter Balls we organized and the lovely Olde Tyme Christmas shop. Jane Staunton and I produced walking tour brochures of Port Hope which have probably been updated years ago- we also would be docents for bus tours from Toronto that would come to tour the town. I have three children that have kept me busy volunteering at their schools (including creating a naturalized garden on school property) and now that I am retired and they are grown I find I now have more time to continue in a volunteer capacity.

CATHY MOORE