

# IT'S ABOUT TIME...

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

### THE BARRETT STREET BAILEY BRIDGE

Following the Ganaraska River flood of 1980, the Barrett Street bridge had to be removed due to ice and water damage. The Town of Port Hope lacked the necessary funds to build a permanent bridge, and it was decided to install a temporary Bailey bridge. The construction of the bridge was completed in 1985 by the military. This temporary bridge has served Port Hope for 35 years, but was born 75 years ago and quickly achieved success.

The Bailey Bridge design was developed for use in WWII by the British. The WWI British standard Inglis Bridge was only capable of supporting 19 tones of weight, whereas the 1939 British tank "Matilda" weighed 23 tonnes and by the war's end the 'Churchill' tank would weigh 40 tonnes. A new bridge design was desperately required. It would need to be strong, but light enough to easily assemble and disassemble, and able to be loaded on a typical 3 tonne army vehicle.

Donald Coleman Bailey conceived the bridge design with a sketch on the back of an envelope in 1940. The design was based on the principles of Erector and Meccano building sets, popular back then. The new design allowed for the bridge to be assembled in sections without large machinery, with each panel of the bridge weighing 600 lbs and able to be carried and put into place by six men. (*cont'd on pg 2*)



*The Barrett Street Bridge, at the centre of the above photograph, flooded during the 1937 flood of Port Hope. The Barrett Street bridge has been replaced numerous times throughout our town's history due to flooding, the last replacement being the Bailey bridge in 1985. PHA # 2003-23-1-1885*

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#### PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

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[archives@porthope.ca](mailto:archives@porthope.ca)  
905-885-1673

#### HOURS

Monday 1-5PM  
Tuesday to Thursday 9:30-5  
Friday 1-5pm  
*We're flexible!*

#### 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  
Rick Sullivan, Secretary  
Cathy Moore, Membership  
Suzanne Camm, Outreach  
David Brooks, Member at Large

#### ARCHIVIST:

Rachel Arnaud

*The Port Hope Archives is a registered charity.*

#83789 8675 RR0001

**COMMUNITY HISTORY  
HAPPENS HERE!**

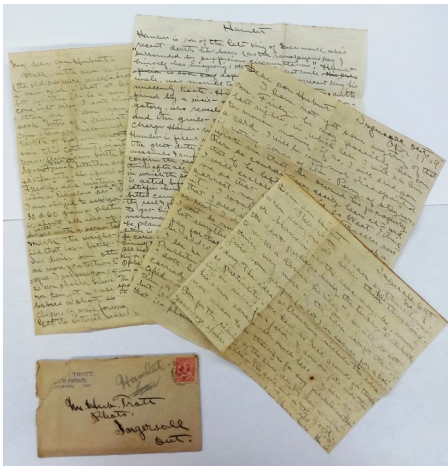
## THE BARRETT STREET BAILEY BRIDGE, CONT'D...

The British commenced utilizing the Bailey bridge in 1941, quickly followed by the Americans in 1942. Both General Bernard Montgomery and General Dwight Eisenhower acknowledged the Bailey bridge as being one of the most valuable inventions created in WW2. Bailey was knighted in 1946 for the bridge design.

In a period of approximately 4 years, more than 3000 Bailey bridges were constructed covering 60 odd miles of rivers and valleys, usually under enemy fire in the theatre of war. The Bailey bridge design is still used today.

Port Hope's Barrett Street Bailey bridge is currently closed to traffic (due to unsafe conditions) and the Municipality of Port Hope has approved the demolition of the Bridge. The 32nd Combat Engineer Regiment will commence the removal of the bridge on Thursday, May 11th and the bridge is slated to come down on May 13th at a public event.

## NEW TO THE COLLECTION



### Letters to W.H Trott

The Port Hope Archives has recently acquired a series of letters written from W.D. Trott of Collingwood, to his son William Herbert Trott of Port Hope in the early 20th century. Both father and son were photographers, and William Herbert was a well-known photographer in Port Hope. These letters are part of a larger donation of photographs, documents, and more that represent the Trott and Garnett family histories in Port Hope. To see this collection, please reference Accession #: 2016.38 when visiting the Archives.

## REPORT FROM THE BOARD

The Port Hope Archives has enjoyed a busy winter and we are thrilled that spring is here. We have an exciting year ahead of us as we work with various organizations and the municipality to celebrate Canada 150. One of our Canada 150 projects included the planting of over 100 Maple Leaf tulips in the front garden. This red and white tulip was specially developed to mark Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday and we look forward to the colourful display.

April 9<sup>th</sup> marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge where over 15,000 Canadians rose from the trenches and advanced towards the ridge.

We would like to acknowledge those men from Port Hope and Hope Township who lost their lives and fought in this battle.

We welcome a new board member, David Brooks who joined us in Feb.

**Marie**

## INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

I am looking forward to being a part of the Archives Board. History has always held a fascination for me, whether it be legends, stories, archaeology, or architecture.

I spent almost 8 years overseas in the British Isles and Europe working/travelling with an engineering firm. This allowed me to experience some of the finest in arts, theatre, museums, and historical structures.

Having been raised as an airforce brat (both my father and his brothers were pilots in WW2 and beyond) I became a life member of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association.

As an older "Port Hoper" I am a lifetime member of the Port Hope Historical Society. I have been associated with various boards: Parent Teacher, Abbeyfield, and the East Durham Historical Society.

As property manager, I maintained two large properties competing for Communities in Bloom.

Various exhibitions I have been associated with include schools, libraries, churches, cadets, fairs, and museums.

History for me can be so inspiring and represents a gateway from the past which has led to our future.

**-David Brooks**

## ARCHIVIST'S MESSAGE

Spring is finally arriving! The days are getting milder, early bulbs are starting to poke up through the soil, and we will soon be opening our windows to let the fresh air in, and starting the yearly ritual of spring cleaning.

Why is she talking about spring cleaning in the Archives' newsletter, you may ask?

As you may know, the Archives significant collection grows mainly through archival donations by members of the public. As you're doing your spring cleaning this year, don't forget to put aside photographs, documents, letters, postcards, ephemera, maps and more that you come across that would help to preserve the history of Port Hope and Hope Township, and the people who have lived here, for the Archives.

Not sure if what you have belongs in the Archives? Or perhaps you think your items are "not old enough"? Please bring them by anyways to be assessed; many seemingly insignificant materials have historical and research value. If you don't live in the area, please send us an message with details about the materials you would like to be considered for our collection.

As I hear from so many researchers who pass through our doors for the first time, our Archives holds a larger and more varied collection than most expect to find. Many researchers visit to see what we have, and end up spending the afternoon and sometimes even returning on other days to continue their research with the many resources and materials we have. Help us to continue to grow this significant collection by considering the Archives when you come across that stack of old photographs in the attic, that box in the basement full of old business advertisements and ephemera, or the drawer where you are storing family documents and letters. If it relates to Port Hope or Hope Township, we would love to see what you have.

And, if you come across other items during your cleaning spree that need a new home, consider donating them to the Archives' for our annual fundraising Yard Sale. We will start accepting donations for the sale in June.

*Rachel*

## FROM THE PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION...



**Charles Henry Staples**

Charles Henry Staples worked as a butcher and lived on Little Hope Street, Port Hope. During WWI he enlisted with the 136th Battalion in Port Hope in 1916 at the age of 24, and fought and was wounded at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917 with the 87th Battalion.

*Acc# 2004-31-2-677*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- March-May: Travelling Exhibit- "Family Ties: Ontario Turns 150" (on display at the Archives)
- Port Hope Archives' Open House, Saturday May 13th, 11am-2pm: Drop by the Archives to meet with our Archivist and learn about preserving your old photographs, and discover the research resources and collection available at the Archives. This is a free, drop-in event.
- Wesleyville Nature Fest, Sunday May 28th, 10am-4pm: Make sure you stop by the Archives' display at the Nature Fest this year.
- ACO's 13th Annual Antiques & Artifacts Auction and Tag Sale, Sunday April 23rd, at Town Park Recreation Centre
- Doors Open Northumberland, June 3rd and 4th: Experience Northumberland County's social, agricultural and horticultural history at our diverse cultural centres, farms and gardens, and delight in the road less travelled.
- Archives' Annual Yard Sale, Saturday September 9: We will be holding our annual fundraising yard sale on Sept. 9. We will be accepting donations to the sale starting in June, so please keep us in mind during your spring cleaning.

## FIND US ONLINE!

Website: [www.porthopearchives.com](http://www.porthopearchives.com)

Flickr: [www.flickr.com/porthopearchives](http://www.flickr.com/porthopearchives)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PHArchives](http://www.facebook.com/PHArchives)

Archaeion: [www.archaeion.ca/port-hope-archives](http://www.archaeion.ca/port-hope-archives)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PHArchives>

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