

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

Newsletter of the Port Hope Archives

Summer 2007

Dutch Municipality of Zutphen Honours Port Hope Soldier

At the outbreak of the Second World War, thousands of Canadian men and women joined the armed forces to serve King and Country. In Port Hope, hundreds of young men and women answered the call, leaving loved ones behind for Europe, Africa and Asia.

One family in particular – the Potts family from Englishtown – was the only family in town to send all three of its sons. Walter and Maude Potts of Port Hope were the parents of four children – William, Jack, Mac and Elsie. The family lived at the corner of Sullivan and Little Hope Streets, and all their children attended the West Primary School, which was once located at the corner of Bruton and Bramley Streets.

At the outbreak of war, Jack was the first in the family to answer the call to serve, enlisting on October 1, 1939 at the age of 22. All three boys left Port Hope and fought in the different arenas of the war. Only Mac returned.

The Port Hope Archives recently received a very special donation of photographs and memorabilia related to the Potts family. As the PHA prepares to reprint The Book of Remembrance to commemorate the lost soldiers of the Great War, it is only fitting that we also honour the sacrifice given by those during the Second World War.

A sincere thank you is extended to Gail Potts, wife of James MacDonald “Mac” Potts (1919-1986) for donating this important collection to the Archives.



James MacDonald "Mac" Potts

PTE. JOHN ELVIN "JACK" POTTS

The Netherlands fell to the Germans in May 1940. Following the German occupation of the small country, the Allied Forces did not re-enter the country until September 1944. That winter – the winter of hunger – was the worst the Dutch had experienced and liberation could not come soon enough for the war-torn country.

The Canadians were some of the first troops to re-enter The Netherlands and begin the liberation of the Dutch from German occupation. Many of the casualties that befell the Canadian army in the Netherlands happened in the last stages of the war, who were able to bring liberation to the Dutch by May 1945.

"The Liberation" came with a cost, but the Canadians were there to do a job, and they did it well. More than sixty years later, the Dutch, ever grateful to their Canadian allies, remember and pay tribute to Canadian visitors, and especially Canadian veterans.

May 4, 2005 marked the sixtieth anniversary of the Liberation. Celebrations were held in The Netherlands throughout the first weeks of May. In the municipality of Zutphen, a new development paid tribute to eleven Canadian soldiers who had fallen in the line duty. One of these young men honoured, was Private John Elvin "Jack" Potts of Port Hope.

A monument in Warnsveld, The Netherlands was erected after the war to serve as a memorial to the 36



Jack Potts died in his country's service on April 4, 1945

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Chairperson's MessageLisa Foucault

Summer blossoms have arrived once again in this my final year as Chair of the Port Hope Archives Board. I am very pleased to report that we are on track for reaching our goals this year. Once again, we can extend a sincere thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Municipality of Port Hope for their ongoing support of our program. In addition we have expanded our network of community partnerships and we are hard at work increasing our membership base. We rely heavily on this community support to cover our ongoing operational expenses and to demonstrate our growing local commitment to preserving Port Hope's documentary heritage.

One of our key initiatives in 2007 is to complete an upgrade of our records storage area. Thanks to the very generous support of the ACO we will be purchasing new museum-quality shelving that will provide a stable, enduring support for the archival records in our care and allow us to make better use of our records storage space. The purchase and installation of new shelving will also enable us to upgrade the paint and flooring at the Archives so we have a busy year ahead implementing this much-needed face-lift.

In the past year, we completed work on the land index database, another major project, that will serve to enhance our reference service. The successful completion of this project was entirely the result of a small group of dedicated volunteers.

We are also currently at work completing an updated version of the *Book of Remembrance*, a moving tribute to Port Hope soldiers who fought in the First World War. Contact the Archives to place your order now as resources dictate a limited print run.

In the fall, we will once again be holding our yard sale. This is a major fund-raiser for the Archives so if you have treasures you would like to donate please set them aside for us. Alternatively, you might find new treasures to add to your collection if you come by the sale in September. Everyone had a great time wheelin' and dealin' last year so be sure to make a note of the date in your calendar.

Volunteers are always in high demand at the Archives. They assist the Archives in completing many of its goals and we are very grateful for the time and energy they bring to our organization. I strongly encourage you to contact the Archives if you are interested in donating your time. I guarantee that you will find the experience a rewarding one. The progress we have enjoyed to date is directly related to the dedication and hard work of a small group of individuals who are committed to preserving the documentary heritage of our town.

Many thanks for your continued support, and I wish you a wonderful and restful summer!

Lisa Foucault



On March 23, 2007, Board Chair Lisa Foucault and archivist Krista Taylor, of the Port Hope Archives, were thrilled to receive a cheque for \$10,000 from Richard Vincent, President of the Port Hope Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. The funding from the ACO will go directly to the much needed upgrading of the records storage area in the Archives.

Archivist's MessageKrista Taylor

The Henry Hudson roses at the Archives have started to bloom and I know with the roses comes a busy summer. An increase in visitors from the United States and across Canada has already begun and that signals to me that we are more visible than we have been in the past. Our research requests are also up, with requests continuing to come in from Europe, Australia and the United States.

In early 2007, the Port Hope Archives launched its very own web site. The PHA web site address is www.porthopearchives.com. The visitor numbers for the site increase on a daily basis, and by the number of requests we have received from around the world, I know we are starting to be noticed.

This past spring the Archives was very busy. In March, I led the second workshop on genealogy offered by the Port Hope Archives. The workshop was an overwhelming success and would have had more than the sixteen attendees had we not run out of chairs! Interest in the workshop may result in it being re-offered this autumn. A date is yet to be set.

Donations to the PHA's collection has also increased. More and more families and organizations are taking notice of the great things we are doing and entrusting their documents and photographs to the PHA for preservation and for the future.

Examples of the recent donations include: A first edition of *The Tide of Life and other Poems* by Watson Kirkconnell, papers from Nathan Choat's estate, Ralph and F.W. Wilson papers, a 1936 Port Hope Fall Fair prize list, a 1922 Port Hope High School panoramic photograph and a signed copy of *Port Hope: A history* (as well as an annotated copy from the author). We have also received more probates to add to our ever-growing database and accurals for the Friends of Music fonds.

The Book of Remembrance has become a special project for the Archives this year. With a transcription of the original book, accompanied by images of the soldiers, letters from the front and images from the PHA collection, this special book is one for all generations to learn from. I have personally learned a great deal more about the war from reading the first hand accounts reported by the soldiers in their letters home from the front. As I have looked at their faces over and over again, I have on a number of occasions realized the youth that was extinguished for our freedom. It is a haunting feeling, yet it was a sacrifice that had to be made and one that helped

to make Canada into a nation. The book will be available in time for purchase at the 176th Port Hope Fall Fair. Reserve your copy today by calling the Port Hope Archives at (905) 885-1673 or e-mail archives@porthope.ca. A limited run will be made, so reserve to ensure you get a copy.

The Archives has also been fortunate to continue its partnership with the Conservation Management program at Sir Sandford Fleming College. In the past items from the PHA collection have been chosen to have conservation treatments by the students at the college in Peterborough. The conservation program at SSFC is one of the most highly regarded in the country, and we are very fortunate to have such a wonderful relationship with the faculty. (Our own board chair, Lisa Foucault is a graduate of this program.)

This is the third year we have been able to partner with the college and I look forward to seeing the work they will be doing. The items I designate for conservation treatment, are items that need conservation attention that I cannot provide, whether due to the limited space and resources at the PHA or the fact the treatment is beyond my knowledge. Treatments include flattening, cleaning, humidification and tape removal. Other local institutions also provide items for the students, and the students have the opportunity to choose the item(s) they wish to work on under the guidance of their instructors. Not all of our items will be worked on, but any assistance from the program is very much appreciated.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer, and be sure to drop in at the Archives to see the small exhibit on the town hall. We have a busy summer ahead of us with the move and renovations, but it'll be great when it's done!

Krista Taylor



The PHA gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Municipality of Port Hope for their continued support of the Port Hope Archives.

....Continued from front page

Canadians who were killed in action when Warnsveld was being liberated. However, sixty years later, the residents still wanted to remember a few of the soldiers who died there. When the opportunity arose in the new housing development in Leesten to name the streets after some of these men, the municipality of Zutphen gladly gave their consent. This is how a young man from a small town Ontario, came to have a street named after him in a Dutch town.

The brochure created to accompany the dedication of street names attempted to reconstruct what happened in early April 1945.

"On the night of 3 April 1945 the Canadian infantry regiment Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders – Glens in short – arrived in Vierakker via Toldijk, Baak, Wichmond and Hackfort. They set up headquarters in Huize Vierakker. The regiment was divided up into four companies. Company B was taken by truck in the early hours of 4 April and dropped off at the corner of Leestenseweg and Hekkelerdijk. Company C was dropped off a bit further eastwards at the driveway of the farm "Het Hekkeler." Company B set off towards the farms "Bosman" and "Graffel" via Holtmaatweg, where the enemy lay ensconced in trenches. But by nine o'clock on the same morning the enemy positions were in Canadian hands. The company lost a few lives. As soon as the artillery support arrived the patrols advanced across the fields and along Lansinkweg to the farms "Uitkomst" and "Klein Have". An enemy position that lay close to the last farm took the lives of at least three Canadians on "Klein Have" land. The German emplacement was taken over at around five in the afternoon in a combined effort with an English regiment aided by massive flame-throwers.

Meanwhile C Company had arrived at the farm "Het Loo" via Blekdijk and Looër Enkweg. The patrol began the attack in Looër Enkweg with two armoured cars in the lead. Headquarters was set up in the school in Leesten. Most of the

enemy machine gun fire came from Het Groot Graffel. Then help arrived when the artillery rode up via Dennendijk after which C was able to reach the garden of Het Groot Graffel in a tank. This is how Glens finally managed to silence the German machine guns.

A total of eleven soldiers from the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders fell on the fourth of April 1945 in the hamlet of Leesten.

They were given a temporary grave in the church graveyard in Vierakker at first and interred a year later in the memorial burial ground in Holten."

Jack had been assigned to the infantry scouts and was one of the eleven soldiers who were killed on April 4, 1945 near "Het Beltink" in Leesten. Jack's body was eventually buried at the Holten Canadian War Cemetery. After the end of the hostilities, the remains of more than 1,300 Canadian soldiers were brought together into this cemetery. Holten is a village 20 km east of the town of Deventer, on the main A1 motorway from Amsterdam to Bremen, Germany.

WILLIAM GEORGE "BILL" POTTS

In October 1941, the Royal Rifles of Canada and the Winnipeg Grenadiers were ordered to prepare for service in the Pacific. The Canadian contingent was comprised of 1,975 soldiers and support services.

Prior to duty in Hong Kong, the Royal Rifles had served in Newfoundland and Saint John, New Brunswick. The Winnipeg Grenadiers had been posted to Jamaica. These posts required minimal training and therefore, the soldiers were not prepared for the advances made by the Japanese.

Military officials in London did not believe that an attack by the Japanese on Hong Kong was imminent, and it was expected that the Canadians would only see non-combat duty. However, that all changed when the Japanese military launched a series of attacks in



Pottsstraat in Zutphen, The Netherlands, is one of eleven streets named after Canadian Soldiers from the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders. A replica of the sign was sent to the Potts family and is now at the Port Hope Archives.



The grave of J. E. Potts in the Holten Canadian War Cemetery. A replica of the street sign with his last name sits upon his gravestone for a photo. The sign is now at the Port Hope Archives.



William Potts posed for his photograph prior to leaving for active service during World War Two. He lost his life on December 26, 1941 in Hong Kong.

December, 1941 in the Pacific, the most publicized being the U.S. Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbour.

The Royal Rifles and the Winnipeg Grenadiers arrived in Hong Kong on November 16, 1941. On December 8th, 1941, only hours after the Japanese air force devastated Pearl Harbour, the Japanese Empire turned its attention toward the British Crown Colony of Hong

Kong. The Royal Rifles of Canada and the Winnipeg Grenadiers were the first Canadian troops to see action during the Second World War. As a member of the Royal Rifles of Canada, Bill Potts is honoured at the at Sai Wan Memorial in Victoria, Hong Kong. The officers and men whose memory is honoured here died in defence of Hong Kong in December 1941 and in the ensuing years of captivity and have no known grave.

The PHA continues to add donations to the collection. Whether it is a single item or a whole collection of family papers, everything is important in telling the story of Port Hope and Hope Township's past. To donate to the PHA please contact the Archivist at (905) 885-1673 or archives@porthope.ca

Kong. Historians have noted that even the best troops could not have stopped the Japanese troops which were more numerous and better prepared. The Canadians fought against overwhelming odds for ten days before the defences were overrun by the Japanese 38th Division. On December 18th, the Japanese landed on the island of Hong Kong. The Canadians fought back as best they could, holding their position and counter-attacking. Hong Kong surrendered on Christmas Day 1941. Of the 1,975 Canadians, 290 were killed and 493 wounded. Hundreds were taken to prisoner of war camps.

William George "Bill" Potts was a member of the Royal Rifles of Canada Unit. He lost his life on December 26, 1941 at the age of 20 following the Battle of Hong Kong.

From research collected by George Sweanor, five other soldiers from Port Hope were taken as prisoners of war in Hong Kong and suffered harsh treatment and malnutrition at the hands of the Japanese in the POW camps. These men were James Archibald, Frank Jiggins, Andrew J. McKay, Felix Snell and Clarence W. Thompson.

The Cenotaph in Memorial Park, Port Hope (above right) stands to remember and honour the war dead from Port Hope and Hope Township. The cenotaph was erected in 1926 to remember the men of the Great War 1914-1918. Following the Second World War, more names (right) were added to the cenotaph to remember those who had fallen between 1939 and 1945.



PASSING THROUGH PORT HOPE ...

On the way into Canadian history

W. Arnott Craick

William Arnott Craick was born on September 19, 1881 in Port Hope. The youngest child of James and Jane Craick, he grew up on King Street.

By 1901 Arnott was living in Toronto with his sister and attending school. He was an honours graduate in mathematics from University College of the University of Toronto. In 1902 he went into journalism as editor of Canadian Printer and Publisher.

He married Hilda Bigly (1886-1929) of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. They were the parents of one daughter, Marion, born in Toronto in 1909.

The obituary for Arnott Craick which appeared in the *Globe and Mail* on January 4, 1967, provided a great deal of insight into his journalistic career. After graduation Arnott joined Canadian Printer and Publisher as editor. Not long after, he established a number of publications for the Maclean Publishing Co., including setting up *Busy Man's* in 1905. While working for Maclean's he spent 1915 as associate editor of the *Financial Post*.

In 1919, he joined Canadian Manufacturers' Association. The CMA was founded in 1871, incorporated by Act of

Parliament in 1902 "to promote Canadian industries and to further the interests of Canadian manufacturers and exporters." The CMA operated the predecessor of the present Canadian Trade Commissioner Service, helped create the Board of Railway Commissioners (which became the Board of Transport Commissioners, the Canadian Transportation Agency and later, the National Transportation Agency) and the Canadian National Exhibition. Arnott retired from the CMA in 1950.

He was very much interested in historical writings, and wrote two historical books on Port Hope, *Sketches of Port Hope* 1901 and *Little Tales of Old Port Hope* 1964. He also wrote *History of Canadian Journalism*.

From 1920 until his retirement he was active with the Empire Press Union, later the Commonwealth Union. He attended conferences with other Commonwealth journalists in colonies and dominions around the world. His last conference was in Australia in 1955.

Research by Sarah Coates, PHA Student Volunteer

HISTORIC BUSINESS KING'S MILL & ELEVATOR

Joseph Goodwin King (1844-1910) was born in Stowmarket, England. He was the son of Benjamin Owen King and Emma Archer. The King family came to Canada in the 1860s settling in Northumberland and Durham Counties.

In 1868, King took over the operation of the former Beamish Flouring Mill in Port Hope.

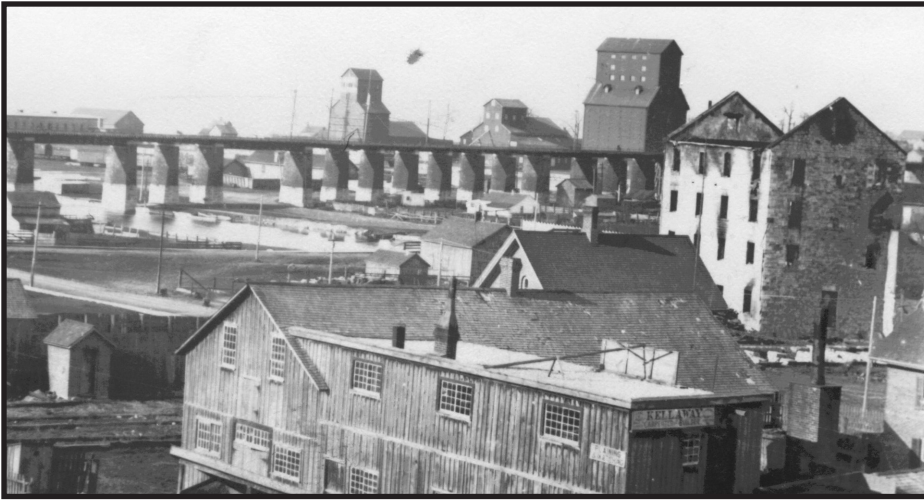
On June 7, 1871, King married Emily Julia Holdsworth, daughter of Francis C. A. Holdsworth and Mary Rootsey of Port Hope. Joseph and Emily went on to have a family of five daughters and one son. Their daughter Charlotte married Leopold T. H. Williams in 1891. Their son died as an infant and is buried in Port Hope. Their other daughters married in the Port Arthur area.

Unfortunately for King and his young family, the mill turned out not to be profitable and under the Insolvent Act of 1875, Joseph assigned Seth Soper Smith to take care of the dissolution of the business. The insolvent notices appeared in the *Port Hope Guide* in November, 1876.

Following the failed attempt at milling, King moved



Advertisement for King's Mills, September 6, 1876 in the Port Hope Times shortly before the insolvent notices appeared in The Guide.



This view from King Street shows Port Hope's three grain elevators, ca. 1889. The King elevator is the tallest of the three.

PHA - 995-1-1-83

on to the elevator business, with a grain warehouse. The elevator was located near the harbour with two other elevators, one belonging to Sculthorp's (which is believed to have been built by King) and the other to the Grand Trunk.

From his 70,000 bushel elevator, King shipped grain to the United States by Lake Ontario. To stay competitive with the other two elevators, King also improved the cleaning machinery, which in turn provided cleaner grain for use.

However, by the 1880s, Port Hope's economic boom was declining, and King began to look elsewhere for business opportunities.

By 1888, King had left Port Hope and was business manager of the Lake of the Woods Milling Company at Keewatin. After two years in this post he had a falling out with the managing director, and he and his family returned to Port Hope in 1890. On the 1891 census he is residing with his mother-in-law. His occupation is listed as "traveller".

In October 1891, King was back in northern Ontario at Port Arthur (Thunder Bay) and leased a 200,000 bushel wooden elevator from the Canadian Pacific Railway, for the purpose of cleaning grain. In doing so, King became the first private operator of a western terminal elevator. In 1892, King entered into a five-year agreement with Thomas Marks to create Marks, King and Company in Port Arthur. This business was so successful in salvaging damaged crops, that King went into business on his own in 1897.

Going into business for himself, King was able to experiment. He focused his attention on salvaging damaged grains. As a result, he became the proprietor of the first hospital elevator, in which he pioneered the treatment of wet and smutty wheat.

King was constantly upgrading his equipment, and in 1903, he was issued patents on a grain car door and grain dryer, no doubt to assist him in his business venture.

King served as a councillor on Port Hope Council from 1880 to 1886, and from research provided by his biographer F. Brent Scollie, he was "principally interested in public works, in particular urban beautification through parks and boulevards...." As well "King was a Conservative stalwart in Durham East; his confidence in the trade policies of Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald wavered only when the export market for barley to the United States dropped.... King's career illustrates the rapid development of grain-handling technology in Canada. As an enterprising individual, he found opportunity in the developing west just as Ontario proponents of western expansion had hoped."

Thanks is extended to Brent Scollie for contacting the PHA and sharing his research with us. To learn more about Joseph Goodwin King, visit the [DICTIONARY OF CANADIAN BIOGRAPHY ONLINE www.biographi.ca](http://www.biographi.ca)

THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES WOULD LIKE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR BUSINESS & ORGANIZATION MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

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AND GRAIN WAREHOUSEMAN,
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OFFICE:
PATERSON'S BLOCK, WALTON STREET.

WAREHOUSE:
KING'S STOREHOUSE, &c., ON JOHN STREET, WEST OF
PORT HOPE HARBOR.

Advertisement from the 1880 Dodd's Directory, Durham & Northumberland Counties.

Welcome New Members

Since December 2006

Mark & Tana Anderson, Des Moines, Iowa
Ian and Libby Bandeen, Toronto
Dale Bubar, Port Hope
Dean & Jane Coates, Hamilton Township
Marcia Edgar, London
Miller & Betty George, Bracebridge
David Gibson, Port Hope
Irene Horne, Newcastle
Shirley Horner, Port Hope
Marielle & Will Lambert, Port Hope
Elizabeth & Wayne Maize, Peterborough
Gary & Jean Southwell, Enterprise, Alabama
Chris Tracey, Port Hope
Charles Wickett, Port Hope

THE ARCHIVES REPORT

(to May 31, 2007)

Visitors: 214
Volunteer hours: 551 hours

VISIT OUR BOOTHS

**PORT HOPE FARMER'S
MARKET HERITAGE DAY**
August 25th

176TH PORT HOPE FALL FAIR
September 13th, 14th and 15th

JOIN US

Annual Memberships to the Port Hope Archives are available to everyone. For more information visit or call the Archives.

Household \$25
Business/Organization \$50

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

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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.

**Don't Forget
the Archives
Yard Sale
September 22nd
2007**

We are still looking for donations for the sale. Donations of antiques & collectables, house wares, sporting goods, books, etc. are very much appreciated. Let's make this the best sale yet! All proceeds to the PHA.

For item pick-up
please call
Marielle Lambert
(905) 885-5122

It's About Time...

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HOURS

WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY
1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.