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Summer 2018

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

First Settlers: Harris and Johnson Families

We will be writing about the 225th anniversary of the arrival of our first four settler families in each newsletter for 2018. Please go back to our Winter and Spring 2018 newsletters to read more about their arrival.

On June 7th or 8th, 1793 the families of Myndert Harris, L. Johnson, Nathaniel Ashford and James Stevens arrived in the settlement of what is now known as Port Hope.

The Harris family was of English and Dutch extraction and had settled in Poughkeepsie, New York long before the American Revolutionary war. At the start of the war Myndert Harris served with the patriots. During his service with the Dutchess County Regiment, Myndert was convicted of burglary and was eventually pardoned. Following this event he gave his support to King George of Britain while his father and seven brothers continued to support the rebels. It is believed that this caused a rift in the family.

At the close of the war Myndert, his wife Polly (Youmans) and children made the decision to leave New York and made their way, as loyalists, to Nova Scotia with Captain Jonathan Walton. The Harris family arrived in Digby in 1783 and received a land grant of 450 acres. The family struggled here for seven years, but the land was poor and they chose to emigrate back to New York, where they found they were not welcome. From here, through the representation of Walton and discussions with Governor Simcoe in Newark (Niagara), which was at the time the seat of the Government of Upper Canada, they were promised a land grant of 800 acres. In 1793 the first concessions were opening up for settlement in Upper Canada at Smith's Creek for those who were loyal to the crown.

Together with three other families and a small group of surveyors from New Hampshire, they travelled to Smith's Creek (Port Hope) aboard a government schooner, the Mississaga. They arrived on the shores of the

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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 12:30-4:30PM
Tuesday to Thursday 9:00-4:30PM
Friday 12:30-4:30PM
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
Suzanne Camm, Programming
Bonnie Garrett, Membership

ARCHIVIST:

Rachel Arnaud

*The Port Hope Archives is a
registered charity.*

#83789 8675 RR0001

**COMMUNITY HISTORY
HAPPENS HERE!**

First Nations village of Gochingomink where they were met by 200 inhabitants and Lawrence Herkimer, a fur trader, who resided in a log cabin on the west side of the Ganaraska River. The Harris family was fortunate to acquire Herkimer's cabin in the fall of 1793 when he moved north to Rice Lake.

On June 22, 1796 after fulfilling his settlement duties, Myndert Harris received the patent for his 200 acre land grant for Lot 3, Concession 1, on the site where Trinity College School stands today. It is believed that his was the first land grant issued in Hope Township.

Myndert Harris resided in Port Hope until he passed away in 1823 at the age of 75 and was, during his time in Port Hope, a prominent citizen. He is buried at St. Mark's Cemetery with many of his family members. The Harris family continues to have a strong presence in Port Hope.

FRAGRANT HEIRLOOM PEONIES *by Suzanne Camm*

Around the middle of the 20th century, a great movement began amongst plant hybridizers to develop more robust and floriferous perennial plants for the herbaceous border. Breeders focused their efforts both on building more compact, disease-resistant varieties and on expanding the colour range and bloom duration of garden favourites. Unintentionally, the fragrance associated with many traditional flowers was greatly diminished in the process. Although the hybrid tea rose is the plant most often cited as a casualty in this regard, the peony also suffered a marked decline in new introductions with discernible perfume.

A recent visit to the long-established peony lane at historic Dunain on Lakeshore Road in Port Hope reaffirmed for me the heady scent of heirloom peonies that traditionally defined the month of June. Thankfully, many of these old varieties are still available or have been recently re-introduced, as the desire for enhanced fragrance has once again become a priority for the plant-buying public.

It is the double forms of white or pink heirloom peonies that are most aromatic. Perhaps the most famous of these is Festiva Maxima, a beautiful lactiflora first sold in North America around 1851. Another popular variety, Sarah Bernhardt (1906), has large, apple-blossom pink flowers and a more delicate, rosy fragrance. Another lactiflora, Duchesse de Nemours, in cultivation since 1856, boasts ivory white flowers and a distinctive sweet scent of Lily of the Valley. Lady Alexandra Duff (1902) is a prolific bloomer with rose-pink guard petals and blush pink centers fading to white. It has a strong, spicy fragrance.

Always remember, however, that fragrance changes throughout the day, as a plant's essential oils are greatly affected by both humidity and temperature. Early mornings and evenings are the best times to savour the heady scents of these wonderful herbaceous plants.



Peonies 'June Rose' (left) and 'Don't Tell' (right)



CHAIR'S REPORT

We have had a busy summer preparing for our yard sale, which is our annual fundraising event that brings in hundreds of people. It is scheduled for Sept. 8th. If you have items that you would like to donate please drop them off at 17 Mill St. N. or if you would like us to pick them up please call Rachel at 905-885-6173. This summer we are thrilled to have Lindsey Fuller working at the Archives as our Digitization expert. Lindsey is planning a career in archival collections conservation.

As part of our outreach this month we partnered with Heritage Port Hope to create an exhibit at the Sifton Cook Heritage Centre in Cobourg, which was up for 3 weeks. Our thanks go to Legacy Vintage Materials for their loan of architectural artifacts for the exhibit.

Marie

ARCHIVIST'S MESSAGE

This summer, the Archives has been very busy with researchers. We have also been helping a number of returning visitors with research on their properties, families, businesses, personal history interests, and also one upcoming history book. We are so pleased that the Archives' collection holds so much value to our community and beyond.

We were visited by New York State's Dangle family who write a blog about the history behind well-known hymns. They drove to the Port Hope area to follow the footsteps and history of Joseph Scriven and wrote a special post about their trip. If you'd like to visit their blog, or view highlights from their trip to Port Hope, visit: <https://hymnstories.org/a-1%2C000-words>

On July 14th the Archives hosted the 'Holodomor National Awareness Tour' in our parking lot, a mobile classroom that has been driving across Canada to visit and teach communities and schools about the widely unknown Ukraine Famine Genocide of 1932-33. It was an eye-opening learning experience.

Rachel

MEET OUR SUMMER STUDENT



My Name is Lindsay Fuller and on June 4th I started a 9 week position as the Port Hope Archive's collections assistant. I have spent my weeks indulged in the town's history while working towards a digital relocation of the archives collection. Outside the archives, I am a soon to be graduate of the University of Guelph's Bachelor of Arts, Art History program. I have a passion for the preservation and celebration of local histories which will soon take me to Sir Sandford Fleming College's Heritage Conversation program. Though originally from Cambridge, my plans are to permanently reside in the small fishing hub of Bewdley and continue with my love of history by remaining present as an archive volunteer. I hope to continue expanding my knowledge of the Port Hope Archives and the lovely town it represents.

It's Time to Start Thinking About...



Port Hope Archives' Annual Yard Sale

(Saturday, September 8th, 2018)



Don't forget to set aside your gently used items for the Archives' annual fundraising yard sale*. Drop-off beginning in June at the Archives, 17 Mill Street North. If you are not able to deliver your donation, please call the Archives for pickup, 905-885-1673.

{ *Proceeds from this annual sale assist the Archives in collecting, preserving, and providing public access to historical documents relating to the municipality of Port Hope. Thank you for your support.* }

*Please, no magazines (including Readers' Digest), encyclopedias, clothing, coffee mugs, toiletries or romance novels.

LEGACY

VINTAGE BUILDING MATERIALS & ANTIQUES

Nathaniel Kraak
STORE MANAGER

We would like to thank **Legacy Vintage Building Materials and Antiques** for their loan of interesting artifacts to our display at the Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre in July. Be sure to visit the centre and its new exhibit .

legacyvintagebuilding@gmail.com T 905 373 0796 540 Division Street
www.legacyvintage.ca F 905 373 4596 Cobourg ON K9A 3S4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Port Hope Archives' Yard Sale– Saturday, September 8th, 8am-1pm

Port Hope Fall Fair- September 14-16– Don't forget to visit the Archives' booth!

Culture Day's Open House– Friday, September 28th, 9am-4:30pm

FIND US ONLINE!

Website: www.porthopearchives.com

Flickr: www.flickr.com/porthopearchives

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PHArchives

Archaeion: www.archeion.ca/port-hope-archives

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

Instagram: www.instagram.com/porthopearchives/

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