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Winter 2014

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

NURSING SISTERS: OUR FORGOTTEN HEROES

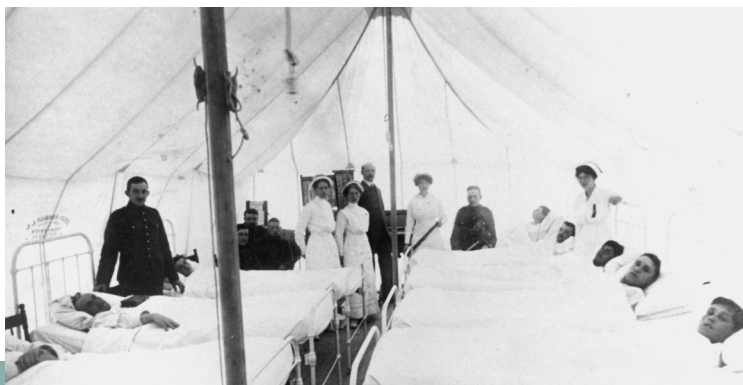
Florence Nightingale is often credited as the founder of the modern nursing movement. Her service, tending to wounded soldiers during the Crimean War (1854-1856), served as a bench-mark for military nursing practice well into the 20th century.

Military nurses during World War I were referred to as "Nursing Sisters," because of early affiliations to religious orders. Nurses were given the rank of lieutenant and placed in the Canadian Army Medical Corps.

In September of 1914, a contingent of 105 nursing sisters was sent to Europe; a number which ballooned to more than 3000 by 1918.

Despite being trained before deployment, many nursing sisters were unprepared for the grotesque injuries that came with modern warfare. Nurses treated shrapnel wounds, mustard gas inhalation, and countless other ailments that had never been seen before on the battlefield. As a result, the "sisters" were often referred to as "angels," or "bluebirds," after the blue and white uniforms and their caring demeanors.

Serving in 30 military hospitals spread across European battlefields, Canadian nursing sisters assisted male doctors and other practitioners in France, Belgium, Greece, Malta and the Eastern Mediterranean.



Port Hope Military Hospital Tent, c1915 (PHA #2000-9-1-735)

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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

Tue-Fri 1-5pm
1st Sat 9am-1pm (Oct-May)
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

Pam Robinson, Chair
Marielle Lambert, Vice-Chair
Peter Hunt, Treasurer
Dave Doherty, Secretary
Barbara Coleman
Evelyn Conn
David Elliott
Marie Jones

The Port Hope Archives is a registered charity.

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NURSING SISTERS CON'T

While many medically-trained specialists served overseas, Canadians also contributed to military medical efforts from the home front. Early in 1915, the 136th Battalion approached the Port Hope Hospital to assist in the care of sick soldiers. A regulation hospital tent was erected in town; and from June to August 1915, the staff of Port Hope Hospital cared for 200 soldiers, including 50 surgical cases.

Port Hope was one of the small communities to send not only soldiers to the front, but nursing sisters as well. According to the "Book of Remembrance" (1919), Port Hope nurses included: Emma Frances Elliott, Harriet Gertrude Hudspeth, Ada Kemp, Myrtle McMillan, Mary McNaughton, Edith Elgin McNaughton, Etta McLean, Pearl Edna Wood, and Pansy Eva Roberts.

Miss Pansy Eva Roberts is a great example of a Port Hope nurse who was brave enough to voluntarily serve in World War I.

Born in Welcome to Thomas Roberts and Bertha Montgomery on 7 Sep 1889, Pansy trained as a nurse in Kingston. While in Kingston, she chose to enlist in the Army as a nursing sister.

Starting on 5 May 1915, Pansy served in the Canadian Army Medical Corps for four years, before returning home to Port Hope. Never married, Pansy remained fiercely independent, even purchasing her own house at 21 Blooms Grove Avenue. Pansy died on 2 May 1968 and is buried in Port Hope's Union Cemetery.

Countless stories like Miss Roberts' can be found in communities all across Ontario. Tales of brave women who risked their lives to ensure soldiers could come home to their loved ones.



*Left: Unidentified Port Hope Nurse, c1920
(PHA #2000-9-1-1063)*

**2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. For an interactive look through the war years, visit the Canadian War Museum's Virtual Exhibit "Canada and the First World War" located here:*

<http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/guerre/home-e.aspx>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PORT HOPE ARCHIVES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MON JAN 20TH @ 7PM

PORT HOPE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Featuring keynote address by Catharine Tozer—"Port Hope's first settlers in the 1790s"

Ring in our 20th year, hear all about our 2013 happenings, and enjoy free refreshments!

ARCHIVIST'S MESSAGE

What an amazing year 2013 has been. Not only have we received a record number of donations and transfers from both the general public, and the Municipality of Port Hope, but our new Oral History Project (<http://www.youtube.com/user/PHArchives>) has been a rousing success so far—It looks like we're setting up for 2014 to be a banner year at the PHA!

This new year marks an amazing event for all of us at the Port Hope Archives, our 20th anniversary!

It was in 1994, that a fledgling Ganaraska Region Archives began to collect the history of Port Hope and Hope Township, and make it available to our community. It is this mission that we at the PHA proudly continue year after year.

Amidst all this celebrating and congratulating; new years bring new beginnings, and that's the case at the PHA this year. Not only are we experiencing a shift in leadership on our board of directors, but I am currently expecting to add a new little member to the PHA family!

This means that I'll have to leave my work family and head home for maternity leave starting at the end of February. While I'm saddened to have to be away from the PHA for the better part of a year, I know that it will be in amazing hands!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our out-going chair, Pam Robinson, for fearlessly guiding us throughout the past few years. She has been a wonderful beacon for the PHA to follow, and has given incredible amounts of time and effort to the Archives. Pam will be sorely missed, and we wish her all the best. Thanks so much, Pam!

ERIN

*"For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice." - T.S. Eliot*

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

January 2014 marks the end of my three year term as Chair of the Port Hope Archives. It's been a marvelous ride ... with very few "downs" and very many "ups". Our membership has remained stable, and our collection has grown, due to the many generous, historically-minded people of this community. In 2014 alone, we surpassed a previous record to note 61 new donations of materials to the collection (outside of the numerous Municipal records we maintain). Our "presence" within the community and the world at large has been heightened and strengthened by way of public exhibits and talks, local projects, publications, and social media outreach. The annual PHA Yard Sale has become a "must do" event here in the municipality. All of this could not have been achieved without the devotion and hard work of our Archivist, our Board of Directors, our volunteers, and the support of the Municipality of Port Hope. They have all been and will continue to be the backbone of a successful Port Hope Archives.

People ask me what the Chair of the Archives does ... I say "it's my job to keep the doors open" ... almost everything else falls to the talented and determined individuals I note above, who believe the preservation of the history of Port Hope is essential to the never ending lifeblood of this community.

I hope to see you all on January 20th at our annual AGM. And thank you for keeping faith with our mandate.

Best wishes for a very Happy New Year!

PAM

FROM THE PHOTO DATABASE...



Port Hope Figure Skating Club, c1960s

PHA#2002-32-1-1453

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

www.flickr.com/photos/porthopearchives

Description: B&W photograph featuring members of the Port Hope Figure Skating club in costume for a recital. Taken by R.W. Nelson of Bewdley, c1960s. *If you can help identify this photo, contact us!*

JOB SHADOW AT THE PHA

I didn't quite know what to expect from Port Hope Archives, but I knew I wanted to spend some time there, and get to know a little bit about the inner workings of collecting and preserving historical records. I was not disappointed! As my stay at PHA comes to a close, I have the chance to reflect upon the last several weeks. This has been a wonderful learning experience. I've had the opportunity to catch a glimpse of the story of Port Hope and get the hands-on experience that will be of immense value to my education moving forward. My interest in archives as a whole has been piqued, and I may just consider taking my education beyond the Library and Information Technician diploma program in which I am currently enrolled. Erin has been a great (and patient) teacher, and I wish her all the best during the holidays and in the new year. (19 Nov 2013)

BY DAWN WRIGHT
DURHAM COLLEGE, LIBRARY & INFO TECH PROGRAM

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