

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

PORT HOPE TOBOGGANNING CRAZE

A tobogganing craze fell among Port Hope citizens during the winter of 1884 and 1885, lasting for a few years. The craze originally began in the United States, and was widely popular in Chicago. Soon after, young men and women from Port Hope heard about this exciting and thrilling sport and they soon lost interest in other forms of amusement and began to turn to tobogganing.

As the tobogganing craze continued to gain popularity, a group of young men decided that it was necessary for the town of Port Hope to have a tobogganing slide. A meeting was held at the Y.M.C.A. on December 17th, 1885 and a toboggan club was organized. During this meeting, a committee was appointed which attempted to seek permission from town council for the building of a toboggan slide in town park.

Town Park (now Agricultural Park) was acquired in 1871 from the University of Toronto. Port Hope residents were very proud of the park because it was seen as one of the finest natural parks across Canada. For this reason, it was decided that the toboggan slide should be constructed there. The slide was to be built in the north east corner of the park, because this area had both a steep decline and was relatively free of trees and other obstacles.

Construction of the new slide commenced in December of 1885, with completion in January of 1886. Unlike many other slides which began popping up throughout North America, the slide within Town Park did not require structures. Since it was built on a unique hill, all that was required was a

starting platform. A chute was constructed, thus creating a toboggan run along a track which continued south of the park. This long track, lined with torches, invited participants to hop on for a thrilling ride.



An unidentified group of individuals posing with a toboggan.
PHA# 995-1-1-93

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PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

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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

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The Port Hope Archives is a registered charity.

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PORT HOPE TOBOGGANNING CRAZE CONTINUED

A seasons pass for \$1.50 allowed tobogganers plenty of winter excitement!

On January 25th, 1886, Mayor Ward, members of town council and many other Port Hope citizens attended the formal opening of the new slide attraction. There they witnessed individuals participating in this new and thrilling sport. As toboggans raced by, observers would laugh sympathetically at those who fell off and cheer for those who made it to the end. Once finished, sliders would quickly have to get out of the way to make room for the next rider.

Tobogganing reached its peak in Port Hope during the winters of 1885 and 1886, but the trend soon faded away.

JOB SHADOW AT THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES: AMANDA PERRIMAN

Last September I started my first semester as a Library and Information Technician student. I was thrilled to learn that in the fall I would be able to get field experience in the library field. My prior work has mainly been at public libraries and I thought that getting some volunteer work in an archive setting would be a wonderful opportunity to broaden my experience. Prior to this, I had a vague idea of where Port Hope was but knew nothing of your beautiful town. Through my placement I was able to learn quite a bit about the town's history and got to see some interesting artifacts and other historic documents. I was also able to learn more about the organization of an archive and how to enter in acquisitions. My favourite experience was finding artefacts for the World War display for Remembrance Day, which gave me an insight into putting a display together. Since my time at the archive was short I was never able to help researchers. Every week it seemed I just missed a possible opportunity to help. Working with Leah-Ann was informative and fun. I was able to learn a lot about the administrative side of running the archive, and information that has yet to be covered in my program. Based on my experience at the Port Hope Archives. I would consider a career in an archive setting. I had a great time and recommend volunteering to anyone who may enjoy learning about the history of Port Hope.



PORT HOPE ARCHIVES' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING!

Join us for the Port Hope Archives Annual General Meeting held on January 19th 2015, with a talk titled "Names Behind the Streets" by Leah-Ann Logel. Join us to hear all about 2014 at the Port Hope Archives and enjoy free refreshments!

ARCHIVIST'S MESSAGE

As 2015 begins, we are reminded here at the Port Hope Archives of the many things we are thankful for.

Firstly, we would like to thank our members and donors to the Port Hope Archives for your generous contributions throughout 2014. Your donations assist in the collection and preservation of archival materials for the Municipality of Port Hope. We appreciate your generosity and your continuous support!

We are also very thankful for the numerous donations we have received in 2014. This year, a record of 92 donations have been added to our collection, more any other year before! These donations show your support in the Port Hope Archives and we would like you thank you for this. We are always looking for new ways to add to and expand our collection and your assistance is appreciated!

Throughout 2014, we have had the opportunity to participate in a number of outreach and community events. During these outreach opportunities, we engaged and educated those who attended, both about the Port Hope Archives and the Municipality of Port Hope. We would like to thank everyone involved in the organizing of these events and also those that attended them!

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our dedicated volunteers who have donated both their time and many skills to the Port Hope Archives. Your contributions, ambitions and talents are greatly appreciated!

From the Port Hope Archives family to yours, Happy New Year and all the best in the upcoming year!

LEAH-ANN

"Our archives are treasure troves - a testament to many lives lived and the complexity of the way we move forward. They contain clues to the real concerns of day-to-day life that bring the past alive."
- Sara Sheridan

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Well, here we are into 2015 and looking forward to another very successful year!

2014 was not only one of our busiest as far as outreach is concerned; we took in more donations of artefacts than ever before! Our annual fundraising yard sale was also a record winner in spite of the fact that we changed the date to avoid rain and it rained anyway.

In 2014, we also completely changed the reading room area which now has a better flow and space to display artefacts in the collection, which has already been a hit. Starting with a display about the Standard Ideal Company, which unveiled our new acquisitions of salesman's samples, as well as brought us another piece for the collection after a visitor came to see the display, the display of antique and vintage cookbooks, the Remembrance Day, which highlighted part of our collection of various medals and war memorabilia, as well as the current display about the Port Hope dairy industry

As we leave 2014 and look to the future, we welcome back our archivist Erin Walsh from her maternity leave. Leah-Ann Logel has done an amazing job while Erin was away and we are pleased that due to a successful grant application we can extend Leah-Ann's contract for an extra few months which allows a number of projects to be completed before Leah-Ann leaves us. I am pleased that with both Erin and Leah-Ann working together there will be some exciting things happening in the archives.

So, on to 2015, which I believe will be just as exciting for everyone involved in the archives as 2014 was.

MARIELLE

FROM THE PHOTO DATABASE...



Boy Scouts Hockey Club Champs

PHA# 2007-25-2-1977

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

www.flickr.com/photos/porthopearchives

Description: Matted black and white photograph of the Boy Scouts Hockey Club Champions, Town League from 1917-1918. Standing: E.M. Thurber, Ralston Roberts (Captain), J.L. Westaway (Manager) Seated: Edgar Rowson, Charles Atwell, George Reynolds, Jack Westaway, Kenneth Ware.

READING ROOM CHANGES

If you have not been inside the Port Hope Archives recently, you are in for a surprise the next time you visit! After a collection of approximately 50 books were donated, we realized we were out of space in our reading room. In order to accommodate the new donation, we purchased new shelves.

In the process of building these, we also made a few other small furniture changes. Resources found in the reading room are now more easily accessible and the room itself also seems much larger. We also switched desks around, providing the archivist with more storage and work space. Touch-ups to the drywall and painting were also completed. A special thank you to all of our volunteers who assisted with our Reading Room renovations!

Currently on display in our showcase, we have artefacts and archival materials pertaining to Dairy Industry in Port Hope.

Stop by the Port Hope Archives to see both the changes made to our reading room and also our display on the Port Hope Dairy industry!

PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

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