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Winter 2016

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

FASHION FORWARD: WORKING CLASS CLOTHING FROM THE PAST

In the 19th century, most people in Canada still lived and worked on farms. Farming was an entire family affair; sons often started helping their fathers by the age of 14, while mothers and daughters looked after the homestead, and supplemented the family income by selling goods (i.e. butter, eggs, yarn, and produce).

During this time, farmers wore clothing which was either knitted or sewn by their wives. Women chose durable fabrics, and reused even the most pitiful scraps to ensure that working clothes would last through the seasons. The most durable fabric at the end of the 1800s was denim.

In 1853, Levi Strauss moved to San Francisco and opened a dry goods store. It wasn't until 1872 when Strauss received a letter from Jacob Davis, that he would become a household name. Strauss entered into a partnership with Davis, and the pair received a patent for a new type of clothing known as "waist overalls" using their "improvement in fastening pocket-openings." With their new copper rivets to reinforce what are now called jeans, Levi Straus & Co. helped provide hard-working men, and later women, with the type of clothing they needed to "get the job done!"

Back in Canada, Men who worked in the skilled trades, or as labourers, needed strong and durable clothing as well. Oftentimes, women in working-class families also had to leave the home to work, usually in factories or as domestic servants; this limited their free time, and ability to hand-craft clothing for their families.

By 1884, the demand for "ready-made" clothing was so great that companies began to produce mail-order catalogues. The T. Eaton Company became the first of its kind in Canada to allow access to the most recent styles, even to those people who lived in

rural locations.

As it turns out, the farmers who first started the Port Hope & District Agricultural Society, over 184 years ago, had a lot invested in their fashion. Appropriate clothing could make or break their ability to bring in the harvest; to feed their families, and community.



Group of Unidentified Workers in Hope Township, c1920 (PHA# 999-17-1-2932)

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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

Marielle Lambert, Chair
Marie Jones, Vice-Chair
Peter Hunt, Treasurer
David Elliott, Membership
Barbara Coleman
Evelyn Conn
Stephanie Wright

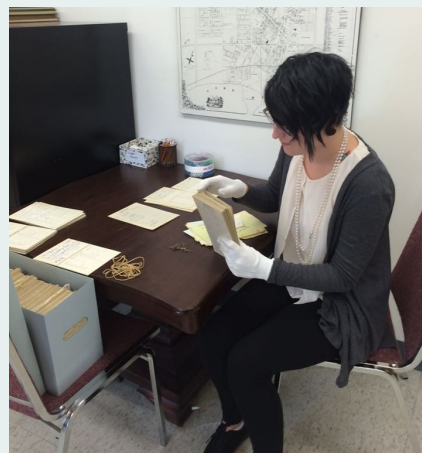
The Port Hope Archives is a registered charity.

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**COMMUNITY HISTORY
HAPPENS HERE!**

DURHAM COLLEGE LIBRARY & INFORMATION TECHNICIAN PROGRAM PLACEMENT

Hi! My name is Elizabeth and I am currently finishing up my job shadow placement at the Port Hope Archives. I'm at Durham College in my first year studying Library and Information Technology. I chose to come to the Port Hope Archives because I love everything to do with history, especially photographs, which the archives have a lot of. I have had such a great time here during my placement. I got to file old photographs and upload them to Flickr, rearrange the local history showcase for Christmas, and even organize the Port Hope High School report cards. Every day I got to spend here has been so exciting and I feel so comfortable in this environment. I will always remember my experience here at the Port Hope Archives and I hope to one day be able to work in a similar place such as the archives.



Elizabeth Beauparlant, Job Shadow Placement Student from Durham College, Nov 2015

NEWS FROM THE COLLECTION

In early December a PHA member brought a great find to our attention. The item was a set of sheet music from World War I, for sale on eBay. We quickly contacted the seller and were able to secure the document with funds from the John Bennett Memorial Acquisition fund.

The item that had us all a twitter, is a copy of "Our Commander March" by J.W. Chadwick, 1916—dedicated to Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Wallace Smart of the 139th Battalion, Port Hope.

Robert Wallace Smart (1864-1960) was born in Port Hope to R.W. Smart Sr. and Jane Smart on 3 Dec 1864. He worked as a book-keeper and accountant in Port Hope, and married Georgiana Adelaide Cooper (1863-1937) in Grafton on 13 Oct 1891. The couple lived in a house on Hope Street, and had four children: George, Kathleen, Mary, and Dorothy.

Smart served in the 46th Durham Regiment, during the effort to put down the Riel Rebellion, under Col. A.T.H. Williams from 1883-1885; and re-enlisted to serve with the 139th Battalion during World War I (26 May 1916).

After serving overseas, Smart returned to his family and they moved to Toronto, where he lived until he died of pneumonia on 4 Jun 1960. He and Georgiana are both buried at Port Hope St. John's Anglican Cemetery.

The sheet music we acquired will fit in very nicely with the rest of our World War I ephemera, as we continue to mark the centenary of "The Great War."



No. 1 Company, 46th Regiment, Port Hope—R.W. Smart (Back Row, 5th from Left) PHA# 2005-7-1-681

REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

I am writing this letter the morning after the annual Port Hope Archives Christmas party, which is always a wonderful event but, as I think back to all of the amazing & interesting people in attendance last night; I realize that for me, this is the end of an “era” so to speak, as I will be leaving my position as chair of the Port Hope Archives.

You see, I have been involved with the archives for six years, two of which have been as chair. That is a lot of years to be involved with one organization. So much has happened to me personally over those years and I can honestly say that these people have become my friends. I have learned so much from the volunteers, staff & board members all of whom I have had the honour to work with.

It is hard for me to let go & say so long to everyone, but I am leaving the Port Hope Archives feeling good about my accomplishments as chair & I know that the archives is heading for some very exciting times ahead!

So, on that note, I say good bye & I wish you all a very Merry Christmas & the best of the New Year coming to you & your family.

MARIELLE LAMBERT



The board, staff and volunteers at the Port Hope Archives would like to thank Marielle so much for all you've done over the years! You will be sorely missed!

We're also saying “thanks for all your time and effort” to Stephanie Wright, David Doherty, Adam Ross, Barb Coleman and David Elliott; and “welcome” to our new board members (introductions to follow in future newsletters)!

BOARD MEMBERS WANTED!

We're looking for new board members! Do YOU have what it takes?

If you're interested in preserving the history of your community, have fund-raising experience, or any other skills you think might benefit the PHA Board of Directors, contact us by email at archives@porthope.ca or by phone at 905-885-1673 or just drop by!

“You are no exception” World War I Poster courtesy of the Archives of Ontario



“That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons that history has to teach.” - Aldous Huxley, author

FROM THE PHOTO DATABASE



Port Hope Baseball Team Christmas Party, c1960

PHA#2003-48-5-2784

(Beaver Athletic Association fonds)

Description: B&W photograph of a group of baseball players from the Beaver Athletic Association.

BAA was originally formed by a three person executive; including Keith Carruthers, who was involved for 15 years. Six men served as the first coaches for the BAA: Wes Friar, Mitt Fleming, Jim Archibald, Ted Watts Sr., Howard McMann, and Gord Rose.

This photo and others can be found in our Flickr photostream:
www.flickr.com/photos/porthopearchives

UPCOMING EVENTS

Port Hope Archives' Annual General Meeting

Tuesday January 19th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Port Hope Public Library

Featuring a keynote address by **Sher Leetooze** -

"WWI Nursing Sisters of Old Durham County"

Ring in our 22nd year, hear all about our 2015 donations & happenings, and enjoy free refreshments!



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