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Summer 2017

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

Port Hope at Confederation



A special edition of Port Hope's "The Daily Times", published for the diamond jubilee of Confederation in 1927, gives details about the calithumpian parade that took place on July 1st, 1867 in Port Hope. Highlights of that exhilarating day were described as:

"Thousands of people crowded the main streets of the town along the route of the parade which was organized on Queen Street...where the many floats

used were constructed. This procession began at 2:30 in the afternoon and continued to proceed through the streets for two hours.

...a burlesque [comical performance] band which included such instruments as a Corporation fiddle, Caledonian violin, and the "harp of one thousand strings"; the Dominion car, an original float of huge dimensions bearing a pageant portraying the different provinces and patriotic displays; a dummy locomotive; a burlesque on the boating club consisting of huge tubs mounted on wagons; a monster velocipede ridden by Mephistopheles; floats representing the trades and apprentices of the town; a sewing circle wagon; two monster dummies; the town band; burlesque minstrel troops; Swis. bell ringers; clowns, riders, and soldiers." The paper also notes that Prof. Hand & Co. of Hamilton, ON arranged the firework display on Confederation Day in Port Hope, and continued to arrange the fireworks for the celebration for decades afterwards.

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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 1-5PM
Tuesday to Thursday 9:30-5
Friday 1-5pm
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
Cathy Moore, Membership
Suzanne Camm, Programming
David Brooks, Member at Large

ARCHIVIST:

Rachel Arnaud

*The Port Hope Archives is a reg-
istered charity.*

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Residents of the town and the Town Council contributed funds towards the costumes and floats for the parade, and the total amount raised was \$175.

This first Confederation Day celebration started the long-living tradition of a parade and fireworks on July 1st that still takes place in Port Hope to this day. The earliest celebrations are said to be sporadic, with some years larger than others, but the calithumpian parades, fireworks, and events, such as yacht and horse racing, became widely attended and well-known over the years. Visitors would stream into town from all the surrounding areas, with some even taking the train into town or visiting on their boats and yachts, to be in Port Hope for the July 1st celebrations. *Don't forget to stop by Furby House Books on Walton Street by July 13th to view the Archives' Confederation Day window display!*

REPORT FROM THE BOARD

Summer is finally here! The Port Hope Archives experienced a busy spring with many visitors undertaking research on family and built heritage. We had several out of town guests who spent time embracing our community where their ancestors once lived. I had the opportunity to drive a Winnipeg visitor to several sites where her family had lived, worked and were buried. It was an emotional journey and lots of tears were shed, but she left Port Hope with a feeling of discovery and accomplishment as she made her way on to her next destination.

We have received numerous donations adding to both our permanent collection and research room files. Doors Open was a major event that the PHA was involved with. This year the focus was on our wonderful rural community, where we had 5 sites clustered in and around Port Hope. Those participating were Haute Goat, Linwood Trout Farm, Canton Agricultural Museum, Headwaters Farm and the Ganaraska Forest.

We also welcome our new summer student Gareth Copeland to the PHA. Have an incredible summer and remember to participate in as many Canada 150 events as you can squeeze in!

Marie

CENTRAL SCHOOL DESIGNATION

In June Port Hope Council approved the designation of Central School, located at 39 Pine Street North. The proposed recommendation to designate this significant landmark was initiated by Heritage Port Hope and Planning staff in Feb. of this year.

Constructed in 1912, this Classical Revival style school building was designed by Toronto architects James Ellis and William Connery. The new Central School was built on land, to the rear of the old union school, on property that was originally part of the Smith Estate Plan. When construction was completed the old school was demolished. Central School is situated in an area of prominent structures, most designed by important architects of the time. The building has undergone little change in the past century and retains most of its original features.

Designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, Central School remains a well preserved example of school architecture in Port Hope. It is a significant part of our built heritage.

INTRODUCING OUR SUMMER STUDENT



My name is Gareth Copeland and I am currently working as the Digitization Assistant at Port Hope Archives as part of the Canada Summer Jobs program. I am currently working on scanning and uploading the photograph collection to a new database acquired by the Port Hope Archives. I have always had a passion for history, which has led me to recently complete a Bachelor of Arts degree at Laurentian University. The workload of a university student has failed to deter me from continuing my education, as I am starting a Master of Arts degree at Trent University in September. I am particularly interested in studying military history, focusing on 18th century warfare. My other areas of interest include: local responses to war, industrialization, and exploration

-Gareth

ARCHIVIST'S MESSAGE

The Archives has seen an increase in the past two months in visiting researchers from other provinces and the U.S., and most have specifically taken a holiday or road trip in order to come to Ontario and Port Hope to conduct research on their family roots. Needless to say, we are very honoured when these visitors come to Port Hope to conduct research at our Archives, when their other stops are places like the Archives of Ontario and the national archives in Ottawa. Each of these travelling researchers were able to uncover a great deal of family history in our collection to make their trip worthwhile, and I have seen a few happy tears shed in our reading room from the pure joy and unexpected surprise of uncovering family history. It is an amazing feeling to be able to help researchers find what they are looking for, often helping them uncover buried or forgotten aspects of history, and to see that emotional connection to history. I have yet to experience a day when I didn't learn something "new" about the past. So, whether you are a local, or from out-of-town, we look forward to your upcoming visit to the Port Hope Archives. Our collection is always growing, and even if you have visited in the past we just may have new resources and items in our collection that would interest you. Come by anytime during our open hours.

Rachel



Central School in Port Hope, circa 1930s
PHA# 999-4-1-707

FROM THE PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION...



For this newsletter, we asked our Digitization Assistant, Gareth, to choose his favourite photograph from the collection:

General Victor Arthur Seymour Williams (1865-1949), circa 1900.

(PHA #995-4-2-101)

"I chose the photograph of General Victor Arthur Seymour Williams (the son of Lt. Col. A.T. Williams) because I found his military experience to be interesting. My research interest has tended to focus on the experience of Prisoners of War, hence why General Williams stood out to me. I would like to know more about his captivity during the First World War, considering he was the highest ranking Canadian to be captured during the conflict."

It's Time to Start Thinking About....

Port Hope Archives' Annual Yard Sale

(Saturday, September 9th, 2017)

Doing Spring Cleaning? 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 Cathy Moore for pickup, 905-885-8363.

{ *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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

ACO Events: Walking Tour of Millbrook, September 13th; House Tour, September 30th

FIND US ONLINE!

Website: www.porthopearchives.com

Flickr: www.flickr.com/porthopearchives

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PHArchives

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

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

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