



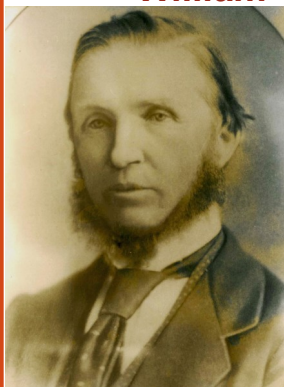
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Fall 2017

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

William Craig : Port Hope's Mayor at Confederation



Behind our Town Hall you may have noticed a tall stone fountain with a lion's head on each side. Built in 1878, this fountain provided needed drinking water at the busy Market Square in those days, and was paid for personally by the town's mayor at that time, William Craig Sr., a social- and philanthropic-minded individual who was serving his second term as mayor of our town.

Craig emigrated from England with his young family and settled in Port Hope around 1852. He soon started a prosperous tanning business, William Craig & Son, that he would operate with his son until his death at age 72. His tannery and morocco leather business, located on Cavan Street, was quite successful, and even in its first years of business Craig expected to be producing 30,000 skins of 'Morocco' leather (used for boots, bookbinding, gloves, etc.) a year.

In 1862, Craig was the first president of the Port Hope Benevolent Society, which decided how charity donations were distributed throughout the town. He was also a large contributor, and a long-time supporter of the Society.

Around 1864, Craig purchased the lot at the corner of John and Augusta Streets and donated it to his Baptist congregation for the building of a new church, which was completed in 1868. Previous to this the congregation had been meeting at a carpenter shop on John Street, and then a small frame chapel nearby. The church was built once generous donations covered the cost of building.

Craig would be elected mayor in 1866-1867, and again in 1877-1878. During his first term, Mayor Craig oversaw the complete funding of a new grammar school, known as Union School, and the contribution of funding towards a new Drill Shed for the militia. For Port Hope's Confederation Day parade and festivities, the town donated \$200 for the event, which was a widely attended and elaborate event (*see the Summer 2017 newsletter for details*).

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PORT HOPE ARCHIVES

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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
Suzanne Camm, Programming

ARCHIVIST:

Rachel Arnaud

The Port Hope Archives is a registered charity.

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**COMMUNITY HISTORY
HAPPENS HERE!**

William Craig was also the president of the Port Hope chapter of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), and purchased land in 1874 for a new building on John Street. Port Hope's YMCA was the 10th built in Canada, the 2nd largest facility in Canada at the time of building, and the structure still exists today. In its early days, the Port Hope YMCA offered programs and lectures to local men to promote morality and good citizenship, and the building included a lecture hall, meeting room, and library.

In 1885 Craig was president of the Williams Memorial Association, whose goal was to have a monument to Colonel A.T.H. Williams designed and erected, and lead the ceremony when Prime Minister John A. Macdonald visited the town in September 1889 to unveil the new statue. Craig was said to be a close friend of both Williams and MacDonald.

Craig held other important positions in his lifetime, such as town councillor, Sunday School Superintendent, Chairman of the High School Board and the Public School Board, Harbour Commissioner, and Director of the Midland Loan & Savings Company. He was also President of two Ontario Baptist societies.

Visit some of the landmarks in Port Hope associated with William Craig:

- *Colonel A.T.H. Williams statue, and Lions-Head Drinking Fountain: Port Hope Town Hall grounds, 56 Queen Street*
- *Port Hope Baptist Church: 57 John Street*
- *YMCA Building: 50 John Street*
- *Craig Family Home (heritage designated, private residence): 52 Bedford Street*
- *Craig Street, named after William Craig: (off of Cavan-between Bedford St. and Highland Drive, near where his tannery was located)*
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FROM THE PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION...



Ceremony in Memorial Park, c. 1920. Visible is Mayor Craig's Fountain, and the Drill Shed.

From the Port Hope Archives' Collection

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REPORT FROM THE BOARD

Fall is upon us now, and the trees are slowly changing colour on the hills of Port Hope. It is such a lovely town to live in and be part of. The summer season is generally the busiest time of year at the Port Hope Archives and this year was not an exception. We welcomed a record number of visitors and researchers to our site and we took part in many outreach activities. Gareth, our summer student, worked for a 12 week period and was able to complete a multi-year project of digitizing our photograph collection, which consists of close to 7000 images. A generous grant through Canada Summer Jobs made this project possible. I would like to thank all those generous donors who made our Yard Sale in Sept. such a great success! This is an important fund raising event for the archives and we have 100's of supporters in the community who join us each year. This was the first year that it did not rain! We raised a record number of funds which will help in our day to day activities. The sale continues! Please check out our Facebook page for an online silent auction organized through Art Emporium by the River.

Have a wonderful fall.

Marie

ARCHIVIST'S MESSAGE

We have had a wonderful and productive summer at Port Hope Archives.

Our Digitization Assistant, Gareth, continued the project of scanning our photograph collection this summer, and we are proud to announce that we have essentially digitized every photograph in our collection. This is a big accomplishment as we move ahead with transferring our collection to a brand new and improved database which will be more user-friendly for visitors. We were also fortunate to have Mohawk College placement student Kira at the Archives for 3 weeks while she completed 100 placement hours for her Library and Information Technician Program.

We saw a record number of visitors this summer, both from our local area and far distances, and helped research some really fascinating topics. We also saw new visitors at our Culture Days Genealogy Open House, and talked to many interested members of the community at the Fall Fair.

We have also had a record number of donations this summer, and are working hard to have everything catalogued and available to the public. See 'Summer Donation Highlights' on page 4 for a glimpse of what was donated. The remarkable historical materials that walk through our door on a regular basis never cease to amaze me, and always remind me how lucky we are to be part of a town that truly cares about preserving its history.

We look forward to seeing you at the Archives soon!

Rachel

SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

The Port Hope Archives has recently received a generous donation of nine works of art by artist Gabor Paul Mezei, an 83-year-old Hungarian-Canadian artist. These artworks were generously donated to be sold as a fundraiser for the Archives, and are being sold through an online silent auction hosted by the new 'Art Emporium by the River' in Port Hope.

You can view these Mezei works of art on display at 'Art Emporium by the River'. To make a bid, all you need to do is visit the 'Art Emporium by the River' Facebook page and post your bid as a comment under the artwork you'd like to purchase. The silent auction will run from 10:00 AM on October 5th through midnight on October 31st and the artwork will be awarded to the highest bidder as of midnight on October 31st. More information can be found on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AEBTR/>



RECENT DONATION HIGHLIGHTS

- Ward and Smith family materials, including photo albums and photographs of Smith and Ward family members, an ambrotype of Joseph Shuter Smith, documents relating to Thomas Ward, a book of genealogy notes about the Smith family written by Joseph Shuter Smith, and a book of hand-copied letters of Elias Smith.
- Letter written by Josephine Grant to her parents detailing a visit by Queen Victoria to the family, and the gift of the Queen's signed portrait to the Grant family before their emigration to Canada. *Did you know that the Archives has this portrait of Queen Victoria hanging in the reading room? It was gifted to the Grant family and was personally signed by Queen Victoria.*
- An elaborate framed portrait of Port Hope Mayor William Giddy, who was mayor from 1907-1909, also councillor, reeve, and a well-known cattle drover later in his life.
- Book with jottings about family events (births, deaths, marriages, visits) of the Ward family, and other local families of Port Hope- this book was kept and written in by various members of a family

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Instagram: www.instagram.com/porthopearchives/

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