



BHS Quarterly

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Brant Historical Society 2005 ISSN 1201-4028

Winter, 2005



Photo courtesy of Brant Museum & Archives

Marian (Daisy) and Elsie May, daughters of Aleck and Mabel Bell.

Brant Historical Society calendar

Both gift shop locations carry the new Brant Historical Society calendar, featuring postcard images of Brantford. Quantities are limited, so please act quickly to avoid disappointment. \$8.

Brantford: Birmingham of Canada

Compiled by Robert L. Deboer

The Monetary Times referred to Brantford in 1899 as the "Birmingham of Canada." When The Hamilton Spectator challenged the comparison to England's industrial heartland, Brantford's Courier justified the analogy by pointing out that "on proportion to population Brantford is the biggest industrial city on this half of the continent." Brantford's expanding industrial activity was largely due to the development of western wheatlands and the accompanying demand for agricultural machinery that signalled a wave of prosperity.

As the "Birmingham of Canada," it followed that Brantford's prosperity was very closely linked to its industrial base, a base that consisted of a potpourri of manufacturing concerns whose wares ranged from the manufacture of farm implements to the production of stoves, windmills, engines, bicycles, textiles, candy and cigars

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Celebrating 97 years of preserving local history

President's Reflections

At our last general meeting, members voted on a new slate of board members for the upcoming year. I would like to take the time in this newsletter to thank departing board members who have given so much of their personal time to the society.

Bob Deboer has been a society member since 1975 and a member of the board of directors almost continuously since 1978 for what has to be a record-setting 27 years. He was president of the society in 1997 and 1998. For the last seven years, Bob's role has been secretary to the board — it's an onerous job and often thankless, but critical to the society's operation. Anyone who has had to sort out inaccurate or incomplete minutes to determine what decisions were made and why actions were taken would appreciate Bob's thoroughness. Bob has been a tireless volunteer for the society and it would be impossible to list all the activities he is associated with in this article. Bob is widely known for his newsletter articles and we hope he will decide to remain on our publications committee and continue his fine work.

Anne Westaway has been on the board of directors for 12 years. Anne has been our designated appointee on the City's heritage committee and this is a critical position that will have to be filled. Anne's knowledge of built heritage and built heritage issues will be missed at board meetings and, again, we hope she will remain on our publications commit-

tee where we can take advantage of her expertise.

John Bonfield has been with the board of directors since 1997. Of course, most members of the society have face-to-face contact with John at our general meetings introducing our guest lecturers, as well as speaking on subjects of interest. Other members know John as a voice at the end of the telephone when he reminds us about upcoming events. John is also a member of our management committee and does other interesting volunteer work with the society, such as the calligraphic printing in our In Memoriam register in the library. A man of diverse talents, we hope John will stay with our management committee and continue his other volunteer work.

Peter Oakes is our youngest board member and has been with us for four years. We wish Peter well as he moves on to his next challenge at college this year.

Finally, I have been the voice of financial doom and gloom for several months. However, we did receive some good news this month. Bob Deboer provided a cheque for \$161.39 by assiduously collecting Zehrs' tapes donated by members. Margaret Glass found an extra \$1,000 in the Brantford Film Group profits and gave the society a cheque for \$8,000 at our general meeting. If she can handle money that well, maybe there will be something extra for me at Christmas.

Robert Glass

Brant Historical Society Board of Directors

President Robert Glass

Vice-President Vacant **2nd Vice-President** Delia O'Byrne

Secretary Robert Deboer

Treasurer Michael O'Byrne

Past President Calvin Diegel

Directors John Bonfield, Margaret Glass, Gloria Neamtu, Peter Oakes, David Partridge, Jonathan Shrubsole, Anne Westaway, John Wyatt

Brant Museum & Archives

57 Charlotte St., Brantford, Ontario N3T 2W6
519-752-2483

Admission: Adults \$2.00 Seniors/Students \$1.50
Children \$1.25 Under 6 free B.H.S. members free

Hours: Wednesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday 1 to 4 p.m.

For July and August: Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.
Web site: www.brantmuseum.ca

The Museum in the Square A Satellite of the Brant Museum & Archives

Main Level, Market Square Mall
1 Market St., Brantford, Ontario 519-752-8578

Admission by voluntary donation
Hours: Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For July and August: Open Saturday
For December: Open Saturday (except Dec. 24),
closed Monday

Curator's Corner

Hello, everyone! In case you don't know me, my name is Carrie Sorensen, and I am the new Interim Curator. I had been Assistant Curator to Stacey McKellar since March of 2004 until she left this past August. It certainly has been a quite a change for all of us at the museum! We have had to pull together over the past few months to keep the museum running smoothly with the absence of our fearless leader, but I must say the staff and board have been putting forth a great team effort.

We have had a very busy autumn season this year. Our Senior Outreach program has grown into a great success story. For the Remembrance Day program we visited 9 retirement homes during the month of November, discussing artifacts from the collection relating to the First World War and the Second World War. We would like to thank Stephanie Rymon-Lipinski for her volunteer efforts

this past month. Stephanie has been assisting our Education Officer Maggie Channon-Ord with the education programs since October and has been of great help.

Now that winter is upon us (a little too early in my opinion), it is time for us to begin thinking about the holidays. The staff have been busily decorating the museum with boughs of green and ribbons of red, and preparing the annual exhibit "Seasonal Celebrations," which celebrates different cultural festivities from around the world.

Don't forget to come visit us during our annual Open House on Saturday Dec. 10 from 1 to 4 p.m. Enjoy holiday music, take a tour of the museum and see our new exhibit. We'll have crafts for the children and refreshments for all!

From all of the staff here at the museum, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Carrie Sorensen

Brantford, Ontario: Birmingham of Canada

Continued from Front Page

and for a period of time, commencing in 1912, an automobile, when Keeton Motors Limited, an American-based firm, established a branch here.

If the last six years of the 19th century were a time in which Brantford cautiously moved ahead from recovering from the effects of an economic depression, the period spanning the years 1901 to 1914 was a decisive, dynamic and meaningful era when caution was replaced by confidence that would allow the city to forge ahead and garner a national and international reputation of enviable proportions.

During the annual meeting of the Dominion Labour Congress in Brantford in 1901, The Brantford Expositor had proudly boasted that: "not less than 3,500 high-class workmen are employed in our workshops and that they are paid no less than \$1,500,000 in wages annually. That there is a city of like size in Canada, or even in the United States, which presents equal industrial activity, we very much doubt."

In December of 1902, The Canadian Manufacturer commented:

The rapid industrial development of Brantford, Ont., during the past decade or two has been sufficient to place this enterprising city in the first rank among Canada's manufacturing centres and what has already been accomplished along these lines gives some evidence of the bright future of Brantford. Altogether, Brantford possesses many advantages as judged from an industrial standpoint, and its future in the various manufacturing industries is not at all problematic.

The "bright future" meant that in 1912 Brantford was

ranked among the first five manufacturing cities in Canada and in 1914 The Brantford Expositor could still proclaim that: "The Industrial Outlook Is Very Bright."

Early in the 20th century, a function was held annually in Brantford for possibly a dozen years called "Brantford's Old Home Week." Former residents of Brantford, world wide, were invited to return to the city each year to partake in the festivities, and from all reports it was well attended. In the "Official Souvenir of Old Home Week — Brantford, Canada, August 9th to 14th, 1914" a list of factories and firms and the number of hands employed by each was included. The list clearly indicated Brantford's varied and diversified industrial base.

Adams Wagon Company	240
American Radiator	380
Avery Bros. — Electrical Contractors	6
Bixel Brewing & Malting Co.	12
Brown-Jarvis Roofing	20
Burke Mineral Water	10
Bremner Bros.	10
Bradley-Garretson, Publishers	15
Barber-Ellis Limited, Stationers	145
Bennett & Bowden, Paint	15
Brandon Shoe Company	95
Brantford Brick Company	50
Brantford Carriage Company	175
Brantford Cordage Company	115
Brantford Coffee & Spice	10

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Brantford, Ontario: Birmingham of Canada

Continued from Page 3

Brantford Creamery	13	Massey-Harris Co.	1,200
Brantford Emery Wheel Co.	10	Mathews-Blackwell Co., Cannery	85
Brantford laundry	30	Mickle, Dymont & Son, Lumber	60
Brantford Oven & Rack Co.	20	Montgomery Mineral Water Co.	10
Brantford Plating Co.	5	Mitchell, C. J., Car Dealer	16
Brantford Piano Case Co.	46	Ontario Cement Post Co.	25
Brantford Roofing Co.	30	Ontario Portland Cement Co.	75
Brantford Scale Co.	20	Paterson, Wm. & Co., Confectioners	200
Brantford Willow Works, Wicker Goods	12	Pratt & Letchworth, Foundry	600
Buck, Wm. Stove Co.	280	Reach, A. J. Company, Sports Goods	150
Canadian Consolidated Rubber Co.	10	Scarfe & Co., Paints	20
Canada Glue Co.	75	Schultz Bros., Company, Manufacturers	200
Canada Starch Co.	60	Secord, P. H. & Sons, Contractors	500
Courier Printing Company	20	Simpson, I., Mfg. Co.	30
Crown Electric Company	75	Slingsby Manufacturing Co., Woolens	290
Canada Cut Glass Company	18	Spalding, A. G. & Bros., Sports Goods	20
Cockshutt Plow Co.	850	Spence, Adams & Co.	15
Dominion Flour Mills	20	Steel Company of Canada	125
Expositor	35	Sterne, Geo. F. & Sons, Chemicals	5
F. J. Fair & Co., Cigars	100	Thornton's Limited	15
Gardener, H. B., Cigars	15	Turnbull & Cutcliffe	75
Goold, Shapley & Muir, Pumps	300	Verity Plow Company	450
Gun-Monroe Spice Co.	3	Waterous Engine Works	450
Hall, John H. & Sons, Machinists	35	Watson Manufacturing	400
Ham & Knott Co., Kitchen Cupboards	160	Westrumite Limited	15
Hawthorne, W. G., Bicycles	8		
Herod Machine & Stamping Co.	15		
Hurley Printing Co.	30		
Howe & Feely, Hardware	25		
Hamilton, J. S. & Co., Winery	12		
Hampel Paper Box Co.	25		
Hartley Foundry	20		
Hygienic Dairy	10		
Halloran & Haskett, Tobacconists	20		
Ingeleby, Taylor & Co.	50		
Ideal Brick & Tile	35		
Keeton Motors Limited	40		
Ker & Goodwin, Machinists	14		
Kitchen Overall & Shirt Co.	60		
Mann, John & Son, Coal Merchants	20		
MacBride Press Limited	25		

Acknowledgments

The Brant Historical Society gratefully acknowledges support from the County of Brant, the City of Brantford and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation.

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Do You Remember?



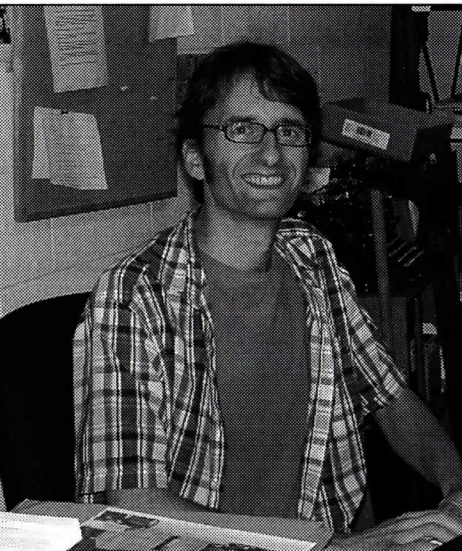
Photo courtesy of Brant Museum & Archives

This fascinating view down South Market Street was taken circa 1956 from just north of the Victoria Bridge, at the point where Water and Wharfe streets meet at South Market. On the left (east) side of the street is the Lake of the Woods Milling Co. Farther south lies the Liquor Control Board store, and beyond that Koehring Waterous Ltd. On the right (west) side of South Market Massey-Harris-Ferguson occupies several buildings, including those of the former Dominion Radiator Co. and Cockshutt Plow Co. The photo was recently donated to the museum by Wayne Hunter.



How things have changed! Today the parkade blocks the original view. The only building from the 1956 photo still standing is the LCBO store.

These pictures are worth a thousand words



Rob Michalchuk at the helm of the museum's picture database.

Over the years I have had several odd jobs here and there. Never have I had an opportunity such as this. Working at the Brant Museum & Archives has been a very rewarding experience. Every day I come out of work rewarded with some type of new information about the people and city in which I live. My job here is archiving our vast number of photographs into the computer. I also research, if need be, to fill in the gaps of information in our database to make searching for information on our computer system easier and quicker for staff and researchers who come in to use our archives.

Every photograph is a window of some form on life in Brantford as it once was. Every photograph is an open window that has some kind of information hiding in it just waiting to be discovered. It is always an exciting feeling to get into the photograph and discover something that has never been seen before. With the technology of our scanner, it is possible to get down to the smallest detail and discover something that would have been overlooked even with the most discerning of eye or magnifying glass.

My personal background includes an Applied Photography Certificate from Mohawk College and years of computer background. Years of being a self-taught history, science and technology buff. Finally, years of musical training and playing. I have a true desire to help archive our city's diverse history and help keep it in safe stewardship for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

Visit the gift shop for unique Christmas ideas

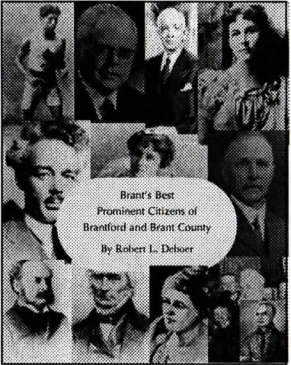
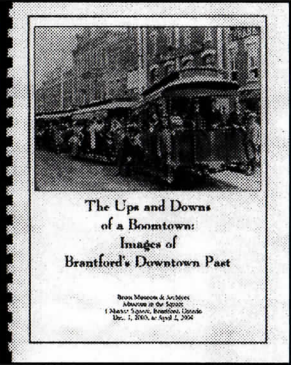
From Dec. 1 to Dec. 23, the annual BHS Christmas sale is on at both gift shop locations.

Buy 1 BHS book, save 10%
Buy 2 BHS books, save 20%
Buy 3 BHS books, save 30%

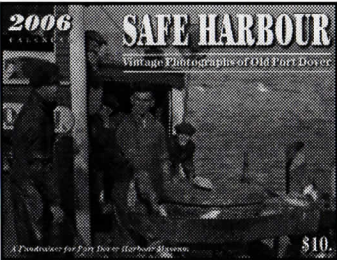
Choose from many BHS titles, including

The Ups and Downs of a Boomtown: Images of Brantford's Downtown Past, BHS, \$8.95;
Potteries and Potters of Brant County, by Robert Deboer, \$14.95;
Starboard Go! Experiences of a Second World War Airman and His Crew, by George Smeaton, \$14.95;
and our newest publication —

"Brant's Best: Prominent Citizens of Brantford and Brant County," (14-page booklet), by Robert Deboer, \$2.95.



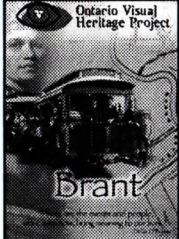
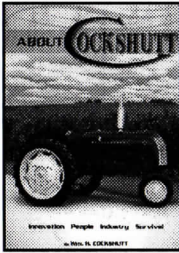
BHS publications



Featured books and gifts

- Brant Museum & Archives calendar, featuring postcard images of Brantford, \$8.
- *About Cockshutt*, by William Cockshutt, \$39.95.
- *A Museum Called Canada*, by Charlotte Gray, \$30.
- *Ontario Visual Heritage Brant*, Videos \$15, DVDs \$20. Norfolk and Haldimand videos and DVDs are also available.
- *Painting the Grand River Valley*, by Peter Etril Snyder, \$19.95.
- *Ruben: Grandpa Jacob's First Christmas Donkey*, by Brantford children's author E.A. LaPalme, \$10.
- *Safe Harbour 2: Vintage Photographs of Old Port Dover*, from the Port Dover Harbour Museum, \$10.

During December, the Museum in the Square will open Saturdays (except Dec. 24) and close Mondays. Both museum locations will close from Dec. 24 until Jan. 2, 2006.



MEMBERSHIPS

Welcome to our new members

The Genealogical Society of Utah

Corporate sponsors

EXTEND Communications Inc.
Hooton's Security Systems
ITML Horticultural Products Inc.
Raymond Industrial Equipment Limited
S.C. Johnson and Son, Limited
Sonoco Canada Corporation
Trow Consulting Engineers

Renewing members

Friend
Robert and Sondra Archibald

Supporter
Ross and Edith Misener
Zig Misiak
Brian and Beverley Osborn

Family
Rev. James and Angela Files
Tony and Betty Johnson
Valerie MacAskill and Timothy Joseph
Frank and Greta Matthews
Georgene and Michael Schoenborn
John and Mary Van Nest

Individual
Paul Bergasse
Peter M. Brophey
Marilyn Cross
Dorothy M. Deville
Helen Doctor
William Fuller
Lucy Hagopian
John Harwood
Cliff T. Jones
Marion Laidlaw
Paula Lake-Smith
Arcangelo Martino
Stan Mulcahy
Irene Rae
Joyce Rose Thomas

Donors 2005

Marilyn Cross
William Fuller
John Wyatt

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Endowment Fund: The interest from this fund goes to the operation of the museum.
Acquisition Fund: This fund is used to acquire and conserve artifacts.
Building Fund: This fund will be used for the museum — to renovate the existing building, to buy a new building and to renovate it, or to build a brand new museum.
Operations Fund: This fund is used for the daily operations of the museum, including staffing and programming.
Special Projects Fund: This fund will be used to complete special projects — some current projects include the Settlement Gallery, a new reception desk and repairs to the glass enclosure.

DONATIONS

<i>In memory of Leonard Beechey</i> William Fuller	<i>In memory of Peter Holtendorp</i> William Fuller	<i>In memory of Ken Strachan</i> Robert and Anne Deboer
<i>In memory of Edwin Eason</i> William Fuller David Judd	<i>In memory of Anne Pennell</i> Robert and Anne Deboer	William Fuller David Judd
<i>In memory of Frank Matthews</i> Rev. James and Angela Files	<i>In memory of Bernice Sitzer</i> Jean G. Creath	Estate of the late Jean Fisher Estate of the late Margaret Stedman

A Brant Historical Society membership offers ...

- free admission to the Brant Museum & Archives, Bell Homestead and Myrtleville House Museum (excluding special events)
- exemption from personal research fees in our archives
- bulletins about upcoming museum activities
- subscription to the "B.H.S. Quarterly"
- discounts on Heritage Bus Tours, Children's Museum Club and other programs
- 10% discount on gift shop purchases over \$20

Categories and fees

Benefactor	\$500.00+
Patron	\$200.00+
Friend	\$100.00+
Supporter	\$50.00
Family (2)	\$30.00
Individual	\$20.00
Student	\$15.00

Happenings

Brant Museum & Archives

Exhibits

"Seasonal Celebrations: International Holidays," Brant Museum & Archives, 57 Charlotte St., December 2005.

New at the gift shop

Brant Museum & Archives calendar, \$8.

Brant's Best: Prominent Citizens of Brantford and Brant County (14-page booklet), by Robert L. Deboer, published by the Brant Historical Society, \$2.95.

Painting the Grand River Valley, by Peter Etril Snyder, \$19.95.

Safe Harbour 2: Vintage Photographs of Old Port Dover, a calendar from the Port Dover Harbour Museum, \$10.

Christmas open house

Saturday, Dec. 10, 1 to 4 p.m.

Thank you

To Glenn and Julie Gillis for donating dozens of pumpkins and gourds for Halloween and fall decorating at the museum.

Call for seasoned bakers

We are in need of baked goods for the museum's open house on Dec. 10. Any nut-free goodies will be received gratefully by the staff.

In sympathy

Edwin Eason — to his family and friends

Frank Matthews — to Greta Matthews and family

Anne Pennell — to Larry Pennell and family

Ken Strachan — to Jean Strachan and family

OGS — Brant County branch

Jan. 22, 2006, 2 p.m. Program: Annual Show and Tell.

Feb. 26, 2006, 2 p.m. Speakers: David Beasley, author of *Sarah's Journey*, a slave girl's story.

March 26, 2006, 2 p.m. Speaker: Karen Richardson, curator of Princeton Museum and Adelaide Hoodless National Historic Site.

April 22, 2006, 9:30 to 3 p.m. Program: Annual spring workshop featuring British genealogy.

All meetings will be held at Smokey Hollow Estates Country Club, 114 Powerline Rd., Brantford. For details, please call 753-8581.



Brant Historical Society

General meeting

Brant Museum & Archives, 57 Charlotte St., 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 21, 2005 David Judd, managing editor of *The Expositor*, will bring to life Christmas 1905 through newspaper stories and advertisements.

Brantford Film Group

The Brantford Film Group is a fundraiser for the Brant Historical Society. Films are screened on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from October through May at the Cineplex Odeon Brantford Mall Cinemas at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$7 and can be purchased at the museum. Box office tickets are \$8 and are purchased at the door. Visit www.brantmuseum.ca for film details.

Dec. 6, 2005 Water (Canada/India, rated G.) The final part of Deepa Mehta's trilogy about women in India, after *Fire* and *Earth*, *Water* deals with the plight of group of widows in the ancient Hindu holy city of Varanasi in the turbulent India of the 1930s. According to tradition, widows are not allowed to remarry and are considered to be "lower" than other women, but this small group has banded together in a matriarchy. This is the time of Gandhi's independence movement and his approach forces the women into some difficult decisions.

Jan. 12, 2006 Her Majesty (New Zealand, rated G.) A young girl and an elderly Maori woman prepare for a visit from Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

Jan. 26, 2006 C.R.A.Z.Y. (Canada, rated 13+, subtitled.) This is a story of two love affairs. A father's love for his five sons and one son's love for his father, a love so strong it compels him to live a lie. For 20 years, life takes the son on a surprising and unexpected journey that leads him to accept his true nature and, even more importantly, leads his father to love him for who he really is.

Feb. 9, 2006 Paradise Now (France, Germany, Netherlands, Israel, not rated, subtitled.) The movie involves two days in the lives of two Palestinians, garage mechanics and best friends, who are recruited to cross into Israel on a suicide mission.

Feb. 23, 2006 La Neuvaïne (Canada, not rated, subtitled.) A meditation on faith, *The Novena* involves the intersecting lives of a religious young man and a female doctor who does not believe in God.