



BHS Quarterly

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Autumn, 2006

Know Brantford

Reprinted from The Expositor's files, Sept. 10, 1928

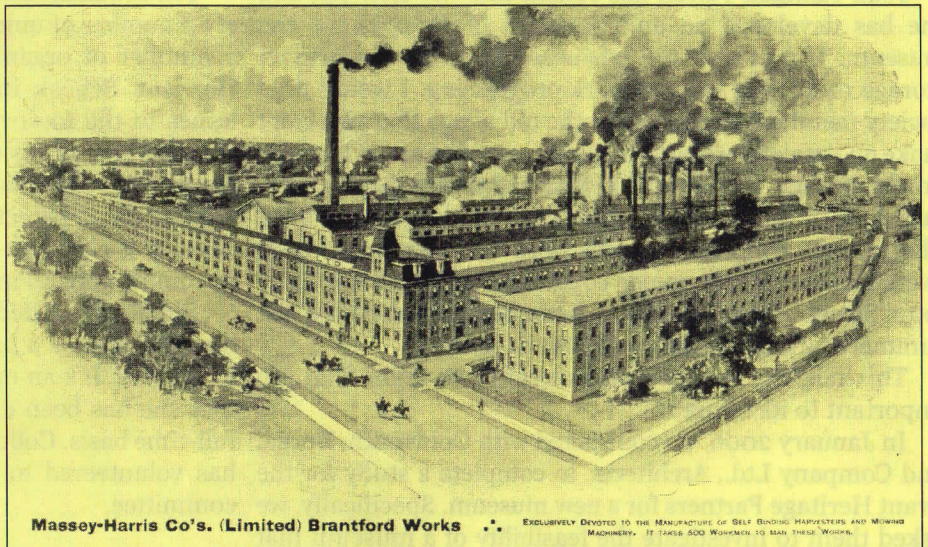
Brantford, one of Canada's greatest manufacturing centres, is a city of 30,000 people, located in the very heart's core of the industrial life of the Dominion. It is 65 miles west of Toronto, on the main line of travel between Buffalo and Detroit, and is surrounded by a rich, thickly populated agricultural community.

Brantford itself is the home of the agricultural implement industry and allied lines. It has 92 industries, and is the eighth largest manufacturing city of Canada, the fourth in the volume of its manufactured exports.

Brantford has the distinction of being the home of the telephone, since here in 1874 Alexander Graham Bell first invented the telephone, and this city is in consequence known as The Telephone City. The old homestead of the inventor, where the original experiments were carried on, has been retained by the municipality and a magnificent monument and park perpetuate the memory of this epoch-making invention.

Population of Brantford.

The Dominion Government gives the population of Brantford, 1921 census, at 31,000 and the last municipal census gave 28,910 as the correct population. However, from a commercial standpoint, the population of Brantford is at least 37,500. The fact that the city has outgrown its boundaries should be taken into consideration when noting the difference between the Dominion Government figures and population figures given in this report.



Massey-Harris Co's. (Limited) Brantford Works .*. EXCLUSIVELY DEVOTED TO THE MANUFACTURE OF SELF BINDING HARVESTERS AND MOWING MACHINERY. IT TAKES 500 WORKMEN TO MAKE THESE WORKS.

Brantford Population.

1907	19,092
1917	26,601
1927	28,910

The city boundaries have been outgrown. The actual urban population is 37,500.

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Celebrating 98 years of preserving local history

President's Reflections

It has been a magnificent summer and I can't believe it's already over. While many of you were away on vacation enjoying the heat and sunshine, work at the museum has continued.

Joan Kanigan-Fairen has settled into her new job and she has developed an ambitious list of changes for the museum. If you visit the business offices or the artifact storage room, you will see work progressing. I would urge society members to remember the old adage that you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs. We are at the egg-breaking stage. Similarly, Bob Michalchuk has done a wonderful job of "horticultural caretaking" on the grounds of 57 Charlotte St. Unfortunately, his work has been temporarily overshadowed by the major construction project on Charlotte Street. Other work has been accomplished by our summer staff, but I'll let Joan comment on it.

This fall, the society will deal with two items that are important to its future.

In January 2006, we contracted with Goldsmith, Borgal and Company Ltd., Architects, to complete a study for the Brant Heritage Partners for a new museum. Specifically, we asked them to investigate the feasibility of a museum that

would feature our artifact and archival collection as well as the collections of the Ontario Genealogical Society and Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre. Their report will be completed shortly and presented to the society this fall.

The acquisition of the Scheak collection offered the society a number of unique opportunities, but also has created a number of organizational complications. The death of Harrison Scheak in 2004 has brought several of these issues to the forefront, including plans for the long-term management of his collection, disposition of his Trust and the future of the Museum-in-the-Square site. Members of the Board of Directors have been working with Joan to develop a plan that will be presented to the society in an upcoming general meeting.

Finally, I wanted to congratulate Colleen Cross on her new position as a proofreader with a publishing company in Simcoe. It's an opportunity to pursue the kind of work that she has been doing in preparing this newsletter on a full-time basis. Colleen has been a valued staff member and has volunteered to continue with us on the publications committee.

Robert Glass, August 15, 2006

Brant Historical Society Board of Directors

President Robert Glass

Vice-President Delia O'Byrne

2nd Vice-President Laurie Dunn

Secretary Calvin Diegel

Treasurer Michael O'Byrne

Past President Calvin Diegel

Directors Margaret Glass, C. St. John Ludlow, Robert Michalchuk, Gloria Neamtu, David Partridge, Heather Russell, Michael Schoenborn, Jonathan Shrubsole

Brant Museum & Archives

57 Charlotte St., Brantford, Ont. N3T 2W6

Phone 519-752-2483 Fax 519-752-1931

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.

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, Ont. 519-752-8578

Admission by voluntary donation

Hours: Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Executive Director's Report

Dear Members,

I am very excited to be working at the Brant Museum and Archives. Although I have only been in Brantford for a few months, I have been extremely impressed by the dedication of the Board, volunteers and staff. The museum is a tremendous asset to Brantford and the County of Brant and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be involved. As this is my first report to members, and as I have only been here a short time, it is difficult for me to update you on what has been happening at the museum. So instead of an update, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I have always been passionate about museums and I believe that museums have an important role to play in their communities. As the Executive Director for the Museums Association of Saskatchewan, I have worked on a number of initiatives designed to strengthen the museum community in the province. I am particularly interested in the concept of socially responsible museum work and how museums can be more responsive and involved in their communities. I believe that socially responsible museum

work is key to long-term sustainability and relevance and look forward to exploring this concept in greater detail with everyone involved in the museum.

As a result of my work in Saskatchewan, I am very familiar with the challenges being faced by many museums throughout Canada. The Brant Museum and Archives is no exception as we deal with limited resources, aging exhibits, and competition for volunteers and support from a variety of sectors. While there are challenges, I feel that there are even more opportunities. The Brant Museum and Archives has a strong history and many achievements upon which to build future success.

I am looking forward to working with members, volunteers, the Board of Directors, and staff to ensure that the Brant Museum and Archives remains a vibrant and essential part of the community it represents.

Please feel free to drop by the museum or to give me a call if you have any comments, suggestions, or would just like to visit.

Sincerely,
Joan Kanigan-Fairen

55 Years Ago: Historical Society Holds First Session in New Museum

Reprinted from *The Expositor's* files, Sept. 20, 1951

The opening fall meeting of the Brant Historical Society, Wednesday night, marked an important milestone in the organization's history, being the first session of the organization in the new museum building at 57 Charlotte Street. Progress in plans towards moving the museum displays to the new museum was reported.

In recognition of the recent 75th anniversary of the first long distance call, the program was devoted to the telephone. J.M. McIntosh, local manager of the Bell Telephone Company, and a member of the Historical Society, introduced a colored film shown by Harry Rycroft, also a member of the Society, on the Bell Telephone construction project in Nova Scotia during the war years.

Educational Film

This film, taken by Mr. Rycroft, was of both educational and historical nature, portraying the actual setting up of a wartime defence communication project.

Many scenic and historic spots in the Maritimes were also shown, including the home of Alexander Graham Bell in Nova Scotia and the stone marking his grave.

The showing concluded with a brief film made at the

time of the unveiling of the Bell statue in Brantford.

The resignation of J. Clarence McEwan, as president of the Historical Society, was accepted with regret and tribute was paid for the work which he had accomplished. Elliott Moses, first vice-president, was elected to fill out the unexpired term of office as president.

Guest soloist was Miss Muriel Maunder, who sang, "Bird Songs at Eventide", and "Dear Little Boy of Mine". Her accompanist was Miss Ruth McCall.

Dr. Lorn McIlwraith conducted the opening of the meeting and Elliott Moses was chairman for the remainder. Reports were presented by Mrs. George Willoughby, secretary; George Willoughby, building fund treasurer; George Elliot, society treasurer; G.W. Broomfield and Harold W. Hill.

To Build Cases

The museum committee, headed by Curator Broomfield, was authorized to proceed with construction of cases for museum displays in the north room on the main floor of the building.

A social hour, with refreshments served by the social committee, headed by Mrs. Harold W. Hill, closed the meeting.

Know Brantford

Continued from Front Page

Educational Facilities.

Board of Education of ten members, five of whom are elected every other year for two years; four every other year for two years. One member is the appointee of the Separate School Board and sits for two years. Vocational committee: Six trustees, three representatives of the employers' interests and three representatives of the employees' interest.

Public schools — 12.

Separate schools — three.

Ontario School for the Blind.

Mohawk Institute — for Indian children.

Collegiate Institute — will have 71 rooms when proposed \$150,000 addition is completed this year.

Brantford Conservatory of Music.

Thomas School of Music.

Brantford Business College.

Robinson's Business College.

There are night classes held at the collegiate.

There is a Workers' Educational association branch here under the auspices of the University of Toronto extension offices.

46 Churches.

Anglican, United, Presbyterian, Baptist, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Ruthenian, Polish, Hebrew, Christadelphian, Free Methodist, Scientist, Brethren, etc., etc., 46.

Brantford Taxable Assessment.

1907	\$10,452,116
1927	\$27,018,007
Increase in assessment last 10 years	\$8,824,927
Assessment per capita in real property	\$727
Industrial workers	6000
Public and Separate schools and Collegiate	5700
Seating capacity, theatres	2600
Miles of paved streets	15
Miles of concrete walks	93
Miles of water mains	55 ^{1/4}
Hospital (beds)	200
Public utilities valued at over	\$3,000,000
Waterworks, valued at	\$1,500,000
Hydro	\$1,050,000
Street railway	\$614,000
Building permits, 1927	\$571,599
Building permits to March 31, 1928, three months	\$79,491

Your ad goes here.

Advertising in the BHS Quarterly is easy! To reach more than 200 members with your ad, contact the Publications Committee through the museum. A single credit card-sized ad costs \$25.

Civic Organizations and Clubs.

Brantford Board of Trade.

Young Men's Board of Trade.

Brantford Golf and Country Club, 18 holes.

Arrowdale Club, 9 holes.

Ava Golf Club, 9 holes.

Brant-Norfolk Aero Club.

Brantford Club.

Rotary club.

Travellers' club.

Kiwanis club.

Lions club.

Shriners' club.

Canadian Legion.

Knights of Columbus.

Brantford Oratoria society.

Brantford Symphony Orchestra.

Brantford Historical society.

Children's Aid society.

Social Service League.

Canadian club.

Schubert club.

Brantford Horticultural society.

Brant County Humane society.

Telephone City Kennel club.

Y.W.C.A.

Y.M.C.A. One of the largest and best equipped buildings in Ontario. In addition, there are various other recreational, sports and fraternal organizations.

Brantford has 250 acres of public parks and playgrounds.

Banking.

There are 11 chartered banks with bank clearings for 1927 of \$63,699,252.

Banks.

Bank of Montreal.

Royal Bank of Canada.

Imperial Bank of Canada.

Bank of Toronto.

Bank of Nova Scotia.

Dominion Bank.

Standard Bank of Canada (two offices).

Canadian Bank of Commerce (two offices).

Ontario Government Savings Bank.

Canada Permanent Mortgage Corporation.

Do You Remember?



Photo courtesy of Brant Museum and Archives, Image 5316

Stan's fry wagon sits on the Market Square circa 1979 during the reconstruction of Colborne Street.

Picture copies for sale

Not only is the museum a great place to do photo and archival research, it also offers lovely, high-quality photos for sale to the general public. These make great gifts for any history buff.

Please phone staff for further details at 519-752-2483, or send an e-mail to bcma_director@bellnet.ca.



Prices:	4 by 6	\$5
	8 1/2 by 11	\$16
	11 by 17	\$30
	13 by 19	\$50

Summer at the Brant Museum and Archives

By Joan Kanigan-Fairen

This summer, the museum was very fortunate to have two exceptional summer students. Stephanie Rymon-Lipinski and Stephanie Slaman have both been working very hard on research and curatorial projects. Through the efforts of Stephanie Rymon-Lipinski, we are now caught up on all research requests and have begun the process of sorting through library materials to ensure that information applicable to Brantford and Brant County is easily accessible. Stephanie Rymon-Lipinski also has been responsible for the Seniors Outreach program and will continue working for the museum after her term as summer student ends.

Stephanie Slaman has been very busy working on the backlog of artifacts needing to be catalogued and has been sorting through the artifacts currently stored in the back work room. She has made significant progress with many artifacts now completely catalogued. Stephanie also is developing a new display for the Cockshutt storefront that will be

ready for members to view in September.

Rob Michalchuk, the museum's Registrar, continues to focus on the database project. There now are approximately 5,500 records entered into the database with more being added daily. While this may not seem like many, each of the records being added are fully researched and as complete as possible. By ensuring the information in the database is as complete as possible, we are able to create new research possibilities and improve our ability to provide research services in a timely manner.

On a sad note, we are sorry to say goodbye to Colleen Cross, who left the museum on Aug. 25, 2006 for a new position with Annex Publishing in Simcoe, Ont. While Colleen will no longer be working for the museum, she will be staying on as a volunteer with the Publications Committee. Colleen's departure will result in some changes at the Museum-in-the-Square site and members will be kept up to date as these unfold.

Our Endowment Fund needs your help!

The fund's interest supports the day-to-day operation of the Brant Museum & Archives. We urge you to consider making a donation to the fund, and here's how you can do so:

- Make a donation in memory of a friend or loved one;
- Earmark a direct donation for the Endowment Fund;
- Purchase a souvenir piece of the Brantford Street Railway, at the gift shop for \$100 (with a tax receipt) or \$35 (without a tax receipt);
- Give a gift in kind of property or stocks.

Please note that unused donations can be carried forward for up to five years. Also, when you donate more than \$200, the amount in excess of \$200 is eligible for tax credit at the highest marginal tax rate.

Brant County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Sunday, Sept. 24, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Speaker: George Gullen on "The Gullen Family History."

Saturday, Oct. 28, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fall workshop. Speakers: Ruth Lefler on "Family History Sources in Tweedsmuir Histories and Ontario Archives," and an archivist from the Ontario Archives, name and subject to be announced. For full details call 519-753-8581.

Sunday, Nov. 26, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Speakers: Don Crosbie on "Levi Boughton and his family," and Ron Hansen with pictures of Paris cobblestone homes.

All meetings are at Smokey Hollow Estates, 114 Powerline Rd., Brantford, Ont.

Please call 519-753-8581 for more program information.

MEMBERSHIPS

Welcome to our new members

Lloyd St. Amand
Dennis and Donna Stewart

Welcome to our junior members

Matthew Campbell
Quinton Desmonde
Robert Fischer
Alanna Woodhouse

Corporate sponsors

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Donors 2006

Robert Glass
Michael O'Byrne
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Patricia P. Woodburn

Want to get involved?

A committee is being formed to plan and organize activities highlighting the Brant Historical Society's centennial in 2008. We are looking for people of all ages who are full of ideas and are willing to volunteer time and energy to help us formulate this celebration. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please call St. John Ludlow at 519-752-3456.

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 — including the Settlement Gallery, a new reception desk and repairs to the glass enclosure.

DONATIONS

In memory of David Petrie
Daniel and Susan Deboer
Robert and Anne Deboer
Jim and Karen Kujtar

In memory of Ruth K. Stedman
Brant Historical Society
Brant Museum & Archives staff
Calvin and Elizabeth Diegel
David and Colleen Judd
Robert and Anne Deboer
Marion Weir

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

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
- **NEW!** discount price on Brantford Film Group tickets

Happenings

Brant Museum & Archives

Exhibit

"A Scheak Sampler: A Glimpse of the Fine and Decorative Arts Collection of Harrison B. Scheak," Museum in the Square, 1 Market St.

New at the gift shop

Brantford's Link to Greatness: A Portrait of the Amazing Alexander Graham Bell, by Albert VanderMey, \$49.95.

In sympathy

Ruth K. Stedman — to Mary Stedman

Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to help with many aspects of the museum and society. Please let staff know if you can offer a regular or one-time commitment of your time and expertise.

Zehrs' tapes

Please keep them coming to both museum sites!

Acknowledgments

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

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The Brant Historical Society
57 Charlotte St., Brantford, Ont. N3T 2W6
Phone 519-752-2483 Fax 519-752-1931
E-Mail: bcma_director@bellnet.ca



Brant Historical Society

General meetings

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

Sept. 20, 2006 "It's Your Turn" — Members and guests can share their artifacts or photos and the stories to go with them. Please contact John Bonfield at 519-759-8413 before Friday, Sept. 15, to have your name added as a presenter.

Oct. 18, 2006 To be announced

Nov. 15, 2006 To be announced

Dec. 20, 2006 To be announced

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. Tickets are **\$10** and are purchased at the door. Visit www.brantmuseum.ca for film details.

In addition to the change in price, filmgoers should note that, beginning in the fall, ALL Brantford Film Group tickets must be purchased through the Brantford Mall Cinemas box office. We are no longer able to sell advance tickets at other locations. Purchasing an annual membership with the Brant Historical Society for \$20 entitles you to buy tickets at a discount price of \$8, while enjoying the benefits of membership outlined on Page 7. All advance tickets purchased before the change in price will be honoured.

The fall season will start on Sept. 14, earlier than usual. There will be no films scheduled at the Cineplex Odeon facility between Nov. 1 and Jan. 1; however, we hope to find another venue for the films we normally schedule during that time. This change is due to constraints imposed by head office, not by local management.

Sept. 14 *Prairie Home Companion* (United States, rated PG.) A gifted ensemble cast that includes Tommy Lee Jones, Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline and Lily Tomlin joins Garrison Keillor in a fictional account of his popular and long-running radio program. Directed by Robert Altman.

Sept. 28 *An Inconvenient Truth* (United States.) Former U.S. vice-president Al Gore's fervent crusade to halt the deadly progress of global warming resulted in this gripping documentary.

Oct. 12 To be announced

Oct. 26 To be announced

Nov. 9 *Bon Cop, Bad Cop* (Canada, English/French, Canada, rated 13+.) When a crime is committed on the border of Quebec and Ontario, everyone is forced to come together, whether they want to or not.