

MARCH 27 2026 | BRANTMUSEUMS.CA | 519-752-2483



## **President's Report**

One thing that I have been anxiously awaiting is the actual arrival of spring, and I'm still waiting. It seems to be in a hard-fought battle with winter this year but I have no doubt that it will be here soon.

The Brant Historical Society Annual General Meeting is fast approaching and I'm happy to report that at this time most of our Board members are staying on for another term. One big change that is happening is that we are losing our volunteer Executive Director, Marion McGeein. After more than two years of managing the affairs and the staff she has decided to take a sideways step and become a Board member. She will continue doing some of the jobs of her previous position, but not all of them. We, as a Board, have found Marion to be such an asset to the organization that I know her contributions as Executive Director will be missed. But in her new position as a Board member, we will still have access to her boundless knowledge. I can't thank her enough for holding us together for the past few years.

We are still struggling with finding a fundraising event that will help us with our cost of operations. We are realizing some income from our Endowment Fund investments and that money has helped take a bit of the pressure off financially. My hat goes off to our Finance Committee, headed by Bill Hyde and to our Endowment Fund board chair, Michael St Amant.

(Continued on Page 2)

## BRANT HISTORICAL —SOCIETY—

Established on May 8, 1908, the Brant Historical Society is an independent registered charity operating two museums uniquely positioned to make a difference in the lives of Brant citizens.

The Brant Historical Society is dedicated to preserving, educating, celebrating, and sharing the unique history, culture, and stories of the Brantford/Brant area, fostering a sense of connection and pride among its residents and visitors.

Inside this issue

- President's Report
- News from Myrtleville
- From the Brant Museum and Archives
- Memories Project Update
- Upcoming Events
- Photo Spotlight
- Brant Moment

Contact Us  
519-752-2483  
information@brantmuseums.ca

President's Report (Continued)

Brian Moore has advised the Board of Directors that the Brant Historical Society's Walking Tours will be resuming in May with a full slate of choices during the spring and summer months. I'm pleased to report that our last Speakers Series event, held at the Canadian Military Heritage Museum, was a huge success with an attendance of more than 70 people.

And finally, a big shout out to our staff members, Lillia, Brooklynn and Esther for keeping us moving in the right direction every day. Thank you.

-Murray Angus, President and Chair, BHS Board of Directors



Rob Adlam's presentation on Cockshutt Aircraft Manufacturing during World War Two

Myrtleville House Museum  
34 Myrtleville Drive  
Brantford, Ontario N3V 1C2

519 – 752 – 3216  
esther.brouwer@brantmuseums.ca

Monday to Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm



In the spring of 1897, a seven year old Caroline Good and her 66 year old Aunt Anne were too young and too old to help out with any regular farm work at Myrtleville, so they pitched in together to prepare the gardens around the house. Later, Carol wrote down what she had learned from Anne in her diary.

*"We went up to the front of the house where...little green shoots were coming up all over. Aunt Annie was digging up plants here and there which she gave to me and I carried them over to my own little flower garden, beneath an East window.*

*In the long sunny days of May we gardened. Aunt Annie said Star of Bethlehem made a good border because it didn't spread much. So we put a Star of Bethlehem border around the front half moon garden. At the end near the gap there were yellow lilies and irises, lily of the valley in the shade, heliotrope, verbenas, Sweet William, bachelor's buttons. Toward the far end there were three rose bushes, a pink one, a white one, and a red one. Then there were hollyhocks, tulips and narcissus, orange lilies, larkspur and Canterbury Bells. A hedge of dark green privet and light green Prince Arthur's feather swept in a long curve in front of the house."*

Carol and Anne also took care of the vegetable garden near the orchards, where they grew all sorts of berries, grapes, rhubarb and plums. She also writes that they planted *"melon patches in the garden, and hills of potatoes and corn, cabbages, onion, beets, carrots, parsnips, lettuce and spinach, peas and beans."*

Carol finishes her entry praising the stories from her Aunt: *“The flowers were her special care. Each plant seemed to have a history of its own. ‘these sweet scented red and yellow tulips came from Mrs. Smith’s garden,’ she would say, ‘and these narcissus too. Oh it’s a fine garden Mrs. Smith had...They lived up Smith’s Lane.’* (Smith’s farm became North Ridge Golf Club in 1957). *Through the spring and summer and autumn we gardened. There were always bouquets for the table and for friends who came.”*

On Saturday, May 9, 2026, the Brant Historical Society will be participating in Doors Open Along the Grand, where a partnership with the Brantford Garden Club will be offering a drop-in gardening workshop at Myrtleville House from 9:00am-12:00pm, followed by afternoon house and property tours starting at 1:00pm, 2:00pm, and 3:00pm. Staff at Myrtleville have been practicing our gardening skills for a few years now, and although the skill and expertise of Anne has been missing, we hope with this partnership the gardens in front of the house and in the heritage vegetable garden will once again be as beautiful as Carol described in 1897.

After the planting workshop during Doors Open, the seeds will germinate and other plants will be prepped for a planting day on Saturday, May 30, 2026. Some of the flowers and vegetables mentioned in Carol’s diary entry will be planted once again in the gardens, and the rest will be a mix of native plants, pollinators, and plants with herbal or dye uses. A list of plants BHS will be looking for can be found below:

- False Indigo
- Safflower
- Lamb’s Ear
- Shrubbery St. John’s Wort
- Angelica
- Astilbe
- Yarrow

If you are preparing to thin out your garden this spring and have any of these plants you are willing to donate like Mrs. Smith did with her tulips, you can reach out to a member of staff at 519-752-2483 or [information@brantmuseums.ca](mailto:information@brantmuseums.ca).

Photos: Anne Good (above) and Caroline Good, both older in age than mentioned in the featured journal entry.



In collaboration with the Brantford Station Neighbourhood Association (BSNA), we are hosting a series of knitting and crocheting workshops to help meet the BSNA's goal of 10,000 knitted/crocheted poppies, which will be stitched together to create a veil to be displayed on a site of remembrance within the Downtown area of the city (site yet to be determined).

If you are interested in attending a workshop, dates and times are listed below:

Thurs. April 9: Brant Museum & Archives, 5:30 - 8:00pm

Fri. April 17: Myrtleville House Museum, 10:00am - 4:00pm\*  
\*In lieu of our regular PA day program

Thurs. April 30: Myrtleville House Museum, 5:30-8:00pm

Tues. May 5: Brant Museum & Archives, 5:30 - 8:00pm

Thurs. May 28: Myrtleville House Museum, 5:30-8:00pm

Fri. June 5: Myrtleville House Museum, 10:00am - 4:00pm\*  
\*In lieu of our regular PA day program

Mary Maxim in Paris is offering 20% off red and black yarn if you mention that you are working on the Brantford Poppy Project.

If you have any questions, contact Lillia at [lillia.dockree@brantmuseums.ca](mailto:lillia.dockree@brantmuseums.ca)

Brant Museum and Archives  
Brantford, Ontario N3T 2W6

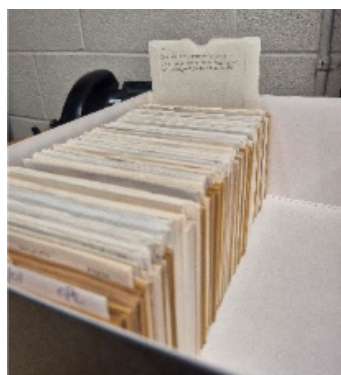
519 - 752 - 2483  
[information@brantmuseums.ca](mailto:information@brantmuseums.ca)

Tuesday - Saturday  
1:00pm - 5:00pm



The Expositor film negatives collection (donation 2023.008) consists of 53 boxes of envelopes of negatives spanning from the late 1930's to the early 2000s. Currently, volunteer Bev and Collections Assistant Brooklynn are still working on finders' guides and are 73% of the way through the collection. So far, a small portion of Box 1 has been scanned - because of over 1000 envelopes in that box alone, scanning will now be done on a request basis. The finder's guides will be available on our website (under the Research tab) before summer.

Many of the envelopes in the collection also had newspaper clippings and/or other paper items in with the negatives. To avoid any damage to the negative(s), they have been removed and placed into an envelope in the box. They will also be available for scanning upon request.



Above: An example of a box, with a paper items envelope.

Right: Hon. Lester B. Pearson Visit to home of Sen. W. Ross Macdonald with Mr. and Mrs. James Brown.

Published June 16 1962.

We have found many interesting photos in this collection, one of which can be seen below:

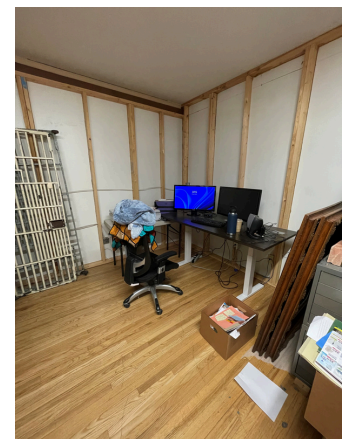


The Expositor Collection (2023.008) is not the only thing we have been working on in the archives. Another volunteer, Bernard, is still working hard on adding the 56th Field Regiment documents into our collections management software, PastPerfect. He is currently on Box 2 of 6 (33% through the overall collection) and is on the last 4 or so envelopes in the box. Once this box is done, we will begin working on scanning the documents in the last 4 boxes. This is something for which we would love more hands! If you're interested in volunteering to help with scanning, please reach out to Brooklynn ([bhambly@brantmuseums.ca](mailto:bhambly@brantmuseums.ca)).

Volunteer Crystal is still working away on the 1918 Ambulance Ledger. She is 93% of the way through the first book. In the next month, volunteer Bev will be moving from The Expositor collection to the Ambulance Ledgers to help speed up the process of transcription on this collection.

We would like to thank volunteers Dale and Matthew for helping to remove an old shelving unit from the archives to make room for Lillia (Community Outreach Coordinator) to move back here. Dale has been helping us with miscellaneous handyman tasks, and his wife (volunteer Carlene) has helped with shoveling this winter. Matthew has been enlisted to help with a portion of the metals collection, where he has helped to inventory and organize a section of this collection.

Before and after of Lillia's new archive workspace!



In the first three months of this year, we have already received 7 new donations! We are very excited about them, and thankful to the donors for thinking of us for being the new stewards of these items and knowledge. The most recent of these donations is a collection of Eddy family genealogical research that will be available in our research library later this year. We have also received photos, artwork, (small) Cockshutt items, sports and school programs/pamphlets, and items related to The Expositor.

If you have any items you would like to donate to the museum, please email Brooklynn ([bhambly@brantmuseums.ca](mailto:bhambly@brantmuseums.ca)) with a photo of the item(s), and any information you have on it. Once this is done, she will contact you with any next steps regarding the item(s) and donation. Please note that even if we are not interested in an item, we encourage you to reach out to other local museums who may want them.

## Memories of Brantford's Immigrant Communities

The "Memories" Committee would like to extend their appreciation to everyone who attended the opening of "Roots & Routes: Brantford's Black History" in October 2025!

We were lucky enough to participate in a flag raising event on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 at the County of Brant office in Paris which marked the start of Black History Month. Banners from the Roots & Routes exhibit were brought to the event space at The Rivers Edge (Arlington) for a celebration program following the flag raising, which showcased various Black businesses, musicians, and restaurants in Brant County.

We also celebrated Black History month on February 24<sup>th</sup> with an after-hours tour of the "Roots & Routes" exhibit for a group of local social workers. Dr. Christina Han provided a guided tour, and those that attended were highly impressed with the exhibit and the stories shared!

With the Black History exhibit remaining on display until the end of August 2026, the committee's focus has shifted to our next project: the Dutch community in Brantford. Dr. Christina Han is on sabbatical and has taken a step back from the Memories Committee, so the Dutch exhibit will be curated by Lillia Dockree, CIHC Director and Community Outreach Coordinator for the Brant Historical Society. Lillia's grandparents immigrated to Canada from the Netherlands, so she is interested in learning more about the role of Dutch immigrants in Canadian history.

The Dutch exhibit will open in October 2026 – details for the opening weekend are still being worked out. The Memories Committee will be a part of the Dutch-Canadian Liberation Celebration taking place at the Canadian Military Heritage Museum (347 Greenwich Street, Brantford) on May 2nd 2026 starting at 10:00am.

We are looking to interview members of the Dutch community in Brantford/Brant County, so if you or someone you know would be interested in sharing their story, please reach out! Anyone interested in being interviewed or loaning objects/photos for the exhibit can contact Lillia at 519-752-2483 or email [lillia.dockree@brantmuseums.ca](mailto:lillia.dockree@brantmuseums.ca).

### **MEMORIES OF BRANTFORD'S DUTCH COMMUNITY**

The Memories of Brantford's Immigrant Communities Committee is looking to interview members of Brantford's Dutch Community!

If you are interested in sharing your story, or loaning objects for our October 2026 exhibit, please contact Lillia at  
[lillia.dockree@brantmuseums.ca](mailto:lillia.dockree@brantmuseums.ca)  
or 519-752-2483

To learn more about previous Memories Projects, visit: <https://memoriesofbrantford.ca/>



Upcoming Events:

- **Easter Egg Hunt @ Myrtleville House!** Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am SHARP. Tours of the house following the hunt until 11:30am.
- **Speakers Series** returns on April 15<sup>th</sup> with Bruce Hill talking about "Grand River Nav. Co.: Winners & Losers"
- The **BHS Annual General Meeting** is being held on **Wed. April 22** at Myrtleville House Museum. Doors open at 6:30 with the meeting to start at 7:00pm
- **Walking Tours** return on Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>! Stay tuned for the full schedule of walks.
- **Dutch-Canadian Liberation Celebration @** Canadian Military Heritage Museum, **May 2** starting at 10:00am. Email lillia.dockree@brantmuseums.ca for more information.
- **Speakers Series** returns on May 20<sup>th</sup> for John Bullen's presentation on "Barriers & Obstacles: Women Pilots in Canadian Aviation"

Our annual Barbeque-Potluck will be held on Wednesday, June 17 at Myrtleville House, with dinner being served at 6:00pm. Back by popular demand, the "Bell City Strummers" with their ukuleles will provide the entertainment. Mark your calendar!

We are also planning a return to Whistling Gardens near Wilsonville in Norfolk County. This year we will be visiting this popular attraction in late August or early September to enjoy their light show at dusk, called "Night Garden." The date and details are pending their reopening in May, so be sure to check the next issue of the Quarterly for complete information.

This year the Program Events Committee has been exploring offering some heritage workshops and here is what is in store. To help enhance the heritage gardens at Myrtleville House we are devoting the morning of Saturday, May 9 to plant seeds and provide a short workshop to explain the different types of heritage seeds we will be using. On Saturday, May 30 we intend to take the morning to plant stock to enhance the gardens around the house, again with explanations. In late summer we intend to offer a Garden Show and Tea to highlight the results of our efforts.

The team is also planning two other workshops, a heritage yarn dyeing workshop offered in collaboration with Brantford Public Library on a later date in September, and an archaeology workshop with the "dig" site being at Myrtleville. Details are being finalized for both of these initiatives.



## Photo Spotlight

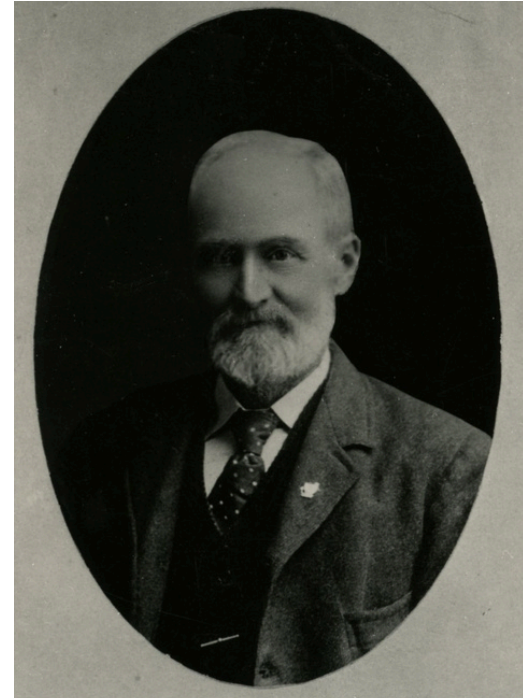
This edition's photo spotlight features a staff photo of the aircraft undercarriage department of Cockshutt Plow Company and dated September 1941.

Aubrey Robinson, a family member of the donor, worked at Cockshutt's and is identified as part of the Foremanship Class as "B. Robinson". Aubrey is located in the back row of the photo directly to the right of the downspout against the building.

## The Production of Milk at Myrtleville

The production of milk became a common facet of the economy in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. New towns and growing communities provided a good market for dairy products which helped increase the size of cattle herds and led to further specialization in dairy farming.

Dairying on the Myrtleville farm had originally been a small venture started by Thomas Good (1843 - 1904), providing milk for the family and several neighbours, but at the turn of the century the Good's placed much of their focus on raising a head of dairy cattle in order to make a profit. New technology brought advancements in dairy production, most importantly being the cream separator. Thomas' son, William Charles Good (1876 - 1967) purchased a hand-turned cream separator and sold the cream to a creamery while the skim milk was fed to the calves and hogs. The Good's fresh milk was sold door to door in Brantford and soon the farm's first mechanical refrigeration was built. The Good's sold their cooled milk to larger dairies and occasionally to condensed milk factories. Starting in the 1920's, the Good's kept official records of milk production for each cow and all cattle were inspected for communicable diseases which could be passed on to people through infected milk.



Thomas Good

In 1942 William Charles installed a milking machine that could produce more milk with less manpower. The quality of cattle and production of milk was at a peak and the farm was doing well. Through the 1930's and 1940's, several of William Charles' sons were active in the cattle business and built up a fine reputation within the farming community. In 1948, the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada presented William Charles Good with its highest award, the "Master Breeder's Shield", which he readily credited to his sons.

William Charles' son Robert (1923 - 2003) took over management of the farm by 1950 and brought more of the farm's focus to cattle raising and milk production. Robert was president of the Brant Holstein Club in 1953 and was elected secretary-treasurer of the Milk Trucking Co-Operative in 1958, a system for milk producers to transport and sell their own milk to companies. While a member of the Milk Trucking Co-Operative in Brantford, he fought against numerous injustices when attempting to ship and sell milk products to the dairies. As a result, other milk trucking co-operatives could be established and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Ontario's milk was transported by the co-operatives. Robert Good continued to operate the Myrtleville farm until his retirement in 1974.

During this past winter, the BHS Board of Directors have reviewed and revised the nomination form for the Wall of Honour. The revised form streamlines the nomination process and now allows for up to 3 nominees to be added to the Wall of Honour each year. It has been a few years since the last addition, and the Board of Directors are excited to continue recognizing significant individuals in Brantford and Brant County.

The nomination form can be found on the next page of this newsletter. The nomination criteria and current list of Wall of Honour members can be found on our website: <https://brantmuseums.ca/exhibitions/> under the “Wall of Honour” tab.

## Helpful Hints

Induction into the BHS is an extremely prestigious accomplishment. In order to make your nominee more competitive, please make your nomination package as thorough, comprehensive and documented as possible. This may include detailed narratives and pictures (non-returnable) of the nominee, for example. Once a nomination package has been submitted, it may always be updated with additional information as it becomes available.

Considerations when developing your nomination package:

- Provide a summary of the history of the nominee.
- Identify national and international awards, decorations, honours, etc.
- What are the nominee's contributions of lasting benefit to Brantford/Brant and how are they being used today?
- What distinguishes the nominee from others in the same field in terms of challenges overcome, special talents, reliability and responsibility shown, respect of peers and consistency of performance?
- Any other facts that you feel are pertinent to your nominee's package.

If you have any questions on developing your nomination package, feel free to contact the Brant Historical Society at 519-752-2483 or [information@brantmuseums.ca](mailto:information@brantmuseums.ca)

## Brant Historical Society Wall of Honour Nomination Form

Name of Nominee:

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Given Names \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address:

*(if available)*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Place and Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place and Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin (if Possible):

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Given Names \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov/State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov/State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Endorsed by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Is the Nominee, or next of kin, aware of the nomination? YES or NO (Circle one).

**Attach to this nomination form and all supporting documents, in accordance with the Nomination Criteria.**

Mail to: Brant Historical Society  
57 Charlotte St.  
Brantford, ON  
N3T 2W6  
Email: [brantmuseum@brantmuseum.ca](mailto:brantmuseum@brantmuseum.ca)

\* All information must be complete in order for the nomination to be accepted by the B.H.S.

Each membership package comes with the following privileges:

- ✓ Advance notification and special invitation to all our Activities and Events, including Children's Camps and PA Days
- ✓ Free Admission to our monthly Speaker Series
- ✓ Free Admission to our Walking Tours (fee applies to all non-members)
- ✓ BHS Newsletter – all that's new and exciting at BHS
- ✓ 10% off all Gift Shop purchases over \$20
- ✓ Access to, and use of, our Research facilities - 5 hours of research time



Packages:

Student (\$20.00)  
(to 24 yrs with school/college/university ID)  
(One voting membership in all Brant Historical Society membership meetings, including the Annual General Meeting, plus all privileges)

Individual (\$25.00)  
(One voting membership in all Brant Historical Society membership meetings, including the Annual General Meeting, plus all privileges)

Couple (\$40.00)  
(Two voting memberships in all Brant Historical Society membership meetings, including the Annual General Meeting, and all privileges for two individuals living at the same address)

Family (\$80.00)  
(Four voting memberships in all Brant Historical Society membership meetings, including the Annual General Meeting, and all privileges for a family living at the same address)

Payment may be made at or sent to:

Brant Historical Society  
57 Charlotte Street  
Brantford, Ontario N3T 2W6

Please provide the names of all individuals per package and indicate if over 18 years of age for voting membership.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 18+   
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 18+   
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 18+   
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 18+   
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 18+

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ PC: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

(Tax receipts will be provided for monetary donations above \$20.00)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Cash  Cheque  
 Credit Card: \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ MC

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_