

CIHC

Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre

CIHC Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre Newsletter

Winter 2010

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Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre (CIHC)

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66 Mohawk: Cockshutt Office Building Update



At Left—The **1903 Cockshutt Office building at 66 Mohawk** at present and on the Right—Terrasan's rendering of the proposed **Museum district** incorporating the Cockshutt building and a new building for the Canadian Military Heritage Museum.

The Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre is working closely with **Terrasan Corporation**, to build an **Industrial Heritage Centre** in the 1903 Cockshutt building in Brantford. Terrasan Corporation is currently in negotiations with the City of Brantford to redevelop the 52 acre brownfield site, which was once home to several significant Brantford industries including **Massey-Harris**, **Verity Plow Company**, **Sternson**, and **Cockshutt Plow Company**. Recognizing the rich industrial history of the site, Terrasan approached the CIHC with the idea of creating a museum district centered on the historical Cockshutt office building at 66 Mohawk St. In Terrasan's plans "the Cockshutt building will provide a visual and actual demonstration of the importance of the built heritage and particularly of the **industrial heritage of Brantford**...this district will become the new home for the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre." The CIHC is excited by the prospect of at last having a permanent home to preserve, interpret and share Canadian industrial history with the public.

Call for Donations: The CIHC Needs Your Help!

The Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre is moving forward towards its goal of creating an Industrial Heritage Centre in Brantford. However, the CIHC needs your help to achieve this goal. If you believe in **preserving and promoting industrial history**, keeping these important stories alive for future generations, please support the CIHC. The CIHC is a registered charitable non-profit organization. Donations over \$10.00 will receive an **income tax receipt**. The CIHC is also looking for **artifacts and historical documents** related to industrial history for its collections. The continued existence of the CIHC and the future creation of an Industrial Heritage Centre in Brantford is dependent on generous individuals like you. Please consider supporting the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre.

www.canadianindustrialheritage.org

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“Brantford: City of Industry” exhibit at Queen’s Park. Pictured left to right: Rob Adlam, Director of the CIHC; Dave Levac, MPP for Brant; and Justin Sharp, previous interim-Executive Director of the CIHC.

Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre Exhibit at Queen’s Park, Toronto

Pieces of Brantford’s industrial history are currently on display at Queen’s Park in Toronto. The exhibit is titled “**Brantford: City of Industry.**” The Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre compiled an exhibit of “**Brantford Made**” artifacts celebrating Brantford’s manufacturing history for the Community Exhibits Program at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The exhibit evokes Brantford’s history as the third largest manufacturer of exported goods in the early twentieth century. By 1911 Brantford had established 125 working industries. Artifacts include goods from **Johnson’s Wax**, **Spalding** baseballs, and items related to the **Cockshutt Plow Company**. The exhibit was mounted at the end of September and will remain on display until March 2010.

“We look forward to working with Dr.

Dearlove as she assists

us in building and developing strong community

relationships while taking the CIHC to the next level.”

-Mike O’Byrne CIHC President

Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre Welcomes New Executive Director Dr. Karen Dearlove

Karen Dearlove recently completed her **PhD in History from McMaster University**. She is very active in local history in her hometown of Cambridge, Ontario and has researched, written and presented papers at national and international academic conferences exploring topics in local history. Karen is a member of the City of **Cambridge Archives Advisory Board**, and with the Archives Board spearheaded the recent “**History on the Grand: Industry and the Environment**” local history symposium held 17 October 2009 at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture in Cambridge. For the past year Karen has worked as a teacher/interpreter at **McDougall Cottage**, a community museum owned and operated by the Region of Waterloo located in Cambridge. At McDougall Cottage Karen has designed several programs, exhibits and activities, including a recent guided walking tour exploring the industrial history and heritage of Galt (Cambridge). Since 2007 Karen has served as a community member on the Steering Committee for the new **Region of Waterloo History Museum** being constructed in Kitchener, Ontario. She is also completing a **Certificate in Museum Studies** through the Ontario Museum Association.



LOCAL NEWS

Heritage group pushes for museum at Cockshutt Building on Mohawk Street.
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The Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre in the News

CIHC Executive Director Karen Dearlove on the left and CIHC Director and Past-President Donna Stewart on the right were the subjects of an interview and article in the **Brantford Expositor** on November 17th, 2009. Karen and Donna spoke about the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre’s future plans to open an industrial heritage centre in the Cockshutt building at 66 Mohawk as part of Terrasan’s redevelopment plans for the brownfield site. Karen was also interviewed by **Rogers Cable 20** for their program **First Local Brant**. The program ran for a week starting on Friday, November 20th, 2009. Karen is looking forward to other opportunities to share the CIHC’s exciting plans with the public.

DVDs For Sale only through the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre



“The Cockshutt Way” contains over 9 hours of promotional films in a 5 DVD collector set produced for Cockshutt Farm Equipment and White Farm Equipment from 1957 to 1981. \$75.00 CDN/\$72.00 US.

Cheques or money orders made payable to:
 Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre
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 Phone: 519-732-1000 info@canadianindustrialheritage.org



“First in the Field” is a 6 hour set of 5 DVDs produced by the Cockshutt Plow Company and the Government of Ontario from 1922 to 1955. \$75.00 CDN/\$72.00 US. Single disk copies of “First in the Field” now available at \$25.00 CDN/\$22.00 US.

Industrial History is Getting Attention

The study of industrial history and heritage is gaining steam in Canada and throughout the world. In Ontario industrial history was the topic of two recent academic conferences. The “**Industrial Strength**” conference was held in Hamilton , Ontario in October 2009. The four day event was organized around the theme “**Preserving Canada’s Industrial Heritage,**” and brought together participants from across the county to discuss sites and topics in Canadian industrial history. The Cockshutt office building at 66 Mohawk Street in Brantford was the topic of a presentation at the conference. “**Industry and the Environment**” was the theme of a one-day local history symposium held in October 2009 in Cambridge, Ontario. With the on-going decline of industry and manufacturing in Canada, and the growing concern with post-industrial brownfield sites, people are increasingly recognizing the value in preserving industrial heritage and the adaptive re-use of industrial sites. The Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre is excited to be on the forefront of preserving and promoting industrial history.

“The past few decades have seen significant advances in the conservation and interpretation of industrial heritage sites.”
 - *Industrial Strength* conference organizers

Join the CIHC Today and be a Part of our Exciting Future!

CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date: _____ Name: _____

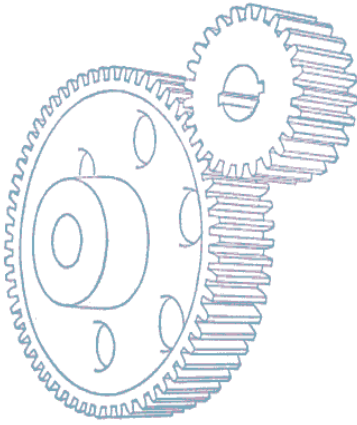
Full Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Membership category:

Student: (\$10) _____ Individual (\$20) _____ Family (\$25) _____

Membership fees may be paid by cash, cheque or money order. Please make cheques or money orders payable to the *Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre*. Our mailing address is: PO Box 23055, Brantford, ON, N3T 6K4. Donations of \$10 or more, above membership fees, are tax deductible. Charitable number #861470623 RR0001



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The CIHC would like to thank everyone for their continued support, including:

LJS & Associates, for providing office space and administrative resources.

Michael-Allan Marion from the *Brantford Expositor* for his story about the CIHC.

Justin Sharp for his work as interim Executive Director of the CIHC.

Spruce Row Museum for exhibiting CIHC Cockshutt artifacts.

All CIHC **members** and **volunteers**.

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Our Vision:

To promote and honour Canadian Industrial Heritage through public education and the preservation of historical data, resources, and artifacts.

We are committed to telling the **Industry** of Canadian industrial heritage!

The Products of Greenwich Mohawk: Sternson Limited, “No Mystery...Just Chemistry”

By Rob Adlam

To celebrate the exploits of the companies that were once located on the **Greenwich Mohawk** brownfield site in Brantford, a six-part series will briefly introduce each of these industries, their products and their lasting impact on Canada and the world market.

Sternson Limited was an example of one man’s entrepreneurial initiative and the success of a family-owned company. In 1896 **George F. Sterne** began experimenting with the manufacture of stove polish and cement to be used in mounting and repairing furnaces. His daytime job was with the **Buck Stoveworks**, so this sideline was done at night out of his home. The business met with success and would eventually grow to include products for domestic hot water and steam boilers.

By 1906 a factory was built on Bruce St., and G.F. Sterne was joined in the business by his sons. During this period of growth and activity, **G.F. Sterne & Sons** were supplying products to a large portion of the stove and furnace manufacturers across Canada. In 1922, the company was incorporated, but still owned by the Sterne family. By 1927, the product line had grown further to include supplies for the building trade such as material to waterproof concrete and surface hardening compounds. Another major specialty was the **Fine Chemical** line which produced flavourings, essences, extracts and food colours.



A larger production facility was needed to meet the demands of the business and in 1967 **Sternson Limited** (the name was changed in 1932) moved into a vacant factory complex at **22 Mohawk St.** that once produced wagons, truck bodies and semi-trailers (to be explored in a future instalment). The business of producing construction products, industrial chemicals and water treatment systems and chemicals continued and in 1979 the Sterne family sold the company to M.T. Bright Holdings Ltd. The facility

closed in 1998 and the factory buildings were torn down. Today it awaits its rebirth as part of the larger brownfield redevelopment planned for the entire site.