



Images of Our Past

The Collingwood Museum's collection of photographs includes many exquisite images from noted early Collingwood photographers including James Asa Castor, A.S. Webb and W.D. Trott. Castor was born in Redfield, Oswego County, New York, which he left at fifteen years of age to work on the Great Lakes. In 1855 he arrived in Collingwood's port and remained to open the settlement's first laundry. Before finding his niche as a photographer, Castor laboured as a fisherman and plasterer. Between 1871 and 1872 Castor was mentored by a local photographer, Mr. Davis, whose business Castor soon purchased, renamed, and ran until 1901.

Albert Sherman Webb arrived in Nottawasaga Township with his family at an early age. Webb married Ida Ann Ough of Duntroon on October 13, 1896, and enjoyed a successful career as a photographer in Collingwood from 1895 to c1920. Many of Webb's images demonstrate his artistic abilities. For unknown reasons, Webb and his wife moved to Toronto where he died on April 14, 1923, at 57 years of age. Albert Sherman Webb is buried in Collingwood.



Many of the images in the Museum's collection feature unknown persons. A fine example is this photograph of three beautiful young women wearing turn of the century clothing by A.S. Webb. They are most likely sisters; however, their identities are unknown. Do you recognize any of these lovely young women? Could they be your ancestors? If you have any information that may help to identify them, please contact the Collingwood Museum at the Station.

Continued on page 4

A. S. Webb Portrait 999.14.141

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Supervisor's Message

As the spring plants begin to bloom, the Collingwood Museum will be seeing growth over the next few weeks. The museum staff roll will be increased from two full time staff members to six. New staff include two education programmers and two collections management assistants. Please look to the July/August issue of On Track to learn more about our summer students.

Many inquiries have been received by staff regarding the Museum's summer adult programs. Once the summer staff has settled into their new routines, we will begin to research historical sites within a three hour radius. A flyer detailing upcoming programs will be mailed to each member, so keep checking your mailboxes and emails.

The unveiling of the Smart's panel in Harbourview Park, at the northern most point of Hickory Street, will take place on June 8, 2011 at 12pm. Please see the listing of upcoming events on page six for additional information.

The opening of our newest exhibit, entitled All Rails Lead to Collingwood, is scheduled for Saturday, June 25, 2011 at 1pm. Please check your mail and/or email for your personal invitation that will detail the afternoon's festivities.

A complete listing of the Collingwood Museum's children's programs will also be mailed to you in the concluding weeks of June. Programs will run Monday to Friday, beginning July 4th and ending August 24th.

Please stop by the Museum to see the summer staff in action and don't forget to peek your head into the main office to say hi. Have a wonderful summer! See you soon.

Susan Warner, Museum Supervisor

Local Trivia Challenge...

The Royal Visit

- The first son of Queen Victoria was _____, the Prince of Wales.
- He visited Collingwood on _____ as part of his royal visit to North America.
- The Prince of Wales laid the cornerstone of the _____ in Bytown (Ottawa). Queen Victoria chose the site.
- _____ was the Mayor of Collingwood at the time of his visit.
- The Prince of Wales toured Collingwood harbour aboard the steamer _____.
- The steamer's captain was _____.
- The ladies of Collingwood raised \$_____ to purchase a flag in honour of the Prince's visit.
- After his return to England, Albert Edward became engaged to _____ of Denmark.
- Edward Albert became King of the United Kingdom after the death of Queen Victoria in _____.
- Edward VII's coronation took place on August 9, 1902 at _____.



The Steamer Rescue
X974.449.1

- Answers
1. Albert Edward
 2. September 10, 1860
 3. Parliament Buildings
 4. John McWatt
 5. Rescue
 6. James Dick
 7. \$130.
 8. Princes Alexandra
 9. 1901
 10. Westminster Abbey

The Royal Visit

The first son of Queen Victoria, Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, was born on November 9, 1841. Prince Albert Edward (later King Edward VII) undertook a four month tour of Upper and Lower Canada, including a stop in Collingwood, and the United States in 1860. The visit came after a lengthy period of negotiations around the idea of a royal visit. Queen Victoria wanted to express her appreciation for the support demonstrated by Canada during the Crimean War, 1854-6, so she sent Albert Edward who was 18 years old. He became the first senior member of the Royal Family to visit North America. He landed in St. John's, Newfoundland on July 23, 1860.

The Prince's visit also honoured the coming union of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, as the new Dominion of Canada. Queen Victoria selected Ottawa as the new nation's capital in 1857. In 1860 Canada only reached as far as the Great Lakes. Beyond that, it was wilderness ruled by the Hudson's Bay Company. Edward toured Canada as far north as Collingwood, Ontario, which he reached by train from Toronto.

His visit to Collingwood came about when in June of 1860, Messrs. Hogg, Hamilton and Prosser were appointed to a special committee to consider the question of inviting His Royal Highness. In August of that year, fifty dollars was granted to Collingwood's mayor to assist in paying his expenses to Quebec to secure the visit. He was successful and the Prince of Wales arrived in Collingwood by rail on September 10, 1860.

The Collingwood Museum is fortunate to have the decorative golden rope and tassels that decorated the Prince's train carriage during the visit. The young Prince was taken on a trip around the harbour aboard the Steamer Rescue, accompanied by the steamers Ploughboy and Canadian which brought hundreds of people from Owen Sound for the occasion. The Prince was escorted to the harbour from the Station by Dr. Stephens and Collingwood's militia, the Collingwood Rifles.

The Town was decked out in its finest which included a flag that was purchased by the ladies of Collingwood for the princely sum of \$130. The Mayor introduced the Prince by his many titles and honours, much to the amusement of the young Prince and his staff. Another member of council did not recognize the young gentleman in a grey tweed suit as the Prince of Wales. Instead, he mistook the Governor General, dressed in a scarlet uniform, for the Prince and proceeded to hold out his hand while turning his back on Prince Albert Edward. One can only imagine his embarrassment when His Excellency declined the handshake and pointed out the councillor's mistake.

Upon his return to England, the Prince became engaged to Princess Alexandra of Denmark. They were married at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, on March 10, 1863. Edward was twenty-one years of age, and Alexandra eighteen. When Queen Victoria died on January 22, 1901, Albert Edward became King of the United Kingdom, Emperor of India and King of the British Dominions. He chose to reign under the name Edward VII, instead of Albert Edward. Edward VII's Coronation was on January 22, 1901. He died on May 6, 1910, at the age of sixty-eight at Buckingham Palace.



Decorative Carriage Tassels
X970.266.1

Could Albert Street have been named to honour Prince Albert's visit to Collingwood? If you have information on Albert Street's namesake please contact the staff at the Collingwood Museum.

Images of Our Past Cont'd



W.D. Trott Portrait 999.14.122

W.D. Trott is another notable photographer from Collingwood's photographic past. The Museum has many of Trott's portraits in its collection. Again many are of unknown subjects, as is the case of the woman pictured here. A note on the back of this portrait reads "Mrs. Bennet was a McFadgen?" Mrs. Bennet's first name is unknown; however, from the handwritten clue, we now know that her maiden name may have been McFadgen. If you are familiar with the histories of either the Bennet or McFadgen family in Collingwood, please visit staff at the Collingwood Museum.

Getting to the bottom of such mysteries is just one of the tasks that is assigned to the Museum's eager volunteers. If you enjoy a challenge and fancy yourself a history detective, you may wish to consider becoming a volunteer at the Collingwood Museum. The Museum offers numerous volunteer opportunities. If your talent lies in photography and writing you may be interested in working on the newsletter. Please call the Collingwood Museum and speak to our staff if you would like more information on becoming a volunteer.

From the Gift Shop

The Museum Gift Shop has a wonderful selection of children's toys and games that require imagination rather than batteries. Do you remember the fun you had as a child playing with pick-up sticks or dominos? How about learning to play the harmonica or kazoo? Now you can share these great memories with the children in your life. The gift shop has toys ranging in price from \$2.95 (\$2.36 for Museum members) for a box of dominos to \$6.45 (\$5.16 for members) for a jaw harp. Please come visit the gift shop. Remember that Museum members receive a 20% discount on all regular priced merchandise.

Conservation Corner... Christening and Wedding Gowns

Continued from March & April, 2011



X2007.182.1

In the last issue of On Track, the methods of cleaning treasured textiles to preserve them for future generations were discussed. After a gown has been cleaned the textile should be properly packed and stored.

Packing for Storage

Most drycleaners offer a special service to clean and store wedding gowns. This service can be requested for other heirloom textiles. The service usually involves a large acid-free box of acid-free cardboard in which the gown is packed with acid-free tissue paper. The initial box is usually placed in a larger protective box. Sometimes there are slits in the box's sides to allow for air circulation. Cherished gowns should be checked annually and then carefully repacked.

You can also pack your own garments at home. Before doing so, check garments carefully in sunlight for soil and stains, even if they have been professionally cleaned. Stains and wrinkles may be impossible to remove at a later date.

To package garments at home, use a large, deep box to avoid excessive fold in the textile. The box and tissue should be acid-free. Please contact the Collingwood

Museum if you wish to obtain information on purchasing acid free boxes or tissue paper. Cardboard boxes should be avoided as they produce damaging acids which weaken fabric over time. Washed and thoroughly rinsed muslin can also be used to line an acid-free box.

To pack a gown, line the box with tissue or muslin. Place the garment in the box so as to limit folds. Place tissue in the bodice and sleeves for shaping. Place tissue over the garment and add the lid, but do not seal. If desired, add slits on to the box's exterior to allow for air circulation. Avoid wrapping the box in plastic unless water damage is possible. Plastic bags give off damaging fumes, trap moisture, and provide an environment for mildew to grow. Do not use moth balls when storing textiles as they are not a repellent and are a suspected carcinogen. Never store a precious textile in a cedar chest as cedar oil is volatile and its vapour provides only limited protection.

Storage

Store your cherished gowns in cool, dry areas, free from drastic temperature changes. Basements, attics or exterior wall closets are unsatisfactory. High attic temperatures cause oxidation of stains, finishes or trims. Basement areas are subject to moisture, mildew and flooding. Exterior closets have less stable temperatures. Select an area with adequate air circulation and away from light sources. Unpack items annually to check monitor changing conditions. This is especially important during the first year. If stains are noticeable they may be removed than leaving them for several years. Repack the gown so folds are in different locations.

If you have any additional questions about preserving heirloom textiles, please contact Museum staff.

Reference: Canadian Conservation Institute. www.cci-icc.gc.ca

BMFA Town and Country Studio Tour at the Collingwood Museum

Every year the artists and artisans in Collingwood and the Georgian Triangle open their doors to the public for the Town and Country Studio Tour. Individual artists exhibit their work in their studios and host other artists to create mini galleries. In addition, community venues offer their spaces to “guest” artists to exhibit and sell their artwork. Every art form imaginable adorn studio walls and spaces including painting, photography, glasswork, pottery, sculpture and jewelry. This year, the Collingwood Museum is delighted to take part in the Town and Country Studio Tour as a venue for artists.

The Town and Country Studio Tour is a signature event of the Blue Mountain Foundation for the Arts (BMFA), held on the first weekend in June each year. Since the first year of the tour in 1987 the Tour has grown and thrived and now draws thousands of visitors from across the region. From a two day affair with about fifteen artists, it has grown to a three day event with over seventy remarkable artists.

Two such artists will be featured at the Collingwood Museum. Laurie Larson creates original stained glass designs that reflect her love of nature. She works in the traditional leaded and copper foil methods, and also does mosaics producing lampshades, windows, panels, garden stepping stones and decorative items. Susan Armstrong is a dedicated painter and beader “inspired by all the beauty around her.” She makes unique beaded jewelry and also paints landscapes in watercolour and oils and experiments with textured acrylic paintings.

The beautifully restored Arts Centre of the BMFA is the place to start the Town and Country Studio Tour, June 3, 4 and 5 between 11am-4pm. From there, we hope you will make your way to the Collingwood Museum, stopping at the wonderful venues and studios along the way including the Collingwood Public Library and The Tremont. For more information contact the BMFA, 163 Hurontario Street at (705)445-3430 or visit www.bmfa.on.ca.

Smart's Panel Unveiling

The Collingwood Museum has recently installed an historical panel along Collingwood's trail system to honour the Smart family of Collingwood. Join Museum staff and advisory committee members for the panel's official unveiling on Wednesday, **June 8 at 12:00pm, in Harbourview Park.**

Come share in Collingwood's rich history and learn about one of our town's most successful businesses. The newly installed panel is located north of the arboretum in Harbourview Park, alongside an original greenhouse boiler from the Smart's farm. The arboretum parking lot is located at the north end of Hickory Street, off First Street.

Please come out to support your local museum.

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	12	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Victoria Day Open Hours 10-3	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 BMFA Studio Tour at the Museum 11-4	4 BMFA Studio Tour at the Museum 11-4
5 BMFA Studio Tour at the Museum 11-4	6	7	8 Smart's Panel Unveiling 12 noon	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Father's Day	20	21	22	23	24	25 Railway Exhibit Opening 1pm
26	27	28	29	30		

The Collingwood Museum

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Written & Created By:

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Edited By:

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Membership News



Interested in receiving a green newsletter?
Send your email address to museum@collingwood.ca and we will add you to our e-newsletter database.

A special thank you from the staff at the Collingwood Museum to our new and returning members. We are pleased to welcome:
Ray Smith, Andreas Schwartz, Greta Horton, Julie DiLorenzo, Dale Sivell, Ken Horton, Mildred McInnis, Judy Ferguson, Fritz Schuller, James Mirrlees, Leslie Long, Reese Dunsford, Diane Westcott, Bertha Connolly, Jennifer Macnaughton, Rochelle Nobert, R. Hollyman, Mary Seymour, Veronica Miller, Rachel May, Heather MacDonald, Elaine Turnbull, Jim Trott, Doug Bell, Trevor Scholtz, Betty Donaher

Hours of Operation

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.: Monday-Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: Sunday

The Collingwood Museum

P.O. Box 556
45 St. Paul Street
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Take a Look Inside

