



Following Canada's entry into the First World War on August 4, 1914, men enlisted at recruitment centres across the Quinte area. For over four long years of battle, 66,000 killed and 172,000 wounded, the war ended on November 11, 1918. This is commemorated at the Remembrance Day ceremonies at cenotaphs across our region and across Canada every November 11. This photo shows the presentation of the colours to the 80th (Infantry) Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force at the Armouries, Belleville, Ontario on April 20, 1916.

*Photo by J. Clarence Waddell
CABHC HC04019*

Went the Day, Badly

Belleville has enjoyed numerous Royal visits during its history, most leaving behind pleasant memories for the majority of her citizens. However, as recently echoed by the events of this past July 20th, not every Important Personage has been uplifted by the politics of our town. Our current Prime Minister cut short his summer visit when confronted by extremely rude and outspoken protestors in the marketplace behind our City Hall ...

On a much, much earlier Thursday – September 6th, 1860 – the Prince of Wales (later to become King Edward VII) declined to disembark from his steamship because it was feared that his presence ashore could be taken amiss: The Duke of Newcastle, who was Secretary of State for the

Colonies, was traveling with the Prince and was strongly of the opinion that His Royal Highness could not afford to receive “any ovation in which the religious or political display of any party is made public.” Of course, the Crown – then as now – must be seen and believed to be scrupulously neutral, showing neither political nor religious favouritism ... an essential fact that the Secretary of State was painfully aware of because it made his already complicated job vastly more difficult.

The Royal Tour of 1860 was full of grand events, and reinforcing that Royal neutrality was essential if progress towards the new country was to succeed smoothly ... Visits to cities in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the opening of the Victoria Bridge in Montreal, the laying of the cornerstone for the new Parliament building in Ottawa ...

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The Mayor issued a Proclamation that the day would be treated as a Holiday. A Special Committee was struck, and both Belleville Town Council and Hastings County Council crafted an Address to represent the citizens' loyalty, and the citizens of Belleville outdid every other locale in Upper Canada for this important occasion – the beauty and grandeur of their decorations were reportedly beyond compare. The wharf where the Prince was supposed to land was adorned with evergreens and banners, and the newly constructed roadway connecting it to a platform out in the street was lined with balsams – and covered with scarlet cloth!

Within Belleville, no less than nine great arches were erected. Coming up Front Street, the first arch was built by Dr. Ridley. At Front & Dundas, William Wallbridge erected another imposing arch, and just before Bridge Street the town constructed a very elaborate arch at public expense. On both sides of this arch, stretching across its entire length were the words "Welcome Albert Edward, Prince of Wales." The next two arches with the mottos "No Surrender" and "Faith" were erected by the Orangemen of Belleville – and these were the most massive and impressive ones in town.

Along the main business streets flagstaffs of thirty to fifty feet high were placed every few feet with Union Jacks, Royal Ensigns, and streamers of red, white and blue flying from their tops. Every house was decked out with evergreens, banners, flags and ornaments. Crowns of flowers, the Prince's Crests, and countless other mottos and devices were to be seen everywhere in town. It must have been a magnificent sight, and all the preparations were completed the day prior ... the Belleville stage was set.

Meanwhile, the Royal party had reached Kingston at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, but instead of landing, they'd anchored offshore. The Duke of Newcastle sent word that the Prince would not land in Kingston unless the Orangemen put away their regalia, rolled up their colours, and took

down their arches. Which the Orangemen of Kingston robustly refused to do. And so the boat remained anchored, before proceeding to Belleville on Wednesday afternoon.

When Bellevillians learned about the Tuesday events in Kingston, they hastily concealed all Orange emblems and flags, fearing that the same rejection could occur here ... excitement ran high, the telegraph office stayed open late, and the wires were humming. When the ship arrived at about 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, everyone was surprised – it wasn't due until Thursday. And it didn't dock at the wharf ... it anchored in the harbour, about 100 yards off the wharf.

Civilian spirits were high, so bonfires were lit, bells rang out, and windows were brightly lighted. No Orange emblems or flags were to be seen ...

On Thursday morning the steamer *Bay of Quinte* arrived, bringing a number of demonstrators from Kingston. Their coming influenced Belleville's Orangemen to carry out their original plans of participating in the celebrations, clad in their full regalia with flags flying, and bands playing.

When their revised intentions became known to the Mayor, he immediately organized a deputation to visit with Sir Edmund Walker Head, the Governor General of British North America at the time, who was traveling aboard the Prince of Wales' vessel. They were received, the current state of affairs ashore was explained to them, and asked if the Address that had been prepared would be received by the Prince ...

It would not. Given the state of affairs, His Excellency decided that would not be possible. The Duke of Newcastle concurred that the Prince should not land in Belleville while the Orangemen displayed their colours ... and the ship's captain was duly instructed to raise a head of steam. A last-ditch attempt at conciliation was made by the Hon. Edmund Murney, a highly respected Bellevillian who was also the clerk of the peace of Victoria District. However, negotiations between himself and the Orangemen were still underway

when the Prince's ship sailed from the harbour, heading to Cobourg.

According to local papers, a general feeling of indignation against the Governor General for "leaving with such indecent haste" was manifest amongst the people. "The Prince to whom they wished to do honour – for whom they had songs of welcome, and hearty, loyal British cheers – for whom they had decorated their houses and their streets – whom they were waiting to receive with all the gladness, all the heartiness, all the enthusiasm that could be conceived of, had anchored in their harbour... but was prevented from landing by his advisors.

Thousands of disappointed people remained at Belleville, including 1,500 town and country school children..." Disappointed as they were, Bellevillians tried to make the best of the situation. Many of the planned events, such as the procession of ladies and gentlemen, took place and were well received as they presented a fine appearance.

In the afternoon, the leading Belleville Orangemen conferred, and in an effort to make the best of the situation they decided to stage their procession up Front St., to Pinnacle, and then to the Dafoe House (Hotel Quinte) where

they were addressed by Thomas Wills, Esq., the County Master, who stated that "all regretted, deeply regretted, that the Prince, through ill-advisors, did not land... but that he, Thomas Wills, was glad that the Orangemen had maintained their rights."

He also alluded to the Orangemen's attachment to their Sovereign, which no one could question in the honesty, integrity, and purity of motive. The crowd then gave three lusty cheers for the Queen and the Prince of Wales – and three groans for the Duke of Newcastle. The Orangemen band from Kingston then played "God Save the Queen."

During the evening there was a fireworks display, and additional varied processions. The newspaper reporter concluded that while the town was crowded, "there was no accident, no fighting to mar the festivities of the day ... except the picking of a few pockets, and the overall gloom which marked the day as an important one in our history."

Source: Belleville The Good Old Days by Nick and Helma Mika

Prepared by Malcolm Elston



By Historical Figures

**MACKENZIE BOWELL
BILLA FLINT
SAMUEL SHAW LAZIER
CHARLOTTE SILLS**

FREE PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Voices from the Past
We invite you to hear from some of Hastings County's most famous deceased residents. Find out about their impact on our region and the wider world.



Tuesday,
November 21, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Maranatha Church Auditorium
100 College Street West, Belleville
Enter by main front doors

A Selection of Stories: Public Presentation

by Amanda Hill

October's Historical Society event offered a fascinating glimpse into the research work of



Speakers Jim Kennelly, Connie Carson and Gary Nicoll

Photo by Doug Knutson

three of the Society's Board members.

Jim Kennelly was up first, exploring a brutal attack in the village of Lonsdale in 1872. Until 1874, there were no secret ballots in Canada, meaning that voting was carried out in public: intimidation, drunkenness and violence relating to polling was rife.

On the evening of Election Day in Hastings East, on August 15th, 1872, a man called John Winters was the victim of an ambush. Dominick Tighe and James Smith were waiting for him when he arrived back in Lonsdale from a polling station in the north of Tyendinaga Township. He was shot by the two men outside Nash's Hotel; he and his team of horses were then battered with stones by his attackers. John Winters died of his injuries the next day. It is thought that Tighe and Smith fled to the United States, because they were never arrested and no-one was ever convicted of the crime.

From Lonsdale in the 1870s, we travelled west to Belleville's Front and Bridge Streets, where Connie Carson took us on a virtual tour of some

of the fine buildings along these streets in the Downtown core. Clever overlays of historic photographs from the Community Archives showed the buildings as they are today, with a glimpse of their former uses. Connie has been working on recording the various owners of the oldest buildings on these roads.

We stayed in Belleville for the last presentation of the event, when Gary Nicoll investigated the history of the city's first Curling Club, which was established in the winter of 1867-1868 and ran until the Depression of the early 1930s. Back then, curling was a seasonal sport, only feasible in the very coldest months of the year. Games were generally held in daylight hours, meaning that players tended to be from the wealthier classes of society (and male!). People brought their own stones (which were not of a standard size) and regular household brooms. The Fire Department's fire truck would be used to flood the rink, once the weather was cold enough. There was a single sheet of ice, which would often be of very poor quality.

The Belleville Curling Club had six different rinks in the course of its 66 years of existence. Gary has been using the digitized Belleville newspapers to try to establish the exact locations of these facilities. The building in the lower right corner of the photograph shown here was the site of the rink in the early 1900s, before it was removed so that the Armouries building could be



CABHC HC 03081 0003

constructed.

The current Quinte Curling Club was established in 1957 after a break of more than 20 years and soon it will surpass its predecessor for the length of time it has been running.



Belleville Potteries: Hart Brothers and Lazier

Part 1

by Gary Nicoll

Probably more residents of Belleville and Hastings County own a piece of pottery from either the Belleville Pottery Company or its predecessor, the Hart Brothers and Lazier Pottery than any other item of Belleville's antiquity.

Hart Brothers and Lazier was a successor to a "Hart" family pottery that had operated in Picton/Hallowell since 1848; the owner/operator being William Hart. From the start there was an investment by his brother Samuel Hart who owned and operated a large stoneware pottery in Fulton, Oswego County, New York and by Samuel Skinner, a nephew who operated the pottery from 1857 to 1867 under his name with Samuel Hart as his silent partner, who by then held a two-thirds interest in the business, having bought William's one-third interest.



During the years that Samuel Skinner ran the pottery, George I Lazier was hired as a potter. For a period of time in the 1860s, George worked in the Hart pottery and Fulton, New York State, meeting and courting Alcena Hart, one of the daughters of Samuel Hart. George and Alcena

married in 1867 and moved back to Picton. Samuel Hart bought out the final one-third

ownership in the Picton pottery from Samuel Skinner who seems to have retired. As a wedding gift, Samuel Hart gave some share of the ownership of the Picton Pottery to his daughter Alcena. George became the manager, and the pottery operated under his name as G. I. Lazier Pottery. In 1874, Samuel transferred the rest of the ownership to his daughter, making her sole proprietor. George continued as chief potter and manager from 1867 to 1887 when he died at the age of 51. He was never the owner. His wife, Alcena (Hart) Lazier, was the company's owner.

The year 1879 brought another change in ownership. Charles A. Hart, living in Belleville and his brother Edwin E. Hart, living in Fulton, New York, were brought into the business. Together with their sister Alcena M. Lazier, they formed a new company called Hart Brothers and Lazier (then adding to the name: "Bay of Quinte Works" to promote their new operation in Belleville). It was located at 107 Mill Street (later Station Street) at the corner of Brown Street. Charles worked in the new Belleville company; George operated the Picton pottery and Edwin worked in the Hart Pottery and other family businesses in New York State.

Hart Brothers and Lazier Pottery always aspired to produce a wide variety of superior quality stoneware, yellowware and Rockingham ware pottery. To this end, they used imported clay from New Jersey as did many of the other larger more successful Ontario potteries. In an ad from a promotional brochure called *Picturesque City of Belleville* from 1898 are listed the wide variety of products sold by Hart Brothers and Lazier. See page 6.

After George Hart died in 1887, the Picton plant which he had managed was closed, and all the potters and equipment were moved to Belleville. Alcena sold their home in Hallowell and moved to Belleville. For the rest of their lives, Alcena and her brother Charles lived together in various homes on the East Hill. At first, Alcena Lazier children also lived in these homes.

The Hart Brothers and Lazier pottery continued operation until 1901, when Charles bought out the interest in the business of his brother Edwin who no longer worked in the pottery business and the shares held by his sister Alcena Lazier and changed the name of the company to the Belleville Pottery Company. It was very unusual in those times for Alcena to be the sole proprietor of a manufacturer like G. Lazier Pottery, then the joint owner of the Hart Brothers and Lazier Pottery. She had ownership for some 37 years, retiring from active involvement at the age of 56.

In the next issue, we will follow the story of this pottery from its rebranding under the sole ownership of Charles Addison Hart in 1901 to its sale in 1925 and then eventual closing in 1939-40.



The Times They Are A-Changin'

by Richard Hughes

These words were written by Bob Dylan in 1964, commenting on the times and the need for societal change, but they are also an interesting analogy when you consider the 180-degree shift in attitudes to liquor in the early part of the 21st century from the earlier years of the 20th century.

By the early 1900s, liquor was considered to be a major problem for society causing social and economic problems across the country. Families were torn apart, workplaces were disrupted and there were major health problems. Then came the First World War and all aspects of the problem intensified. In 1916, the Ontario government passed the Ontario Temperance Act, prohibiting the sale of liquors in Ontario. However, it was not that easy to turn off the taps as it was still possible to have liquor at home and to bring it in from outside Ontario.

Liquor inspectors were appointed and police forces focused on the enforcement of the Act. Through late 1916 and into 1917, the local newspapers were filled, cover to cover, first with war news and, second, with liquor violation news, primarily public drunkenness, stressing the immorality of booze. This led to some interesting cases for the courts. In one matter, in Picton, the owner of a hotel was found drunk in his own hotel...but that was a public place and a violation. He was fined \$10. He ultimately confessed that a friend had brought the liquor to the hotel and that person was located and fined \$200. That would be \$4,000 in 2023.

In Belleville, a restaurant owner was found with whiskey in his apartment and was charged. He offered the police officer a bribe and then faced two charges. He was jailed and released on \$500 bail, awaiting trial. In Kingston, the police chief reported that the force had been very busy seizing liquor and had poured thousands of gallons down the sewers. The newspaper commented that this was wasteful and the liquor could be donated to hospitals and institutions "that have to buy stimulants for patients." It should be noted that liquor was available with a doctor's prescription, and in 1920 no less than 650,000 such prescriptions were issued. This loophole was later blocked.

In January 1918 two enterprising Trenton men traveled to Hull, Quebec and returned with "four large grips which apparently contained something of considerable weight." They

detained in Belleville at the Canadian Northern station (South Church Street) and carried their "luggage" to Dundas Street where one of the men went in search of a conveyance. However, the liquor license officers had been following them and at that site they located 50 bottles of whiskey in the grips. The one man who remained with the liquor was charged and fined \$200 or three months in jail. License inspector Richard Arnott was instructed by the magistrate to "dispose of it as he thought best."

Did the prohibition actions have positive effect? In February 1917, Belleville Police Chief Newton reported that there had been 117 fewer cases brought before the courts, including 93 fewer

cases of drunkenness. He commented, "This, I think, must be gratifying to those who have worked so hard for temperance and moral reform."

But this was far from the end as the Ontario Temperance Act was extended in 1918 to prohibit bringing liquor from other provinces, and remained in effect until it was repealed in 1927. Liquor laws and attitudes have certainly shifted 180 degrees over the past 100 years.

Sources: Weekly Ontario and Daily Intelligencer newspapers



It's Membership Time, Again!

One of the great strengths of your Historical Society, and one that keeps us working for our community is the support of our membership. We are very proud that we have one of the most active and successful historical societies in Ontario and this is largely due to the support, both financial and moral of our roughly 300 members.

There are several benefits to being a member of the Historical Society – a tangible one is the 8-page newsletter, *Outlook*, with its local historical stories, reports on activities and coming events. Issued nine times a year in either paper or electronic form, as members prefer. The membership fee, which we have kept low for several years, assists us in bringing programs to you and to the whole community. As an example, our free Public Presentations at Maranatha, which have been very successful in bringing some great speakers to our community, cost more than \$2,000 annually.

As the new year approaches, we invite you to consider renewing or taking out a new 2024 membership. It is quick and easy – just go to the Society's website hastingshistory.ca and in the upper right corner of the homepage, click on "membership" and fill out the form.

Alternatively, the tried-and-true method of sending the form with a cheque to the Hastings County Historical Society, 254 Pinnacle Street, Belleville, ON, K8N 3B1. Also, it can be done by e-transfer addressed to treasurer@hastingshistory.ca

Your team of volunteer Directors and helpers are looking forward to a very active and interesting year in 2024 and we would love to have you with us through a membership. hastingshistory.ca/membership/

Celebrating Our Volunteers

by Amanda Hill

On October 4th, the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards ceremony was held in Belleville. This was the first in-person event since 2019. Three Historical Society and Community Archives volunteers were honoured on this occasion. Historical Society Board members Stanley Jones and Dan Atkinson were acknowledged with five-year Volunteer Service Awards, while Adele Dibben was honoured with a 30-year pin. Dan was unable to attend the ceremony. Adele has been involved with the Society since 1992. She is currently volunteering at the Community Archives, helping to improve descriptions of our photographic materials with her extensive knowledge of Hastings County people and places.

Photos by Amanda Hill



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