



The CABHC Patch

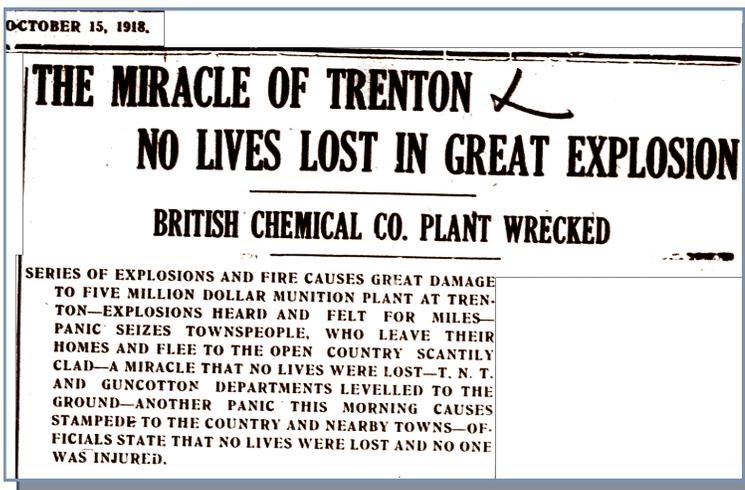
News from the Community Archives

October 2018

Local casualties of the First World War

One hundred years ago this month, an industrial accident led to fires and a series of explosions at the British Chemical Company's munitions plant in Trenton. Much of the manufacturing site was destroyed in the incident and across the town, windows were destroyed by the blasts and people fled their homes, afraid that a bigger explosion might cause the deaths and injuries that had been seen in Halifax, Nova Scotia, just ten months earlier.

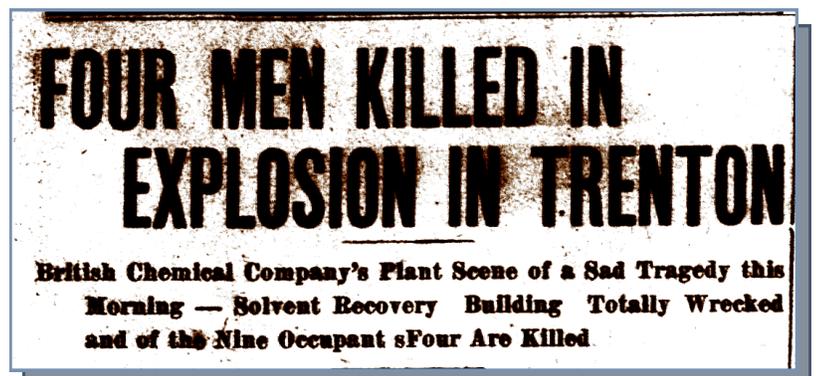
The Trenton Explosion happened on Monday October 14th, the Thanksgiving holiday. *The Daily Intelligencer* newspaper of the following day marvelled over the fact that no lives were lost.



CABHC: *Daily Intelligencer*, 15 October 1918

Ontario, while Francois Xavier Mantha (30) and Leonard Norris (27) were from Quebec. A further explosion on January 20th, 1918 claimed the life of Joseph Georges Leroux (29), who had also travelled to Trenton from Quebec to work in the munitions plant.

There had been previous incidents at the plant where events had not played out so fortuitously. On November 30th, 1917, just five days before the Halifax Explosion, five young men were killed in Trenton by an explosion in the solvent recovery department. Three of the men: Philip MacDonnell (17), James Bernard Smith (18), and Edwin Noonan (19), were close friends from Perth,



CABHC: *Daily Ontario*, 30 November 1917

Recent Additions to the Archives

2018-105 Bridge plaque for Bells Creek Bridge, 1919

2018-107 Stanley Watkins papers and slides, 1960-1963

2018-108 Account books of John McKeown, Belleville shoe seller, 1878-1917

2018-109 Operations and maintenance manual for the Federal Building, Station St., Belleville, 1957-1959

2018-110 Canadian Red Cross, Belleville & District/Quinte branch materials, 1914-1993

2018-111 Page from 'Picturesque Canada' showing Church Street, Belleville, 1882

2018-112 Digital copy of photograph of the Canniff/Foster home and Foster family members on Dundas Street in Belleville, 1909

2018-113 Letter from Capital City Chapter Masonic Lodge to William Nisbet Ponton, 1919

2018-114 Thomas Wagar collection, 1877-1962

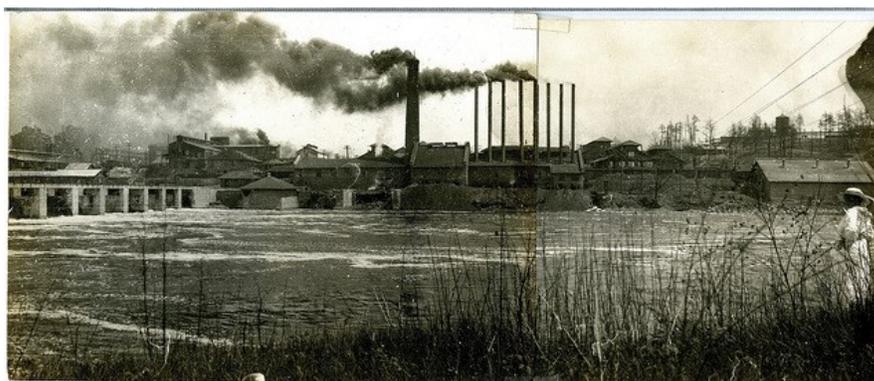
2018-115 Maps of Belleville, 1868-1961

2018-116 Belleville Senators inaugural season items, 2017-2018

2018-117 Digital photos of the first day at Eastside Secondary School, 2018

What's in the Display Case?

October marks the 100th anniversary of the explosion of the British Chemical Company plant in Trenton. This month we take a look at the impact of this event and other explosions on people in our community.



CABHC: HC002695 British Chemical Company plant on the Trent river in Trenton, 1918

A walk around Deseronto

On September 27th, members of the Greater Napanee & District Chamber of Commerce were hosted by the newly-formed Deseronto Business Association on a historical walking tour of the waterfront in Deseronto, led by archivist Amanda Hill.



Participants in a walking tour of Deseronto's former industrial sites