

Oshawa Community Museum
presents

Reflections of Oshawa:
Remembering 90 Years as a City
On display from Sept. 26, 2014 - April 2015



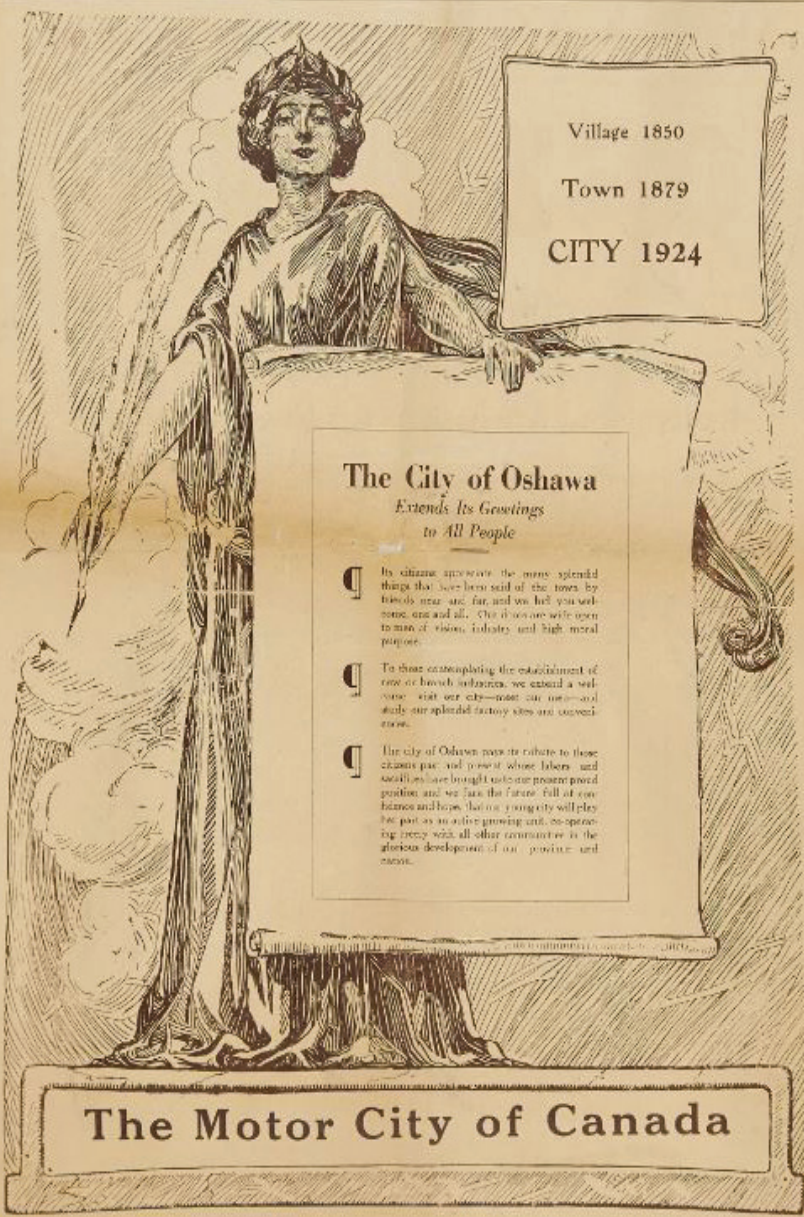
1920 • 1930 • 1940 • 1950 • 1960 • 1970 • 1980 • 1990 • 2000

EXHIBIT FUNDERS & PARTNERS



Cover photo: Clara & Yvonne Vaillancourt and Rita Skinner. Standing on the Ocean Wave at Oshawa Beach, Circa 1940s

Photo Courtesy: *Clara Lucier, Reflections Participant*



Village 1850
Town 1879
CITY 1924

The City of Oshawa *Extends Its Goodwill to All People*

Its climate and view, the more splendid things that have been said of the town by friends near and far, and we feel you welcome, one and all. Our doors are wide open to men of vision, industry and high moral purpose.

To those contemplating the establishment of one of these industries, we extend a welcome, visit our city—note our homes—and study our splendid factory sites and convenient roads.

The city of Oshawa never ceases to strive to these classes pay, and those whose talents and abilities have brought us to our present proud position, and we face the future full of confidence and hope. But our young city will play her part as an active growing unit, co-operating freely with all other communities in the glorious development of our province and nation.

The Motor City of Canada

Oshawa Telegram, Front Page March 8, 1924



As a young person growing up in Oshawa, I recall my mom and dad gathering me and my brothers to take us to the Community Fair in Alexandra Park. The Community Fair had food every child would want and I was really fascinated with all the animals there. It was quality time well spent with my family.

- Mayor John Henry



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF OSHAWA
50 CENTRE STREET SOUTH
OSHAWA, ONTARIO
L1H 3Z7
TELEPHONE (905) 436-5674
FAX (905) 436-3884
E-MAIL: mayor@oshawa.ca

September 2014

**Message from
Mayor John Henry**

On behalf of Members of Council and the residents of Oshawa, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate and thank Oshawa Community Museum and Oshawa Senior Citizens Centre for their partnership in creating the “*Reflections of Oshawa: Remembering 90 Years as a City*” exhibition.

This exhibit reveals the community’s recollection of Oshawa through its collection of artifacts and story submissions. It is a celebration of community, and a multi-generational collaboration that allows us a unique opportunity to understand how our city developed, and celebrate the 90th Anniversary of Oshawa becoming a City.

Oshawa Community Museum operates to preserve and present the history of the City of Oshawa. It continues to maintain and update a collection of artifacts which date back to our first native settlements; and provides high quality educational programs that help our community understand and appreciate our City’s heritage.

I am confident you will enjoy this new exhibition and leave having more of an understanding of what it was like for our community over the last 90 years; and how Oshawa became the leading City it is today.

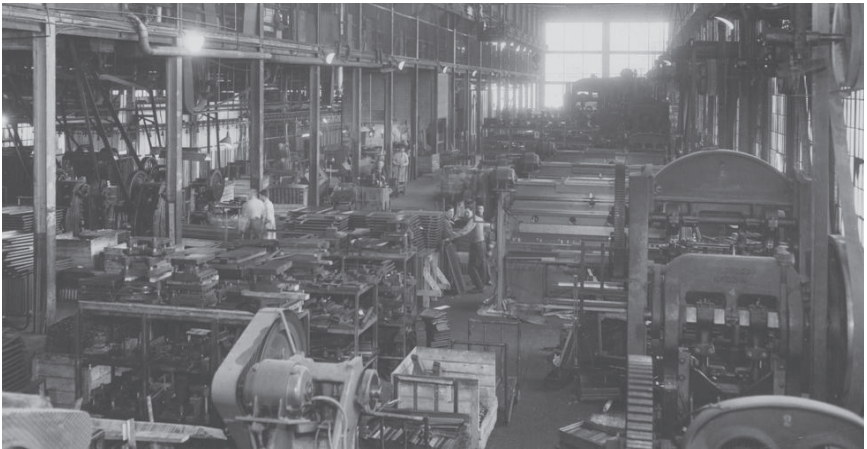
Yours truly,

John Henry
Mayor

Reflections of Oshawa

by Merle Cole, President Oshawa Historical Society

“I grew up in Oshawa and even though I moved away for a period of time for my education and other than that worked briefly in Toronto, I came back. Oshawa has been my home and been an area that I really have a lot of deep feelings for it. So I guess, I want to go back to the beginning, where my memories begin. I grew up, not in South Oshawa, not in North Oshawa, but I used to like to say between the tracks. People used to say that south of the tracks was one kind of culture and north of the tracks was another and yeah, a lot of truth to that. It’s been in a lot of cities and in Oshawa as well. South Oshawa has been looked as being not as good, and so on. I was fortunate because where I grew up was actually literally between the tracks: north of the 401 that is now and right on the main street which is Simcoe. Right across the street from Pedlars which was a major industry and I went to sleep at night listening to the stamping of the presses....boom boom boom.”



1920 • 1930 • 1940 • 1950 • 1960 • 1970 • 1980 • 1990 • 2000

CURATOR'S REMARKS

by *Melissa Cole*, Curator

The day was March 8, 1924 when Oshawa was officially declared a City in Ontario. We've been the Manchester of Canada, the City that Motivates, and we always strive to Amaze! Oshawa is a community with much to be proud of, and ***Reflections of Oshawa: Remembering 90 Years as a City*** celebrates this! A community based exhibit, ***Reflections of Oshawa*** tells the story of our city through the eyes of those who call Oshawa home.

This is the first community sourced exhibition the Oshawa Community Museum has created. The purpose of ***Reflections of Oshawa*** was to connect the Oshawa Community Museum Youth (O-MY) with senior citizens in Oshawa. Through workshops and interviews, seniors were invited to share their memories, mementoes and reminiscences of life in Oshawa. The museum youth volunteers worked along side seniors to gather content through interviews, transcriptions, videos, blog posts etc. which has been used in this exhibit to highlight the last 90 years of Oshawa's history.

This project has allowed for seniors and youth to come together, share experiences and produce content they are proud of and will have a lasting impact on their community.

Now let me take you through time, decade by decade and explore the history of many industries, businesses, places and people that have helped shape the city we know and love. Let's remember our city's past.



Reflections of Oshawa

Contributors

*Linda Bazowsky
Roger Bouma
Darlene Costante
Maurice Chartrand
Merle Cole
Charlie Evans
Janet Ferguson
John Henry
Carol Hewitt (nee Jamieson)
Terry Kelly
Carolyn Logan
Clara Lucier
Maddock Family
Ron Meade
Sandra Spencer
Laura Suchan
Ann Thurn
Harold Whitbread*



Reflections of Oshawa

Youth OMY

*Shalaila Bhalla
Brian Campbell
Michael Campbell
Michelle Couperthwaite
Elizabeth Fuher
Emily Fuher
Ksenia Gayvoronskaya
Wendy Jing
Clare Kennedy
Brandon Martin
Hope Matson-Kwong
Jacobo Matta
Cayda Rubin
Hannah Trainor
Kayley Whalen*



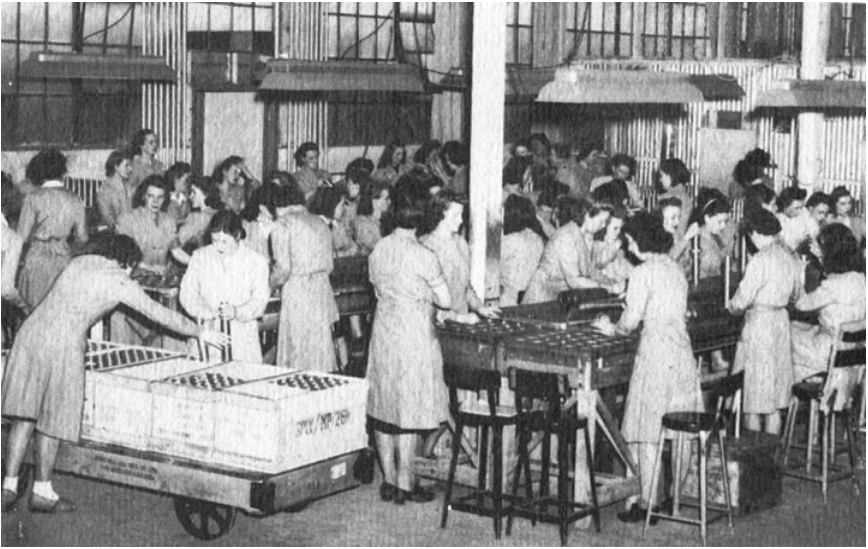


“I attended Oshawa Central Collegiate. Sometimes, I walked to the downtown and waited for the bus to the lake. At one time, the bus stop was in front of Burns Shoe Store and the streets were two-way. I had ample time to look at the latest fashions in the window and once I was employed, I shopped here regularly. Other shoe stores were Agnes Surpass, Bata, Davidson’s, Dancey’s and Colette’s.

Linda Bazowsky

One year, the YWCA opened two rooms downstairs for OCCI students at lunch hour. It was called the “The Purple Pit”. The rooms were dark and had blacklights that made our white clothing look purplish. Perhaps that was the reason for the name. I think the “Purple Pit” was only available for a short time - possibly too much misbehaving or students arriving late for class. I don’t recall adult supervision. The lunch hour was spent listening to music, socializing, smoking and dancing. I think it opened around the same time as “Youth Week” which was held at the Oshawa Shopping Centre.”

1920 • 1930 • 1940 • 1950 • 1960 • 1970 • 1980 • 1990 • 2000



“I worked at Pedlar as a Bomb Girl. I was only seventeen. So, I had to work in the same room as my mother. This involved taking an instrument and cleaning out the burrs from the brass shells. The brass would get in the instep of my feet and itched terribly at the time for several years later. After Pedlar I worked at General Motors on the Spitfires.”

Clara Lucier

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Charlie Evans

“I came to Oshawa after the war and I worked on quite a few crummy jobs here and I finally got into General Motors as an electrician, and I had one of the best jobs in the place. I had my own truck, and I could go in and out as a special car. All the people had to go in one particular gate and out another one, but I had a truck that had a cherry picker on it and I used to have to climb the poles with spurs. I got a picture of me up on a pole on Stevensons Road which used to be a gravel road on the edge of town when I started working for General Motors and the reason they hired me is because I was the only electrician that could climb poles.”



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Carolyn Logan

“City Pure Ice Company Ltd. was built around 1963,

it was owned and operated by my father John Davis Logan and wife Viola from the early 1960s to the 1970s. Basically, it catered to the food business in the area such as conventions, banquets, food trucks, and individual use.”

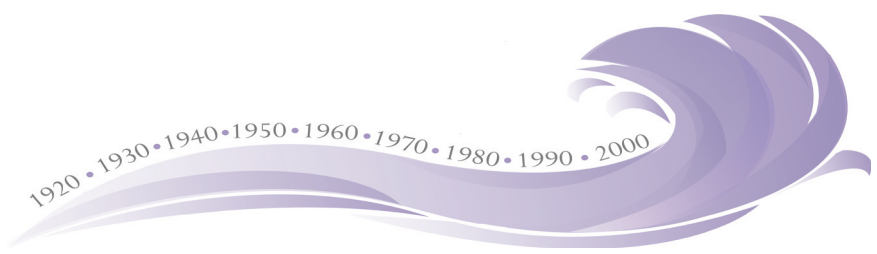


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“I’ve been a Rolling Stones fan since I was a young child. Some of my earliest memories involve listening, and singing along, to Stones’ songs on the radio. So the announcement that Keith Richards would be playing a show in Oshawa was big news and although I was barely 14, I was determined to attend the concert. Of course my mother, hearing the reports of the Stones’ misdeeds while in Toronto, decided a concert by the infamous lead guitarist was not a place for her young daughter. I argued, “But it’s practically in my backyard and everyone else is going.” Nothing would sway my mother. Still I was a teenager and refused to accept this decision without a fight. Soon I began to see a glimmer of hope. My parents were scheduled to take a long overdue vacation to Barbados and myself and younger siblings were to spend the week at my grandparents’ home, not too far from the Civic Auditorium. *This was perfect,* I thought, for my grandmother wouldn’t know anything about the history of the Stones. She would be only too happy to indulge my desire to see my favourite band and I was confident she would put no obstacles in my way. However my mother, as mothers tend to do, had other plans. As she and my father were preparing to leave for the airport, my mother stopped at the door and said the words I remember to this day, “Oh by the way, she is not to go to that Rolling Stones concert.” I was deflated but it would have been worse had I known it would be another 10 (long) years before I finally got to see the Stones in concert.”

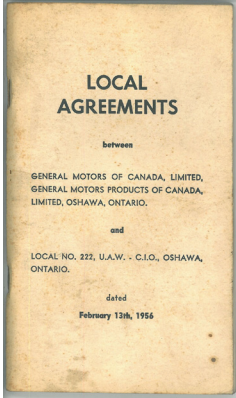


Laura Suchan



“Almost 60 years ago, my Dad Paul, a skilled trades welder working hard at General Motors here in Oshawa, just like thousands of other men and women, made history back in the fall of 1955. Starting in September and lasting approximately five and half months, these men and women along with their families endured a long and bitter labour strike.

Maurice Chartrand

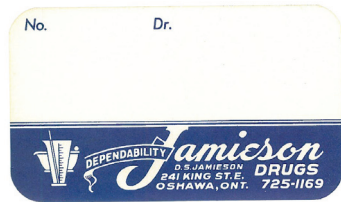
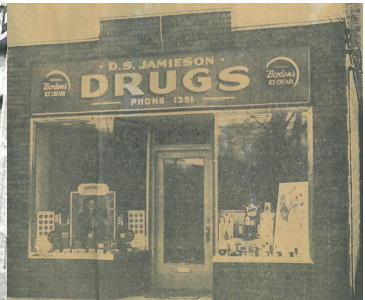


The strike was between the UAW Local 222 vs. the mighty General Motors Corporation. The winter of 55-56 was very cold indeed. Our Local UAW 222, would along with the regular picket duty strike pay, issue vouchers to its striking brothers and sisters for such necessities, as home heating just to keep some oil in your oil tank for your oil furnace so that you wouldn't freeze to death. I recall a family story whereby my Dad's brother, living in Sudbury, mailed us a large turkey in December of 1955 for our Christmas dinner. This UAW Local 222 contract booklet, dated February 1956 was one of many that made up the new collective agreement the company General Motors and our powerful Union.”



Carol L. Hewitt “The opening of my father’s business, Jamieson Drugs, on November 6, 1947. It was located at 241 King Street East. He had been employed by Jury and Lovell for 20 years prior to opening his own drug store.”

The Daily Times - Gazette, November 6, 1947 states;
The interior of the store is attractively finished with turquoise walls, blonde maple fixtures and open dispensary. Mr. Jamieson plans to handle all nationally advertised lines of drugs and toiletries as well as such extras as ice cream and magazines. This new drug store is the latest addition to the developing Ritson Road-King Street business district. It is located on the south side of King Street just west of Sheather’s Hardware store.



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Dr. S.J. Phillips school was constructed in the same year that Oshawa became a city. The original three storey brick building, then known as North Simcoe Public School, opened with a staff of 8 teachers and 400 students.



Ann Thurn “I grew up on Grierson Street in Oshawa, just south of Rossland Road. I went to North Simcoe Public School which later became, Dr. S.J. Philips. One of my teachers was Ms. Green. I would walk to school cause we lived close. I remember North Simcoe always having a skating rink and we would go skating up there plus I had a skating rink in our backyard.”

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RESOURCES & ADDITIONAL READING

Davis, Stephen. *Old Dogs Almost Dead: The 40-Year Odyssey of the Rolling Stones*. New York, 2001.

Hood, McIntyre. *Oshawa - Canada's Motor City*. McLaughlin Public Library Board, 1967.

Oshawa Archives. Oshawa History Subject Files.

Oshawa Public Libraries, Photograph Collection, Oshawa Railway.

Oshawa Times Gazette & Oshawa Times. Various articles dating from 1924 -1980.

Thomas Bouckley Collection, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery.

Interview. Linda Bazowsky, July 15, 2014.

Interview. Merle Cole, August 5, 2014

Interview. Charlie Evans, July 14, 2104

Interview. Janet Ferguson, July 11, 2014

Interview. Clara Lucier, June 17, 2014

Interview. Ann Thurn, September 3, 2014

Photo Acknowledgments:

Cover Ocean Wave, Clara Lucier

Page 4 Pedlars "Metal Built" Products in Wartime", Oshawa Archives

Page 6 & 7 Oshawa Community Museum

Page 8 Linda Bazowsky

Page 9 Pedlars "Metal Built" Products in Wartime, Oshawa Archives

Page 10 Oshawa Community Museum

Page 11 Carolyn Logan

Page 13 Maurice Chartrand; Oshawa Archives

Page 14 Carol L. Hewitt (nee Jamieson)

Page 15 Heritage Oshawa

FUTURE EXHIBITIONS

Open September 19 - Dec. 19, 2014

Lace Up: Canada's Passion for Skating

** Travelling Exhibition from the Canadian Museum of History*



May 2015

Mourning After: The Victorian Celebration of Death



May 2016

Freemasonry: A History
Hidden in Plain Sight

** Travelling Exhibition from the
Bruce County Museum & Archives*

MUSEUM ETIQUETTE & REMINDERS

- Oshawa Community Museum is a smoke-free building - smoking must be 9 metres away from the building.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the buildings. Bottled water with a lid is permitted.
- Oshawa Community Museum recycles its exhibition booklets - kindly place them in the wooden box at the exit doors, NOT on the floor or elsewhere in the museum.
- Please help us preserve our artifacts for future generations to enjoy by not touching any object, painting or artifact. Although if you see a little GREEN HAND that means you CAN touch that artifact!

Thank you for your co-operation!



1450 Simcoe Street South, Oshawa, ON Lakeview Park
PH: 905.436.7624
www.oshawamuseum.org | info@oshawamuseum.org

