

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is in the air and things are stirring! My message for this issue is a mix of sadness and excitement for the things to come.

As our members and friends may know by now, we lost a good friend and guiding force for our group. Sid Holodnick led so many aspects of the development of the Port Hope Area Historical Society. He was our compass, our construction manager, architect, ambassador, and all around "go-to" guy for every aspect of society activities. We are struggling to make sure we can find folks to fill the vast numbers of shoes that Sid wore.

But we all have resolved to move forward in a way that Sid would want. And in that light, we have accomplished so very much in the months past.

A major happening is the development of the historical story of Air-Port-Hope. Vic and Audry Ingram developed the runway at the village edge in the 1960's, and many community activities were held there. Their son, Sam has acquired the experimental aircraft that Vic built and has brought it from Florida to its home in Port Hope. It is now a part of our historical society and will be proudly displayed in the museum. See more of the story in the attached article.

Our 4th of July committee has been working to plan for the upcoming event on museum grounds. There have been some significant additions, also included in an attached article.

Our membership continues to grow, and financial contributions have been coming in, Thank you to everyone for your support.

Jim Hunter, Society President

SID GAVE US THE MISSION AND THE PURPOSE. REST IN PEACE DEAR FRIEND.

Mission Statement

To collect, preserve, and display history of the Port Hope area.

Purpose

Provide a historical Center available to the public for education and research to benefit present and future generations

In Memory of

Sid Holodnick

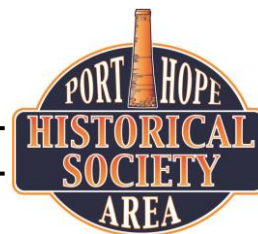
1948 – 2023

THE LUMBERYARD IS A MUST-SEE DURING THE 4TH OF JULY PORT HOPE CELEBRATION

As the 4th of July weekend is fast approaching. There has been an enormous amount of work and preparation going on at the lumberyard, the home of the Port Hope Area Historical Society. You will like what you see! The following pages show only a sampling of the results of countless volunteer hours and the generous donations, which make it all possible. On page two and three of this newsletter is an overview of two airports in the Port Hope and Harbor Beach area, long gone, but both active 60 years ago. (And as a special attraction, how about seeing one of the original airplanes from the "Air-Port-Hope" on display in our building?) It along with more Port Hope aviation history and stories will all be displayed and a part of our permanent collection. Page four thru seven is a sampling of the progress made and the preparation needed to make this a wonderful July 4th weekend. Be sure to pay us a visit, step into the past, look at the displays of household devices and farm related equipment. Our buggies and vehicle displays, our diorama, our building's beautiful architecture with much of the original lumber. See you there!

"Their Stories"

Jun/Jul 2023

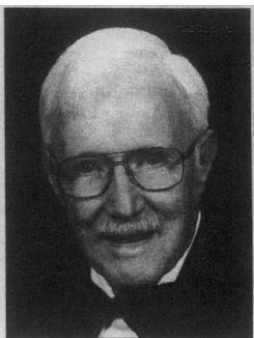


PLANES TRAINS & AUTOMOBILES

Going back seventy years or more, trains and automobiles were common place in most small towns. But what do we know about airplanes flying in and out of Port Hope and Harbor Beach? Well, at one time, both Port Hope and Harbor Beach had private airfields that created a new kind of excitement and stories to be remembered forever.

This article is a brief overview of those two privately owned airports, and two individuals, each having a drive and desire to construct a landing strip using tractors and plows, an airplane hanger and creating a third important mode of transportation.

Vic Ingram's "Air-Port-Hope"



Victory E. Ingram

Victory E Ingram was born in Port Hope in 1918. As an adult, he served in World War II and later lived in Detroit, MI. Vic, as he was known was involved in aviation for most of his life. In 1941 he completed his flight training at Detroit City Airport and subsequently acquired his commercial license and Instructors certificate. In the mid 50s he and his wife Audrey moved back to Port Hope and purchased property on Heinemann Rd. He took up the position of Base Operator and Instructor at Huron Memorial Airport in Bad Axe. A position he held for 15 years.

In 1958 Vic cleared property on his Port Hope land and constructed a 2,000 ft. grass runway. Included was one enclosed hanger and one open covered shelter. Vic now had the luxury of being able to fly to work in Bad Axe taking only a few minutes. It didn't take long for the Air-Port-Hope to become a very popular place. For years it was an active location for additional aviators, flying clubs and a regular occurrence of week-end "fly-ins" with pancake breakfasts, airplane rides and entertainment.



Typical Fly-in held at the airfield, drawing huge crowds and creating a fun-filled day



Aerial View of Air-Port-Hope running north and south between Heinemann Rd and Rubicon Rd

FLY-IN AT AIRPORT HOPE DRAWS HUGE CROWD

The annual fly-in and pancake breakfast held at Airport Hope on Sunday, August 15, drew one of the largest crowds in its history. Even the slightly colder temperatures didn't put a damper on the events, and the Chamber of Commerce report serving breakfast to a record number of people.

Members of the Flying Club were busy until early evening, taking care of all the requests for airplane rides. A large number of door prizes were given away, donated by the merchants in Port Hope. Bomb dropping was demonstrated and model airplane flying by remote control.

Harbor Beach Times article dated
Aug 19, 1971

As Vic was nearing retirement age but still a very active and motivated individual, he purchased plans for a one-

seat bi-plane. He proceeded to scratch build the plane adhering to the specifications and materials (Plywood and the necessary stretch covering).

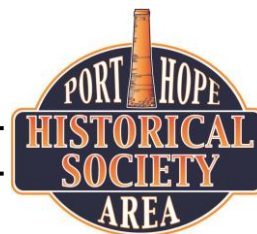
Victory ran a successful airport for twenty years and in 1978 he and his wife Audrey decided it was time to retire. They closed the airport, sold the property and moved to Florida. The scratch built bi-plane was dismantled and shipped to Florida. Retirement didn't hinder Vic's love of aviation, as he continued flying until his mid 90's. Victor E Ingram passed away on July 1, 2017.

Like many other things in our lives, it is sad to think that such an active and popular airfield would someday be gone. But gone it is. However, the fond memories and wonderful stories will live on.

(Note: As part of the historical society mission statement, we strive to collect and preserve history of the port hope area. Well, on a very positive note, the bi-plane that Victory scratch built and took to Florida, still exists. In fact, Vic's son Sam and his wife Jessica, recently were able to secure the aircraft and return it to its home in Port Hope. It will be displayed in the Historical Society as part of an aviation history display. See the pics of Sam & Jessica on the following page.

"Their Stories"

Jun/Jul 2023



**ON DISPLAY
4TH OF JULY AT
THE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



Sam & Jessica Ingram in Florida with Vic's scratch built bi-plane prior to disassembly and shipment to Port Hope

Otto Poschke's "Poschke's Harbor Beach Airport"

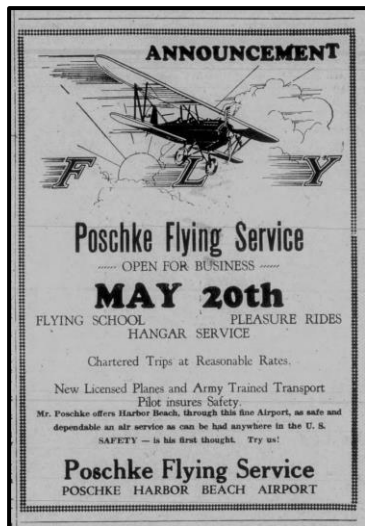


Otto A. Poschke

Pre-dating Ingram's Air-Port-Hope airfield, was an airport in Harbor Beach constructed in 1928 by Otto Poschke. Known as Poschke's Harbor Beach Airport, it was presumably the first airport in Huron County, and was located on Section Line Road just west of town.

Mr. Poschke, was born in Germany in 1887 and the Poschke family came to Harbor Beach around 1890. Upon reaching adulthood, Otto moved to Cleveland Ohio and became a successful businessman. With his roots in Harbor Beach, he decided to purchase his family estate and convert the available farm acreage into an airfield. He purchased the property in 1928 and one year later had plowed, leveled and seeded 40 acres in preparation for an airport. He constructed two runways forming an "X" and each approximately 2,000' in length. During the construction phase, Poschke continued his business in Cleveland and frequently flew back to Harbor Beach to roll up his sleeves, and also to manage the hired help. A hanger was soon built near the road large enough to hold several airplanes. The roof was painted a black and white checkerboard.

The Poschke Harbor Beach Airport was dedicated and licensed in July of 1931. George Inhelder managed the operations of the airport and Captain Hal Dungan was a pilot and flight lessons instructor.



Harbor Beach Times May 15, 1931



Once a hustling and bustling airport 90 years ago, now consigned to the pages of history

A very successful airport, it was used extensively as a passenger destination point, cargo shipments, civilian usage, and flying lessons. it attracted huge crowds at annual fly-ins similar to the Air-Port-Hope Fly-ins. during the war years the government imposed temporary restrictions for civilian aircraft and the Poschke airport was temporarily restricted and limited to emergency Landings only.

In 1946, Otto Poschke sold the airfield and hanger to Carl Gerstenschlager (Son-in-in-law of George Inhelder). He kept the homestead and upon retirement left Cleveland and moved back to the Harbor Beach home.

The airfield continued its operations thru the 50's At which time cost of fuel, fewer training students, etc. was becoming an increasing burden as Gerstenschlager had to personally cover the operations. The airfield continued for several years but no longer a profitable business. By 1970 the airport was no longer being utilized and was subsequently purchased by Bad Axe Manufacturing, an automotive supplier. The hanger and facilities were utilized for the manufacturing of its products.

Unfortunately, evidence of the once thriving Poschke Airport is nearly gone. Otto A Poschke passed away on Aug 30, 1972.



Come Celebrate the July 4th Weekend !

THE LUMBERYARD IS WAITING FOR YOU! HAVE YOU SEEN IT LATELY ?...



The old Brinker-Hunter Lumberyard, home to our Historical Society, reflects continuing restoration



The Beautiful Architecture, maintaining its original character.



Our Main Conference Room & Genealogy Center



One of the 'Port Hope Boyz'



Incoming donations, analysis and cataloging



Original Brinker Lumber Truck, 1937 Ford



The ever popular out-door flea market

AND THERE'S MORE!....



Harold Finkel's 1930's mail wagon



Storage racks of old original lumber stock and misc. artifacts and donated items



One of the 'Port Hope Girlz'



Hand operated Corn Sheller



On the left we have a "Pie Safe" and right a "hoosier Cabinet



How about a sleigh ride? Bring a horse and little snow..



AND MORE!....



Carol Nickel Roggenbuck Buggy



Our generous donors and society members



Preparing the kitchen & pantry display room.



*Everyone needs a Kriewall original,
electric fence wire roller machine*



If you can ride this Kriewall Bicycle, the circus needs a bicycle clown



*Anyone looking for a rest? I hope not. It's not a bed folks!
It's a viewing coffin!*



AND EVEN MORE....



Port Hope Main Street miniature diorama, circa 40's. And available companion book



How about two Steamer trunks and a couple of "Alarm Clocks" ?

A SAMPLING OF OUR SOCIETIES LOGO MERCHANDISE



WOMEN'S TEE'S

\$15.00



MEN'S TEE'S

\$15.00



HOODIE'S

\$25.00

SPEND THE 4TH IN PORT HOPE

COME VISIT PORT HOPE. TAKE IN OUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY, THE FLEA MARKET, THE TRAIN DEPOT, THE TRACTOR PULL, THE EATS, THE ACTIVITY CENTER, THE SUNDAY PARADE.

A GUARANTEED FUN TIME FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY IN...

"THE LITTLE TOWN WITH THE BIG WELCOME"



DONATIONS AND SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

As all can see, we have made much progress at the society lumberyard, both inside and outside. The port hope Boyz and girlz have been working continuously and our lumberyard is becoming a showplace of display items, genealogy, vehicles and even an airplane. The beauty and architecture of this old lumberyard, hidden for so many years is now coming alive.

As one can expect, it takes the efforts of many volunteers and donations from individuals and society memberships. To date we have signed up many members and have received donations from countless individuals.

We are far from finished and would hope that each of you would continue your involvement or become involved. Help us become a center for our townspeople as well as a destination for visitors from near and far.

Might you be interested?

Become a member of the society?

Volunteer as a Port Hope Boyz or Girlz?

Or just wish to make a donation?

Please fill out and mail the form below.



"GARTHTOONS" brought to you by Garth Kriewall



Membership / Contribution Form

Please fill out this form and mail with your check to:
P.H.A.H.S.
P.O. Box 133
Port Hope MI, 48468



Port Hope Area Historical Society
8016 Portland Ave.
Port Hope MI, 48468
Questions: 989-428-4831

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Spouse First Name _____ Last Name _____
Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Spouse Phone _____ Email Address _____

Yearly Membership: Single _____ (\$25.00) **Family** _____ (\$40.00)
January 1 thru December 31 (must be renewed each calendar year by May 15)

Life Member _____ (\$500) **Founders/Life Member** _____ (\$1,000.00)

All members will receive the quarterly newsletter and member names listed periodically in the newsletter. Founders & Life Members will have a personalized name plaque displayed on the membership tree at the Historical Center.

This section is for a contribution that may be made with or without a membership.

I would like to support the Port Hope Area Historical Society to further its development and wish to make a contribution in the amount of \$ _____ (Make check payable to: "Port Hope Area Historical Society".)
(Contributions to the PHAHS, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization are tax deductible according to IRS guidelines.)