

# Premier Edition



## Port Hope Area Historical Society

8016 Portland Avenue, P.O. Box 133

Port Hope, Michigan, 48468

Volume 1 Issue 1

Spring 2021

### A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is a long-time dream come true for many who have wanted to see a historical society for the Port Hope Area. The Port Hope Area Historical Society has been formally established, with regular monthly meetings and plans for development. The Society has obtained the land and buildings previously known as the Brinker Lumber Company on Portland Avenue in Port Hope. A dedicated team of volunteers has been working for over a year to create spaces for reception, document storage, genealogical research and artifact storage. A 1,000 square foot area of the building is nearing completion for these functions, with plans for a museum space, large artifact display, and additional display rooms. The grounds are also being developed for community activities related to our historical heritage.

We welcome everyone who is interested in this activity to attend our meetings and learn more about our goals. We are in need of more volunteers for the many differing aspects of historical research. We also would like to have a copy of your family history to include in our genealogy library. Our meetings are currently held the second Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 P.M., at the Port Hope Depot.

We are also in need of financial support, so please consider a membership, a special gift, or become a life member, as defined below. Please watch for our many planned activities in future newsletters.

Jim Hunter, Society President

### BRINKER LUMBER COMES ALIVE - OUR NEW HOME



With the newly formed Port Hope Area Historical Society just getting started, it was soon realized that we desperately needed a facility large enough to store, display, and become a central source of knowledge on the history of the Port Hope area.

That hope was realized when in early 2021, the lumber yard was deeded over to the Port Hope Area Historical Society. As is typical with Port Hope people, the society members along with many of the townspeople immediately came forward and volunteered their time and efforts working to bring back the beauty and charm of this iconic staple in our community. A joint effort with a purpose to preserve our heritage for generations yet to come. We look forward to the days ahead and all the memories that are yet to be made in the Port Hope Area.

The history of the lumber yard goes back to February 1, 1938 when the Port Hope Brinker Lumber Company first opened its doors on Portland Avenue in the village of Port Hope. William Brinker was the proprietor and also owned other lumber yard operations in Bad Axe and Kinde. In the year of 1948, Brinker sold the Port Hope lumber yard operations to long time loyal employee, RB Hunter. RB had so much respect for Mr. Brinker that he felt it was important to honor him by keeping the name of the lumber yard "Brinker Lumber". From 1942 through 1957, Hunter and his wife Gladys lived in a home attached at the west end of the Lumber yard while raising three children. The lumber yard operation would continue for more than 5 decades and became an important staple for the village of Port Hope.

Continued on page 2

### SUPPORT THE SOCIETY - JOIN OUR TEAM

#### BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY

To enable us to better serve the society and its mission we are looking for financial support and or new members. Whether you choose to become a member or to provide a special gift donation, we sincerely appreciate your help.

A membership form is included on page 2 of this newsletter and can be filled out and mailed to the address shown.

We thank you very much for your support!

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -WE COULD USE YOUR HELP

#### PUT ON YOUR GLOVES AND COME ON DOWN!

You have no doubt noticed the activities taking place at the old Hunter Lumber yard. As the home base for the Port Hope Area Historical Society, it is being totally renovated.

The refurbishment of the Lumber building is progressing well but could use additional help.

Every Tuesday morning, volunteer workers show up, ready to take part. Whether it's installing walls, flooring or cleaning up the surrounding property, there is a job for everyone.

Anyone wanting to play a part only has to put on their gloves, show up, and join the team.

### COMING SOON



35th ANNUAL

4th of JULY FESTIVAL JULY 2 - 3 - 4

(Brinker Lumber cont'd from page 1)

The lumberyard's equipment, such as tractors, trucks, tools, etc. would be used for village maintenance and the lumber trucks would also be used for trash pickup for the Village. The Fire siren was located on the roof of the old jail and the controllers and clock were located and serviced from the office of the lumber yard. In the early 1950's, the Indian Trails Bus Company would store two buses at night in the alley of the barn while the drivers would stay at the Port Hope Hotel and leave out of Port Hope in the mornings.

The lumber yard also served as the meeting place for the firemen who would patrol the village on Halloween night. Some may recall having Gladys make her famous sloppy joes along with chocolate cake for the firemen.



One of the greatest memories for many folks was the annual Brinker Lumber Barn Dance. The first barn dance was held in the summer of 1938 and was such a success, Brinker thought it would be best to pour a concrete floor in the alley instead of using wooden planks on top of dirt. The barn dances would continue for many years uniting friends and family and providing our village with never to be forgotten memories. In the early 2000's, after having served the community well for several decades, the Port Hope lumber yard closed its doors. Nearly twenty years have passed, and the spirit of the old lumber yard has sat patiently waiting. The wait was well worth it as the townspeople have come together to provide a much-needed shot in the arm and the lumber yard has responded and come alive. Given a little more time along with the efforts of many volunteers, It will soon be telling its wonderful stories along with housing displays, genealogy and the history of a beautiful little village along the shores of Lake Huron.

**Brinker Lumber Company**

— "COMPLETE BUILDING MATERIALS" —

8016 Portland Ave.  
**PORT HOPE, MICH.**

Telephone #16 R. B. Hunter, owner

**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 plaque at the Historical Center with their name on it.

**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.