

Please take one!

# Reflections

Newsletter of the Marsh Historical Collection  
Amherstburg, Ontario

Please take one!

Volume III Issue 3

Spring 2010

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## Spring is here!

A century ago, businesses in Amherstburg announced the arrival of Spring.

Ads from April, 1910 issues of the Amherstburg Echo

**Spring is Here** and it is time to think of spring necessities. We have everything ready for home and garden use.

We intend carrying a stock of **Wall Paper** which we would like you to see before choosing and it is time to think of spring necessities. We have everything ready for home and garden use.

No need to say anything about S.V. except that we are agents for this celebrated paint.

**RYAN & COMPANY**  
PLUMBING AND TIMBERING IN CONNECTION.

**Hats, Shirts and Footwear**

Spring has come prepared to stay a while, it is hoped, and every man that is particular about what he wears will be interested in Spring Hats.

They fit the handsome look, or have the most smart feature. Our hats are absolutely correct. The world knows the better they are the more they are sold.

**OUR SPLENDID SHOWING OF SHOES**

of New Spring and Summer Footwear will appeal to you at its sight. A pair of OUR SHOES will demonstrate the superior qualities of style, comfort and service, which may be had here at very modest prices.

**WE HAVE SOME SHIRT SPECIALS.**

Our assortment is complete enough for every man to be fitted to his satisfaction. Besting, Collins and Co. A large assortment of Men's Shirts, heavy and light, collars and cuffs, and of the Line of Rubber Goods.

**J. I. COUSINS**  
GENTLEMEN'S GROOMING  
DRY GOODS CLOTHING, HATS AND CAPS, BOOTS AND SHOES  
ROUSE BLOCK, AMHERSTBURG

**Your Spring Suit!**

If ever a man wants smart, stylish clothes it is when the first warm days appear. No one can be more particular than a fine and more satisfying deck of suits than is here at the present moment. Yes, with all the character and style which our good clothing possesses, prices are as low as a casual observer would wish.

**Men's Handsome Spring Suits \$8.00 to \$15.00**

These clothes to have a SUIT MADE TO YOUR MEASURE our special Order Department can take good care of you—guaranteeing you a fit in every particular—when delivery from a week to ten days and has hundred samples to choose from.

**Suits \$15.50 to \$30.00**

**YOUR SPRING HAT!**

Our stock and showing is complete and beautiful—everything that is new in MEN'S HATS, black and colors, soft and stiff, all sizes, 10 to 12 1/2.

**SHOES AND FURNISHINGS**

We can more than satisfy your wants with these necessary articles. Complete showing of Men's Fine Shirts, Gloves, Neckties, Hosiery, etc.

**SPECIAL**

Ladies', Misses' and Children's Shoes, worth \$2.75 to \$3.50, clearing at 50 CTS. per pair.

**F.P. SCRATCH & Co.**  
AMHERSTBURG.

**AT E. BERUBE'S SPRING HOUSE CLEANING AT E. BERUBE'S**

We are prepared to supply your wants in Carpets, Mattings, Linoleums, Oil Cloths, Rugs, Mats, Lace, Tapestry and Muslin Curtains, Extension, Reeds, Curtain Poles, Blinds, Stair Rods and Plates, in fact anything you may need to beautify and make the home comfortable.

**Carpets**  
Wilsons, Velvets, Axminsters, Brussels, Tapestry, 3 and 4 ply Wool, Unions and Hengis. Carpet our 9 ply at \$1.00. Our Tapestry at 50¢ (the talk of the town) and our Unions from 90¢ up.

**Rugs**  
in the following sizes: 2 1/2 x 3 yds., 3 x 3, 3 x 4, 3 1/2 x 4, and 4 x 5 1/2 x 4) which we handle in Smyrna, Wilton, Velvet, Brussels, Tapestry, Wools and Unions.

**Linoleums**  
2, 3, 3 1/2 and 4 yds. wide in floral and block designs. Our own importation.

**Mattings**  
By the yard and room size Rugs as well in endless variety of color, design and quality.

**Window Blinds**  
In stock from 37 inches to 80 inches in all staple shades. Orders taken for any size Blinds. See the Blind we sell for 50¢—others ask 35¢ and 40¢.

**Lace, Tapestry & Muslin Curtains**  
Importing these as we do we are in a position to show you the newest goods at the lowest prices. Lace Curtains from 20¢ pair up. Tapestry Curtains from 35.00 pair up, and Madras piece goods from 50¢ up, and an endless variety of Muslin and Stuffed Net piece goods at a most any price from..... up.

Curtain, Silk, Tapestry, Art. Satenes and Denims in rich shades and newest designs from 5¢ upward.

**Mats**  
Smyrna from 15¢ up (reversible). Door Mats from 25¢ up as well as rich Velvet and Wilton Mats for the best room, also Bath Mats in large sizes.

**The Quality-Store. E. BERUBE. One Price to All.**

**Spring Papering**

Both weather and Almanac suggest **Wall Paper and Spring Painting**—

We have secured the agency for a line of Insecticide Papers which neutralize anything ever sold in Amherstburg—Call and look over our lines.

We are also stocking **READY-MIXED PAINTS and WINDOW SHADES**—Don't make an error for your work.

**W. A. MANSON**  
Murray Street, Amherstburg  
Hartley Block.

A Testimonial for *Reflections*

After receiving back issues of *Reflections* from a relative in Amherstburg, Mike in Florida wrote:

Boy, did I enjoy those. Read them almost nonstop, cover-to-cover pretty much. Great idea. They accentuate the "Tom Sawyer-Huckleberry Finn" aspects of growing up on the river that constituted so much of my childhood. They reminded me of a time that I, along with [others], drifted back from Bob-Lo using T-shirts full of little green apples as personal flotation devices - not really a recommended procedure, but fun.

What did the children of the 60s and 70s do? The Waterworks, the docks, the coal piles, the Corps of Engineers' barges and tugs - so much [has] changed....

The pictures juxtaposed one above the other showing the "Then & Now" stuff was great, too. Very enjoyable entertainment.

If you enjoy *Reflections*, we'd love to hear from you! Send us your e-mail address and we will add you to the growing list of people who receive each issue by e-mail.

research@marshcollection.org

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# Growing Up in the 'Burg

## The Afternoon Time Stood Still

It was one of those beautiful late spring days in May. The year was 1950, I was in Grade 7 at St. Anthony's and I was itching for school to finish. I went to school in the morning, came home for lunch and was on my way back to school for the afternoon when the idea hit me: why waste a perfect afternoon such as this sitting in a class? Why not skip school and enjoy the weather? As I was not with any of my buddies who would have talked me out of it, the plan was set.

Amherstburg at that time had a Public Works yard on Seymore Street where the Town kept gravel, sand and things of that nature. There were also some sheds where they stored the graders, etc. I thought this would be the perfect place to hide until school went in, after which I would be free to do as I wanted until school was let out and I could go home with no one the wiser.

The first part of the plan worked. However, I had not figured into the equation the fact that the yard would have workers coming and going, and

if I were discovered I would be whisked off to school and have a lot of explaining to do, both there and when I got home. Furthermore, if I were seen on the streets I would be stopped and asked why I was not in school. So there I sat, hiding, for the rest of the day while visions danced in my head of police officers, truant officers, parole officers, a very angry mother and a whole slew of my buddies laughing and telling me what a dufus I was. This was certainly not one of my brightest ideas. To complicate matters even further, I did not have a watch nor any other means of telling time. It had to be the longest afternoon on record. It was exactly as if time stood still.

When I finally got the nerve to venture from my hiding spot I found out it was 4:30 in the afternoon and school had been out more than an hour. I trudged home, vowing to never, never, ever try something like that again.

*- by an anonymous schoolboy who never tried it again*

## Where to find us

The Marsh Collection is located at 235 Dalhousie Street on the upper floor.

We are open Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 4pm.

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## What is the Marsh Collection?

The Marsh Historical Collection is a local history/genealogy centre located in the heart of Amherstburg. Researchers, genealogists and history buffs utilize our information files, books, photographs, maps, genealogy files and other items. Even if you have no specific research purpose, come in to see our exhibits on Detroit River history and other aspects of Amherstburg's rich heritage. We also produce and sell a variety of local history publications and notecards.

The Marsh Collection takes its name from its founders, the Marsh family, who owned and operated the *Amherstburg Echo* for over 80 years.



Sunday afternoon baseball game in the town park, circa 1950s.  
Marsh Collection P4078

## Sunday Afternoons

I remember in the mid-1950s that on Sunday afternoons at the hard ball games in the town park, Rupert Scott would come with his bus and park it behind the backstop. He sold hot dogs, popcorn, etc. He called it "Scotty's Chuckwagon" and it was bright red and black. After the game the kids would pick up the litter and Scotty would give them a bag of popcorn.

In centre field there was a big scoreboard and when there were no games being played, we would climb up on it and run around on the 2x10s that the scorekeeper would walk on.

*- by Kent Wigle*

# Yesterday's News

from the archives of the *Amherstburg Echo*

**1880**

*March* - P. Navin of Amherstburg is making 60 pews for the new church at McGregor [St. Clement's].

- The new steamer *Transport* with capacity to carry 24 cars will transfer all C.S.R. trains between Grosse Île and Amherstburg.

*April*-The town Building & Property Committee has ploughed up the west town park and the first lot of trees, 100 maples, will be set out at once.

**1890**

*March*-A disastrous fire, thought to be the work of a firebug, destroyed the top floor of the new town hall. A reward of \$250 is offered for the arrest and conviction of the guilty party.

- New windows, floors, oak pews, wainscotting and door frames have been installed in First Baptist Church.

- A gang of men is working at T.B. White's quarry, Anderdon, getting out stone for facing the locks at the Soo Canal.

**1900**

*March* - In January, February and the first five days of March, Amherstburg has had 49½ inches of snow.

**1910**

*March*-St. Clement's Church, McGregor, used their new pipe organ for the first time.

- Miss Emma McTavish won the contest to name the D.B.I. & W.'s new steamer *St. Claire*, now being built at Toledo.

- Sullivan's drills *Exploder*, *Destroyer* and *Dynamite* have been brought to Amherstburg to begin work on the river.

*April* - The wireless telegraph is expected to play an important part in lake marine service this season.

-Early risers are rewarded with a view of Halley's Comet in the eastern sky.

-The Buffalo Dredging Company took between 80 and 100 local men this season, clearing nearly every available labourer in town.

-Parishioners at River Canard have begun tearing down the old frame presbytery, making way for a new brick residence for which church members hauled stone, brick and sand during the winter.

*May* - Work will begin in September on the new 8-room Amherstburg Public School. J.B. Wilson, masonry contractor, will remove the old school building.

**1920**

*March*-A Studebaker vehicle carrying 136 gallon jugs of malt whiskey was seized by a police posse at Elliott's Point. When the truck and cargo arrived at Kemp's Garage it was discovered that 1 gallon had disappeared.

- Hon. George Graham presented the Amherstburg Baseball Club with a silver championship cup which they won last year. The names of the players will be engraved on the cup.

- Si Bertrand's estate property on Alma Street was subdivided into 55 lots and a street was laid out and named after him.

*April* - Brunner Mond is erecting a dozen houses for employees in the Ouellette subdivision south of their offices [Brunner Ave.]

**1930**

*March* - The riverfront road from Gore Street to the town limits will be paved this year.

- Dr. E.M. Warren has purchased the dental practice of the late Dr. W.S. French.

- "The Bug", a new ride, is being erected on Bob-Lo.

*May*-The T. Eaton Company will open a mail order branch in the Hadley Block [SW corner Murray and Ramsay].

-The new manager of the Liberty Theatre intends to install "talkies".

-Ty Cobb, former pro baseball player, hosted a group of 18 men at a fish dinner at the Amherst Hotel.

**1940**

*April* - The former merry-go-round building on Bob-Lo has been transformed into a roller rink.

- The old car ferry *Transfer* is on her way to Hamilton for scrapping.

**1950**

*March* - There is talk of an artificial ice rink in town.

- Amherstburg has signed a fire protection agreement with Anderdon for designated areas of the township.

*April* - The cornerstone was laid for the new St. John the Baptist Intermediate School.

- The Post Office Dept. intends to place ten drop-letter boxes around town.

*May* - The new Malden Central School will officially open May 23rd. It is the first of its kind in Southwestern Ontario.

- McQueen's tug *Atomic* is the winner of the 1st International Tugboat Race, held on the Detroit River.

**1960**

*April* - Military St. from Second Concession to Main St. is being opened up.

- A caution light will be erected at the corner of Simcoe and Sandwich Sts.

- Brunner Mond boaters are building their own boat basin on company property near the old Gordon Station site.

*May* - The recently constructed K of C hall in McGregor is ready to open.

- The extension of Victoria St. from Richmond St. to the Pike [Simcoe St.] has been cut through and stoned.

- Texas Rd. is to be paved.

**1970**

*March* - The new Coast Guard cutter *Griffon* has been christened in Ottawa.

- Construction of Western Secondary School is expected to begin soon.

*April* - Seven apartments are being built on the second floor of the Liberty Theatre.

