

## New Whitby archives exhibit explores historic Canada Day celebrations

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Confederation and to celebrate this momentous occasion there are festivals, events, and exhibits being held throughout the country.

While the national pomp is certainly to be expected, I found myself wondering how to put a local spin on the Canada 150 campaign.

In searching the archives for relevant material, I came across several photographs of parades and decorations for the 50th and 100th anniversaries of Confederation but hardly anything for Canada's first birthday. This lack of obvious material encouraged me to find out how Whitby celebrated the first Canada Day on July 1, 1867, then known as Dominion Day.

The local newspapers reported that on July 1, 1867, Whitby celebrated Canada's first birthday in style. Close to 8,000 people from the surrounding area took part in the festivities which included a mock battle by the 34th Regiment of Ontario County, games and races, a picnic, and a torchlit procession through the streets.

Perhaps the most exciting event of the day was a 350-gun salute known as a feu de joie. Onlookers gathered in the fields at Rossland Road, just south of the town limits, and watched as each soldier fired blanks, one after another,



**SARAH FERENCZ**  
Whitby Public Library  
Archivist

in celebration of the newly formed Dominion of Canada.

With all of this great information at hand, I was inspired to create an exhibit so that I could share this knowledge with the community. The exhibit is a little broader in scope, focusing more generally on Whitby at the time of Confederation.

The 1860s was a period of growth and prosperity in Whitby. Steady immigration from the United Kingdom, a thriving import/export trade at the harbour, an abundance of wheat and lumber, local industries, and a savvy business and professional class combined to turn Whitby — with a population of about 3,000 — into a choice community.

It is my hope that the exhibit reflects the excitement of the Dominion Day festivities, but also the everyday administrative activities of a bustling small town. Items in the exhibit include buildings constructed in 1867, council minutes and bylaws for the town and township, newspaper articles and other



**METROLAND FILE PHOTO**

WHITBY -- A new Whitby archives exhibit, running until December, explores Whitby's first Canada Day celebration and what was happening in the town at the time of Confederation.

great bits of our past. We also pulled some images showcasing the celebrations for the 50th and 100th anniversaries of Confederation in Whitby.

You can see the exhibit, Feu de Joie: Whitby in 1867, in the archives and local history gallery at the central branch of the Whitby Public Library,

405 Dundas St. W., until December. Next month, I'll share with you in more detail what was happening in Brooklin in 1867.

-- Sarah Ferencz is the archivist at the Whitby Public Library. Contact her at [archives@whitbylibrary.on.ca](mailto:archives@whitbylibrary.on.ca)

## Natalie Prychitko named new CEO of Whitby Chamber of Commerce

WHITBY -- The Whitby Chamber of Commerce's board of directors has announced the appointment of Natalie Prychitko to the role of chief executive officer, effective Feb. 27.

Prychitko brings more than 25 years of experience to the chamber, including the last decade spent at the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG). She's held several positions within the OLG, such as director of marketing and social responsibility, director of lottery transformation, and most recently, director of the change management office.

"Natalie is experienced in managing large projects with multiple stakeholders, significant budgets, complex operations and policy considerations," the chamber said in a release.

"She also brings deep experience in managing marketing, advertising, and branding campaigns. Her passion for building strong relationships and driving operational efficiencies will be a tremendous asset to the Whitby chamber."

The Whitby Chamber of Commerce is a member-based organization that provides

education, networking, advocacy and business opportunities for more than 1,000 members. Former CEO Tracy Hanson stepped down last fall to join the Ontario Chamber of Commerce's executive team as the vice-president of network and membership relations.

Prychitko grew up in Whitby and has a long-standing history of volunteering in Durham Region, especially in the Ukrainian community.

"I'm very proud to represent such a vibrant organization and community," she said.

"I am looking forward to meeting with our members and stakeholders, and continuing the excellence that the Whitby chamber represents."

**SUBMITTED PHOTO**

WHITBY -- Natalie Prychitko has been appointed to the role of CEO of the Whitby Chamber of Commerce, effective Feb. 27. She previously held the position of director of the change management office with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation.



# thecitizen

A Metroland Media Group Ltd. Publication

Tim Whittaker - **Publisher**  
Mike Johnston - **Regional Managing Editor**  
Fred Eismont - **Director of Advertising**  
Abe Fakhourie - **Distribution Manager**  
Cheryl Haines - **Composing Manager**  
CLASSIFIEDS 905-215-0442  
ADVERTISING 905-215-0472

865 Farewell St., Oshawa ON L1H 7L5  
Member: Ontario Press Council, OCNA, CCNA, LMA. All content copyright.