

Two New Exhibits at the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum for 2019!!

We're excited to feature two important aspects of Port Colborne's identity in our exhibits this year: ***Solid Comfort: Tales of Tennessee*** and ***Deadly Dust: 1919 Dominion Elevator Explosion***.

Solid Comfort: Tales of Tennessee **The history of the Humberstone Summer Resort Company**



From the 1890s to the 1920s, every summer saw an influx of cottagers to Port Colborne, some of them headed to the exclusive Humberstone Club cottage resort community. The road through the community became Tennessee Avenue, a reflection of the Memphis, Tennessee roots of many of the wealthy cottage owners, who travelled north to spend their



summers along the Lake Erie shoreline. They even had their own train station, called Solid Comfort, in honour of the club's nickname. The exhibit explores the heyday of the resort community, as the cottagers relaxed and frolicked on the beach, and enjoyed their own tennis courts, bowling alley and casino. Spacious,



comfortable cottages with large verandahs were second homes for the families who owned them. Staff and servants catered to their every need. Meals were taken in the elegant dining room, where cottagers enjoyed elaborate meals prepared by trained chefs, and served in sumptuous style. Photographs, furniture and other artifacts from the club evoke an idyllic time for those who could enjoy the pleasures of a cottage in the Humberstone Club.



Deadly Dust:

1919 Dominion Elevator Explosion

This year marks the hundredth anniversary of one of the worst disasters in Port Colborne's history when a dust explosion ripped apart the Dominion Grain Elevator on Aug. 9, 1919. An iconic part of the local landscape, the elevator still bears the scars of the disaster. Photos, documents, and artifacts reveal the deadly and devastating force of the explosion, which killed 10 men whose deaths shook the community. Families and friends were left bereft. Among the dead was Bert Dunlop, who had been twice wounded while fighting in the First World War, and received the Military Medal for bravery for his heroic actions at the Battle of Amiens in August, 1918. He had made it home safe from the war, but only a few weeks after returning to his job at the elevator he was among the fatalities. Explore the history of the Dominion Elevator and the 1919 explosion in this poignant new exhibit.

