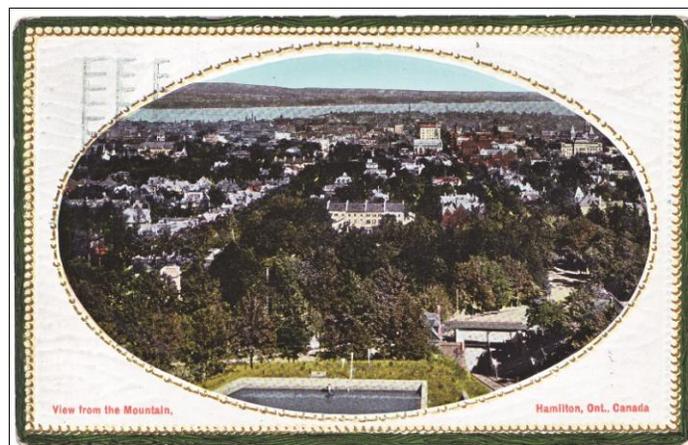


MOUNTAIN MEMORIES ON POST CARDS

By Robert Williamson

On May 19, 2016, the President of the Golden Horseshoe Post Card Club (www/ghpcc.ca), Jon Soyka, will bring Mountain Memories to you in the form of a collection of old post cards. Be sure to attend the free public meeting and bring your own cards for an after-lecture discussion. (See footnote). This week's column is a tantalizing sample of what you can expect to see.

This selected post card from the personal papers of reporter/photographer, Mark Newman, appears to have been written to his great grandmother in Niagara Falls while his grandparents were on their honeymoon in Hamilton (arrived with 3 lbs. of confetti on their cloths). As such, the post card is a microcosm of period history in Hamilton on February 26 1915 (according to the date stamp, 6 months into WW I). The cancellation of the one cent stamp tells us the cost of mailing and also reminds us that tuberculosis (consumption) was a major health problem at that time: "HELP THE HAMILTON MOUNTAIN SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES".



This post card, published by Valentine Sons of Toronto and printed in Great Britain, was particularly attractive because it was colourized exquisitely by hand painting in Germany in the decade before the start of WW I and copied by lithography.

The view shows the James Street water reservoir in the foreground, built ca. 1900 on the lower shoulder of the escarpment. In modern times, the site became the walled compound of Scout House. To the right is the Hamilton and Barton Incline Railway built in 1892, with the lower terminal at the head of James Street. Partly hidden in the trees to the left of the reservoir is the front tower of a beautiful architectural landmark known as Ballinahinch. In 1944 it was subdivided into luxury apartments, one of which was leased to Mrs Evelyn White, aka Dick. In the middle of the picture are the four well-known stone row houses called Herkimer Terrace Apartments built in 1854. Just to the right of them on the corner of Herkimer and James is the red brick mansion called Strathearn House built for Sir John Hendrie in 1889. He was Lieutenant. Governor of Ontario at the time of the post card mailing.

Mountain Memories, written by **Robert Williamson** for the *Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society*, appears monthly. See the Society's website (Hamiltonheritage.ca) for more information.



The couple travelled from St. Catharines by train, the most convenient mode of travel at that time, visited a relative, went souvenir shopping and took in a show. Hamilton was a Mecca of theatre entertainment at the turn of the century. The Bennett (Temple) Theatre, which opened in 1907 with a capacity of 1,684 seats, was the largest in the city.

The photo on the front of the postcard implies that the couple took a ride on Hamilton's famous incline railway, a "sort of" CN Tower of that time period. The view was spectacular, especially after climbing to the sixth floor observation deck of the Mountain View Hotel. Clearly the view was impressive enough for them to pay 1 cent to buy a post card, fast and cheap communication, equivalent to email today.