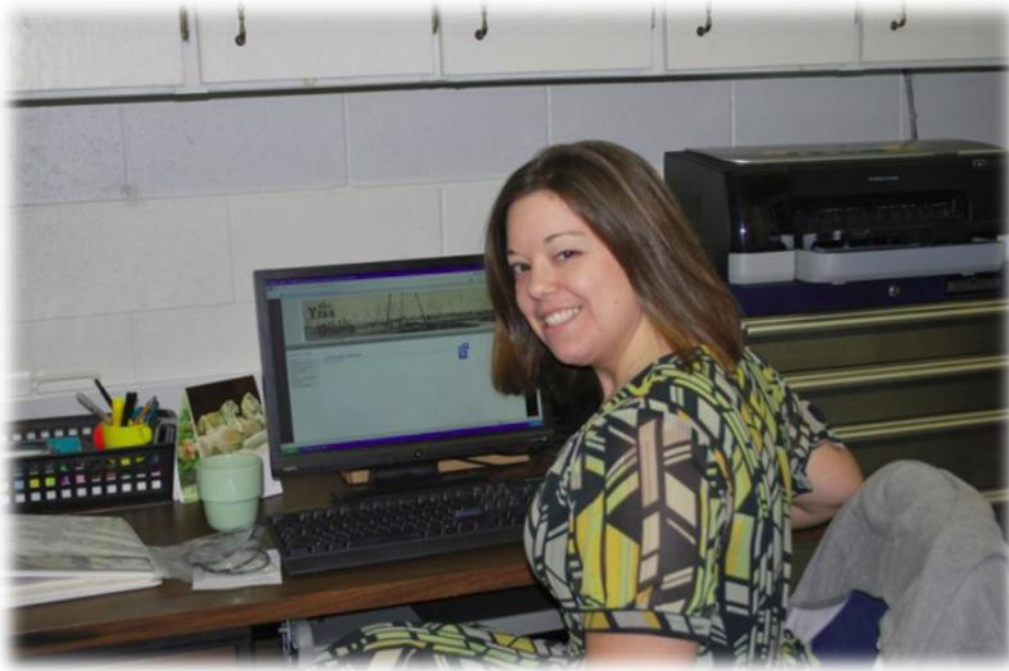


**Intern: Heather Rivet**



**Robert Cochrane Lambton County Fellowship: Oil Museum of Canada**

The projects assigned to the summer intern at the Oil Museum of Canada vary each year. However, most of the recent research has been conducted to support the museum's bid for UNESCO designation as a World Heritage Site. While the technological and industrial history of Oil Springs and the surrounding area has been well researched and documented, more research needed to be completed on the social history of this oil industry boom town.

The result has been a collection of primary source documents that helps to paint a more complete picture of the boom – and bust – of Oil Springs. One component is the continuation of an oral history project, originally started by Charlie Fairbank of Fairbank Oil Company in the mid-1990s. With many of those who have worked in the oil fields of Enniskillen Township getting up in age, it is ever more pressing to record their stories.

This year's summer intern developed the content for a website to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the "Year of the Gusher," when more than 30 flowing wells were struck in the Oil Springs area. Featuring a collection of primary and secondary source documents, this site is intended to not only educate, but also offer an opportunity for further investigation by future researchers. More oral history interviews were conducted to add to the museum's archive, and a touch-screen exhibit is planned to display some of the information gathered.

The *Robert Cochrane Lambton County Fellowship* is ideal for students who work well independently and are looking for a unique institution to contribute to. Three previous interns have submitted successful Mitacs-Accelerate applications; a grant program which matches the generous donation by Charlie Fairbank to fund this internship position.