

A New Book Tells The Enduring Story of Centuries-Long Friendship Between Windsor and Detroit

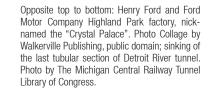
STORY BY MATTHEW ST. AMAND PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY WALKERVILLE PUBLISHING

LIKE MANY GREAT IDEAS, the latest book by Walkerville Publishing began as something else. "In 2019, we held a photo exhibit called 'A River Runs Between Us,' featuring photographs of Windsor and Detroit," says publisher, Elaine Weeks, who created the book, A River Runs Between Us, with her husband and partner in publishing, Chris Edwards. "The idea was to do a small event to promote our books. For instance, we had just released Windsor: Before & After."

In the past two decades, Walkerville Publishing has released ten titles, all centering on various aspects of Windsor's history. The books are noted for their plenitude of excellent vintage photographs and informative write-ups, preserving the region's "incidental history," so much of which has succumbed to progress.

"We held the exhibit at ArtSpeak Gallery, and displayed photographs from Windsor's history on one wall," Elaine recalls, "and historic photos of Detroit along the opposite wall. We put a long blue carpet down the middle of the floor, which symbolized the river separating the two cities."

"A lot of people came to the event," Chris Edwards remembers, "but there was one



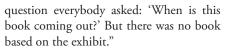
This page clockwise from right: Belle Isle Bridge 1908. Colorized by Walkerville Publishing, public domain; An historic ceremony was held on the international boundary line in the middle of the Ambassador Bridge on April 16, 1969. Photo by Walt McCall; Great Lakes Engineering Works workers 1913. Walter P. Reuther archives. Wayne State University; Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, 1950s. Walter P. Reuther archives, Wayne State











Elaine and Chris' publishing endeavours for an entire year." have promoted the history and achievements of Windsor, Ontario through The Walkerville Times, which published sixand 2008. Afterward, Elaine and Chris this latest title.

There is a voracious appetite for local history in Windsor. Each Walkerville Pubwas a Canadian bestseller.

there was demand for a book about the

Elaine and Chris undertook to create that the brothers as an exclusive parts suppli-

"My idea was to keep things simple," late the exhibit."

and soon learned: careful what you wish

"I wanted to tell the whole story," Chris and Detroit go back centuries."

The new book has more than 1,200 photographs. For this project, Chris sought to bring the past alive and decided the best in journalism. We like telling stories." way to do that was to colourize the blackand-white images—all of them.

The book ultimately took seven years to

that spurred Elaine and Chris on.

the border between Windsor and Detroit first came into being," says Elaine. "For so long, up to the late nineteenth centuaccording to the book's opening pages. ry, people went back and forth without a second thought. One of the things that tells the intertwined stories of Windsor and changed that was a murder that happened Detroit right up to 2024. One of the many in the middle of the river."

From the book: "On a summer evening in 1883, Luke Phipps shot and killed his estranged wife, Effie, aboard the Detroit-Windsor ferry Hope as it crossed the Detroit River. The location of the crime—specifically, on which side of the border it occurred—became a crucial le- www.walkerville.com.

gal question, as Canada had capital punishment while Michigan did not. The case captivated people on both sides of the river

One of the many stories that captured Chris' attention was the saga of the Dodge brothers, John and Horace, who were born ty-one editions between January of 1999 in Niles, Michigan. In 1892, the Dodge brothers came over to Windsor to work shifted gears and released nine books—plus at Dominion Typography. With financial backing from Detroit entrepreneur Fred S. Evans, the brothers rented a Windsor printing company building on Medford Street lishing title proved more popular than the in "Ferry Hill," where they manufactured previous. Their book, 500 Ways You Know Evans & Dodge bicycles (E & D bikes). You're From Windsor, required three edi- In 1897, the brothers received a patent on tions to keep pace with demand. That title an adjustable ball bearing for bicycle hubs, then sold their start-up company to Na-"After the photo exhibit, it was obvious tional Cycle & Automobile Company.

In the early 1900s, the brothers returned histories of Windsor and Detroit," Elaine to Detroit and produced parts for the burgeoning automotive industry. In 1903, Never ones to disappoint their readers, start-up automaker Henry Ford contracted er. By June 1903, Ford owed the brothers over \$7,000, but the three men managed to Elaine says with a laugh. "We could use a negotiate an agreement that changed their few images from the exhibit, use the stories lives: in exchange for writing off overdue we had posted on the walls, and encapsupayments and extending Ford an additional \$3,000 in credit, the Dodge brothers re-Chris wanted something more ambitious ceived ten percent of Ford Motor Company

Although the history of this region, on both sides of the river, is comprehensively says. "The intertwined histories of Windsor and expansively told in this book, Chris is quick to say: "We're not historians. People want the story and the visual. This book is a series of photo essays. Our background is

That said, the story begins millions of years ago with mention of the ice ages that formed this region's topography. Moving on to: "Indigenous peoples lived along For all that hard work, it was the stories the strait in 6,000 B.C. Peoples known as the 'Mound Builders' inhabited the area "I was really interested in learning when from about 1,000 B.C. to 700 A.D. In 1600, around 100,000 people occupied the region: Potawatomi, Ottawa, Ojibwa,"

> From there, A River Runs Between Us stories that Elaine and Chris agree gave them each a chuckle is when a hippopotamus named Cannonballs escaped the circus barge on which it was being transported through the area, and got into the Detroit

For more information, visit their website