



# Ahearn & Soper Celebrates 130 Years!

October 2011

Canadian inventors have patented more than a million inventions. On August 17, 2011 Canada Post issued a new stamp series commemorating important Canadian innovations. This stamp celebrates Canadian ingenuity and spotlights inventors that have changed lives at home and abroad. We are very proud to say that one such stamp is in honour of Mr. Thomas Ahearn, founder of **Ahearn & Soper Inc.**, a company still thriving some 130 years later!

## Thomas Ahearn – Inventor of the Electric Oven and Stove

Born in Ottawa in 1855, Thomas Ahearn grew up in the first telephone era and eventually established his own company as an Electrical Contractor. After much time he invented the first electric oven and stove, albeit not as we know it today. The first oven was over 6 feet in height and width and in the words of the press, "it was hot enough to roast an ox." The first oven was revealed, and put to the test, at the Ottawa Windsor Hotel featuring a dinner of ham, lamb cutlets, apple pie, among other things. Unfortunately his oven didn't catch on as electricity was not widely available yet and the appliance was rather bulky and not practical. However, as the years passed technology was greatly improved and the first oven finally made its way into our homes. Although this particular oven is not one we would use today, we can still thank Mr. Ahearn for his genius idea and for his vision of the kitchen for the future.



Canadian-Innovation Stamp of the Electric Oven \_ August 2011

## Technology Today and Some 130 Years Ago!



Hydro Electric Car - 1945

There were no limits to the many ideas of making *technology* an exciting habit and pastime for Mr. Ahearn. Early successes included erecting long distance phone lines for Bell Canada, as well as founding and operating several successful companies including Ottawa Light & Power Company, the Ottawa Telephone Company and the Ottawa Street Railway. Thomas Ahearn and Warren Soper are credited with introducing the first all-electric streetcar system to Ottawa. He made Ottawa Hydro what it is today --- back in 1882, Thomas Ahearn and Warren Soper built Canada's first water-powered electricity generating station at Chaudière Falls on the Ottawa River. The station powered the first electric lights to brighten Ottawa nights. They also realized that this method was a reliable and clean way to generate electricity. Today, Hydro Ottawa remains true to its roots, delivering an essential service to Ottawa residents.

## Ahearn & Soper Inc. - Barcode Technology Integrator - Still Going Strong!

Founded and established in 1881 Ahearn & Soper Inc. is an Automatic Identification Solutions Provider with over 30 years experience in the creation and deployment of industrial barcode equipment (barcode software, scanners, handhelds, printers and barcode label applicators), RFID, and mobility data collection systems. Our tailored solutions include off-the-shelf and custom windows-based software, photo ID, Access Control & Video Surveillance Systems and networks based on 802.11x and WWAN technology. Custom written software solutions cover inventory management, work-in-process, warehousing, asset management, mobile productivity, healthcare, tracking systems plus more. We provide pre-sales consulting, installation, training, after-sales support and repair service.



Barcode Scanner

We stand behind the products and systems we sell with a 130 year commitment to customer service!