

NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

Vol. 38, No. 3

ISSN 0700-4427

In this issue...

SCHA Fall Meetings	1
President's Message	2
SCHA Executive	2
Uncommon Threads Exhibit	3
Orillia Events	3
TecWeGwil Fall Line-Up	3
Doors Open Barrie	4
Nine Mile Portage Heritage Festival and Carnegie Days	4
From the Mailbag	5
Andrew Hunter Award	5
Coming Events	6

Visit our Website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

SCHA

Preserving the Past,
in the Present,
for the Future.

Fall SCHA Meetings: Simcoe County Museum 7:30 p.m.

As reported last issue, our September meeting, on Tuesday, September 21, will be the SCHA History Fair. Bring your collectables, documents and pictures with an interesting history to share. Our Recording Secretary Ellen Millar, MAS, will be at our meeting to offer advice on the preservation and care of your historical documents and photos.

As usual, we will meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Simcoe County Museum in Midhurst.

For our October meeting, we will welcome Marlene Hilton Moore, a visual artist with many Public Art Commissions in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Mississippi. The Valiants Memorial, a significant Public Art Commission, was installed in Confederation Square, Ottawa in 2006 and was the final monument to be installed in this prestigious location.

Marlene also has an extensive public exhibition schedule of solo and group exhibitions. Her current multimedia art installation, Made to Measure 2, has been on exhibition since 2009 and will tour into 2012.

She has received awards from the Canada Council for the Arts and the

Ontario Arts Council, and her work is in many public and private collections. Hilton Moore currently maintains her studio in Hillsdale, Ontario.

She will be speaking about the Valiants Memorial historical figures as well as those of John Graves Simcoe and Pierre le Moyne d'Iberville. She will discuss the research into these figures and the unique process she created to sculpt the figures for casting in bronze.

In November, Katie Huddleston-Naieb, curator of the Museum on the Boyne, will speak to us. 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of this museum, which began as the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum in 1960. They enjoyed celebrating a Grand Reopening this past June.

Nestled among the trees of Riverdale Park the Museum features a 1915 agricultural fair building, an 1851 log cabin and an 1858 English barn. The museum houses a mixed collection of household, agricultural, industrial and archival artifacts that depict life in South Simcoe from settlement to present day. The site offers guided and self-guided tours, educational programs, special exhibits, events, workshops and research facilities.

2011 events will be detailed in the December issue

President's Message

by Helen Coutts

If you are like me, the shorter days, cooler evenings, corn ready to eat, tomatoes ripe and farmers busy harvesting spring grain remind us that fall will soon be here with winter not far behind. In the meantime enjoy the rest of the lazy, hot days that remain.

It was gratifying in June to attend Ontario Historical Society as one of ours, the Oro-Medonte History Association, received the B. Napier Simpson Jr. Award of Merit. My personal involvement was that the nomination was submitted by Crown Hill Women's Institute, of which I'm a member. The institute enjoys an SCHA connection as the providers of luncheons on two occasions.

During the summer, your Board does not meet until August but still tries to have our fall meetings arranged. The details are on the front page of *News and Views*. September gives you a chance to participate in our own History Fair. Check around your

belongings for something you would like to show and share with the rest of us. I'm already involved in the thought process.

A special note of thanks from me to the corresponding secretary for tying up a number of loose ends concerning the fall meetings.

This year, while Georgian Theatre did not have anything because of repairs to Georgian College theatre we made opportunities to attend productions in other venues from Grand Bend to Niagara on the Lake, Orillia and Penetanguishene. We find that a good excuse to explore the back roads of Ontario.

Here on the Simcoe County farms, the sunshine has been most welcome as has the rain, but many times the rain did not leave enough days in between to allow the hay to dry and be baled. Even now the grain needs to be dry enough to combine, and to bale up the straw. So while the crops look reasonably good, the

whole story won't be told until they are safely harvested.

With this fall comes Municipal elections. Make sure you find out what the candidates are promising, influence them a bit if you can, and then vote on Monday, October 25. The new Council influences the history of your part of Ontario.

Congratulations to the Essa Historical Society as they commemorate the Founding of Baxter with a plaque unveiling on Saturday, September 18 at 206 Murphy Road, Baxter. I'll be there, and perhaps you will be too.

I'm repeating the same two requests from my last message:

1. Volunteer, or provide a suggestion for a First Vice President for the SCHA.
2. Ask your own historical society executive to investigate invitations to mount a joint meeting for your group and ours.



The SCHA acknowledges the financial support of the County of Simcoe and of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Culture.



Simcoe County Historical Association Executive

Helen Coutts, President	721-0587 rohoco@sympatico.ca
Mark Fisher, Second Vice President	728-3825 mwfisher2@hotmail.com
Gord Harris, Treasurer	739-7649 gordon.harris@xplornet.com
Jill Hynes, Corresponding Secretary	739-6220 mark.jill@sympatico.ca
Ellen Millar, Recording Secretary	726-9300 ext. 1287 ellen.millar@simcoe.ca

For Membership Information, contact

Earl Elliott, Membership Chair 734-9808 earl.elliott@rogers.com

You are invited to submit photos and articles regarding your historical happenings in Simcoe County. Photos will be returned.

Mail to SCHA, Box 144, Barrie, ON L4M 4S9.

Deadline for the next issue is November 26, 2010

Uncommon Threads: Recent Works from the Huronia Handweavers

by Gloria Taylor, OMAH Curator

From August 31 to October 30

For the past 33 years, the Huronia Handweavers have pursued the hallmarks of their guild throughout history: the goals of education, creative development, and public awareness of their craft. Members range in experience from novice to master weaver status, and come from all parts of Simcoe County. This is

their first show at OMAH, and it showcases a broad range of talent and inspiration from this talented group.

Included in the show are intricate hand-woven scarves, table runners, clothing, blankets, wall hangings and much more. We invite you to see for yourself these beautiful locally handcrafted works of art. A truly inspired collection! The opening

reception will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday September 9.

For more information please contact the museum at 705 326 2159. We are open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

You can learn more about the group at their beautiful website, found at <http://www.huroniahandweavers.org/index.html>.

Other Significant Events this fall at OMAH

For those of you who have not visited the galleries of the Orillia Museum of Art and History recently, you have not had the chance to see 500 Years of Prehistory, the Permanent Exhibit in the History Gallery. As noted above, Uncommon Threads will grace the halls until the end of October. Also available on the Community Art Wall is *Land*, by John Ross, beginning September 8.

For something completely different, and to get a jump on your Christmas shopping, check out Cook Book Capers Used Book Sale, in conjunction with the Friends of the

OPP Museum and Stephen Leacock Museum. This event will take place at the Stephen Leacock Museum, 50 Museum Drive, Orillia, October 16-17, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days.

And last but not least, if you were able to visit Orillia's main streets this summer, you not only saw some very cool guitars on display, but also the

banners strewn along the lampposts downtown. These beautiful pieces are available for purchase once the nice weather leaves us! The annual Festival of Banners Gala and Silent Auction will take place on Friday, November 5, 7-9 p.m. The Banners are on display at the museum from November 2-5.



Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury Historical Society Fall Line-Up

by Helen Yielding

With the arrival of September, the Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society gears up for the Fall season. Each month, on the third Monday, an interesting programme awaits members and newcomers alike. For example, on September 20, Barbara Love and Tony Bellissimo will discuss and display photos of Simcoe County's built heritage, underlining how it is being lost to new development. Barbara is an active member of the Architectural Conservancy of

Ontario, an organization dedicated to heritage protection.

Then, on October 18, members are asked to bring memories, souvenirs and photos of times past to guest speaker, Marty Brent, Manager of Black Creek Pioneer Village, who will incorporate these items on a trip down memory lane.

Remembrances of our county at war are the featured topics of our November 15 meeting. Our featured guest is to be announced.

December's Annual Old-fashioned

Christmas Party is the season's highlight. A potluck dinner, carols, a bran barrel gift exchange, games and entertainment make this event a memorable occasion.

Interested! Intrigued! Plan to join us each month at the Tec We Gwill Hall in Newton Robinson at 7:30 p.m. The Hall is wheelchair accessible and we have delightful refreshments at the end of each meeting. For more information please phone June at 905-775-7144 or Marilyn at 905-936-4086.

Doors Open Barrie 2010

September 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except the library, St. Andrew's and Trinity churches which are noon to 5 p.m.

Doors Open Barrie is now in its third year! Explore some of our most intriguing heritage buildings and sites of interest. Part of Barrie's Heritage Weekend, including Carnegie Days and the Nine Mile Portage Heritage Festival (see below).

For information and walking tour times, contact TourismBarrie.

Phone: 739-9444 or 1-800-668-9100

E-mail: info@doorsopenbarrie.ca

Website: www.doorsopenbarrie.ca

Aim Realty Ltd.

390 Essa Road, 722-1770

Built in 1923, this post-Victorian structure has been a Barrie landmark for years. The home's features are of the arts and crafts movement – including oak and maple woods. It also features all original cabinetry and light fixtures. This property was known as one of the largest apiaries in Ontario in the 1930s and 1940s.

Barrie Public Library

60 Worsley Street, 728-1010

Year Built: 1995

Doors Open Barrie Information Centre

Southshore Centre, 205 Lakeshore Drive, 739-9444

The Southshore Centre, opened in 1993, incorporates a restored 1903 Grand Trunk Railway master mechanics and stores building and a steam-powered crane. East of the building are the remains of a railway roundhouse, where steam locomotives were repaired. Drop into the centre, home to Tourism Barrie, for Doors Open event and other tourist information, maps and displays.

Flat Iron Grill

31 Bayfield Street, 726-3566

A Barrie landmark, the former Simcoe Hotel is a flatiron building at Five Points in the heart of downtown, built to fit its wedge-shaped lot following the 1876 Bayfield Street fire. The Second Empire design is attributed to local builder George Brown. The contractor is believed to have been Barrie's George Ball, possibly assisted by Hillsdale's Davenport brothers.

Flying Monkeys Craft Brewery

107 Dunlop Street East, 721-8989

Grey and Simcoe Foresters Regimental Museum

36 Mulcaster Street

The Mulcaster Street Armoury, built in 1888, is the ancestral home of the 35th Battalion Simcoe Foresters, now known as the Grey and Simcoe Foresters. The building houses the regimental museum, with a collection that spans the period from the late 1860s to present-day Afghanistan. It includes photographs, uniforms, medals and more.

MacLaren Art Centre

37 Mulcaster Street, 721-9696

Architect: 1917 Carnegie library, A.H. Chapman, Chapman and McGriffin; 1964 addition, Pentland and Baker and Salter and Allison; 2001 renovation, Siamak Hariri of Hariri Pontarini; Year Built: Carnegie library, 1917; first addition, 1964; renovation, 2001

see below for event information

Maple Hill Montessori School

147 Toronto Street, 728-1008

This beautiful homestead was built in 1868-69 by Charles and Mary Ross. The southern air of this Georgian-style building features a large veranda, square window openings with shutters, classical door case entrance, and eave brackets typical of the period. The building's interior makes it even more spectacular – with crown moldings, marble

fireplaces and detailed tile work.

Meridian Planning Consultants Inc.

113 Collier Street, 737-4512

Built in the 1860s on one of Barrie's oldest streets, this former residence is an example of the expressive Gothic revival style, featuring pointed gables, a three-storey bay window, two-tone brick, patterned masonry and numerous fireplaces. Around 1890, the house was partly destroyed by fire, then rebuilt from the second floor up.

Rogers TV Simcoe County

1 Sperleng Drive, 737-4660

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

47 Owen Street, 728-3991

Barrie's earliest Presbyterians arrived in 1843, and by 1849 had formed a congregation. A building opened for worship in November 1850, but was soon outgrown. The present church at Owen and Worsley streets opened on February 25, 1883. The Casavant "Opus 2712" pipe organ arrived in 1962.

Trinity Anglican Church

24 Collier Street, 728-2691

Trinity, the oldest Anglican parish in Barrie, built its first church on Berczy Street in 1835, but relocated to the present site in 1864. Seventy years later, lightning struck. The ensuing fire gutted the church interior, but by year's end, the building was fully restored to its present appearance, including the beautiful stained-glass windows.

Walking Tours

Downtown Barrie – Memorial Square, 65 Dunlop Street East;

Union Cemetery – 338 Sunnidale Road;

Waterfront – Southshore Centre, 205 Lakeshore Drive

Three interesting, interactive walking tours hosted by our Town Crier and the Barrie Historical Association.

Nine Mile Portage Heritage Festival and Carnegie Days

September 18

Heritage Park & Fort Willow

The fifth annual celebration of the historic Nine Mile Portage Trail. Opening at Heritage Park from 10-11 a.m. featuring battle re-enactments, historic landing of boats, and encampments. Explore the trail through a guided walk starting at 9:30 a.m. Re-enactors

and horse-drawn wagon rides bring the trail to life along the way. At the fort witness the lifestyle lived over 2,000 years ago.

September 16-19

MacLaren Art Centre

Carnegie Days draws on the origins of the MacLaren Art Centre's building as a 1917 Carnegie public library and celebrates the

legacy of Scottish-born American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, who built over 2,500 public libraries in the English speaking world.

Launched in 2009, this annual arts festival offers visitors of all ages great events that explore the role language plays in contemporary art. For more details visit www.maclarentart.com or call 721-9696.

From the Mailbag

Dear Editor:

I am writing to you about the War of 1812. I am an historian at the University of Waterloo and I have received federal funding (a SSHRC SRG) to research and write a Social History of the War. In researching my first book, (*In Mixed Company: Taverns and Public Life in Upper Canada*) I enjoyed wonderful support from local Historical Societies after sending out a letter such as this one, requesting documents.

Do you have anything at all related to the War of 1812? It does not have to be specifically about the War, but could be a diary from the time, a shop or tavern keeper's account book, an artifact, a recipe book, a picture, indeed an account of troop actions whether by friend or foe, or anything else. I am also fundamentally interested in First Nations involvement – not only as warriors but also as a social group during the conflict and any source that depicts First Nations in your region during the War would be great. I know I am writing to many Societies who are located well away from the theatres of the War – but sometimes documents and artifacts end up in unsuspected places or local people participated and left records.

I very much appreciate the clues, leads and knowledge you and your members offer.

My email is robertsj@uwaterloo.ca, and my phone number is 519-656-9671. Please write to the university address if you wish:

Department of History
University of Waterloo
200 University Avenue West
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1

With my sincere thanks for your time and attention,

Julia Roberts, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of History
University of Waterloo

The Andrew Hunter Award 2011

The Andrew Hunter Award is offered annually for historical research on Simcoe County, Ontario, written by an undergraduate student for a course in any university or college. In this seventh year of competition, we look forward to receiving many worthy entries for each of the two awards being offered.

Conditions: The entry shall be an essay between 3,000 and 5,000 words in length or a fourth year undergraduate thesis paper (no length restriction) on some aspect of the history of Simcoe County, Ontario, written in English or in French. The author must have been a part-time or full-time undergraduate student in a degree program at an accredited university or college at the time of writing. The essay must have been written to meet the requirement



of an undergraduate credit course during the 2010-2011 academic year. The thesis paper must have been submitted for grading in the 2009-2010 academic year. Entries become the property of the Simcoe County Historical Association and may be published as part of an essay collection.

Submissions: Essay entries shall be postmarked by April 8, 2011 and undergraduate theses shall be postmarked by January 28, 2011. Submissions will not be returned to the contestants. Papers must be typed in Times New Roman 12 point font, double spaced, and should not bear the instructor's comments or grade. Three copies must be provided. A cover sheet

must list the author's name, address, phone number, year of study, school affiliation and department, and the name of the instructor for whom the paper was written.

Entries should be sent to:

The Corresponding Secretary
Simcoe County Historical Association
P.O. Box 144, Barrie, ON L4M 4S9

Adjudication: Entries will be judged by a distinguished panel appointed by the Simcoe County Historical Association. The winners will be announced in early May 2011 with the presentation of the awards to take place at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

Award: There will be two awards offered in Canadian funds, one for \$500 for the best undergraduate essay and one for \$500 for the best undergraduate thesis. The Simcoe County Historical Association may edit the winning entries for the purpose of publication.

The Simcoe County Historical Association is under no obligation to grant the awards. For more information, see www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

COMING EVENTS

of our Member Societies

Alliston Historical Society – contact

Jackie Baillie 705-435-5626 or

cknowles@rogers.com

Meet at Museum on the Boyne, Fletcher

Cres., Alliston 2:00 p.m. Second

Wednesday of the month February - June

& September - November.

Barrie Historical Association – contact

Doug Hamilton

Meet at Barrie City Hall – 7:30 p.m.

www.barriehistorical.com

September 9 – Bill Bradford Interactive

Railway History Quiz

September 19 – Doors Open Barrie – see

page 4

Collingwood District Historical Society –

contact Joan Miller – 705-445-1119

Meet at Leisure Time Club, 100 Minnesota

Street, Collingwood – 7:00 p.m.

www.historicallyspeakingcdhs.ca

September 20 – Collingwood Public Library

tour/Introduction to Local History and

Genealogy Department

October 4 – Jamie Hunter – The Huron

Ouendat Village and its People

November 1 – Bonnie Roarke – Sea

Cadets on Georgian Bay

Essa Historical Society – contact Olive

Lee

Meet at Thornton Library fourth Saturday

of the month except July, Aug. & Dec. –

1:30 p.m.

September 18 – Unveiling of Plaque

Commemorating the Founding of Baxter

206 Murphy Road, Baxter, 1 p.m.

September 25 – Doug Drysdale, Sr. –

Christmas Tree Operations

October 23 – Essa Fire Department – Fire

Safety

Friends of Historic Fort Willow –

contact Gord Hanson

http://fortwillow.com

Sept. 18 – Nine Mile Portage Heritage

Festival – call 739-4220 ext. 4593 – see page 4

Genealogical Society – contact Linda

Mitchell

Meet at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

Day Saints

79 Ferris Lane, Barrie – 2:00 p.m.

www.simcoebogs.com

September 11 – Sue de Groot Ontario –

Dead and Buried – Accessing the Records

October 16 – Open Discussion on the

Future of Simcoe County Branch followed

by a Workshop: Suggestions on where to

look for information

November 6 – Alan Campbell – So a

Séance is out of the Question – Breaking

down Brick Walls

December 4 – Member Stories and AGM

Hurononia Museum Huron

Ouendat Village – contact Jamie Hunter

549 Little Lake Park Road, Midland – Call

526-2844 www.huroniamuseum.com

September 23 – AGM – 7:00 p.m.

September 10 – October 14 – Art

Exhibition Featuring Donald Pettit

Innisfil Historical Society –

contact Donna Wice

Meet at Knock Community Centre, 10th

SR at 9th Line, Innisfil – 2:00 p.m.

www.innisfilhistorical.ca

September 18 – Celebrating the Guiding

Movement with guiders Helen Gilbert and

Joyce Goodenough

October 16 – Focus on Veterans

November 20 – Annual Dinner and AGM at

Grange Hall, Lefroy

Midhurst Historical Society – contact

Meagan Arnott

Meet at the Library, Finlay Mill Road 7:30 p.m.

third Monday of the month

Museum on the Boyne – contact Katie

Huddleston

250 Fletcher Crescent in Riverdale Park,

Alliston – Call 435-0167

Ontario Archaeological Society: Huronia

Chapter Huronia Museum, King Street,

Midland 7:00 p.m.

September 9 – Conrad Heidenreich on

Samuel de Champlain in Huronia

Orillia Museum of Art and History –

contact Gloria Taylor

30 Peter Street South, Orillia – Call 326-

2159 www.orilliamuseum.org

to October 30 – Uncommon Threads:

Recent Works from the Huronia

Handweavers – see page 3

History Speaker Series – contact Dan Byers

Meet at St. Paul's United Church, Peter St.

and Coldwater Rd., Orillia – 7:30 p.m.

October 20 – Fred Addis – The 1959 Visit of

the Queen to Canada/Orillia

November 17 – Dorothy Duncan – Christmas

Food and Traditions

Penetanguishene Centennial

Museum and Archives – contact Nicole

Jackson

13 Burke St. at Beck Blvd.

Call 549-2150 www.pencenmuseum.com

September 25 – Settlers' Day

October 30 – Hallowe'en Spooktacular

Simcoe County Museum – contact

Kelley Swift-Jones

1151 Highway 26, Midhurst –

Call 728-3721

September 17, 18, 19 – Quilt, Rug and Craft

Fair

Stayner Heritage Society – contact

Dorothy Millsap

www.staynerheritagesociety.com

Clearview Community Church

1070 County Rd. 42, Stayner – 9:30 a.m.

705-428-2540

November 6 – Glad Bryce – *First In□Last*

Out: A Documentary of The RCAF

Women□s Division and Nursing Sisters in

World War II

Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury

Historical Society –

contact June Chambers

Meet at Tec We Gwill Hall,

Newton Robinson, 7:30 p.m.

Call 905-775-7144

September 20 – Launch of Fall Season

See page 3 for full fall details
