

# NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

Vol. 39, No. 4

ISSN 0700-4427

## In this issue...

Our Upcoming Schedule .....	1
SCHA 2012 Meetings .....	1
President's Ponderings .....	2
Obituary and Memorial .....	2
SCHA Executive .....	2
Edmund Zavitz .....	3-4
Trail Marker Trees .....	4
Historical Websites .....	5
From the Mailbag .....	5
House that George Built .....	6-7
OHA Online Directory .....	7
Andrew Hunter Award 2012 .....	7
Coming Events .....	8

Visit our Website

[www.simcoecountyhistory.ca](http://www.simcoecountyhistory.ca)

# SCHA

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

## See you in March

As winter approaches (and I finally have snow in my backyard), the SCHA takes a break from our regular monthly meetings until March. We are lining up a number of speakers for our spring meetings, as noted below. On Tuesday, March 20, we will welcome you to the Simcoe County Museum in Midhurst at 7:30 p.m. for the following presentation.

In *Butchers, Bakers and Building the Lakers: Voices of Collingwood* author Christine E. Cowley shares the stories of generations of Ontario residents, skilfully combined with historical research for a richly presented oral/pictorial history spanning more than 150 years. Historical accounts of life in a key Great Lakes port offer insight into the social and economic evolution of northern Ontario as transportation routes to the head of the lakes were first opened. *Butchers, Bakers and Building the Lakers: Voices of Collingwood* was awarded an Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPY) Gold Medal and the Fred

Landon Award Certificate of Merit from the Ontario Historical Society. Christine is an author, collaborator, editor and/or publisher of over 30 books and is the founder of LifeGems Personal Histories, a company specializing in personal, family and corporate histories.

You can learn more about the book's contents, reviews, and ordering information at the website, [www.lifegemsbio.com/book.htm](http://www.lifegemsbio.com/book.htm)

Further details of our upcoming meetings will be provided in the March newsletter.

Don't forget that Ontario Heritage Week 2012 is February 20-26. You can learn more about events throughout the province at [www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca) under their News and Events section. This year's 1812 bicentennial theme is "Defending a nation".

Simcoe County Museum will celebrate Heritage Day with Family Day indoor and outdoor events on February 20 from 10-4.

## SCHA 2012 Schedule – Simcoe County Museum

**March 20** – Christine Cowley, local author, presents *Butchers, Bakers and Building the Lakers: Voices of Collingwood* – at the **Simcoe County Museum, Midhurst, at 7:30 p.m.**

**April 17** – details to be announced

**May 15** – SCHA Annual General Meeting and dinner – details to be announced

## President's Ponderings

by Helen Coutts

Suddenly it's approaching the end of the year when at our house we have birthdays, a scary thought any more. The Christmas season is here with all the joy and regrets it always brings, but may all your personal wishes come true and spending time with family and friends warm everyone's hearts.

On the farm front the crops are harvested and the machinery put away from the winter weather to be brought out next year for the next planting and harvest. In spite of all the harsh weather, too dry, too wet, too windy, not enough sun, the crops here yielded

well and the farm press is reporting the same results across the province. The clean up in my gardens did not get finished but spring always brings new enthusiasm and energy and I'm sure the perennials will thrive again.

We miss seeing you at our regular meetings this time of year but the decisions to not meet in December (Christmas events) nor January or February when the weather is uncertain makes sense. Look for information for the upcoming meetings elsewhere in this News and

Views. Your Board of Directors continue to plan and meet during this period.

For the past two weeks we were privileged to travel to Egypt and cruise and both Lake Nasser and The Nile River while we visited temples and tombs and pyramids dating from early Dynasties and caught a glimpse of their agriculture and daily life. A sail on a felucca and lazing on the top deck as we moved down the Nile relived earlier times from books I have read.

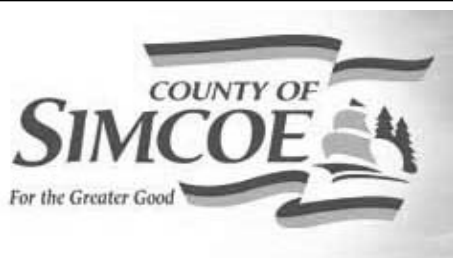
On behalf of the SCHA, I wish you a Happy New Year.

## Obituary and Bernie Longson Memorial

George Jackson of Bradford in his 86<sup>th</sup> year, passed away on Wednesday, October 12, 2011. George was a longtime member of the Bradford Lions Club, a local historian, an active member of the Bradford West Gwillimbury Local History Association and a Simcoe County Historical Association member. His passion for the history of his county will be long remembered.

The Fort Willow Historic Site announced that, with the help of local Rotarians and a generous donation from the Longson family, after three years of planning, they are ready to start construction of a pavillion at the Fort Willow site. When complete, the pavillion will allow large groups to use the site for educational programs and other events.

The pavillion is to be named for Bernie Longson, head of the Fort Willow Improvement Group, and SCHA member, whose years of dedicated work created the site as it now exists. It will honour the memory of both Bernie and his wife, who passed away in 2010. The frame of the pavillion was erected in November and the floor is scheduled to be poured in the spring of 2012.



*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 roheco@sympatico.ca
Mark Fisher, First 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 February 24, 2012

## Edmund Zavitz: Rescuer of Ontario and Simcoe County

by Dr. John Bacher, PhD

Tragically few realize the significant role that Edmund Zavitz played in the rescue of both Ontario and Simcoe County from the ravages of fires, floods and spreading deserts. Comments recently at a ceremony at Guelph University recently honouring Zavitz calling him a “politician” (he never sought elected office) highlight the importance of his partnership with a long time resident of Simcoe County, E. C. Drury. Together, the forester and public servant Zavitz and his friend Drury the visionary farmer and politician, rescued Ontario from ecological disaster with the planting of one billion trees from 1905 to 1968, the year they both died in their nineties. At the launch of my *Two Billion Trees and Counting*, the last living Chief Forester of Ontario, Ken Armson, remarked that their partnership was “one of the rare cases in forestry when the combination of professional knowledge and political commitment established a process that provided long-term benefits to future generations.”

Armson’s tribute was a compelling testimony of the remarkable way that the politician Drury worked with the forester Zavitz to rescue both Ontario and Simcoe County. Although Drury served only three and a half years as Premier, from 1919 to 1922, his political life, with deep support in Ontario farm organizations, helped Zavitz a number of times in his career. As a Liberal activist and farm leader Drury played a major role in persuading the Minister of Agriculture, Zavitz’s future father in law, John Dryden, to establish the first provincial tree nursery in at the

Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. He then successfully helped his Conservative Party friend Nelson Monteith to be elected as Minister of Agriculture to supervise Zavitz’s work.

After his defeat as Premier, Drury contributed greatly to Zavitz’s campaigns to establish Conservation Authorities through the Ontario Conservation and Reforestation Association (OCRA). Subsequent to this victory, he encouraged reforestation through the work of the Ontario Forestry Association.

What Drury and Zavitz had in common was an experience of the ravages of desertification on moraines as a consequence of ruthless deforestation. Unlike other landscapes of Ontario, moraines are highly vulnerable to desertification by the heavy removal of forest cover. Stripping of forest cover on moraines makes them vulnerable to wind and water erosion, creating what at the time became known as “blow-sand” conditions.

Zavitz learned about this problem from his maternal relatives who lived on the Oak Ridges Moraine, the most prominent of which was John Squair. He was a regional historian and Professor of French at the University of Toronto. Drury learned about them from growing up in Simcoe County and hearing stories from his older relatives about what is now called the Oro Moraine. This is a prominent natural land form extending from Highway 400 to Orillia.

What Zavitz learned about spreading deserts from his maternal relatives helped motivate him to become a forester after he discovered the

profession during his last year of study at McMaster University in 1903. In the same time, Drury understood the importance of Ontario politics in fostering conservation from his father’s Christian Methodist-based passion for social solidarity. His father Charles Drury became active in politics and served as Minister of Agriculture. This helped the path of his son, who was also an active Liberal. Drury had his expenses paid to advocate reforestation throughout Ontario through the government’s network of Farmer’s Institutes.



Zavitz took this picture of Drury in front of his horse and buggy during their 1905 tour of the deserts of Simcoe County.

What was most dramatic was the way that Drury and Zavitz met in 1905 at the suggestion of their mutual friend, the Minister of Agriculture, Nelson Monteith. In October 1905 Zavitz went on a 160 kilometre cycling trip from the OAC campus in Guelph to Drury’s Crown Hill family farm north of Barrie. Zavitz stayed at the farm for several days and the two undertook a horse and buggy tour of the blow sand deserts of Simcoe County. One area he described as the Midhurst plain, a land of desolation of 2,000 acres, “very thickly covered in stumps”. Despite this bleakness the two chose it as a site for a future reforestation station. It was located near Midhurst

## Zavitz cont.

in what is now Springwater Provincial Park. Drury was able to establish the station after he became Premier in 1919.

In addition to establishing the Midhurst nursery, Drury created the Ontario Tree Seed Plant in Angus, another Simcoe County area suffering from desertification. He also developed an Agreement Forest program. Later expanded and modified, it provided the basis for provincial funding to County governments to create forest blocks of at least 1,000 acres. The first Agreement Forest in Ontario was established on the barren Hendrie Tract in Simcoe County where planting began on May 8, 1922.



Although getting on well with the Conservative government of Drury's successor Howard Ferguson, Zavitz faced disaster from the election of Mitchell Hepburn in 1934. In this situation Drury, who was again an active Liberal, played a major role in turning government policy around. He helped to form OCRA which was launched in 1937 in a Field Day which involved the unveiling of memorial cairn to the Hendrie Tract as the first County Forest.

Another important spectacle in Simcoe County was the massive tree plantings by Boy Scouts around the Angus Tree Seed Plant. This involved the participation of the reforestation celebrity, Richard St. Barbe Baker and a conservationist group based on WWI Army veterans, Men of the Trees. Campaigns by OCRA and Men of the Trees were critical in persuading the Ontario government to pass the Conservation Authorities Act of 1946 and the Trees Act, which restricted tree cutting on private land. These were the two key measures behind Zavitz's success before his death in 1968 in tripling forest cover in Southern Ontario.

Above: Hendrie Tract just before reforestation in 1922.

Below: County Forester, Graeme Davis, at work in the Hendrie Forest in 2011.

The dramatic impact of Zavitz's life in rescuing Simcoe County can be seen in the Oro Moraine 2010 Report Card which is located on the website of the Nottawasaga Conservation Authority. It describes how areas of abandoned deserts have become "a beautiful pastoral landscape" which is dominated by a "mosaic of agricultural lands" and "forest cover." The Moraine now has an excellent fifty per cent forest cover, much of which was created by the Simcoe County forests. As Zavitz predicted reforestation has provided healthy Brook Trout habitat.

The work of Edmund Zavitz continues today in Simcoe County through the Simcoe County forest and the Lake Simcoe and Nottawasaga Conservation Authorities. Much of their work is now based on protecting the legacy of success of Edmund Zavitz from new challenges, notably urban sprawl. Edmund Zavitz is a dramatic example of the impact it is possible to have on the landscape from conservationist action. It is a message of hope that we can surmount the challenges to the environment of our own times.

Dr. Bacher is the author of *Two Billion Trees and Counting: The Legacy of Edmund Zavitz*, published by Dundurn Press in 2011.

## Indian trails and trail marker trees

Paul O'Hara is researching old Indian trails and trail marker trees in Southern Ontario. He wrote wondering if the Simcoe County Historical Association members knew of any Indian trail marker trees or had any maps or information on Indian trails in Simcoe County.

Researching and walking old Aboriginal trails is helpful, but Paul

has found the best way to find out more about these special trees is just to ask around.

Therefore, he is appealing to the SCHA membership: Do you know of a trail marker tree where you live? Do you know of a marker tree that once stood where you live, a document describing it, or someone who may know of a marker tree in

your area? If so, please contact him at [blueoak@sympatico.ca](mailto:blueoak@sympatico.ca) or (905) 540-9963.

For more details which include pictures, see pages 15-17 in Paul O'Hara's article *A Call Down the Path: Trail Marker Trees in Ontario* at <http://www.ojibway.ca/egret-12-11.pdf>

## Historical Websites

Here are a few historically relevant websites to sample during your online time this winter:

### War of 1812

<http://www.eighteentwelve.ca>

To celebrate the War of 1812 bicentennial, The Dominion Institute partnered with Canadian Geographic, with the support of Parks Canada, to create an interactive map and timeline of the War of 1812. From Tecumseh to Laura Secord, the Battle of Fort George to the Burning of Washington, the website features over one hundred in depth articles on the battles, places and figures that featured prominently in the War of 1812. The interactive map and timeline highlight hundreds of important moments and locations in the War of 1812, and features images and video content. A learning resource page offers tools for teachers developed by The Institute, Canadian Geographic, and Parks Canada.

### Historica/Dominion Institute

<http://69.28.229.218/drupal/> takes you to the newly redeveloped Historica/Dominion Institute site, home of the largest independent organization dedicated to Canadian history, identity and citizenship. Here you can see Heritage Minute clips, get updated about their Memory Project, and review the many programs they have launched, including *101 things Canadians should know about Canada*.

### Sir John A Day

The Sir John A Day website includes a series of short videos about Sir John A's life and role in Confederation, an interactive timeline, a collection of links to classroom-ready learning tools and be part of a nationwide celebration on January 11, 2012. Visit the website today and sign up to stay up-to-date with the latest Sir John A Day happenings, including the Macdonald Festival, an annual series of summer events building toward Sir John A. Macdonald's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in 2015. Visit [www.sirjohnaday.ca](http://www.sirjohnaday.ca).

## From the Mailbag (and the email bag!)

### Carley School 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Carley Community Hall is in Oro-Medonte Twp., 396 the Warminster Sideroad. The building was constructed in 1912 as a one room schoolhouse for the community of Carley which sprang up as a result of the CPR being put through the area. It functioned as a school until 1965 at which time it became a community hall and remains that to today. A Centennial celebration will take place in August to mark 100 years. School records don't seem to be around, so we are finding it difficult to communicate with former students who have moved from the immediate area and who might be interested in being a part of the 2012 celebration.

The hall website is [www.carleycommunityhall.com](http://www.carleycommunityhall.com) and interested former students and community members are welcome to call Ralph Price at 705-835-3159.

### Need a Churn?

I live in London Ontario, but my early years were spent on a farm in Utopia. I have an old barrel butter churn that my mother used on a regular basis back in the thirties and forties. It needs some repair to the base of the main frame, but, I am wondering if a Simcoe County Historical Society would have an interest in this item.

If this item is of any interest please contact me by e-mail or phone at 519-432-2988. Glenn E. McCann

### Algoma 1812

Official War of 1812 Bicentennial Kick-off Event July 17-22

Fort St. Joseph & Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Sites, Sault Ste. Marie

Algoma 1812 is looking for re-enactors, artisans, entertainers, historical displays, musicians, merchants, etc., to join them to help launch Algoma 1812's kick off for the War of 1812 Bicentennial.

Activities will begin at Fort St. Joseph Historic Site on St. Joseph Island commemorating the coming together of nations in capturing the American

stronghold of Fort Mackinaw.

Activities and events will then continue at Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site in partnership with the Rotary Club of Sault Ste Marie who will be hosting a Heritage Block in conjunction with for their summer festival. The City of Sault Ste. Marie will also be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year incorporation.

Algoma 1812 is looking for participants to be part of this historic event and are specifically looking for the following:

British & American Military Units, Individuals & Encampments; Fife and Drum Groups; Period Musicians, Performers and Singers; Period Demonstrators, Artisans, Entertainers; Period Merchants & Blanket Traders; Native, Voyageur, Militia Units, Individuals & Encampments; Artillery Crews and Cannons/Artillery Encampments; Long Boat Crews and Boats with Cannons/Naval Encampments; Voyageur Canoes & Crew; or Military Tattoos.

If you have a special unique 19<sup>th</sup> century talent not listed above we would also like to hear from you!!!

All participants will be compensated in one form or another for attending and providing wholesome education and public orientated programming.

If you are interested in attending this great bicentennial event please submit a proposal for all the days or the days you would be able to attend with the following information from you or your unit/group:

1. Name, Address, Postal Code, Phone Number and E-mail address
2. A description of what you have to offer in regards to talent, demonstrations, exhibits, entertainment, encampments etc.
3. Any promotional materials, pictures, website addresses, flyers, CD, DVD, etc. promoting yourself or your group
4. How many performances, interpretations, and presentations you would perform each day if applicable
5. What days you would be able to attend.
6. Compensation for participating.

Please submit your proposals to David J. Brunelle at [davidbrunelle@rogers.com](mailto:davidbrunelle@rogers.com) or call 705-716-7124.

## The House that George Built

by Deborah Crawford

In 1787, in Montreal, QC, a babe named George Gordon was born. George's life was full of adventure; he was a fur trader with the Northwest Company, and he served in the military as an officer in the Commissariat Department at Michilimackinac from 1814-1815. During his lifetime, he married three times and was the proud papa of at least 13 children.

In the early days of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, some time around 1824, George Gordon decided to settle on the shores of Georgian Bay, near what is now the town of Penetanguishene. By all accounts, George was a fairly successful merchant, practicing his fur trading skills that he had developed over the years. His first home/post was located on a fairly isolated point just on the edge of Penetang Bay. One could imagine he did a fair trade with the soldiers stationed at the Military Establishments.

For reasons known only to George, he decided to relocate and build a new home for his large family, some time between 1824-27, before the arrival of the Drummond Islanders in 1828. This new home was built on what is now Water Street in Penetanguishene. It was a simple log structure, sturdy enough to keep out the cold Georgian Bay winter winds and the extreme summer heat. George was a devout Catholic; oft repeated tales swear that the first mass in the area was held in George's humble home. Other tales credit George with giving the town the name of Penetanguishene.

Fast forward through the years; George passed away in 1852 at the age of 65. He is buried in St. Anne's

Cemetery and one can visit his gravesite and see his marker to this day. One of his daughters, Catherine, took over his home. Shortly before her death in 1916, Catherine would sell the home, which by now had been converted to a duplex.

Time marched along, and the home went through many owners and many families were raised within the sturdy walls of the house that George built. Time, however, isn't always kind and the home did feel the effects of years of extreme weather, renovations, construction, etc. Through the years, the face of the house would be changed, to the point where it was almost unrecognizable. Some were aware, though, of the treasured log structure under the layers of stucco and plywood. Various owners lovingly restored the interior; others renovated the exterior. On a sad day in 2011, the house now lay empty; the current owner had taken ill and was not expected to return. Then, tragically, she passed away. What was to become of the house that George built?

As fate would have it, some local folks with strong ancestral ties to the home discovered almost immediately that something was amiss and that actions must be taken to preserve this treasured structure. By outward appearances, it didn't seem to be anything special, just a "little white house on Water Street". Fortunately, a small group of local history enthusiasts knew better; they knew what a treasure lay beneath the stucco. A committee quickly formed: a small but dedicated group known as the Friends of the Gordon House, consisting of descendants of George

Gordon and of others who had called the house home over the years, the museum curator, and local passionate history buffs.

This group quickly approached Heritage Penetanguishene, a body of the council of the Town of Penetanguishene. Could we start the process of having George's house designated as a Heritage Property? Could we protect the home from the wrecker's ball?

To the delight of the Friends, the support of the town clerk, Heritage Penetanguishene, and the council of the Town of Penetanguishene was forthcoming from the first presentation. Never in the history of the town as a designation process moved so quickly and efficiently. The Friends' goal was first and foremost to save the home, and secondly, to attempt to find financial partnerships and perhaps even purchase the home for preservation.

Only one goal was reached; but it was the most important one. On November 23, 2011, final reading and approval was granted to formally appoint The House that George Built as a designated Heritage Home in the Town of Penetanguishene's inventory.

The small group was unable to come up with the funding in such a short time and the executors for the estate of the late owner were, of course, anxious to have the estate settled. The house was sold in a fairly short period of time. However, the buyer of the home is well aware of the importance and history of the home, of the meaning of the status of being a designated home, and all are quite confident that the house will be restored and treated with the respect

## House cont.

it deserves as one of the oldest homes in north Simcoe County, and quite likely the oldest home in Penetanguishene. There is a lot of work to be done to George's house; the new owners certainly have their hands full. We look forward to watching The House that George Built come back to its full glory over the next few years.

This tale just goes to show that a small, but eager group can make a difference; so don't be afraid to approach your council for support and assistance, and your local museum and historical society. You too may be able to save something precious from the demolition crew. If you would like further details on this process, or on George Gordon and his life and times, visit the museum's website at [www.pencenmuseum.com](http://www.pencenmuseum.com) or email [friendsofthegordonhouse@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthegordonhouse@gmail.com).

By the way, George wasn't the only adventurous soul in the family. Lake Joseph and Lake Rosseau in Muskoka are named after two of his brothers. However, that's a story for another day.

---

## OHA Online Directory

The Ontario Heritage Directory Online is a free database resource that will connect Ontario's heritage community, tourists and researchers at [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

Directory features a database of over 1,600 heritage organizations, heritage sites, museums, archives, First Nations Councils and Municipal Heritage Committees in Ontario. The Society encourages you to explore your local heritage sites to learn more!

Events, exhibits or publications related to the War of 1812-14 bicentennial will be highlighted with a War of 1812 icon.

## The Andrew Hunter Award 2012

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 eighth year of competition, we look forward to receiving many worthy entries for each of the two awards being offered.



Andrew Hunter 1863 - 1940

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 2011-2012 academic year.

The thesis paper must have been submitted for grading in the 2010-2011 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 9, 2012 and undergraduate theses shall be postmarked by January 30, 2012. 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 2012 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](http://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 and October -  
November

---

### **Barrie Historical Association – contact Doug Hamilton**

Meet at Barrie City Hall – 7:30 p.m.  
www.barriehistorical.com

**Jan. 12** – Mitchell Wilson, amateur  
railway historian – History of Allandale  
(Barrie's Railway Ward) from the mid  
1800's to the 1980's

---

### **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

**Jan. 9** – David Brunelle, Project  
Director of the South Georgian Bay  
War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee –  
“What, Why, When and Where” of the  
celebrations commemorating the 200th  
Anniversary of the War of 1812-14

---

### **Essa Historical Society – contact Olive Lee**

Meet at Thornton Library fourth  
Saturday of the month except July,  
Aug. & Dec. – 1:30 p.m.

---

### **Friends of Historic Fort Willow – contact Gord Hanson**

http://fortwillow.com

---

### **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

**Jan. 7** – Ken Weber – The War of  
1812: Why Canada is Not a U.S. State

**Feb. 4** – Gwen Patterson – The War of  
1812: Veterans in North Simcoe

---

### **Huron Museum Huron Ouendat Village – contact Jamie Hunter**

549 Little Lake Park Road, Midland –  
Call 705-526-2844  
www.huronmuseum.com

**Feb. 4** – Symbols of Sovereignty  
Elizabeth II

**Feb. 11** – Annual General Meeting

---

### **Innisfil Historical Society – contact Donna Wice**

Meet at Knock Community Centre,  
10th SR at 9th Line, Innisfil – 2:00 p.m.  
www.innisfilhistorical.ca

**Jan. 15** – Karen Mahoney – website  
moderator focusing on British Home  
Children

**Feb. 18** – Bring & Brag

**Feb. 20** – Family Day features  
Grandparents describing what their  
lives were like

**March 17** – Carolyn Webb – button  
collector

---

### **Museum on the Boyne – contact Katie Huddleston-Naieb**

250 Fletcher Crescent in Riverdale  
Park, Alliston – Call 705-435-0167

---

### **Orillia Museum of Art and History – contact Linda Whiston**

30 Peter Street South, Orillia – Call  
705-326-2159 www.orilliamuseum.org

**Jan. 10-Feb. 25** – Introducing: Lost  
Histories; The Gypsies of 1909 by JoEllen  
Brydon – Grand Opening Jan. 14 1:30 p.m.

**Feb. 28-April 7** – International Women's  
Day Art Show

### **Orillia History Speaker Series – contact Dan Byers**

Meet at St. Paul's United Church, Peter  
St. and Coldwater Rd., Orillia – 7:30 p.m.

**Jan. 18** – Rae Fleming – Author of the  
biography of the legendary Peter  
Gzowski

**Feb. 13** – Fred Addis – Curator of the  
Stephen Leacock Museum – audio-  
visual presentation of the humorist's  
most famous work, “Sunshine Sketches  
of a Little Town”

---

### **Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives – contact Nicole Jackson**

13 Burke St. at Beck Blvd.  
Call 705-549-2150  
www.pencenmuseum.com

---

### **Simcoe County Museum – contact Kelley Swift-Jones**

1151 Highway 26, Midhurst –  
Call 705-728-3721

**to April 8** – Fakes and Forgeries:  
Yesterday and Today – on loan from  
the ROM

**Feb. 20** – Family Day and Heritage  
Day

---

### **Stayner Heritage Society – contact Dorothy Millsap**

www.staynerheritagesociety.com  
705-428-2540

---

### **Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury Historical Society – contact June Chambers**

Meet at Tec We Gwill Hall,  
Newton Robinson, 7:30 p.m.  
Third Monday of the month January-  
May and September-November  
Call 905-775-7144

**Jan. 16** – Show and Tell