

NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

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Visit our Website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

SCHA

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

1812 Summer Events in Simcoe County

Fort Willow

Volunteers from the Friends of Historic Fort Willow will be at the Fort from noon to 4 p.m. on the following dates: Sat. June 30, Sat. July 7, Sun. July 15, Sat. July 21, Sun. July 29, Sat. Aug. 4, Sun. Aug. 19 and Sat. Aug. 25.

Penetanguishene Naval Establishment at Discovery Harbour

Programs, exhibits and activities will be available exploring the links between the region's history and the successful defence of Canada from American invasion 200 years ago.

New features celebrating the bicentennial of the War of 1812 this summer include an above and below deck historical refit of the replica tall ship H.M.S. Tecumseth, based on the ship's original log book, the presentation of a traveling War of 1812 art show entitled "War on the Lakes", and a music special event entitled "Ditties and Shanties" on July 21.

Wasaga under Siege August 17-19

Building on the huge success of past events, the Historic Military Establishment of Upper Canada in partnership with the Town of Wasaga Beach, Ontario Parks and Nancy Island Historic Site will host Wasaga under Siege "A War of 1812 Experience". The area will come to life as over 300 re-enactors take part echoing history through the streets and waters of Wasaga Beach and Nancy Island Historic Site.

OHS 1812 Website

The Ontario Historical Society is excited to announce, on the 200th Anniversary of the American Declaration of War that launched the War of 1812, an expansion to its current online resources that celebrate the conflict's bicentennial.

The new service includes a number of engaging features including educational resources, and a location to list and find events across the province. www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/1812

SCHA 2012 Schedule – Simcoe County Museum

September 18 – Andrew Hunter Award winner 2012, Adrian Bowles with his essay, *The Paths of George McLean and Leslie Frost: Two Soldiers from Orillia and the First World War* – at the **Simcoe County Museum, Midhurst, at 7:30 p.m.**

October 16 – Dorothy Duncan, SCHA Board Member, with her recent book, *Hoping for the Best, Preparing for the Worst: Everyday Life in Upper Canada, 1812-1814* – at the **Simcoe County Museum, Midhurst, at 7:30 p.m.**

November 20 – details to be announced – at the **Simcoe County Museum, Midhurst, at 7:30 p.m.**

President's Ponderings

by Helen Coutts

If you decided NOT to join us at the Annual General Meeting, dinner and "Why History is not Boring" you missed a good one. (With 196 members plus complimentary personal and Institutional mailings we should have more than 40 people attend.) The soothing music as we gathered from our busy lives, which for me meant leaving an RVH committee meeting early and leaving them without quorum, the open bar if that was one's desire, and the competition at the Silent Auction table put us in a good mood for Jean's roast beef dinner and pie. I may have made the speaker's life more difficult by having elementary school age grandchildren there, when he was being historically accurate about the lives and liaisons of historical persons, which was quite amusing.

During the business meeting we celebrated still being fiscally sound even with assistance to some community partnerships and the Andrew Hunter prize award. It is with many thanks that we accepted Ellen Millar's decision to retire, after many, many years as Recording Secretary. Ellen was my personal anchor in our affairs so I will be rudderless for now. Jill Hynes also did not remain as Corresponding Secretary and we appreciate her many efforts in that position over many, many years also. Luckily for our Association she is willing to remain as Newsletter editor.

Fortunately Amber Bagg has accepted the Corresponding Secretary position, so we look forward to having her at our Board Table. That leaves a need for a Vice President as well as a

Recording Secretary on our slate of Officers. Since I have announced that this is my last year as President, we will need your help to fill that position.

Now that summer is here enjoy those lazy hazy days as I intend to do. Flowers are adding a note of joy in spite of summer in March and wind and frost in April. That means the hummingbirds are hovering around my garden and the goldfinches continue to vie for feeder space with the rose breasted grosbeaks and the woodpeckers. We'll add some theatre excursions and a trip to the Calgary Stampede during its 100th Anniversary, and it will be time to hear the Undergraduate Essay winner at our September meeting on the 18th. Take advantage of the opportunities of this summer.

Congratulations to our Andrew Hunter Award Winner!

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Adrian Bowles, graduate of Laurentian University at Georgian, to our September meeting. Adrian was able to join us at the AGM to receive his award, and we look forward to his presentation on Frost and McLean, an interesting perspective on two great Orillians.



Adrian Bowles received his Andrew Hunter award from SCHA members Jill Hynes and Dr. Dan Byers.



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
Amber Bagg, Corresponding Secretary	252-7094	amberbagg@hotmail.ca

For Membership Information, contact

Earl Elliott, Membership Chair	734-9808	earl.elliott@rogers.com
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Please submit photos and articles about 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 August 31, 2012

Tribute to Two

by Gord Hanson

Simcoe County Historical Association extends sincere gratitude to Jill Hynes and to Ellen Millar for their service over the past decade or more (Jill as corresponding secretary and Ellen as recording secretary).

Jill became corresponding secretary by motion of the SCHA board in May 2000. In that position she received correspondence and messages from persons outside SCHA via Canada Post, electronic mail and memoranda, and formulated appropriate responses on behalf of the board. She also prepared the board's meeting agenda and publicized the events and activities of member societies.

As a separate function, Jill produces

and mails our quarterly newsletter *News & Views*, and contributes frequently to articles appearing in the newsletter. She has graciously offered to continue editing *News & Views*.

Ellen became a board member-at-large in May 2002, then was appointed recording secretary by an SCHA board motion in October 2002. Ellen recorded the minutes of all our board meetings including the annual general meetings, distributed the minutes among all members of the board, and held the bylaws and records of SCHA. Ellen has obtained the meeting rooms and the audio-visual equipment necessary to conduct our public meeting programs

(the ones you attend with guest speakers). She has attended and recorded over 90 consecutive board meetings, handwriting over 200 pages of notes!

Both women have served Presidents Doug Hamilton, Brad Rudachyk, and Helen Coutts during their SCHA terms. The executive have relied heavily upon the professionalism and energy of both secretaries.

Please join with us in thanking Ellen and Jill for their efforts in building and maintaining the Simcoe County Historical Association. Ellen is the Assistant Archivist at Simcoe County Archives, while Jill is Professor of Communications at Georgian College.

The Mystery of Mazo de la Roche

by Heather Kirk

Simcoe County Historical Association member Heather Kirk is one of the subject interviews in the film, *The Mystery of Mazo de la Roche*.

The film is a joint creation by Red Queen Productions of Toronto and the National Film Board of Canada. After its premier on Bravo! in June, it

will become available in DVD form.

Heather Kirk is the author of two books about Mazo de la Roche, who is best known for her worldwide bestselling novels about a family named Whiteoak who lives somewhere in south-central Ontario on a farm called "Jalna." Kirk claims that families and properties in York

Region and Simcoe County provided the main inspiration for the Jalna series. This claim does not get mentioned in the film.

The film was recognized as the Best Social Political Documentary at the Golden Sheaf Awards of the Yorkton Film Festival.

Museum on the Boyne

by Katie Naieb

The Museum on the Boyne's latest honouree on the Wall of Honour in 2012 is Mrs. Olive Lee, an SCHA member.



Mrs. Lee is the Secretary of the Essa Historical Society and a tremendous supporter of heritage in South Simcoe. Her many projects have included

~ Creating and selling Fundraising Calendars for the Historical Society.

~ Researching and erecting plaques and signs of importance around the township.

~ Organizing plaque unveiling events.

~ Acquiring pictures and stories from local residents.

~ Researching, writing and publishing historical booklets, the most recent being the "History of Elmgrove".

~ Organizing speakers of interest to entertain and educate the member of the Essa Historical Society and guests.

Mrs. Lee's family and friends joined her at the Museum on the Boyne for the unveiling of her place on the Wall of Honour. She was presented with a painting of the Riverdale Race Track and the museum building in its original form as an agricultural hall. It was presented to her by Essa Mayor Terry Dowdall.

Congratulations Olive!

Lights, Camera, Action

by Joanna Dawson, Canada's History

Canada's History is pleased to announce the official launch of its Young Citizens program, and is excited to introduce you to 200 savvy filmmakers from all across Canada.

Young Citizens provides students with an opportunity to showcase a piece of history that matters to them through the new website YoungCitizens.ca. Students from grades 4-11 are selected for Young Citizens at their regional Heritage Fair. Armed with video cameras and a keen sense of curiosity, the students are tasked with creating a 3-4 minute video about their heritage fair topic.

Through a public vote, the top two videos from each participating province and territory will advance to a finalist round. From there, a panel of judges will select 6 recipients to travel to Ottawa to premiere their film at the National History Forum, held in conjunction with the Governor General's History Awards.

The voting is now open, so we encourage you to visit YoungCitizens.ca to see what the students have created and to support them with your vote. Voting will remain open until 11:59 pm on August 7, giving you time to watch all the videos and vote for your favourites.

Simcoe County has four entries in this contest. Be sure to view the works of Emily, Kane, Noah and Tori.

Emily takes a look at the history of the city of Elliot Lake from a Native settlement to becoming the uranium capital of the world in mining to a retirement community today. Her project explores the interesting history of the once long standing mines of the town, that are no longer there.

Kane's project provides a detailed account of a Traditional Ojibwe Funeral as well as the reasoning behind the process. It is a historical account of how his people traditionally dealt with the

passing of a loved one; how this tradition was outlawed by the European settlers, and how his people are working to bring back this tradition for their communities.

Noah's project records the traditional culture, food, transportation, clothing worn, ceremonies and medicines of his people. He has described how the original people (Anishnabe) lived hundreds of years ago before European settlers came to Canada.

Tori shows us that Canada is famous for our MAPLE SYRUP! From the First Nations' discovery of maple syrup, to the pioneer's innovations, to modern day production, maple syrup has continued to be a strong part of Canada's past and present!

To view these videos and vote, visit <http://canadashistory.ca/Kids/YoungCitizens/Find-a-Young-Citizen.aspx?province=Ontario&fairid=7847>

Some 1812 Tidbits

by Jill Hynes

(Over the next two years, I will periodically include some snippets of research I've found snooping around the internet. I'll try to keep them relevant to the happenings 200 years ago from today!)

According to The War of 1812 website, an interesting collection of opinion and details, some provided by Parks Canada staff, the story of the capture of Detroit is as follows: on July 11, 1812, 2,500 American troops under General Hull reached the Detroit River and camped at Fort Detroit. At Amherstburg on the Canadian side of the river were 100 British regulars, 300 militia and 150 Indians led by Tecumseh.

Hull crossed the Detroit and made his headquarters in a Canadian farm house. He issued a proclamation which was printed for distribution among Canadians. It began:

INHABITANTS OF CANADA

After thirty years of peace and prosperity, the United States have been driven to arms. The injuries and aggressions, the insults and indignities of Great Britain have once more left no alternative but manly resistance or unconditional submission. The army under my command has invaded your country. The standard of the union now waves over the territory of Canada. To the peaceful and unoffending inhabitants it brings neither danger nor difficulty. I come to find enemies, not to make them; I come to protect not to injure you ... I have a force which will break down all opposition, and that force is but the vanguard of a much greater. If, contrary to your own interest, and the just expectations of my country, you should take part in the approaching contest, you will be considered and treated as enemies, and the horrors and calamities of war will stalk you ...

General Hull was so preoccupied with his attempts to terrify Canadians with printed words that he neglected to protect American forts on Lake Michigan. As a result, a small force of British and Indians captured Fort Michilimackinac, while other Indians seized Fort Dearborn (Chicago).

After these small but strategic victories, the Indians took such courage that small bands of them hurried northward from the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to join Tecumseh on the Canadian frontier. Within a short time, the great Indian commander had more than six hundred braves ready and eager for battle.

Hull waited uneasily as Indians swarmed across the border and as Canadian militiamen rallied to the defence of their land. The general became increasingly nervous at the thought of facing an enemy force of British regulars, sharpshooting backwoodsmen and hundreds of angry Indians. His

1812 cont.

nervousness finally gave way to near panic. On August 11th, he ordered his army to retreat across the river to Detroit.

Two days after the withdrawal of the Americans, General Isaac Brock arrived at Amherstburg, where he held an immediate conference with his officers and with Tecumseh.

After a brief consideration of the border situation, Brock decided to cross the river and make a direct attack on Fort Detroit. Pleased with this firm and courageous decision, Tecumseh pointed at the British general and shouted "Ho! Here is a man!"

On August 16, 1812, British regulars, Canadian militiamen and Indians advanced on Detroit as the guns of Amherstburg threw shells across the water. The site of the advancing redcoats and the sound of the shrill, wild Indian war whoops caused an uneasy stir among the Americans. General Hull's own forces still out-numbered those of the approaching enemy, but he did not know this. Feeling the situation within in the fort hopeless, he ran up a white flag and quickly agreed to surrender.

Once the surrender was accomplished, Hull emerged from his catatonic state like a man coming out of an anaesthetic. Scarcely able to speak or act that morning, he was both lucid and serene. "I have done what my conscience directed," he declared. "I have saved Detroit and the Territory from the horrors of an Indian massacre." He knew that his country would censure him (though he could not yet comprehend the magnitude of that censure).

In addition to an easy victory, the daring invaders captured valuable goods, including thirty-three cannon, a large quantity of stores and equipment, a number of horses and a newly built sailing ship. As a token of appreciation of Tecumseh's part in the affair, Brock slipped off his own red military sash and wrapped it about the chief's waist. In quick response, Tecumseh removed his beaded sash and handed it over to the general.

The Andrew Hunter Award 2013

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



Andrew Hunter 1863 - 1940

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 2012-2013 academic year.

The thesis paper must have been submitted for grading in the 2011-2012 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 22, 2013 and undergraduate theses shall be postmarked by September 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 2013 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 and October - November

Barrie Historical Association – contact Doug Hamilton

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

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

Essa Historical Society – contact Olive Lee

705-458-9971
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 fortwillow.com

Sept. 14-15 – Festival at the Fort – Celebrate the War of 1812 Bicentennial in true historical fashion

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

Sept. 8 – Karolyn Smardz-Frost - I Have a Home in Gloryland

Huronian Museum Huron Ouendat Village – contact Jamie Hunter

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

Current Exhibit – The Native Contribution to the War of 1812

July 7 – Hugh Barnett – The Arontio family of Ossossane, Huronia Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society meeting – 7 p.m.

Aug. 9 – Humber College Professor Dr. John Steckley – “What it is like to be a Deer, a Snake, a Prairie Turtle....: Writing a clan-based history of the Wyandot.” – 7 p.m.

Innisfil Historical Society – contact Donna Wice

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

Sept. 15 – John Burns – Old Time Radio
Oct. 20 – Terry Boyle – Ontario Haunted Sites

Nov. 17 – The Celebration of our 40th Anniversary at Churchill Hall

Museum on the Boyne – contact Katie Huddleston-Naieb

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

Orillia Museum of Art and History – contact Lynda Whiston

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

Current Exhibit – Industrious Orillia
July 3-Aug. 18 – All-Ontario Open Juried Art Exhibition – Opening Reception – **July 5** – 7 p.m.

Orillia History Speaker Series – contact Daniel Byers

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

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives – contact Nicole Jackson

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

to Sept. 16 – Museum of Civilization Travelling War of 1812 Exhibit

Ramara Historical Society – contact Cathy Westcott

westcott.cathy963@gmail.com
Meet at Udney Community Centre, 2347 Concession Road 10 (east of Orillia)
7:00 p.m. Third Thursday of the month (except July and August)

Simcoe County Museum – contact Kelley Swift-Jones

1151 Highway 26, Midhurst –
705-728-3721 museum.simcoe.ca

July and August – Summer Sundays with demonstrations, activities and tours with costumed interpreters

Stayner Heritage Society – contact Dorothy Millsap

www.staynerheritagesociety.com
705-428-2540

July 7 – 140th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Stayner Concert, parade, antique car show, food and more!

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 or 905-936-4086