

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.

Our Spring 2012 Meetings

As announced in the last issue of *News and Views*, on Tuesday, March 20, we welcome you to a joint meeting of the SCHA and the Barrie Historical Association. At 7:30 p.m. at the Simcoe County Museum in Midhurst we will enjoy an evening with Christine Cowley, author of *Butchers, Bakers and Building the Lakers: Voices of Collingwood*.

In April, the SCHA has plans in the works for a familiar author to return. However, at this printing, the final details have yet to be worked out. Rather than hold up printing and miss updating you prior to our March meeting, expect a letter to all members in early April with the details of our plans.

That letter will also include the final plans for our Annual General Meeting in May. Our speaker for this event has yet to be confirmed. We are planning another fine meal and our annual elections. After over a decade, both the corresponding secretary and recording secretary positions are open this year. We have

had some interest from a new member to take one of the jobs, but we are still seeking to fill the other role. If you, or anyone from your society, would like details, please contact Jill Hynes at mark.jill@sympatico.ca or 705-739-6220 for job descriptions.

Tickets are \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. They will be available for purchase at both our March and April meetings or call Gord Hanson at 705-721-9401 to reserve.

We look forward to a return of our renowned silent auction, a great fundraiser. If you have items to donate, please contact Jill Hynes (as above) so we can organize our wares before the big event!

To stay current on our plans as they become finalized, and to find dates and contact information for our members societies, don't forget to visit our website, www.simcoecountyhistory.ca. Our faithful webmaster, Pat Elliott, keeps it updated beautifully!

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

Now that many of you, like us, have returned to Ontario from warmer places, the Historical Association resumes monthly speakers, starting March 20. Check the front page for details. If that signifies spring, nature misread the message because now as I write it's as cold as it has been all winter, and we have more snow cover too than most of the winter.

Since we last met in the fall, Ron and I enjoyed trips to Egypt to check out that history and cruise on the Nile before Christmas, and since then travelled to Chile, Argentina, and the Amazon Basin on an agricultural tour. Now I

feel better about buying produce of Chile in the grocery store having seen some of it growing. Did you know that they grow their grapes for wine in rows as we do, but that they attach grapes for eating to a grid of posts and train them to form a canopy with the grapes hanging below away from sun scald, birds and direct hits with spray? They are hand picked by someone walking underneath.

Besides checking out Buenos Aires and the tango, we spent time on the pampas area which is huge and covered with grain crops. Any trees have been planted since it was settled.

In the Amazon basin we found a big city as well as people who use the river as a highway and isolated homes either built on stilts or on floats to deal with the rise and fall of the river system. Two years ago it was 12 feet higher. And the rain every day, sometimes very heavy, convinced me we were in a rain forest.

The new bird feeding complex (ask me what it's like) Ron and our son created has many visitors but not the variety of some years.

I look forward to seeing you again at the museum on March 20.

Sissons Lecture Series

by Amber Bagg

On May 11, 2012, the Laurentian University History Society (Barrie Campus) is hosting a speaker series to promote historical study and research in the Simcoe County area. The event is open to local high schools and the public at large, and SCHA members are invited to attend. Students will gain a sense of studying

history at the university level. The lectures are free of charge. Topics will include Simcoe County history, local history, and general topics relating to Canadian as well as European history.

In the afternoon we are having a discussion panel titled "The Value of Local History: The Simcoe County

Perspective." Any historical society members interested in participating in the discussion can contact Amber at historysociety.laurentian@gmail.com

A full schedule of events, speakers and presentations will be provided in the upcoming information letter sent to all SCHA members in April.



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 May 28, 2012

Simcoe County Archives' Expansion

Simcoe County's historical records will be better protected for the future thanks to the addition of 10,000 square feet to our Simcoe County Archives. The quality of storage has increased incredibly with mobile shelving, a cold-storage vault, a new laboratory and state of the art fire suppression and an external generator. As well, modernized equipment will improve preservation.



From left to right: Archivist Ellen Millar, Dr. Kellie Leitch, MP, Warden Cal Patterson, and Deputy Warden Harry Hughes attended the celebration.

After a tour with archivist Ellen Millar, an understanding of the vast space and varied areas for proper retention of historic artifacts was appreciated by your editor! The grand opening took place on Friday, February 24th with recognition from all levels of government.

All local historians should be thrilled with this wise investment in accessible cultural preservation.

Sir John A. Celebrated Again

by Dr. Richard Johnston

On Saturday January 14th 2012, the 14th annual John A Macdonald dinner was held in Orillia. Again, under the aegis of the Orillia Museum of Art and History (OMAH), a sold out crowd was treated to an excellent evening with guest speaker former Ontario Premier Ernie Eves, who was not only entertaining and funny, but also very well informed regarding John A.'s huge contribution to Canadian history. Ernie Eves was Premier from 2001 to 2003 and was elected eight times to the provincial legislature. He served a total of twenty-four years. He received a standing ovation at the conclusion of his talk.

Premier Eves was introduced by former Canadian Attorney General Doug Lewis. The toast to John A. was given by Bruce Alexander of Toronto.

Special guests included MP Bruce Stanton and wife Heather, MPP Garfield Dunlop and wife Jane, former Minister of Labour Dr. Bob Elgie and wife Nancy, and Sir Robert Borden's grandson, Perry Borden from Toronto. In addition, Orillia Mayor Angelo Orsi and former City Counsellors including Ralph Cippola, Wayne Gardy and Al Hutchings were in attendance.

Everyone present would agree that John A. himself would have been

very pleased by the festive and fun nature of the evening on this his 197th birthday. We are all looking forward, not only to next year's evening, but also to the bi-centennial celebrations in 2015.



From left to right: Jane Sorensen (OMAH chair), Isabel Bassett, Ernie Eves, and Dr. Richard Johnston, enjoyed conversation and festivities at the head table.

Congratulations to Charles Garrad

The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, appointed Charles Garrad, a long time SCHA member, to the Order of Ontario at a ceremony on January 26 at Queen's Park.

Charles is an internationally-recognized archaeologist, historian, and scholar. He is Ontario's longest serving licensed archaeologist, and with volunteers has located and registered over 90 archaeological sites across the province.

From the Mailbag

I wonder if you could inform me who gave the name to the hamlet called Colgan in Simcoe? Do you have any pictures of him/her?

If it's the Poet John C Colgan, I have come upon his work earlier. Please remind me what the 'C' stands for, and I will probably eventually be able to find out where he was born and who his parents were here in Ireland. I have very large databases of material on all Irish Colgans, for example, over 700 pages of

chronology, and 7,000 births or baptisms up on Excel spreadsheets. I have been working on the job for many years, post national retirement. Hope you can lend a hand here.

Regards,
John Colgan,
The Toll House,
Leixlip,
Co Kildare.

Tel and Fax 00 353 1 6244631
Email johncolgan@iol.ie

History of the Carley One-Room Schoolhouse

by Ralph Price

Carley is a rural community that came into being in Oro-Medonte Township when the Canadian Pacific Railway constructed a line from Toronto to Sudbury in 1907.

The CPR built a station, water tower and residence on what is now the Warminster Side Road (near line 7) to refuel steam engines and to serve local farm families. The CPR named the station "Carley" after a local family. (Initially the community was called Booth Corners but one of James and Emily Booth's daughters had married a Captain Carley and the CPR selected the Carley name). Additional station facilities included a stock yard, weigh scales and granary which allowed farmers to ship hogs and cattle to market. The granary was also used as the community dance hall.

A real community developed around the railway station. Within a few years local farm families had their own post office, and a sports field, including a winter ice rink. Telephones were installed in 1911, and Carley gossip appeared regularly in the Orillia newspaper. A general store, boarding house and brickworks followed by the 1920s.

In 1911 the community decided to construct a school. The McDuff Bros. of nearby Coulson built the foundation for the one-room schoolhouse out of concrete, using their state of the art cement machine, and the Booth Bros. (Art and Bob) did the carpentry work. The school opened in 1912 with Miss Maud Bell of Carley as the first teacher. She taught 20 pupils in Grades 1 through 8.

This little school quickly became the social centre of the community.

Carley did not have its own church, and the school was used by traveling associations for religious meetings. It was also the site of Sunday school and school picnics. Large crowds attended these gatherings which included races, games, a luncheon and sometimes ice cream. The school grounds were also used for sporting activities, including baseball, basketball and football.



In 1939 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother) toured Canada. When the Royal Train stopped in Carley to take on water, hundreds of people were there to welcome the royal couple.

By the late 1930s, Carley and many other rural communities were in decline as people left the farms for the city. Cars and better roads lessened reliance on the railway, and in 1951 formal passenger service at Carley Station ceased (although informal service lasted several more years). Freight shipments continued, however, until diesel engines made water stops unnecessary. The station was closed finally in 1960 and torn down, including the water tank and all other buildings on the station

grounds. Today, there is no sign the station ever existed.

Carley school closed in 1965, a victim of a provincial policy of school consolidation which resulted in the closure of one room schools across the province. The final class of 15 students was taught by Robert Ritchie. The school became a community hall immediately thereafter where many events, including family reunions, wedding receptions, card parties, craft shows, pancake breakfasts, tea rooms and square dances continue to be held.

The Carley schoolhouse is the last visible connection to the community's past. There is no sign of the railway station and the store and boarding house are now private homes. Further, Carley no longer appears on maps.

A dedicated group of Community Hall Board members and volunteers has worked hard to keep the Carley Community Hall, now owned by the Township of Oro-Medonte as a viable and functioning entity. In the last few years it became evident that the Hall required some major repairs if it was to continue. After nearly 100 years there were problems with the foundation, the furnace had been "condemned" so that the Hall couldn't be used in the winter and the original windows needed to be replaced with modern energy efficient windows.

In late 2011 the Hall was the recipient of an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant of \$105,900, obtained under the auspices of the Eady-Grenard Women's Institute. This will allow all the necessary repairs to be addressed and will then permit the Hall to be used 12 months

Schoolhouse cont.

of the year. Work is scheduled to commence in the spring of this year.

At the same time the repairs are occurring, the Community Hall Board and the volunteers are working on the plans for the Hall's centennial celebration (1912-2012) scheduled for August 18th of this year. Attempts are being made to contact former students of the school and their families to be a part of the celebration on August 18th. It promises to be a very special and memorable occasion.

Please visit our website www.carleycommunityhall.com or our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/carleycommunityhall> (you don't have to be a member of Facebook to view the page) for full information and details of our Centennial event. Please telephone Vicki at 705-835-3637 if you are a former student, teacher, or the family of someone who was at Carley, or if you have pictures or stories of the Community.

The Carley Community Hall is located at 396 Warminster Sideroad, between lines 8 and 9 in Oro-Medonte Township, (north of Horseshoe Valley Rd.).

This history was prepared by Ralph Price and much of it was sourced from a previous document prepared by Jennifer Mueller in the late 1990s, as well recent material from Bernice Gill.

Visit our Website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

SCHA
SIMCOE COUNTY
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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



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 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

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

Mar. 20 – Christine Cowley – joint meeting with SCHA - see page 1

April 12 – David Clark, author – *The Red Dawn* – 1812-14 novel

May 3 – AGM

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

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

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

Apr. 14 – R. Brock Godfrey – Fraud Awareness and Genealogy Scams

May 5 – Marc Stevens – Escape, Evasion and Revenge – the true story of a German-Jewish RAF pilot

June 2 – Michael Fitton – Country Doctor/Military Surgeon - A Canadian in the US Civil War

Huronian Museum Huron Ouendat Village – contact Jamie Hunter

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

Mar. 12-16 – March Break Day Camp

Innisfil Historical Society – contact Donna Wice

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

March 17 – Carolyn Webb – button collector

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

to April 7 – International Women's Day Art Show

Mar. 12-16 – March Break Day Camp

Orillia History Speaker Series – contact Daniel Byers

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

Mar. 21 – Janet Turner – The Fish Fence: Orillia's Greatest Archaeological Treasure

April 18 – Walter Henry – Orillia's Athlete of the Century

May 16 – Ariel Beaujot – The Language of the Fan: Women's Victorian Fashion Accessories

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives – contact Nicole Jackson

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

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)

Mar. 15 – Frank Cooper – 90th Birthday Tribute

April 19 – Allan Symons – The Canadian Clock Museum

May 17 – John Appleby – Celebrating Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee

Simcoe County Museum – contact Kelley Swift-Jones

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

to April 8 – Fakes and Forgeries: Yesterday and Today – extra activities during March break

Mar. 12-16 – March Break Day Camp

April 25 – Simcoe County Regional Heritage Fair

May 27 – 2-4 p.m. – OPP Chorus Concert – hosted by Friends of the Museum – \$10

June 7 – 7-10 p.m. – Night at the Museum

June 9 & 10 – Wheels and Tracks in Motion

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 or 905-936-4086

Mar. 19 – Peter Monahan – 1812 re-enactor

Apr. 16 – Role of Women 1812-14
