

NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

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In this issue...

President's Ponderings	1
SCHA 2014 Meetings	1
Annual General Meeting	2
In Memoriam	2
SCHA Executive	2
Summer Reading	3
Wasaga Under Siege	4
Yesteryears Celebration	5
Andrew Hunter Award	5
Coming Events	6

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Visit our Website
www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

President's Ponderings: Summer 2014

Welcome to summer...finally!! It is nice to see all the vegetation in full bloom. I also note that our urban forest is in relatively good shape. Somehow the surviving elm trees seem to be hanging on in spite of Dutch elm disease. Apparently the emerald ash borer has appeared on the southern borders of Simcoe County so it may only be a matter of time before we suffer the ravages of this pest, similar to the many ash trees lost in Ottawa and elsewhere.

Since the last newsletter we have held our Annual General Meeting and dinner. This was an enjoyable evening with a delicious meal served by the ladies and gentlemen of Midhurst United Church. Our guest speaker, Earle Gray, enlightened us all on the travails of the Irish immigration to Canada in the nineteenth century. Our executive board is as listed elsewhere and we thank all those retiring from the board for their past contributions.

Our special meeting with the Legion and the Barrie Historical Association, to hear Ted Barris on May 20, drew almost 200 people. Ted enthralled us all with his impassioned presentation on

Canadians at Juno Beach on D-Day. We hope to have a similar joint meeting in November that will deal with the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. Our other meetings are shaping up and we should have an Andrew Hunter prize winner. We will also have a joint meeting with the Innisfil Historical Society sometime in the new year at their restored schoolhouse in Knock.

The large portrait and frame of Sir James Gowan has now been fully restored. Unfortunately, there were cost overruns because it proved to be a very laborious process so we will be seeking additional funding. It is, however, a very impressive work and we are planning a grand unveiling sometime in the fall.

In the meantime enjoy our summer while it lasts. We hope to see you all in September.

Announcement: *The SCHA welcomes anyone interested in joining the Executive Officers in the position of Recording Secretary. After the Annual General Meeting, this position remains unfilled.*

Please contact any of the executive members listed on page 2 for details.

SCHA 2014 Schedule

The Fall 2014 schedule will be available after August 12 on our website, www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

The schedule will be listed in this section in the September issue of *News and Views*.



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

Images from the Annual General Meeting

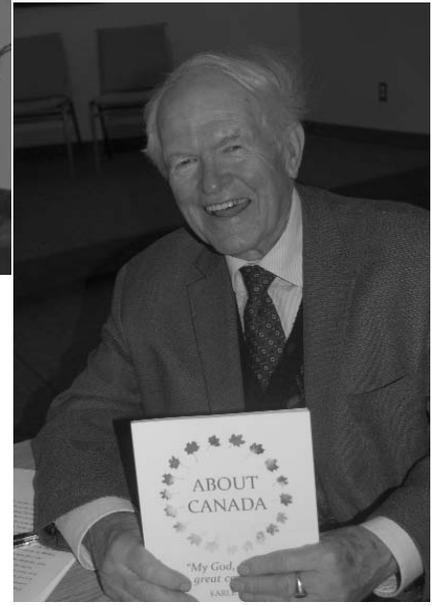


Above: Audrey Hanson (left) and past president Helen Coutts (right), pose with our latest recipient of the annual Andrew Hunter Prize, Kaitlyn Malleau. Kaitlyn was presented the \$500 prize, along with a copy of *The Visible Past*.

Kaitlyn's paper is entitled, *The Time and Place for Subsistence Activities, an anthropology study of life in Simcoe County, comparing the 15th and 16th century found artifacts and samples from the Ellery Archaeology Site near Orr Lake*.

The paper was written for her fourth year anthropology course at Laurentian University in Sudbury. Kaitlyn continues her academic studies in London, ON.

Below: Our Annual General Meeting speaker, Earle Gray, poses with a copy of his latest book, *About Canada*, which offers a kaleidoscopic overview of Canada and its history, including quotations, a compendium of facts and figures, Canadian achievements and inventions, an historical chronology cast as history headlines, and narratives of arresting episodes.



In Memoriam

Soon after the printing of the March issue of *News and Views*, the membership of the SCHA was saddened to hear of the passing on March 21, 2014 of one of our longstanding members, Marg Baker.

Marg was a fixture in the historical community of Simcoe County. Her

membership in the SCHA goes back decades, and she was always a support to her husband Brian when he served as our president.

Marg's leadership and work with the Innisfil and Essa Historical Societies ensured the success of many long-term projects for each group. She was an

avid genealogist, tracing her family history with the United Empire Loyalists, and proudly signing her name with the UE designating her as a proven descendant.

Marg is survived by her husband of 42 years, Brian, and her son and daughter-in-law and their two children.

Simcoe County Historical Association Executive

Mark Fisher, President	728-3825 mwfisher2@hotmail.com
Earl Elliott, Vice President	734-9808 earl.elliott@rogers.com
Gord Harris, Treasurer	739-7649 gordon.harris67@gmail.com
Ardis Harris, Corresponding Secretary	739-7649 ardis.harris@gmail.com

For Membership Information, contact

Earl Elliott, Membership Chair	734-9808 earl.elliott@rogers.com
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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 August 25, 2014

Summer Reading

News and Views regularly receives announcements of book launches. Here are a few to peruse over the summer months. Enjoy!

1812 The Land Between Flowing Waters, by Ken Leland

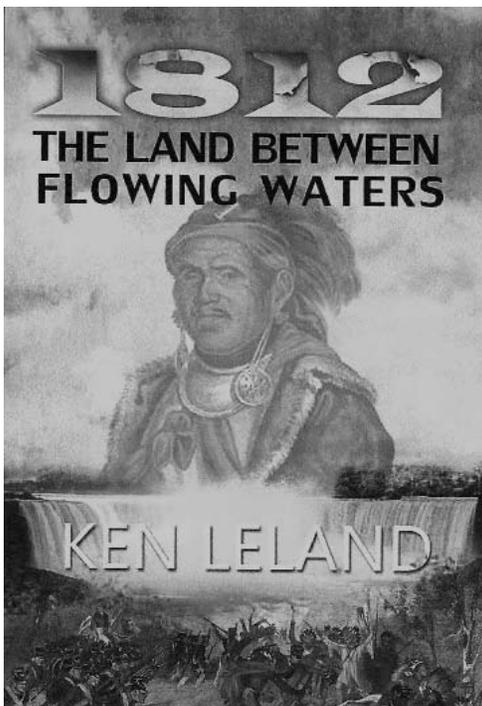
ISBN-13:978-1-61179-251-5

The novel is set in the Old Northwest and the Niagara River frontier with Upper Canada during the War of 1812.

In Upper Canada the Benjamins found freedom from slavery. With their white neighbours and friends, the Lockwoods, both families must defend a new homeland from impending American invasion. These families are Loyalists, living near Niagara Falls.

The Babcocks are pacifist Quakers, yet they too are threatened by the coming onslaught.

For Kshiwe, Kmonokwe and their children, 1812 is just another season of fear among First Nations. This Neshnabek family lives many days travel to the west, in a place settlers call Indiana. In the shadows of Brock and Tecumseh, all join in the struggle to endure.



Those interested in the time period might also enjoy my website www.kenlelandauthor.com which includes excerpts from the novel, a blog with historical background and sources for my writing, short stories, and links for purchasing copies.

The Tide of War: The 1814 Invasions of Upper Canada, by Richard Feltoe

Throughout 1812 and 1813, Upper Canada had been the principle target for a succession of American invasions and attacks. Fortunately they all had been repulsed, but at a high cost in lives and the devastation of property on both sides of the border.

By the beginning of 1814, both sides were determined to bring the war to an end with a decisive victory through an escalated commitment of men and military resources. Continuing the story already detailed in *The Call to Arms*, *The Pendulum of War*, and *The Flames of War*, *The Tide of War* documents the first six months of 1814 and the ongoing fight for the domination and control of Upper Canada.

Captured in the War of 1812, by David F. Hemmings and Joshua Lichty

ISBN 978-0-9733078-3-2

Captured by the American patriot forces in the War of 1812, marched hundreds of miles to remote parts of America, held as hostages, removed from what is familiar, placed in tight quarters for an extended duration of time...thousands of British and Canadian troops were contained in U.S. camps and towns from Massachusetts to Kentucky and, for the majority of cases, shown honour and respect by their captors. The prisoners were clothed, fed and

provided some comforts and activities as they waited out the duration of the war, or until a prisoner exchange was organized.

This is the first full description of the POW camps in the USA and details of those 5,200 soldiers and some sailors captured in land and lake engagements by the Americans around or near Ontario and Quebec. It also addresses the two types of parole and POW exchange.

400 Years of Log Fences, by Eugene Fytche

ISBN 978-0-9809420-1-9

One of the characteristics of the pioneer landscape was the log fence, made from materials at hand for the early settlers. The availability of cheap steel in the late nineteenth century has led to the gradual replacement of these landmarks. The lack of documentation of the craft of log and split rail fence construction has left a void that is in part filled this book. It documents 14 types of log fences and how they can be built by reasonably handy workers. Techniques are those still used by craftsmen in Eastern Ontario, and illustrations are mostly photographed along the concession roads in the area.

Good Neighbours Make Good Fences, by Eugene Fytche

ISBN 978-0-9809420-2-6

The log fence dominated North American property lines from first settlements until the late nineteenth century. In this book the evolution of fencing using watercourses, hedges, stone walls, logs and lumber, then barbed wire, woven wire, electric fencing, and some of the later specialties is described, with many references on a worldwide basis.

Wasaga Under Siege: August 14–17

Nancy Island Historic Site in Wasaga Beach, Ontario

by David Brunelle

This year **Wasaga under Siege** will be expanded to a four day event to include Thursday, August 14 which is 200 years to the day of the battle of an American Victory and the destruction and sinking of the *HMS Nancy*. All official commemorative activities are planned for this day and will take place between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. During this time admission to Nancy Island Historic Site will be free to the public.

Nancy Island Grand Encampment

The Grand Encampment this year will be expanded to include the Nancy Island parking lot to allow for displays, exhibits, period merchants, activities and the expected increase in participants and reenactors to the event. Registration, merchants, artisans and event programming and activities including musket and cannon demonstrations will be located in the parking lot area.

Commemorative Coin

An official commemorative coin is being minted for this bicentennial event and all participants taking part in the event will receive one as a token of our appreciation. There will only be 1000 coins minted and each will be individually numbered with a database of who received what number.

U.S. Brig *Niagara*

The *Niagara* was one of the original ships that was directly responsible for the destruction and sinking of *HMS Nancy*. The *Niagara* will participate in both Friday and Saturday evening battles and during the day will offer deck tours for the public while berthed in Collingwood.

Unknown Soldier Grave Marker Dedication

As part of August 14 commemoration ceremonies a Veteran of the War of 1812 plaque will be placed at the site of the Unknown Soldier on Nancy Island to represent all those Unknown War of 1812 veterans who survived the War and went on to help develop this great country of ours.

Musical Entertainment

There will be great music during the days for everyone to enjoy. Booked groups and performers include Hardtackers, Zoom Daddys, Drums 1812, Caber Toss, Backroads. The ever so popular Hospitality tent will be open both Friday and Saturday evenings for all participants, volunteers and sponsors to attend.

The Story of *HMS Nancy*

During one of the *Nancy's* supply trips to the Nottawasaga, in July of 1814, an American force left Detroit, intending to recover Fort Mackinac. Their frontal assault was defeated in the Battle of Mackinac Island. However, they had learned of the location of the *Nancy* from a prisoner, and three of their vessels proceeded to Nottawasaga Bay.

At the Nottawasaga, Lieutenant Miller Worsley of the Royal Navy had succeeded Poyntz and taken command of the *Nancy*, which was about to sail to Mackinac with 300 barrels of flour, bacon and other rations. He was warned of the American presence and had the *Nancy* towed two miles up the river, where he hastily built a blockhouse armed with three guns (presumably dismounted from the schooner). His force consisted of 21 sailors, 23 Indians and nine French-Canadian voyageurs.

On August 14, 1814, Captain Arthur Sinclair led three American ships (*Niagara*, *Scorpion* and *Tigress*) into Nottawasaga Bay. The Americans believed that the *Nancy* was still out on the lake and heading back to the Nottawasaga, and intended to wait in ambush for her in the bay. However, Sinclair landed some of his troops to make an encampment on the spit of land between the river and the lake shore, and some wood-cutting parties discovered the schooner's hiding place.

The next day, three companies of American regular infantry supported by a 5.5-inch mortar and the guns of Sinclair's ships attacked Worsley's position. Worsley, faced with overwhelming odds, determined to scuttle the *Nancy* to prevent her being captured by the enemy, with her valuable stores, but before Worsley's plans to destroy the ship could be completed, the ship was hit by an American mortar shell that set her on fire. Her crew escaped, but the *Nancy* sank.

After the action, the gunboats *Scorpion* and *Tigress* were left to guard the river to prevent canoes and bateaux from getting supplies to Fort Mackinac. Eventually the river mouth was blocked with felled trees, and the two gunboats proceeded along the north shore in the hope of intercepting fur-laden canoes on the lake. Worsley and his men removed the obstructions and reached Mackinac on August 31, 1814 after paddling and rowing for 360 miles. They subsequently surprised and captured both American gunboats in the Engagement on Lake Huron.

Yesteryears Celebration

by Cathy Westcott

RAMARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YESTERYEARS CELEBRATION

Saturday, July 26th, 2014

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Church of St. Columbkille
(4993 Highway 12 at Muley Point
Road)

Ramara Historical Society's
Yesteryears is an event designed for
people of all ages, families, historians,
farmers, educators and more.

Partake in hands on demonstrations,
view military artifacts, speak with
knowledgeable participants, enjoy
musical entertainment or stroll
through Market Square and purchase
hand crafted items.



Displays of vintage vehicles, farming
and construction equipment,
genealogical workshops, costumed
volunteers and the list goes on. This
unique event will allow you to
reconnect with your past and old
friends, while meeting new ones.
Come join us!

Visit our website at

www.yesteryearscelebration.weebly.com



The Andrew Hunter Award 2015

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 2014-2015 academic year. The thesis paper must have been submitted for grading in the 2013-2014 academic year. Entries become the property of the



Andrew Hunter 1863 - 1940

Simcoe County Historical Association and may be published as part of an essay collection.

Submissions: Essay entries shall be postmarked by April 20, 2015, and undergraduate theses shall be postmarked by July 31, 2014. 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 as soon as possible. Contestants should keep the SCHA aware of their contact information.

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

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



Ontario

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 Mark Fisher

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

Oct. 6 – Dean Hollin – Ghost Stories of Collingwood

Nov. 3 – Carole Stuart – Collingwood's Forgotten Heroes

Essa Historical Society – contact Olive Lee

705-458-9971
teddylee1@rogers.com

Meet at Thornton Library fourth Saturday of the month except July, August and December – 1:30 p.m.

Friends of Historic Fort Willow – contact Gord Hanson

fortwillow.com

Friends of The OPP Museum – contact Ellen Blaugers

705-330-4178
support@oppmuseumfriends.ca

Sept. 5 – Pedal for the Past Fundraising Bike Ride – All proceeds will be donated to The OPP Museum

Genealogical Society – contact Linda Mitchell

Meet at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 79 Ferris Lane, Barrie – 2:00 p.m. www.simcoeboogs.com

Huron Museum Huron Owendat Village

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

Innisfil Historical Society – contact Donna Wice

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

Museum on the Boyne – contact Katie Huddleston-Naieb

250 Fletcher Crescent in Riverdale Park, Alliston – 705-435-3900 ext. 1802

Orillia History Speaker Series – contact Daniel Byers

Meet on the 3rd floor of the Orillia Museum of Art & History, 30 Peter Street South. – 7:30 p.m. – returns in September

Orillia Museum of Art and History

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

Special Events

Aug. 23 – Tenth annual Starry Night

Sept. 26-28 – Culture Days

Museum Displays

to Aug. 2 – Disarming Beauty

to Aug. 2 – Intent to Create: C.A. Henry

Aug 7-Oct. 4 – Carmichael Canadian Landscape Exhibition

to May 9, 2015 – World War

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives – contact Nicole Jackson

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

July 1 – Canada Day at the Museum

Sept. 27 – Settlers' Day Dinner honouring the descendants of the Military and Naval Establishment

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)

www.yesteryearscelebration.weebly.com

July 1 – Washago Canada Day Parade

July 6 – Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Day

July 26 – Yesteryears – see page 5

Sept. 5-7 – Orillia Fall Fair

Sept. 13 – Ramona Fall Fair

Simcoe County Museum – contact Kelley Swift-Jones

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

July 6 to Aug. 17 – Summer Sundays

July 8 to Aug. 19 – Museum After Hours – special evening programming

Aug. 24 – 7th Annual Savour Simcoe

Stayner Heritage Society – contact Dorothy Millsap

www.staynerheritagesociety.com
705-428-2540

July 5 – 17th Annual Heritage Day

Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury Historical Society – contact Patricia Blackstock

Meet at Tec We Gwill Hall, Newton Robinson, 7:30 p.m.

Third Monday of the month January-May and September-November 416-247-6551

Sept. 15 – TBA

The logo for the Simcoe County Historical Association (SCHHA) features the letters 'SCHHA' in a large, bold, serif font. The letters are black and have a slightly distressed or hand-drawn appearance. The 'S' and 'H' are particularly prominent, with the 'S' having a long, sweeping tail that extends under the 'H'. The 'A' is also large and bold, with a slightly irregular shape.