

NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

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Contact the editor, Jill Hynes
at 705-739-6220 or at
mark.jill@sympatico.ca

Visit our Website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

SCHA

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

Upcoming Meetings

Our September meeting will find Donna Wice and Marj Mossman discussing our lake and the *Emily May*. Built in 1861 in Belle Ewart by Isaac May and named for his daughter, the *Emily May* had a 21 year career in both passenger and freight business. As the railroad became a more prominent means of transportation the ship was renamed *Lady of the Lake* and became a pleasure craft The *Emily May* was abandoned in 1883 off the coast of Belle Ewart. Eventually it was burned and the remains are still in Lake Simcoe. Hear more about this ship and our heritage lake on September 22.

In October, we welcome author Pat Watson with her new book, *Princes in the Wilderness*. This is a fact meets fiction account of the author's great-great grandfather, his two brothers and their married sister and her husband, between 1817 and 1837. Simcoe County, once part of what was known as the Home District, first developed in the south

east corner. It was purchased from the natives in October 1818 and was surveyed by the Lounts around 1819-20. The author's family was one of the first to claim land. The story follows their emigration from England, travels across Lower and Upper Canada, and the trials they faced as they established lives in King Township. The story ends with her relatives' roles in the events of December, 1837.

In November, Major John Fisher will share some tales of the Grey and Simcoe Foresters and plans for the 150th anniversary that will be celebrated on September 14, 2016. The Grey and Simcoe Foresters is the only remaining unit in the Commonwealth of Nations known to be designated as a regiment of Foresters. They have had a unique history that has lived up to its rural versatility and spirit. The Foresters have enjoyed one of the most diverse roles in the Canadian Army, serving as infantry, armoured and artillery.

SCHA 2015 Schedule

September 22 – 7:30 p.m. – Donna Wice and Marj Mossman – Lake Simcoe a Heritage Lake and the *Emily May* – Simcoe County Museum

October 20 – 7:30 p.m.– Pat Watson – *Princes in the Wilderness* – Simcoe County Museum

November 17 – 7:30 p.m.– Major John Fisher – Barrie Legion – The history and the upcoming celebration marking the 150th Anniversary of the Grey and Simcoe Foresters (Joint presentation with Barrie Historical Association and Royal Canadian Legion)

Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum Receives Award

by Audrey Hanson

In 1967, the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) established an awards programme to recognize individuals, organizations, corporations, and authors who have contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of Ontario's history and heritage.

Dr. Ian Radforth, chair of the Honours and Awards committee of The Ontario Historical Society, announced the 2014-15 award recipients, who were presented with their awards in June at the Aga Khan Ismaili Centre in North York. One of SCHA's member societies, the Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum, received the Dorothy Duncan Award for outstanding service by a non-profit organization, nominated by a Municipal or a First Nations Council. Their work is restoring and maintaining the Woodrow Homestead property.

The Hanson's celebrated their 35th anniversary by visiting the museum's 50th anniversary!

Dorothy Duncan was on hand during



the weekend, demonstrating her historical and culinary knowledge. The museum is comprised of the 175 year old Woodrow Homestead log house. It seemed odd, but delightful, to see the old window with a modern security sticker and with a modern hose for watering the garden. On the other side of the house there is a

creative display of an old water pump situated on a path that leads one to a walk along the Coldwater river and to a building that recreates a one-room school house!

The SCHA board and membership extends its congratulations to this hardworking, innovative group, and wishes them many years of sharing heritage with our community.



The Andrew Hunter Award 2015

A note from the SCHA Board of Directors:

Some changes to The Andrew Hunter Award are forthcoming. The contest is in review and the SCHA thanks all writers of the essay submissions over the past ten years and more. The inaugural winner was awarded at the SCHA AGM of 2004. The competition was initiated by the Board of Directors in 2001 and offered for the first time in 2002. More details will be available in the December issue.

Simcoe County Historical Association Executive

Earl Elliott, Vice President	705-734-9808	earl.elliott@rogers.com
Helen Coutts, Second Vice President	705-721-0587	roheco@sympatico.ca
Gord Harris, Treasurer	705-739-7649	gordon.harris67@gmail.com
Ardis Harris, Corresponding Secretary	705-739-7649	ardis.harris@gmail.com
Audrey Hanson, Recording Secretary	705-721-9401	hanson9401@rogers.com

For Membership Information, contact

Earl Elliott, Membership Chair 705-734-9808 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 or e-mail to Jill Hynes, Editor at mark.jill@sympatico.ca.

OMAH History Awards 2015

The Orillia Museum of Art & History and the History Committee are pleased to announce the 2015 OMAH History Awards. Four awards are offered bi-annually starting in 2015, for historic research or heritage presentation in Orillia and area. Orillia and area includes the City of Orillia, the Townships of Ramara, Severn, and Oro-Medonte. There will be up to four awards and up to two recipients in each category.

Categories include History Awards for Research, Publications and/or Education.

General History recognizes someone whose scholarly research results in a publication that will expand the permanent public record of history knowledge and/or someone

whose communication or teaching skills inspire greater public awareness of, and interest in, history over the last five years.

Lifetime Achievement recognizes someone who has contributed to Orillia and area history over many years which represents a lasting, historic legacy.

General Heritage Preservation recognizes someone for compiling a significant group of artifacts, and repairing or restoring them to represent the original conditions.

Historic Reconstruction recognizes someone whose re-creation of a historic interior structure or landscape brings to life the material environment of an earlier time.

Judges Recognition is an honourable mention to people who are not eligible for an award, but who contribute over and above to promote/preserve Orillia and area history, i.e., employee of local institutions who go above and beyond their line of duty. No prize. No award.

Nomination forms can be found online at: <http://www.orilliamuseum.org/>
Nominations must be received at the Museum by 4:00 p.m. Monday, September 14, 2015.

Please deliver the completed Nomination Package to:

Orillia Museum of History and Art
30 Peter Street South, Orillia,
Ontario, L3V 5A9 705-326-2159

Step into History - Festival at Fort Willow

On Saturday, September 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Historic Fort Willow comes alive with the Festival at Fort Willow.

Be a part of life as it was in 1812!

- military, First Nations and voyageur encampments
- cannon and musket firing
- demonstrations of authentic medicine, sewing, cooking, weaving, blacksmithing and more
- music, storytelling and games
- children's hands-on activities including musket drills, candle making and beading
- water and food available for purchase



Historical re-enactors bring to life the day-to-day activities of British soldiers, camp followers and First Nations people living in Simcoe County in 1812. A great event for families, the festival's interactive stations, children's entertainment and

hands-on historical displays are sure to please. Muster-up and march in the King's army, learn about blacksmithing, carpentry and candle making, or listen to the cannons roar: there is something for everyone!

Admission to the festival is free. There is no parking on-site, but a free shuttle bus runs to-and-from the Grenfel Community Hall (1989 Sunnidale Rd.) throughout the day. For more information, visit nvca.on.ca.



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



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
See SCHA 2015 Schedule on page 1

Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum – contact Elaine Scott

1474 Woodrow Road, Coldwater

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. 4 – 10-4 – 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Collingwood Federal Building and commemorating the October 1873 departure of the North West Mounted Police from the Port of Collingwood to Canada's west – see page 5 for details

Oct. 5 – David Vuckson, writer for the Enterprise Bulletin – Life in Collingwood in the 1950's and 1960's

Nov. 2 – Andrew Durie, local elementary school teacher – Fields of Valour: The Battlefields of Europe – visual tour of the battlefields of the World Wars

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
Sept. 19 – Festival at the Fort – see page 3

Friends of The OPP Museum – contact Ellen Blaubergs

705-330-4178
support@oppmuseumfriends.ca

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

Sept 12 – Larry Cotton – Whiskey & Wickedness – Meeting at the Simcoe County Museum

Oct. 3 – Richard Feltoe – Redcoated Ploughboys (War of 1812) – Meeting at the Barrie Free Methodist Church

Nov. 7 – Jane Turvey – Orillia Public Library

Hurononia Museum Huron Ouendat 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

Sept. 19 – Monarchist League of Ontario – Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth: 63 years of service

Oct. 17 – Donna Orsatti – Looking back at the evolution of Sandycove Acres

Nov. 21 – AGM and Roast Beef Dinner – St. James United, Stroud

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 Ninette Gyorody

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

Oct. 21 – Dr. Chris Decker – poet, physician and First World War soldier John McCrae

Nov. 18 – Kate Lines, author of *Crime Seen* and one of only two female OPP officers trained as criminal profilers by the FBI

Orillia Museum of Art and History
30 Peter Street South, Orillia – 705-326-2159 www.orilliamuseum.org

Sept. 25-27 – Culture Days

to Sept. 26 – Nation to Nation – Cultural Perceptions of Nation

to Dec. 26 – touch – 400 year anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's travels through Huronia, their context and influence

Oct. 1-Dec. 6 – Carmichael Canadian Landscape Exhibition: Tradition Transformed Reception: **Oct. 8**, 7-9 p.m.

Oct. 8 – New Work exhibit by James Ireland and Highlights from the Collection exhibit open

Oct. 24 – Telling Tales: Let the Fur Fly, Teachings from the Animals

Oct. 25 – Art Meets History Tour – North Ward Orillia

Nov. 3 – AGO and Bata Shoe Museum bus trip

Nov. 5 – History Awards Gala

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives – contact Nicole Jackson

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

Oct. 2 – Spirit Walk

Oct. 31 – Halloween Spooktacular

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)

Sept. 17 – David Town – Walter Knox's Remarkable Life: Athlete, Hustler and Con Man

Oct. 15 – Bob Bowles – Castles of North America: the evolution of barns and barn framing

Nov. 18 – AGM and Election
Tiffin's Creative Centre will present digitized paintings by Brian Lorimer along with Royal Scots Dragoons, Guards, Laments and Hymns

Dec. 16 – Potluck Dinner at 6:00 p.m. at Udney Community Centre Country Music/Silent Auction and Bucket Draw

Simcoe County Museum – contact Kelley Swift-Jones

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

Sept. 18-20 – Simcoe County Quilt, Rug & Craft Fair

Oct. 17 – Last Blast Equipment Run

Oct. 27-29 – An Evening of Halloween

Dec. 10-11 – Christmas Past and Present

Stayner Heritage Society – contact Dorothy Millsap

www.staynerheritagesociety.com
705-428-2540

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. 21 – TBA