

# NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

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Visit our Website

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

# SCHA

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

## SCHA Events, Fall 2016

During this year, SCHA celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the county's historical association. We look forward joining with our member societies in the new year with special events that are in the planning stages.

First, we welcome Susan Antler of Utopia Grist Mill and Park. Susan will share with us both the long and recent history of Bell's Mill on the park property, and the nearly 10-year project that has been ongoing.

Restoration work by Friends of the Utopia Grist Mill and Park became a vision in 2007 when the Friends assumed financial and stewardship responsibilities in agreement with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.



Photo credit: Conservation Ontario

So far, walking trails, fencing, an orchard and a number of community events taken shape. Over \$150,000 has been raised for the restoration of the gristmill itself which is in process.

In November, we will partner with the Barrie Historical Association and the Simcoe County Museum to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Grey and Simcoe Foresters of the Canadian Army.

This fall, the Simcoe County Museum is honouring the Foresters with an exhibit and a series of talks, of which our November 15<sup>th</sup> event will be a part.

The full schedule is as follows:

October 11 – 6:30 p.m.– Official opening of the Exhibit. Major John Fisher will begin his presentation, The Grey & Simcoe Foresters, Celebrating their 150 Years of History, at approximately 7:15.

October 18 – 7:30 p.m. – The Northwest Rebellion and the York-Simcoe Foresters with former MWO, Darcy Murray

November 15 – 7:30 p.m. – Telling the Story of a G&S Forester of Today as told by MWO Dean Henley

November 29 – 7:30 p.m. – A Canadian & Simcoe County Perspective on The WWI Battles of 1916: St. Eloi, Mt. Sorrel and The Somme with G&S Forester, Regimental Museum Associate, Steve Glover

We look forward to seeing you at our fall events!

## SCHA 2016 Schedule

**October 27** – 7:30 p.m. – Susan Antler – Restoration of the Utopia Grist Mill and Conservation Park – Barrie City Hall Rotunda

**November 15** – 7:30 p.m. – Master Warrant Officer (MWO) Dean Henley of the Grey and Simcoe Foresters Regiment – The Story of a Grey and Simcoe Forester of Today – Simcoe County Museum

In 2017, the SCHA will mark the celebrations of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Association. Watch for more details in the December issue of *News and Views*.

## Summer Military Celebrations

by Dan Byers



Troops leaving Barrie City Hall to march through the downtown of the City of Barrie, during the Freedom of the City Parade on June 4.



Unveiling of new Memorial Wall and Sculpture at Base Borden on June 9, part of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.



Grey and Simcoe Foresters' Presentation of Colours on May 21 in Owen Sound. The colour party carrying the new colours, shortly after they were first unveiled.



The entire Grey and Simcoe Foresters unit lined up on parade, with the Governor-General's pennant flying in the foreground, and the new colours in the centre of the background



*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

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For Membership Information, contact

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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 or e-mail to Jill Hynes, Editor at mark.jill@sympatico.ca.

## OMAH History Speaker Series

by Mary Ann Grant

The Orillia Museum of Art and History kick starts the 2016 - 2017 History Speaker Series on Wednesday, October at 19 at 7:30 p.m. Rusty Russel, a retired lawyer who practiced for over fifty years, will talk about The Avro Arrow and why it was cancelled.



The Avro Arrow a CF105 supersonic jet interceptor, was designed and built entirely in Canada by A.V. Roe Canada. It was said to be faster and more advanced than any other comparable aircraft, a feat of aeronautical engineering. The Jet was built in the 1950s to respond to the threat of nuclear attack by the Soviet Union. The production of the Arrow was abruptly cancelled by the

Diefenbaker government on February 20, 1959 throwing thousands out of work and bringing an end to a Canadian success story. That day became known as “Black Friday”.

Russel brings a unique perspective to this highly political and controversial decision. He started his law career as a secretary lawyer for one of the research companies working on the Avro Arrow. He was with the president of the company when the call came in

to advise him the Arrow had been cancelled.

The following month, the Orillia Museum of Art and History welcomes Larry Cotton as guest speaker on Wednesday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m. Cotton will speak about Eric Harvie and the Harvie Settlement in Orillia.

The Harvies were a pioneering family in Orillia and Oro between 1831 and 1925. Cotton’s great grandmother Mary Harvie who married Daniel Cotton in 1868 were the first of the Harvie connection to settle on what is now known as Harvie Settlement Road. His talk will describe the pioneering efforts of the family.

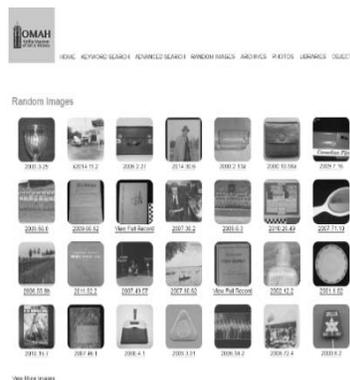
The life and times of descendent Eric Harvie, a highly successful lawyer and businessman who settled in Alberta, will be highlighted. The Glenbow Museum in Calgary, Eric Harvie Theatre at Banff School of Fine Arts and the Drumheller Dinosaur Museum in Drumheller, Alberta were all donated by the Harvie family for public use.

Larry Cotton resides in the Town of Perth. He is a retired land use planner and taught at Georgian College for over a decade. He is the author of eighteen books in the “Whisky & Wickedness” Series, featured on the CBC Ontario Morning Show several times and has written several Discovery Channel historical episodes.

## OMAH Collection

The Orillia Museum of Art and History is excited to announce the launch of their online collections database!

This digital archive is part of an ongoing effort to make OMAH’s permanent collection more accessible to the public. Using this database, you can discover OMAH’s permanent collection as you please, with the ability to search new records every month as they are uploaded.



To help you get started, they have created a quick tutorial to show how user-friendly it is to navigate their

new digital archives. You can always reference the tutorial video on their YouTube channel, found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uNoOaXGIVk>

If you have any questions related to the online database or about donating to OMAH’s collections, please do not hesitate to email OMAH’s Registrar, Hope McGilly at [collections@orilliamuseum.org](mailto:collections@orilliamuseum.org) or call 705-326-2159 x107.

*County of Simcoe Pioneer and Historical Society*  
*The Northern Advance, Barrie Ontario*  
*November 12, 1891*

Late Friday afternoon there was a meeting at the Town Council chamber to consider the advisability of organizing a Pioneer and Historical Society for the county of Simcoe.

The following gentlemen were present -- FEP Pepler Q.C. Mayor of Barrie, Reverend Doctor Parker, Messrs. H W Hewson and John L Warnica, C W Lawton of Orillia Times, Geo. H Hale Orillia Packet, Dr. Jakeway Stayner, Mr. W H Doel of the Provincial Association, H N Courtlandt of the Advance, and Mr A F Hunter of the Examiner.

After thoroughly talking the matter over, it was moved by G H Hale, seconded by Dr. Jakeway, that we form a society to be called the County of Simcoe Pioneer and Historical Society which was carried.

Moved by A F Hunter, seconded by John L Warnica, that the society be constituted of members who have obtained the age of twenty-one years. Carried

Moved by C W Lawton, seconded by Rev. Dr. Parker, that those eligible for membership be those who resided in the County of Simcoe prior to Confederation, July 1, 1867, or their decedents (sic) who

shall be known as pioneers, and also natives of the county and those who have been resident in the county for five years previous to their application for membership. Moved by G H Hale, seconded by Dr. Jakeway that the officers be: Honorary President - the Hon. J R Gowan, President - Judge Ardagh, Secretary - A F Hunter, Treasurer - C W Lawton, Executive Committee - Rev. Dr. Parker, Wm Hewson Esq., Mayor Pepler and S L Soules.

Moved by Wm. Hewson Esq., seconded by Mr. Lawton that the next meeting be held in Barrie on the first Friday in December at eleven o'clock -

Moved by Mr. Hale, seconded by Mr. Warnica that a vote of thanks be tendered Mr. Doel (sic) for his kind services in attending this meeting and that the secretary take steps to affiliate with the provincial association. Carried

Moved by Mr. Lawton, seconded by Mr. Doel that a vote of thanks be tendered to Mayor Pepler and Rev. Dr. Parker for their services in the capacity of chairman. Carried

The meeting then adjourned..

Thus, 125 years ago, the society that would 80 years later become the Simcoe County Historical Association was born.

As we look forward to our year of celebration, our plans include publication of an overall history of our work which has been compiled in sections over the decades by numerous authors.

Audrey Hanson and Ardis Harris put many hours into organizing the content which we will share with you in the coming months.

Joining with our member societies is another part of our plans. Watch for the details in the December issue of *News and Views!*



2016 OHS Honours and Awards Program

Nominations Are Now Open!

The 2016-17 Ontario Historical Society Honours & Awards Program is now accepting nominations. The 2016 September edition of the OHS Bulletin contains a copy of the nomination brochure. A digital copy can be printed by visiting the OHS website.

All interested organizations and individuals are invited to participate in the Honours and Awards Program by submitting a nomination form. Self nominations are acceptable, with some restrictions in the case of the Dorothy Duncan Award. Books are

eligible for only one "Book Award" category, and nominators must clearly specify which category is being selected. All nominations are assessed by the Ontario Historical Society's Honours & Awards Committee and members of the OHS Board of Directors. The deadline for submissions is Friday, January 13th, 2017.

New this year is the OHS Cemetery Preservation Award. The OHS works with dozens of grassroots heritage organizations from across Ontario. Many of these groups work tirelessly to protect and preserve our

cemeteries. This year, the OHS is proud to formally recognize their hard work by introducing this award.

The awards fall into three categories, Outstanding Services, Individual Merit, and Authors. In all, sixteen awards are available. A variety of supporting materials are required, so plan ahead to make the most of your nomination.

For more information and to access the nomination form, visit <https://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/images/2016%20HA%20Brochure.pdf>

# Congratulations

to our newest Member Society



The Archive launched to the public on September 21 with the Mayors' Seat event at City Hall which included a panel of Barrie's mayors since 1959.

The Archive includes nearly 6500 images, videos and documents available to the general public at <http://www.barriearchive.ca/>

Have a look around this free, researchable online resource. Enjoy remembering Barrie's past!

# COMING EVENTS

## *of our Member Societies*

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**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

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**Barrie Historical Archive – contact****Deb Exel** barriearchive@gmail.com

barriearchive.ca

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**Barrie Historical Association – contact****Mark Fisher**

www.barriehistorical.com

**Nov. 15** – Meeting with SCHA – see p. 1

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**Bradford /West Gwillimbury****Historical Association – contact Bill Marks**

905-775-6179

Meet at BWG Library, 425 Holland St W, Bradford – 2:00 p.m. Fourth

Saturday of the month or occasional Thursday evening, January-May and September-November

[http://www.bradford.library.on.ca/?page\\_id=311](http://www.bradford.library.on.ca/?page_id=311)**Oct. 20** – 7 p.m. – Art Janse – Hurricane Hazel**Nov. 26** – Franz Aschwandan and Jan Blommaert – Shoebox

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**Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum**

1474 Woodrow Road, Coldwater

www.coldwatermuseum.com

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**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. 3** – Patti Livingstone and Melissa Shaw – Collingwood's Wonderful East End**Nov. 7** – Major John Fisher – The Grey and Simcoe Foresters

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**Collingwood Museum – contact Susan Warner**

45 St. Paul Street, Collingwood

705-445-4811

www.collingwood.ca/museum

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**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.

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**Friends of Historic Fort Willow –****contact Gord Hanson** fortwillow.com

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**Friends of The OPP Museum –****contact Dave Osborne**

705-330-4178

support@oppmuseumfriends.ca

www.oppmuseumfriends.ca

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**Simcoe County Branch, Genealogical Society – contact Nancy Leveque**

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

**Nov. 5** – Spencer Linington – Medals in the Attic

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**Huronia Museum/Huron Ouendat Village**

549 Little Lake Park Road, Midland

705-526-2844

www.huroniamuseum.com

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**Innisfil Historical Society – contact Donna Wice**Meet at Knock Community Centre, 10<sup>th</sup> SR at 9<sup>th</sup> Line, Innisfil – 2:00 p.m.

www.innisfilhistorical.ca

**Oct. 15** – Innisfil Old Boys Panel –

Growing up in Belle Ewert and Lefroy

**Nov. 19** – Luncheon and AGM at

Churchill United

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

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

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**Orillia History Speaker Series – contact Ninette Gyorody**Meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Orillia Museum of Art & History, 30 Peter Street South. – 7:30 p.m.**Oct. 19** – Rusty Russell – The cancellation of the Avro Arrow – this year's speakers will honour the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Orillia and Canada**Nov. 16** – Larry Cotton – Eric Harvie and the Harvie Settlement**Jan. 14** – Sir John A. Annual Dinner – Ted Barris, speaker

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**Orillia Museum of Art and History**

30 Peter Street South, Orillia –

705-326-2159 www.orilliamuseum.org

**Oct. 29** – Somniatis II – Wearable Art Show in support of OMAH**to Nov. 12** – Jazz Impressions (original printmaking by Orillia artists)**to Nov. 27** – Carmichael Canadian

Landscape Exhibition: Tradition

Transformed

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

13 Burke St. at Beck Blvd.

Call 705-549-2150

www.pencenmuseum.com

**Oct. 29** – Spooktacular (2-4 p.m.)**Dec. 3** – Festival of Lights (6 p.m.)**Dec. 10 & 11** – Breakfast with Santa (8:30-noon)

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**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)

**Oct. 20** – Lori Oschefski – British Home Children**Nov. 17** – AGM – Barbara Jones to share her Father Garnet Wilson's Story**Dec. 15** – Christmas Potluck and Social

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

1151 Highway 26, Midhurst –

705-728-3721 museum.simcoe.ca

**Oct. 15** – Last Blast: Fall Steam Up – 10-4

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**Stayner Heritage Society – contact Dorothy Millsap**

www.staynerheritagesociety.com

705-428-2540

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**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