

NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

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Visit our Website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca



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

New Location for our New Year

Please plan to join us in September in the Angus Ross Room of the Barrie Public Library, 60 Worsley Street. For the following months, we will return to Parkview Centre, 189 Blake Street, Barrie. The Simcoe County Museum is currently not available as our meeting location, except for our Heritage Week event.

This month, we carry on a new tradition by having our Andrew Hunter Prize winner present her paper to the membership. Virginia Morrow's essay "The Settlement Patterns of Specific Ethnic Groups in Early Ontario: Simcoe County as a Case Study" will provide a stimulating topic for our evening at the library.

For our October meeting, we welcome Paul Delaney of Trent University. Paul started working at Sainte-Marie 40 years ago this summer as a ticket-seller; he became the first Director of the site itself in 1969 upon graduation from Trent and the Education Faculty at the University of Toronto. He resigned in 1973 to join CUSO and went off to Nigeria to teach. In later years, he was a member of the Huronia Historical Advisory Council and a charter member of the Friends of Sainte-Marie.

In November, Donna Wice will lead a conversation about her experiences writing and publishing local history in Innisfil.

SCHA 2006-2007 Schedule

September 19 – Andrew Hunter Prize winner, **Virginia Morrow** presents her paper at the Barrie Public Library, Angus Ross Room, 7:30 p.m.

October 17 – **Paul Delaney**, former director of Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons, brings Tales from the Early Days, at the Parkview Centre, 7:30 p.m.

November 21 – **Donna Wice**, author *Farms of Innisfil*, provides details on the publication of the upcoming book, at the Parkview Centre 7:30 p.m.

February 17 – Heritage Week Saturday Seminar – **Ellen Millar**, Simcoe County Archives, and **Darryl Wines**, Simcoe County Museum, Preservation of your Historical Treasures, Simcoe County Museum, time and cost TBA

March 20 – **Fred Addis**, Curator of the Leacock Museum, at the Orillia Museum of Art and History, 7:30 p.m.

April 17 – TBA, at the Parkview Centre, 7:30 p.m.

May 15 – Annual General Meeting

President's Message

For some time now, academic historians have been aware that the general public is paying less and less attention to their work. The gap between the academic community and communities at large continues to grow.

In a bid to better understand the reasons why, two important conferences will explore the situation in 2007. The theme of next year's Atlantic Canada Studies Conference, to be held early next May in Halifax, is "Knowledge in Action." The conference's call for papers states that "organizers are particularly interested in papers that explore process of knowledge translation between university settings and the broader public, community-based research projects, and descriptions of collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects."

For its part, the Canadian Historical Association's annual meeting, to be held in Saskatoon in late May, has as its "overarching" theme: "Bridging Communities: Making Public Knowledge, Making Knowledge Public." At this conference, "Scholars are encouraged to consider the connections between historical

research and the public ... as well as address how history can be made meaningful and accessible to the public."

Two very important conferences to be sure. There was a time when all Canadian historians were "amateurs." Simcoe County's Andrew Hunter is a particularly fine example. In the early 20th century, the discipline professionalized. To be an historian came to mean graduate and post-graduate degrees usually backed by a teaching position in a university.*

With the rise of professional historians, the nourishing link between historians and their communities tended to languish. As history migrated from the humanities towards the social sciences, what the public expected and demanded of its historians was something the historians increasingly appeared loath to provide. Biography was all but abandoned and local history frowned upon. The individual and the unique had to give way to the collective and, if not general laws, at least broad social movements.

While the public's craving for history has not abated, its appetite

for the work of professional historians has not kept pace. Why is that? Is it merely a question of accessibility, approach, research interest, or meaning? If it were only so.

How is it that The Bradford West Gwillimbury Local History Association's *Governor Simcoe Slept Here* could sell 1,000 copies in less than three months late last year, necessitating another printing? Not bad in a country where a national best seller is 5,000 copies. I predict equally brisk sales for the Innisfil Historical Society's, soon to be released, *Farms of Innisfil*. So, be sure to order yours today.

When academic historians figure out why such books are so popular and seek out opportunities to engage and assist local groups on a long-term co-operative basis (and receive professional credit for doing so) then and only then will conferences on "Knowledge in Action" and "Bridging Communities" cease to be both topical and necessary.

*For a recent study of this process, I recommend Donald Wright's, *The Professionalization of History in English Canada* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005).

Simcoe County Historical Association Executive

Brad Rudachyk, President	726-7380 rudachyk@rogers.com
Mark Fisher, Second Vice President	728-3825 mwfisher2@hotmail.com
Peter Wiseman, Treasurer	725-0224
Jill Hynes, Corresponding Secretary	739-6220 mark.jill@sympatico.ca
Ellen Millar, Recording Secretary	726-9300 ext. 1287
emillar@county.simcoe.on.ca	

For Membership Information, contact

Bill Packham, Membership Chair	739-0906 wpackham2795@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 November 25, 2006

Aboriginal WWI Hero Honoured at Base Borden

by Bill Packham

The date – June 6, 2006, the anniversary of the famous WWII D-Day invasion

The Place – Building 113, the headquarters of the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group at Base Borden

The Event – The Official Naming Ceremony for the Corporal Francis Pegahmagabow MM Building



Corporal Francis Pegahmagabow

Born into the Caribou Clan of the Shawanaga First Nation on Georgian Bay on March 8, 1889, Corporal Pegahmagabow was the most highly decorated aboriginal to serve with the Canadian Expeditionary Force during WWI. Pegahmagabow was a trench raider, messenger, superior scout, and expert sniper who was awarded the Military Medal three times for his courage and exploits. The medals were presented to him by Prince Edward, who later became King Edward VIII. Corporal Pegahmagabow died in hospital in Parry Sound on August 5, 1952.

The ceremony at Base Borden this past June was a mixture of both military and aboriginal pomp, presided over by The Honourable James K. Bartleman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, a Simcoe County native of aboriginal ancestry; Brigadier-General G.R. Thibault, CD, Commander of the Land Force Central Area; and Colonel Stewart E. Moore, CD, Commander Canadian Forces Support Training Group/Base Borden.

Many of Corporal Pegahmagabow's descendants, including his daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, plus many other members of the Wasauksing First Nation, near Parry Sound, were in attendance and participated in the moving ceremony.



A cairn beside the flag pole in front of the building was erected using stones from the Parry Island/Parry Sound area where the Corporal was a tribal leader among other distinctions following the war. The plaque on this cairn commemorates his life and achievements.

Official Grand Opening of the Simcoe County Museum

Wednesday, June 28th was a day of great celebration at the Simcoe County Museum when the ribbon-cutting ceremony and unveiling of the Museum Donor Wall marked the culmination of partnership and construction at this expanded site.

The newest wing showcases enlarged, state-of-the-art meeting space for use by partner groups, new interpretive rooms for educational programs, a research library, a new gift shop, an orientation gallery, and new offices for the Huronia Tourism Association.

The Simcoe County Museum is open year round, seven days a week. Hours are Monday to Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is located at 1151 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario, minutes northwest of Barrie.

At the ribbon cutting, left to right:

David Walker, Campaign Chair
Caroline Di Cocco, Minister of Culture

Daniel Bone, 2006 winner of Simcoe County Historica Fair
Warden Terry Geddes



Simcoe County Museum Samplers

by Joan Hodges

The Simcoe County Museum has a sizeable sampler collection including two lovely samplers stitched by Margaret Walls. The first, completed in 1828 when Margaret was 11 years old, was the focus of interest at the July 9th "Summer Sunday" at the Museum.

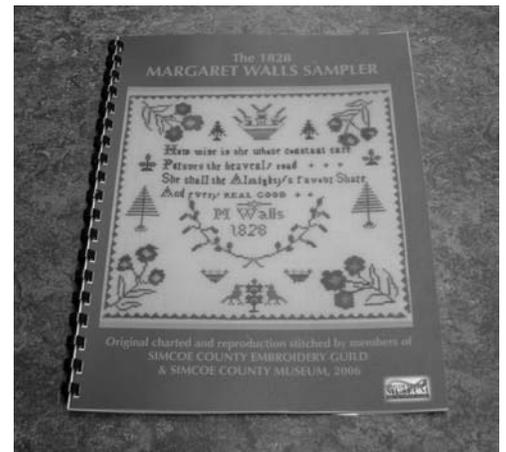
Several years ago, members of the Simcoe County Embroidery Guild (formerly the Orillia Stitchery Guild) agreed to reproduce an exact copy of the 1828 sampler for display in the Museum to allow the frail original to be placed in protective storage. This project involved many hours of work in carefully charting the pattern, finding suitable linen and yarn, and finally stitching the copy. Colleen Darling did a beautiful job stitching the sampler with persistence and skill, even including the mistakes stitched into the original. The framed reproduction was on display alongside the original.



Meanwhile, I had spent many hours at the Simcoe County Archives researching the Walls genealogy. Margaret's story begins in Yorkshire, England in 1817 and ends in Simcoe County in 1855.

Readers who knew Ken Walls will be interested to know that Margaret's brother George Walls (1819-1867) was Ken's great grandfather.

A lovely booklet "The 1828 Walls Sampler" has been produced by the Simcoe County Museum staff. It includes a cover picture of the new sampler, a page of Walls family history, and instructions with a complete chart for stitching Margaret's sampler. This is available at the Museum for a \$15 donation to the Building Fund.



Fall Meeting Details for Orillia and Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury

Orillia Museum of Art and History's History Committee presents the first of its 2006/2007 speaker series, Pete McGarvey: Saving Brewery Bay Wednesday, October 18 at 7:30p.m., St. Paul's United Church, Orillia. Admission is free and all are welcome.

After a prolonged and distinguished career in radio, Pete McGarvey was named Orillia's Citizen of the Year in 1957 as a direct result of his efforts to save the decaying Leacock summer house on Brewery Bay (the subject of his talk at OMAH in October). Pete subsequently became involved in a wide number of causes and projects.

In 1995 he was inducted into the Orillia Hall of Fame. A Lifelong Learning Centre at the Stephen Leacock Museum was named in honour of Pete and his wife, Eileen.

The Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society will meet Monday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m., Tec We Gwill Hall in Newton Robinson as David Chambers talks about the architectural heritage of South Simcoe.

David's writings on architecture are featured in the history books of New Tecumseth and the new and exciting West Gwillimbury publication, *Governor Simcoe Slept Here*.

On October 15, from 1-5 p.m., the Journey Into the Past House Tour will visit six heritage houses and a Methodist Church in the Bond Head-Newton Robinson area of South Simcoe. In a restored Orange Hall, watch a Windsor chair maker demonstrate his skills and enjoy tea and refreshments in another 1860s Orange Hall.

Tickets at \$15.00 include a map and information on each building. They may be obtained by emailing junchambers@rogers.com or by phoning 905-775-7144.

*To pre-order your copy of
Farms of Innisfil
Challenges, Chores and Changes*

please complete the following order form, enclose your cheque and mail to the address listed. Payment must accompany order.

If ordered before Nov. 20, 2006, the cost is \$35/book.

After this date, the cost is \$40/book.

For books to be mailed, please add \$12 per book

Please make cheques payable to the Innisfil Historical Society, and mail to:

The Innisfil Historical Society
P.O. Box 7176, Innisfil, ON L9S 1A9

I wish to purchase _____ copies.

Please find enclosed my cheque in the amount of \$ _____.

Name _____

Address _____

Town/City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Books will be picked up Yes/No

Books are to be mailed to address above Yes/No

Please retain this portion and place on your calendar!

Farms of Innisfil Book Launch

Churchill Community Centre
Friday, December 8, 2006 2 - 8 p.m.

Official Book Unveiling Ceremony will be held at 2:30 p.m.

Alternate pick-up dates at Knock from 1- 4 p.m. on December 11, 14, 18, and 21

Note: PHOTOS submitted for the book will be available at the time you pick up your book(s), or call Donna Wice at 436-2578 to arrange another time.

The Nine Mile Portage Heritage Festival

Another Great Day at the Fort

Bigger and better than last year, the Festival takes place on Saturday, September 23rd. The Fort Willow Improvement Group and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, in partnership with many sponsors, media partners and local conservation groups, gives us the opportunity to experience a trip to the Fort along this ancient trade and transportation route.

Opening Ceremony: Heritage Park

The official opening of the event will take place from 10-11 a.m. Witness a War of 1812 battle on Kempenfelt Bay and relive the landing of historic boats and canoes as re-enactors depict the arrival of personnel, supplies, and trade goods at the foot of the Nine Mile Portage.

Historic Fort Willow Depot

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., witness life during the early 19th century with activities and demonstrations for all ages. Enjoy military, native and voyageur encampments and displays, including demonstrations of ropemaking, knots, candlemaking, cooking, and woodworking. Visit the surgeon, cooper and blacksmith. Watch cannon, musket and drill demonstrations as well as Dr.

Quimby's Medicine Show. There will be period and Native drumming as well as face painting, crafts and beadwork for the kids.



Lunch!

Be sure to enjoy the barbeque lunch with all proceeds going to the restoration of the Fort and maintenance of the Portage Trail.

Organized Walks

Choose from a variety of hikes/walks to experience all or part of the Trail

Depart at 9 a.m. from the Heritage Park fountains in Downtown Barrie for the 15 km hike of the Trail to Fort Willow.

Depart at 11 a.m. to hike the 5.5 km North Simcoe Rail Trail from Minesing Station Park.

Depart at 11:30 a.m. to walk the 2 km North Simcoe Rail Trail from the trail crossing on Pinegrove Road, 1.5 km north of Sunnidale Road.

Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before the departure time. All walks/hike end at Fort Willow for the festivities. Free shuttle buses are available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with stops at Heritage Park, Lampman Lane Community Centre, Sunnidale and Dobson Road intersection, Seadon and George Johnston Road intersection, Fort Willow and Grenfel Hall.

Independent Walk

Explore the Nine Mile Portage Heritage Trail at your own pace when you park at one of the following designated parking areas: Heritage Park (Downtown Barrie), Lampman Lane Community Centre or Grenfel Hall. The free shuttle can take you to the Fort or back to your car! *No parking available at Fort Willow.*

Rest stops with information, water, restrooms and first aid are available at three locations along the trail. A horse-drawn wagon ride will run along Seadon Road from Dobson to George Johnston Road.

Get a Map

For more information, and a great map, please see the flyer at <http://www.springwater.ca/things-to-do/events/nine-mile-portage-walk-in-festival/>

Royal Newfoundland Regiment Bulger's Company Garrison Weekend

September 22, 23, and 24 at Historic Fort Willow Depot, Springwater Township

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment Bulger's Company would like to extend an invitation to all War of 1812 re-enactment groups to participate in a relaxed, no pressure historical weekend.

Historic Fort Willow Depot is located just minutes outside Barrie, and was a vital supply depot on an overland route to the upper Great Lakes during the War of 1812. The fort has been partially re-constructed and offers a great remote location for period encampments and forgetting you are in the 21st century. The basic needs such as firewood, water and portable

toilets will be provided.

Small battles, skirmishes, fun, games, and potluck meals will be held throughout the weekend. Anyone wishing to attend or who would like more information can contact David Brunelle at davidbrunelle@rogers.com.

Governor Simcoe Slept Here Reprint

by Barbara Verney

In 2001, the Bradford West Gwillimbury Local History Association decided that a history of West Gwillimbury should be recorded. A general meeting was held on October 21, 2001. There were so many enthusiastic members of the area, we decided to proceed.

A steering committee met regularly and several general meetings were held to ascertain the progress. Then, for two and a half years, the steering committee met every Tuesday morning. Finally, on December 15, 2005 the book was launched. *Governor Simcoe Slept Here, The Legacy of West Gwillimbury* was an immediate success. One thousand copies sold within two weeks.

We have decided to reprint another 1000 books which are now available.

To order a copy of *Governor Simcoe Slept Here*, please contact Bill Marks

Phone: (905) 775-6179

Mail: 95 Britannia Ave,
Bradford, ON, L3Z 1A2

Email: billmarks10@yahoo.ca

The two hardcover bound volumes are \$75. For more information on the book itself, please see <http://www.bradford.library.on.ca/wegwhist/index.htm>

The SCHA congratulates this local historical association on their vision, determination, and great accomplishments.



The Andrew Hunter Prize 2007

The Andrew Hunter Prize is awarded annually for the best essay on the history of Simcoe County, Ontario, written in a course by an undergraduate student in any university or college. In this fourth year of the competition, we look forward to receiving many worthy entries.

Conditions: Entries must be undergraduate essays between 3,000 and 5,000 words in length on some aspect of the history of Simcoe County, Ontario, written in English or in French. The author must be a part-time or full-time undergraduate student in a degree program at an accredited university or college. The essay must have been written to meet the requirement of an undergraduate credit course during the 2006-2007 academic year. Entries become the property of the Simcoe County Historical Association and may be published as part of an essay collection.



Submissions: Entries shall be submitted no later than March 31, 2007 and will not be returned to the contestants. Essays must be typed in Times New Roman 12 point font, double spaced, and should not bear the instructor's comments or grade. Two copies must be provided. A cover sheet must list the author's name, address, phone number, status, 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, 2007 with the presentation of the prizes to take place at the Annual General Meeting.

Prize: There will be two prizes offered, one for \$750 and one for \$250, in Canadian funds. 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 award a prize. For more information, see www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

The Simcoe County Historical Association is pleased to offer The Andrew Hunter Prize again this year to college and undergraduate university students studying Simcoe County topics. Last year's recipient Virginia Morrow, studied history through the Laurentian University at Georgian College program.

Be sure to encourage any college and university students you know, grandchildren, friends, and adult students to submit a qualified paper.

COMING

Barrie Historical Association – contact Val Brucker

Meet at Barrie City Hall – 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 14 – Wilson West, Marine Archeology

Collingwood and District Historical Society

Meet at Leisure Time Club, Minnesota St. – 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 3 – George Czerney, former editor of the Enterprise Bulletin newspaper in Collingwood, speaking on the history of the paper.

Genealogical Society – contact Claudia McArthur

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

Huron Museum Huron Ouendat Village – contact Jamie Hunter, curator

549 Little Lake Park Road, Midland – Call 526-2844 www.huronmuseum.com

Innisfil Historical Society – contact Ross Wallace

Meet at Knock Community Centre, 10th SR at 9th Line, Innisfil – 2 p.m.

Sept 16 – PowerPoint highlights of the *Farms of Innisfil, Challenges, Chores and Changes* book (at Churchill Community Centre)

Oct. 21 – John Carter, a slide show about Barns

Midhurst Historical Society – contact Alice Mitchell

Meet at the Library, Finlay Mill Road 7:30 p.m. Call 726-5940

Sept. 18 – Alan Johnston, Basket Company in Minesing

EVENTS

Museum on the Boyne – contact Rachele Clayton

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

www.allistonontario.com/MuseumontheBoyne.html

Sept. 9 – From Here and Back Again – Transportation Exhibit Launch

Sept. 13 – Barn Raisings: An Armchair Tour of Ontario's Rural Built Heritage with a Ministry of Culture Representative

Orillia History Committee – contact Ross Wallace

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

Oct. 18 – Pete McGarvey – Saving Brewery Bay

Nov. 15 – Fred Addis – The Great Leacock Timeline History Quiz

Orillia Museum of Art and History – contact Sim Salata, curator

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

Sept. 7-Oct. 7 – Celebrating Photography: Works of the Orillia and District Camera Club

Opening: Saturday, September 9, 2-4 p.m.

Sept. 8-Nov. 7 – Saving the Planet (Orillia Fine Arts Association)

Opening reception: Friday, September 8, 7-9 p.m., Orillia Opera House

Oct. 10-Dec. 2 – Sitting Pretty: The History of the Toilet

Opening reception and "Toilet Talk," October 14, 2 p.m. (to be confirmed)

Oct. 28 – *The Towers of Time* Signing Event with Author, Marc Boileau

1-3 p.m.

Nov. 18-19 – OMAH Annual Christmas Bazaar

Dec. 5-Jan. 29 – From My Kayak: Photography by Ingrid Saaliste

Opening reception: Saturday, December 9, 2-4 p.m.

of our Member Societies

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives

13 Burke St. at Beck Blvd.

Call 549-2150 www.pencenmuseum.com

Sainte-Marie among the Hurons – contact Diane Archambault

Oct. 7-8 – Thanksgiving Harvest Festival and Arts and Crafts Sale

Simcoe County Museum

1151 Highway 26, Midhurst – Call 728-3721

Sept. 15-17 – Simcoe County Quilt, Rug, and Craft Fair – \$4

Oct. 14 – Last Blast – Equipment run

Oct. 25-26 – An Evening of Hallowe'en

Nov. 11-12 – Artisans Museum Christmas

Dec. 10 – Victorian Christmas

to Dec. 31 – Simcoe County Archives 40th Anniversary Display

Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury Historical Society – contact Helen Yielding

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

Call 905-775-7144 or 905-936-3659

Oct. 19 – John McIntyre, a retired Seneca College history professor – Those Mad Victorians

Nov. 20 – in honour of Remembrance Day – "We'll Meet Again" video from the CNE Archives, outlining the CNE's role in the war effort

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