

# 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.*

## This Fall with the SCHA

In September, we continue the tradition of having our Andrew Hunter Prize winning papers presented to the membership. We will enjoy the work of Tyler Currie with his paper, "The Demise of the Huron and the Dispersal of Huronia", and of Jim Norton with his paper "Local Boy Makes Good: A Biographical Glimpse of the Life of Arthur Lower".

In October and November, we will focus on the topic of Simcoe County Remembers Our Fallen.

Join Pat and Earl Elliott at our October meeting as they present a travelogue of their recent visit to the World War I and II battlefields and

cemeteries in France and Germany. They will link the great loss of the fallen soldiers from our county with the heartfelt thanks from the citizens of Normandy to these valiant soldiers that liberated France.

Our November meeting continues our remembrance of the role that our Canadian military played in World War II. Don Bogle will present to you the details of The Juno Beach Centre at Courseulles-sur-Mer, France – a museum to commemorate Canada's wartime contribution. Connections will be made with how Simcoe County residents can keep the memory of our proud soldiers alive.

## SCHA 2007-2008 Schedule

September 18 – Andrew Hunter Prize paper presentations at the Parkview Centre, 189 Blake Street, Barrie, 7:30 p.m.

October 16 – **Pat and Earl Elliott**, current SCHA Board members, Battlefields and Cemeteries Travelogue at the Parkview Centre, 7:30 p.m.

November 20 – **Don Bogle**, The Juno Beach Centre at the Parkview Centre, 7:30 p.m.

February – Heritage Week Saturday Seminar – **Dorothy Duncan**, former Executive Director of The Ontario Historical Society and Museums Advisor for the Province of Ontario, will be our special guest on a day of exploring Canadian culinary history. Location, time and cost TBA.

March 18 – **Heather Kirk**, local author, with her new book *Who Were the Whiteoaks and Where Was Jalna?* at the Parkview Centre, 7:30 p.m.

April 15 – An Evening at Shaw's Pancake House, **Mrs. Shaw** will recount over 100 years of syrup production and traditions, #493 Oro-Medonte Line 14 South, Orillia, Time and cost TBA (bring your empty stomach).

May 20 – Annual General Meeting and Dinner at Stevenson Farms, Alliston

## President's Message

Imagine touring an historic site under the protection of armed guards. Now, imagine that the site is right here in Canada. Yes, in Canada.

This summer my wife and I had the opportunity to travel to Churchill, Manitoba. When visiting Fort Prince of Wales or its supporting battery at Cape Merry, tourists are accompanied by friendly, knowledgeable Parks Canada interpreters toting 12-gauge shotguns. As a tour book pointed out, there is something special about trekking about in an area where your neighbours might eat you.

Young male polar bears regularly patrol the beaches and headlands in the Churchill area. The beach immediately behind the Community Complex was marked off limits during our visit. One morning, we awoke to the sound of gunfire as conservation officers were putting a bear to flight from the parking lot of the restaurant where we had enjoyed our arctic char dinner the night

before. We eventually did see a bear, but from the friendly confines of a rather large tundra buggy and at a comfortable distance of 150 metres.

Travelling by train to Churchill is like travelling in a time gone by. Our journey took 47 hours out of Winnipeg. For a good part of the trip between Gillam and Churchill, the train chugged along at a blistering 20 kph and less. Fine by me, more train time always makes me happy. Besides, late trains mean free lunches.

The long journey provided lots of time to wonder just how difficult it was to lay out and build the Hudson Bay Railway in a world of muskeg and permafrost. It is tough enough to keep the line open today.

We thoroughly enjoyed our time in Churchill. The journey once again



reinforced just how large Canada is and how equally broad its history. Just the same, it's nice to be able to toot around Fort Willow without armed guards.



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

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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.

**Deadline for the  
next issue is  
November 26, 2007**

*Jill Hynes, Editor*

## Ontario Archaeological Society Opens Huronia Chapter

by Glenn Kearsley

The Ontario Archaeological Society was formed back in 1950 by a number of enthusiastic individuals who shared an interest in the Province's buried history. Over the past five decades (many of them under the Presidency of the SCHA's own Charles Garrad), the OAS has evolved into a registered charitable organization that promotes the ethical practice of archaeology in the Province of Ontario. It publishes a major journal (*Ontario Archaeology*) and a bimonthly news letter (*Arch Notes*) to keep Society members informed of the archaeological work and research that is being conducted every summer.

The main goal of the OAS is to bring the general public, students and professional archaeologists together to help record, preserve and present Ontario's non-renewable cultural heritage. In the past the Society has held Archaeology Days with guest speakers, artifact identification displays and artifact making demonstrations to stimulate the interest of the general public in archaeology. They have also partially excavated a number of archaeology sites allowing OAS members and the general public an opportunity to get some hands on experience at digging a site.

The OAS has a number of regional chapters throughout Ontario including Hamilton, London, Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Toronto, and Windsor. The purpose of regional chapters is to bring people with interests of certain areas together in order to share information and learn about the archaeology of that specific region.

Well, as of May 16, 2007 there is now a Huronia Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society. That was the date that the new Chapter had its first meeting to introduce members and solicit ideas on how the Chapter could develop a web page and newsletter to help promote public awareness of the rich heritage of Huronia. The Chapter also hopes to enhance the linkages between heritage groups, local municipalities and First Nation communities in regards to Huronia's archaeological heritage.

Chapter President Marilyn Cornies, who has been archaeologically active in Huronia over the past few years states that "the present residents of Huronia possess an impressive amount of both passion and knowledge of the [archaeological] history of the area. What was lacking was a forum in which to share this

knowledge. A local Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society seemed to be the ideal solution."

The inaugural Chapter meeting was held at the Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre in Midland with 24 people in attendance representing Barrie, Penetanguishene, Wasaga Beach and Elmvale. The meeting began with a smudging ceremony and traditional opening prayer led by Frances and David "Wennisleiio" Jock. Archaeologist Michael Henry then gave a presentation on the "Feast of the Dead", a paper he presented at the 2006 Canadian Archaeological Association Symposium in May, 2006. The floor was then opened for the sharing of ideas, questions and comments regarding the new chapter. All in all the meeting was declared a success and all those present left looking forward to the next meeting which is to be held on September 19, 2007 at the Georgian Bay Metis Council in Midland.

For more information on the Ontario Archaeological Society, please check out its website at <http://www.canadianarchaeology.com/OAS/>, or contact President Marilyn Cornies at [mcornies@amick.ca](mailto:mcornies@amick.ca).

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### Notice of Closure

The Simcoe County Archives will be closed for renovations to the reading room from Sept. 18-26 inclusive. The Archives will remain accessible for reference inquiries during this period, via telephone, fax or email. The Archives' staff appreciates your patience, and apologizes for any inconvenience.

### WANTED: CORN HUSKS Dried or Green

Need an excuse to eat corn but sick of filling garbage bags (or compost) with corn husks? If so, rest easy and eat all you can!

The Orillia Museum of Art and History needs several hundred corn husks for an education program it is offering to Simcoe County schools this fall.

Corn husks can be dropped off to Katie Calcaterra, programs coordinator, at OMAH, 30 Peter St. S., Orillia, anytime between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Please ring back buzzer before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m.

## Orillia Museum of Art and History

by Sim Salata

### *Belonging – a celebration of place*

A new exhibition at the Orillia Museum of Art and History looks to Scout Valley as the inspiration for their latest show.

Scout Valley has been the focus of an ongoing community debate since its sale to the City of Orillia in 1998. Contemporary regional artists, Marlene Bulas, Juliana Hawke, Joanna McEwen and Prudence Smith, each feel a deep and intimate connection to this 228 acre site. Created thousands of years ago when the waters of the glacial Lake Algonquin receded, the site is home to several different eco-systems, species of trees and wildlife.

Enduring/tenuous, Scout Valley has become a symbolic link to the existing environmental dialogue.

Guest curator Judith Gibson-Vick, sums up the exhibition with a quotation from Chief Seattle (1786 - 1866), "Earth does not belong to us; we belong to the Earth."

"Belonging – a celebration of place" opened September 5 and continues until October 24. There will be an opening reception with artists in attendance on Thursday, September 13 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. All are welcome.



Juliana Hawke, Autumn Polopody (detail), 2007, watercolour

Through the artists' work in photography, watercolour, acrylic, egg tempera and film, an ongoing connection to this fragile landscape gives voice to the shifting relationship we, as a community, have to the land. In the tradition of Canadian landscape painting, Bulas,

Hawke, McEwen, and Smith examine the nuances of the cultural and restorative role that Scout Valley plays in our vision of a balanced community. Indicative of the community's environmental values, twelve local environmental stakeholders will exhibit on OMAH's community art wall during the tenure of the exhibition.

For those who desire a more intimate connection with the subject, the artists will hold two free Artists Talks, Nature Walks and Painting Workshops at Scout Valley on Saturday, September 22 and 29 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration is not necessary – participants are asked to meet at the Line 15 (west of the stone fence) parking lot. Limited painting materials will be provided, or registrants can bring their own if they have them.

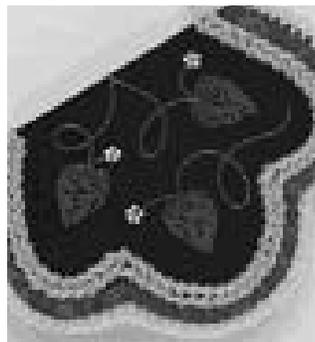
For more information, please contact Judith Gibson-Vick, guest curator at [jkl3@rogers.com](mailto:jkl3@rogers.com).

### *Iroquois Beadwork – a ROM Exhibit*

See century old Iroquois beadwork contrasted and compared with Aboriginal beadwork and learn how the art flourishes today. The exhibit is on display at OMAH from October 30, 2007 to January 5, 2008.

The Iroquois peoples were quick to adapt European-made cloth and glass beads to artistic traditions that they had been developing for centuries. If they allowed beads to displace the porcupine quills and mollusk shells that they had previously used to decorate clothing and other objects, it was because beads permitted them to pursue their conceptual and aesthetic

goals all the more effectively. They retained the same imagery that they had always used, imagery that represented their cosmology, values, and legends. Indeed, beadworkers



have played a vital role in preserving Iroquois beliefs over the centuries.

Beaded purses, containers, pottery and other household items will be on display. This exhibition also includes two



samples of magnificent full-length traditional Iroquois male and female clothing and head dress by

Iroquois beadwork artist, Samuel Thomas.

To compliment this exhibition, OMAH will collect samples of locally produced Ojibway beadworks to illustrate the difference in imagery between these two important Ontario First Nations cultures.

## **Nine Mile Portage Heritage Festival September 22, 2007 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

### **Opening Ceremony: Heritage Park**

The official opening of the event will take place from 10 to 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 5 p.m., witness life during the early 19th century with activities and demonstrations for all ages.

Bottled water and food service will be available at Fort Willow

### **Organized Walk – 15 km**

Depart at 9:30 a.m. from the Heritage Park fountains in Downtown Barrie

*Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before the departure time. Free shuttle buses are available from 10 a.m. to 5 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.*

### **Re-enactors**

While walking the Trail, watch for surprises along the way! American soliders have been spotted exploring the area. They were last seen near Dobson and Seadon Roads.

### **Horse-Drawn Wagon Ride**

Enjoy a scenic ride along Seadon Road to George Johnston Road then hike the remainder of the Trail or take a shuttle to the Fort.

### **Get a Map**

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

The Nine Mile Portage, an ancient aboriginal trail, once formed the land bridge between Kempenfelt Bay and the Nottawasaga River, enabling a continuous trade and transportation route from Lake Ontario through to Georgian Bay for many centuries.

The French and English continued to use this invaluable portage to conduct

trade. Later, the British military improved the route during the War of 1812 for the transport of supplies and personnel as the lower lakes were occupied by the Americans. Following the war, the route remained active and what was known as “the portage landing” grew into the community known as Barrie.

Today, you can hike the approximate portage route by starting at Heritage Park in downtown Barrie and following this historic path to its terminus at the resurrected British supply depot, Fort Willow, located in Springwater Township.

Fort Willow was a supply depot for military supplies and trade goods during the War of 1812. British soldiers used the Fort as a stopover on their way to the front lines of battle. After the War, the Fort accommodated many famous visitors passing through, including the explorer David Thompson and Sir John Franklin (commander of the lost Arctic expedition of 1845).

A recent restoration project undertaken by the Fort Willow Improvement Group and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority allows visitors a unique glimpse of Canada’s early military history.

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## **Well done Coldwater Mill supporters!**

This summer, your editor was disturbed to read a piece on the cover page of the July 6<sup>th</sup> edition of *Orillia Today*. It read, “Coldwater’s historic grist mill is facing an uncertain future and may have to close without an influx of new blood, its treasurer warns.”

This beautiful, lovingly restored property hosts concerts, tours and

special events, including a past SCHA pig roast! Twelve years ago the property was purchased for \$120,000, then another \$300,000 went into extensive renovations.

Thankfully, the AGM held July 15<sup>th</sup> in the property’s musical barn was very well attended. By the end of the meeting, a full complement of nine Directors was in place.

This new, dynamic group of people has taken over the reins to insure the Mill will remain as a historic and educational part of the Heritage of Coldwater and Simcoe County.

Drop by their lovely cafe for an autumn outing. Visit <http://www.coldwatermill.com/index> for the cafe’s hours of operation, and more information on the Mill itself.

## COMING

**Alliston Historical Society – contact Jackie Baillie** 705-435-5626 or cknowles@rogers.com

Meet at Museum on the Boyne, Fletcher Cres., Alliston every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday except July, Aug. and Dec. – 7:30 p.m.

**Barrie Historical Association – contact Doug Hamilton** 726-1290

**Nov. 8** – Eastview class presentation on local veterans – Location TBA

**Collingwood and District Historical Society**

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

**Nov. 5** – Doug Skelding (author of the about to be published book about the history of the Collingwood Fire Department) and Jack McAllister (son of former Fire Chief McAllister) – History of the Department and book project

**Genealogical Society – contact Linda Mitchell**

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

**Sept. 8** – Dave Brunelle – Royal Newfoundland Regiment of Fencible Infantry

**Oct. 13** – TBA

**Oct. 24** – William (Bill) Bienia – Managing a Family History Project

**Nov. 3** – TBA **Dec. 1** – TBA

**Huronian Museum Huron**

**Ouendat Village –**

**contact Jamie Hunter**

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

**to Oct. 8** – Quest Gallery Annual Art Show

**Oct. 12-Nov. 12** – James Schmitz – Art Exhibit

Opening reception: Oct. 12, 7 p.m.

**Innisfil Historical Society –**

**contact Ross Wallace**

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

## EVENTS

**Sept. 15** – Grand Celebration of Knock Restoration – call Donna if you plan to attend at 436-2578

**Oct. 20** – Innisfil Legion History and Community Involvement

**Midhurst Historical Society – contact Alice Mitchell** 721-7553

Meet at the Library, Finlay Mill Road 7:30 p.m.

**Sept. 17** – Robert Parker – CBC documentary making of *Battle of Vimy Ridge*

**Museum on the Boyne – contact Rachele Clayton**

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

www.allistonontario.com/MuseumontheBoyne.html

**Orillia Museum of Art and History – contact Sim Salata**

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

**to Oct. 25** – Belonging – a celebration of place – *see page 4*  
Opening reception: Sept. 13, 7-9:30p.m.

**Oct. 26 and 27** – Orillia Festival of Banners Viewing and Auction

**Oct. 30-Jan. 5** – Iroquois Beadwork: A traveling exhibition from the Royal Ontario Museum – *see page 4*  
Members' reception: Nov. 3, 1-3 p.m.

**Fall Art Workshops for Adults**

**Oct. 13** – 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Fees: \$70 + \$15 material fee

Instructor: Hannah Lin

Create your own beautifully finished hardcover book

**Oct. 20** – 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fees: \$70 + \$10 material fee

Instructor: Wendy Ladurantaye  
Safely organize and preserve photos, memorabilia, and your stories in a memory scrapbook

**Nov. 10** – 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fees: \$70 + \$100 material fee

Instructor: John Proctor

Build your own Native American-style frame drum and beater

## of our Member Societies

**Nov. 17** – 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fees: \$70 + \$30 material fee

Instructor: Carey Nicholson

Weave with colourful space-dyed rattan reed, a user-friendly weaving material, to create a decorative and useful bushel-style basket

**Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives –**

**contact Nicole Jackson**

13 Burke St. at Beck Blvd. –

Call 549-2150 www.pencenmuseum.com

**Sept. 14** – 7:30 p.m. – Richard Abel fundraising concert at the King's Wharf Theatre

Meet & Greet party – 4-6 p.m. – \$40

**Sept. 29** – 11 a.m.-2 p.m. – Settler's Day, honouring the Dubeau family  
6 p.m. – Beck Memorial Fundraising Dinner

**Oct. 27** – 7-9 p.m. – Halloween Spooktacular

**Simcoe County Museum – contact Gloria Taylor**

1151 Highway 26, Midhurst – Call 728-3721 www.county.simcoe.on.ca

**Sept. 14-16** – Simcoe County Quilt, Rug and Craft Fair – \$4

**Oct. 13** – Last Blast – Equipment run

**Oct. 29-30** – An Evening of Hallowe'en

**Nov. 10-11** – Artisans Museum Christmas

**Dec. 9** – Victorian Christmas

**Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society – contact Helen Yielding** 905-936-3659

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

**Sept. 17** – Patricia Blackstock – History of her family's early settlement

**Oct. 15** – Herb Kingston – Delivery Days

**Nov. 19** – songs from the two World Wars delivered by the Upper Canada Chordsmen

**early December** – Old Fashioned Christmas Party