

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.

SCHA Spring Meeting

On April 21 the Innisfil Historical Society and Barrie Historical Association joined with the SCHA for a look at musical talents, instruments and songs over a 200 year span: there were no empty seats at St James in Stroud. This was a very successful joint meeting of the three societies.



From left SCHA President Ted Duncan (aka Michael Buble), BHA President Mark Fisher (aka Justin Beiber) and IHS President Bill Kell (aka Brad Paisley) performing with the Barber Shop Quartet at 200 years of music.

SCHA September Meeting

September 22 2 p.m. Location to be announced in the Fall issue.

SCHA is highlighting local businesses which have made a significant long-term contribution to the Simcoe County area. Les Bertram & Sons is the first business to be featured.

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



Simcoe County Historical Association Executive

Ted Duncan, President	tedcansher@sympatico.ca	705-326-9809
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Deb Exel, Treasurer	deb@simcoecountyhistory.ca	
Donna Wice, Secretary	mdwice@sympatico.ca	705-436-2578

For membership information, contact

Deb Exel membership@simcoecountyhistory.ca

You are invited to submit photos and articles regarding your historical happenings in Simcoe County. Mail to SCHA, Box 144, Barrie, ON L4M 4S9 or email to Jill Hynes, Editor at mark.jill@sympatico.ca

President's Report by Ted Duncan

It's the time of year for reports and thank yous. The end of the year for SCHA, the year that was and the year to come. We are looking forward to the fall, being refreshed and ready to begin our Speaker Series again with the September 22nd program of celebration of Bertram and Sons Anniversary.

We had our AGM in the spring and re-elected our Board of Directors: Vice-President, Mark Fisher; Secretary, Donna Wice; Treasurer, Deb Exel and other members John Merritt and Judith Banville; with myself Ted Duncan, President. I'd like to thank them for continuing to step forward to support history in our County. Without them our organization would not exist. Thanks too, to Jill Hynes for her work putting out the Newsletter four times a year. It is so important as our Newsletter

binds us together. That said, we need new people from around the County to step up to help.

Call me at 705-326-9809 to find out more about joining us. We need your skill, experience and willingness to work for history.

We want to re-do our constitution and complete our Strategic Plan this year. We want to set up a committee system to increase membership, continue our Speaker's Series, support history in our schools and support the writing the history in our County. We want to reach out to our member organizations and improve our communications. That's a tall order. Can we do it? Well, we need help to make it happen.

Let us know what you are doing and tell us how we can help.

Don't forget to send things in to our Newsletter. We are in this together.

I'm new in this position, but I have seen good things happening around the County. Ramara has a great Speakers Program and is working toward the protection of historical objects. I heard that Essa has a great Speaker Series too and just unveiled a historical plaque. Innisfil had a great program celebrating the wonder of music in our County and is working on a new book. Orillia celebrated history by handing out awards, having a Speakers program and historical displays on the Mariposa Folk Festival and the hockey history in the City. There's more that I haven't heard about.

Let's celebrate history together.

Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum Events by Elaine Scott

July and August Every Wednesday - 1:00 pm to 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy Devon Tea in the cozy Fireplace Room served on beautiful Fine China in the 1830's Homestead. Also, available daily during Museum hours which are available at <http://www.coldwatermuseum.com/>

Sunday, July 15 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Heritage Day - featuring "Letters from the Front", an Exhibit to honour the sacrifices of the men and women on both sides of the line during WW1. Re-enactors,

Demonstrations, Church Service, Silent Auction, Family fun, BBQ lunch, See the new additions - Children's Play House, Postal Station refurbished and Equipment Storage Barn.

Saturday, August 11 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Coldwater Steampunk Festival: not to be missed. This year's theme is Oceanic. www.steampunkfestivalcoldwater.com

Tuesday, August 21 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - NEW!

First Annual Heritage Craft Festival. Bring your personal

Fibre hand craft to work on and a lawn chair so you may socialize and share with other like minded crafters. Refreshments and lunch included. Guest Speaker, Diane Anderson on the "Development of Sewing Machines". The Purple Sock will have craft supplies available for purchase and visit the Museum Gift Shop. Tickets available from Members of Craft Organizations or in Coldwater, The Purple Sock or the Canadiana Museum. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. They must be pre-purchased by August 12th.

Carmichael Lecture by Mary Ann Grant

It was a full house for the 14th annual Carmichael Art History Lecture held at the Orillia Museum of Art and History recently, to hear Brian Harris speak about the death of one of Canada's foremost painters and a pioneer in Canadian art, Tom Thomson. Harris thoroughly explored the lore around Thomson's mysterious death at Canoe Lake in Algonquin Park in 1917. He engaged the audience in the beauty and mystique of Canoe Lake. Canoe Lake had captivated Tom Thomson and Harris captivated his audience.

Harris recounted how he spent ten summers working at a camp on Canoe Lake. He got to know and became friends with the residents and heard the accounts of that fateful day that have been passed on through their families. He painted a picture of Tom Thomson as a debonair, unsettled and troubled young man with a

penchant for heavy drinking. Harris explained that Thomson, with no formal training, quit his job to paint full time at Canoe Lake and that he became part of the fabric of the community, working as a guide and gaining a reputation as an excellent woodsman and fisherman.

Harris walked the audience through various myths associated with Tom Thomson's death that grew from the stories told by characters at Canoe Lake. Was his death the result of a love triangle, was it because of a spat about money owed him or resulting from a fight at a drunken party the night before his death? Even the idea of suicide has been floated. Or, did he simply get drunk, fall out of his cedar strip canoe and drown? The debate still goes on over a hundred years after his death.

Brian Harris shared his experience of the beauty and nature that

inspired Tom Thomson to create the iconic works that we have come to know, and that to this day draw people from all walks of life and from far and wide to see firsthand the beauty that inspired Thomson. Harris himself early on was so taken by the beauty of Canoe Lake that, two weeks after arriving there, he bought a box of paints and took up painting the landscapes himself. He honed his craft throughout his life and used his paintings to illustrate the beauty of the area for this audience.

Harris ended his talk with a video of a surreal early morning paddle on Canoe Lake juxtaposing the paintings by Tom Thomson inspired by the views. And for a short time, the audience at OMAH was captivated by the spirit of Canoe Lake.

Coming Events of Member Societies

Alliston Historical Society

Contact Jackie Baillie

705-435-5626

cknowles@rogers.com

Meet at Museum on the Boyne 2 p.m.
2nd Wednesday Feb-June, Oct-Nov

Barrie Historical Archive

barriearchive.ca

Contact Deb Exel

info@barriearchive.ca

Barrie Historical Association

barriehistorical.com

Contact Mark Fisher

Meet at Huronia Room, Barrie City
Hall 7:30 p.m.

Bradford/West Gwillimbury

Historical Association

Bradford.library.on.ca/?

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Contact Bill Marks

905-775-6179

Meet at BWG Library 2 p.m.
4th Saturday Jan-May, Sept-Nov

Coldwater Canadian Heritage Museum

coldwatermuseum.com

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Collingwood District Historical Society

historicallyspeakingedhs.ca

Contact Joan Miller

705-445-1119

Meet at Leisure Time Club 7 p.m.

Oct. 1 *Dorothy Duncan* Feasting
and Famine

Nov. 5 *Steven Glover* The Final
Days of the Great War

Collingwood Museum

collingwood.ca/museum

Contact Susan Warner

705-445-4811

Essa Historical Society

Contact Olive Lee

705-458-9971

teddylee1@rogers.com

Meet at Thornton Library 1:30 p.m.
4th Saturday Jan-June, Sept-Nov

Friends of Fort Willow

nvca.on.ca/recreation/

ConservationAreas/FortWillow

Friends of the OPP Museum

oppmuseumfriends.ca

Contact Matt Eade

705-330-4178

support@oppmuseumfriends.ca

Huron Museum/Huron

Ouendat Village

huroniamuseum.com

705-526-2844

Innisfil Historical Society

<http://www.ourstoriesinnisfil.ca/IHS>

-about

Contact Donna Wice

Meet at Knock Comm Centre 2 p.m.

Museum on the Boyne

Contact Katie Huddleston-Naieb

705-435-3900 ext. 1802

Orillia History Speaker Series

Contact Ted Duncan

Meet at Orillia Museum 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 17 *Gwen Robinson* The
Coldwater Mill 1833, Then and
Now

Nov. 21 *Joanna McEwen* Tales
from the Historic Penetanguishene
Road

Orillia Museum of Art and History

orilliamuseum.org 705-326-2159

to Sept. 2 *Free Spirits: The
Mariposa Folk Festival in Orillia*

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives

penetanguishene.ca/en/

[Museum.asp?_mid_=23034](#)

Contact Nicole Jackson

705-549-2150

Ramara Historical Society

yesteryearscelebration.weebly.com

Contact Cathy Westcott

westcott.cathy963@gmail.com

Meet at Udney Community Centre
7 p.m. 3rd Thurs Jan-June, Sept-Dec

Aug. 16 Summer Potluck / Social
at Margaret & Murray Mulvihill's

Sept. 20 *Howard Black* Member
Show & Tell of Vintage Beekeeping
Items

Oct. 18 *Doug Cooper* Member
Show & Tell of local Ramara
artwork

Nov. 15 Annual General Meeting

David Town Two Remarkable
Orillians in W.W.I: Mert Plunkett of
The Dumbbells and Sir Samuel
Steele – The Ignominious End of
His Career in W.W.I

Member Show & Tell of Vintage
Military Items

Dec. 13 Christmas Potluck /
Social 6:00 p.m. at Udney
Community Centre

Simcoe County Branch, Genealogical Society

simcoe.ogs.ca

Contact Nancy Leveque

Meet at Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints 2 p.m.

Sept. 8 *Guyllaine Petrin* Petitions

Oct. 13 *James Thompson*
Scottish Research

Simcoe County Museum

museum.simcoe.ca

Contact Kelly Swift-Jones

705-728-3721

Stayner Heritage Society

staynerheritagesociety.com

Contact Tom Scholte

705-517-5171

Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury Historical Society

Contact Patricia Blackstock

416-247-6551

Meet at TecWeGwill Hall 7:30

3rd Monday Jan-May, Sept-Nov