

NEWS views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

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

2020 Membership renewals due

Membership in the Simcoe County Historical Association is open to everyone with a love of history. The annual fee is \$20 for individuals or organizations includes:

Speaker Series Presentations by leading historians who are knowledgeable and passionate about our fascinating past. **News and Views newsletter** A quarterly publication with engaging historical articles and features.

Invitations and notifications of special events and happenings to keep you informed of association activities and historical projects in Simcoe County and beyond.

Email your [form](#) to our [membership](#) chair and send your payment via PayPal to this [address](#).

Or mail the completed [form](#) along with your cheque, to

Membership Chair, SCHA
P.O. Box 144, Barrie, ON L4M 4S9

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Business Meeting and Bylaw Ratification

Thanks to Covid 19, the SCHA will hold
a virtual AGM over Zoom on July 21 at 7 p.m.
Please watch your email for more details

Simcoe County Historical Association Executive

Ted Duncan, President	president@simcoecountyhistory.ca	705-326-9809
Mark Fisher, Vice President	mwfisher2@hotmail.com	705-728-3825
Donna Wice, Secretary	mdwice@sympatico.ca	705-436-2578
For membership information, contact:		
John Merritt	membership@simcoecountyhistory.ca	

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



President's Report by Ted Duncan

The last three months have been unique in our lifetime to say the least. Everything closed just before we, at SCHA, were about to have our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March. We were about to outline some new initiatives and those activities we want to continue such as the following:

1. SCHA planned to host a History Conference at the Simcoe County Museum in November. We planned to have great speaker, seminars and sharing of our County's history with our partner Historical Societies and members. Unfortunately we will have to delay this until next year.
2. SCHA planned to initiate a County (both Boards) High School Historical writing contest to encourage our young people to research and write stories about our history.
3. SCHA still plans to continue to recognize a long time County business with an award this fall. We have recognized Bertram Construction and Beattie Farms and Distillery in the last two years.
4. SCHA still plans to continue our Speakers Series when it is possible and hope to have a bank of speakers from all over the County that our member groups can call on to talk about County history.
5. SCHA still plans to have an AGM which was cancelled in March. We plan to have a virtual AGM in July and hope everyone can and will participate.
6. SCHA's Membership still needs to be renewed for 2020. We have been quiet for the last few months, but want to get back into the swing of things. We need your support or we will wither away. If you feel it is important to have a County voice for HISTORY in Simcoe, please pay your membership and join us on the Board.
7. SCHA is still hoping to have photographs taken of all the Barns in the County that are standing today. Many will not be there for long.

Please check out our website. We are hoping to be there to tell Simcoe County's story. We hope that you will be there with us. We can accomplish much together.

Pandemic Friendly Nostalgia by Billy Courtice, President, Barrie Historical Archive

While COVID-19 continues to re-shape our daily lives and redefine public interaction, the institutions where we once learned about our city's heritage are suffering. Museum hallways are empty, and library books are sitting, gathering dust. The events at which we might set up a table, arrange some photos and plant a seed for the support of our cause are simply not going to happen. But this year, while we're restricted from gathering at Centennial Beach, or riding the Ferris wheel at Kempenfest, or wading through the crowds at Promenade Days, we'll wax nostalgic about summers gone by. We'll lament the loss of old summertime haunts or swing sets at our favourite parks. And where will we turn to reignite those old memories?

Our computers and our phones, of course.

The beauty of the [Barrie Historical Archive](#) is that it meets our audience

where they enjoy spending their time. In the "new normal" we face in light of COVID-19, it seems they might spend even more time there.

During the course of the pandemic, BHA social media content has been more popular than ever. Each post by our team, and every picture featured, seems to ignite new discussion about buildings, about city leaders, about greenspace, about old friends and neighbours. Over the past month, [BHA posts](#) have reached more than 20,000 Facebook users, while many of our constituents continue to share memories on the Facebook group, If You Grew Up in Barrie You Remember....

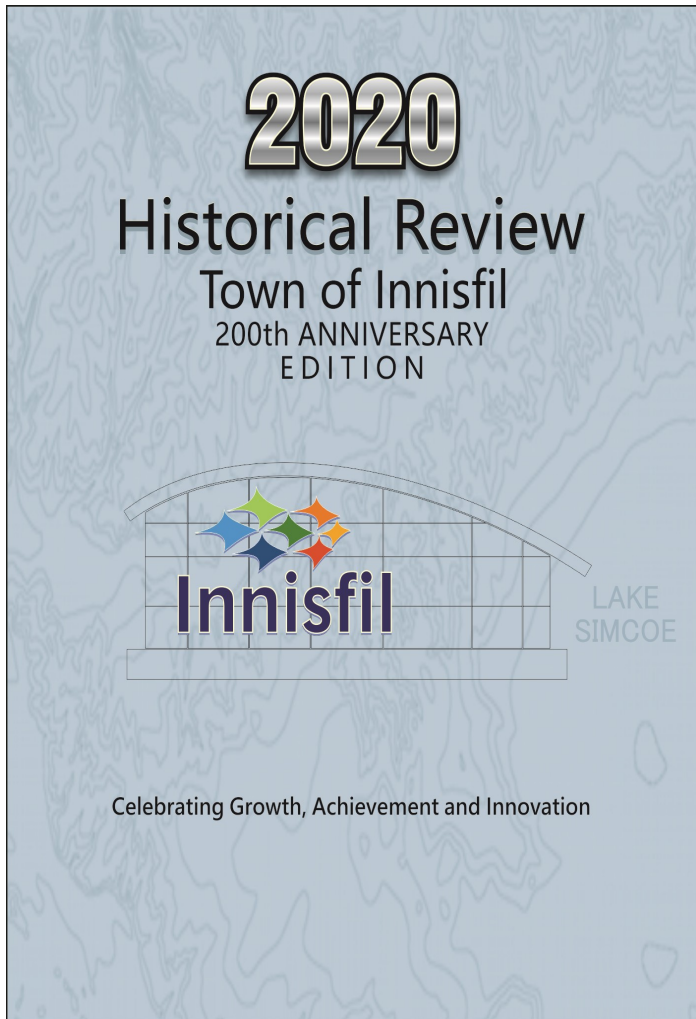
There, they often find their way back to our site when someone shares a link to a BHA photo. I'm always thrilled when our site holds an image which corresponds with a poster's tale of days gone by.

At the end of May, many Barrie resi-

dents might have gathered to pay tribute to victims of the tornado that tore through our city in 1985, but instead remained sheltered in place. Still, the BHA was able to share our many images of the tragic aftermath and invite survivors to share their stories and memories. [Our posts](#) garnered several hundred reactions on Facebook and generated a [blog post filled with recollections of that fateful day 35 years past](#).

As we move forward, ever looking back – because that is, after all, what we do – we should all consider the opportunity we have to grow our audiences, find supporters and spread our love of local history online. Every one of us has a platform, and restricting our groups' outreach to a monthly meeting or a physical event is counter productive.

Take the conversation and the content online. It's the future of our history.



2020 Historical Review

Celebrating the 200th Anniversary
of the Town of Innisfil

Monday July 9th is the official release and pickup date for this informative book which documents the most recent phase of Innisfil's long history.

If you pre-ordered, come to the Innisfil Town Hall on July 9th for curbside pickup from 1-6 pm.

July 11th from 9-12 at Knock School Heritage Site is another opportunity to get your copy for the economical price of \$25.

Need another pickup option, contact Donna at 705 436-2578 or email info@innisfilhistorical.ca

ZOOM!

Not just for business anymore! People are using the Zoom video platform for visiting with loved ones, to play online games with a group of friends and for virtual meeting and events, such as our upcoming AGM. If you are new to Zoom, here's what you need to know.

If you don't already have one, create a free Zoom account at <https://zoom.us>. To login, you can use your zoom account email and password, Google (Gmail), Facebook account, or login using SSO.

When you receive an invitation to a Zoom meeting, once you click the link, Zoom will begin launching the application. If you happen to join the meeting before the host, then Zoom will wait until the host joins before starting the meeting.

It's recommended that you logon to Zoom before your scheduled meeting to test your Video and Audio to ensure everything is functioning correctly. You can find the Settings tab in the main dialog box or in the meeting menu bar. From the settings tab, click on Audio to test, select and adjust your speakers and microphone. Once the sound has been tested, click on video to test and select your video camera.

There may be an option to join the audio via computer or phone. Computer is recommended but this can be by phone if necessary. You'll want to make sure you're in an area with a good internet connection as this will help limit the interference.

SCHA Member Societies

[Allandale Neighbourhood Association](#)

Contact [Cathy Colepatch](#)

Alliston Historical Society
[Contact](#) Jackie Baillie 705-435-5626

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

Archives of Ontario Library
[Contact](#) [Frank Van Kalmthout](#)

[Barrie Historical Archive](#)

Contact [Deb Exel](#)

Bradford/West Gwillimbury Historical Association
[Contact](#) [Jan Blommaert](#), 705-456-1870

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

[Coldwater Canadian Heritage Museum](#)

[Collingwood District Historical Society](#)

Contact Joan Miller 705-445-1119

Meet at Leisure Time Club 7 p.m.

[Collingwood Museum](#)

Contact Susan Warner 705-445-4811

The Cookstown Community Development Team
[www.CooktownON.ca](#) Deb Crawford contact at 705 791 2051 or [Email](#)

Essa Historical Society
[Contact](#) [Olive Lee](#) 705-458-9971

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

Essa Public Library
[Contact](#)

[Friends of Fort Willow](#)

Contact [Bryan Wesson](#)

Heritage Barrie
[Contact](#) [Tomasz Wierzba](#)

[Historic Military Establishment of Upper Canada](#)

Contact [David Brunelle](#)

[Innisfil Historical Society](#)

[Contact](#) Donna Wice
Meet at Knock Comm Centre 2 p.m.

Innisfil Public Library

[Contact](#)

[Museum on the Boyne](#)

[Contact](#) Katie Huddleston 705-435-4030 x. 1802

[Orillia Museum of Art and History](#)

Contact 705-326-2159

Oro-Medonte Heritage Committee
[Contact](#) [Cathy Keane](#)

[Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives](#)

Contact Nicole Jackson 705-549-2150

[Ramara Historical Society](#)

Contact [Cathy Westcott](#)
Meet at Udney Community Centre 7 p.m. 3rd Thurs Jan-June, Sept, Dec

[Simcoe County Branch, Genealogical Society](#)

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

[Simcoe County Museum](#)

Contact Kelly Swift-Jones 705-728-3721

[Stayner Heritage Society](#)

Contact Tom Scholte 705-517-5171

Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury Historical Society

Contact [Janine Harris-Wheatley](#) 905-936-6549

Meet at TecWeGwill Hall 7:30 3rd Monday Jan-May, Sept-Nov

Township of Essa
[Contact](#)

Township of Tiny
Contact [Pamela Zimmerman](#)