

News & Views

SCHA

Simcoe County Historical Association

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President's Report

Hello again everyone;

I have been your President for the past 4 years. I am always impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication of the members of the Executive Board. They are few but mighty. This year we had some new volunteers step up after our AGM. Thank you to Amanda Wilce, Bruce McRae and Liz McGregor for joining us. They will help us by sharing some of the responsibilities that the Board has in administering to the needs of this organization.

Deb Exel stepped down from the Board because of her many other responsibilities. She indicated that she will stay with us to help with the website, social media and the newsletter.

Because Deb has left the Board, we are without a Treasurer. Until we get a volunteer, Deb has offered to continue to look after our financial interests. We are not an organization with a lot of money; but treasurer duties are very important to the overall functioning of SCHA. Deb, who has reorganized our finances since joining the Board 6 years ago, has offered again to mentor and advise any new volunteer who steps forward to be our Treasurer. Hopefully one of our members will come forward or they will know a friend who would join us.

Since last November we have been holding what we call County Connections meetings. This is an initiative to bring together the various member societies and associations to find common project or activity that we can work on together.

Issues, projects and tasks identified so far are;

- A County wide Barn Photo Survey project
- Sharing information on good rehabilitation practices for Pioneer Cemeteries
- Identifying historic plaques and monuments within the County
- Sharing of Speakers
- Cooperation concerning scanning of archives for each organization's website
- Sharing of IT know how Zooming – Social media – the Newsletter.

The Connections meetings continue in June when we will have Kelley Swift-Jones talking about the Simcoe County Museum. Hopefully through her presentation and the Q and A that follows we can understand how we can support the Museum and the Museum can support our organizations. After this meeting, we will not meet again until September.

Stay safe and get vaccinated so that we can all meet again in person soon (sounds like an old war song – “Until we meet again some sunny day”).

John Trotter's Barn

My wonderful old barn is on lot 16 concession 1, Innisfil.

This is right on Yonge Street - a very historic road - at Highway 89.

The oldest part is the west section of the barn which was built by James and Jeremiah Padfield (father and son) who settled and cleared the land. The construction date is around 1850. The next 2 sections were added over the next 40 years. The original section was professionally built, with hand hewn timbers and meticulous workmanship, because both Padfield men were carpenters by trade.

The building "worked" for a third generation of the Padfield family until World War 1 and then spent 25 years with other people, most notably the Cummer's who had other farms in the area.



During World War II my grandfather, William Dempsey, bought the farm and it became home for his daughter Audrie and her husband J.M. "Ty" Trotter (after he returned from military service overseas).

My Father did farm, and enjoyed Herford cattle, but the barn was not maintained as much as it needed and fell into disuse by the mid 1980s.



In 1993 a tornado removed a large part of the roof and caused considerable damage. I didn't have the time or money to work on the building until 6 years later, when I began the long process of cleaning up, planning and rebuilding.

My plan had three main points as guides. I wanted to clean up the mess, create a useable space that was suitable for "more than just hay and air" and I wanted to answer to history, leaving something that would tell the tale of the past while also being useful in the present.

The work involved was unbelievable, but in the end I had a huge building that matched the footprint, roof line and overall look of the original barn but it incorporated many features that will keep it 'alive' as the decades roll by.

One of the most telling aspects of an old barn is that they were not designed to allow large modern vehicles to enter. They had one large door for the hay wagon and the only other doors were just big enough to allow a cow or horse to pass... After all... what else was there in 1855 that needed to come inside?

Today my barn has large over head doors, cement floors, heating systems, insulation and a modern electrical service but it still looks like it did when originally built. I believe that if it is useful today it will stand for all time as a symbol of those days gone by, when barns were Ontario's castles.

John Trotter
May 2021



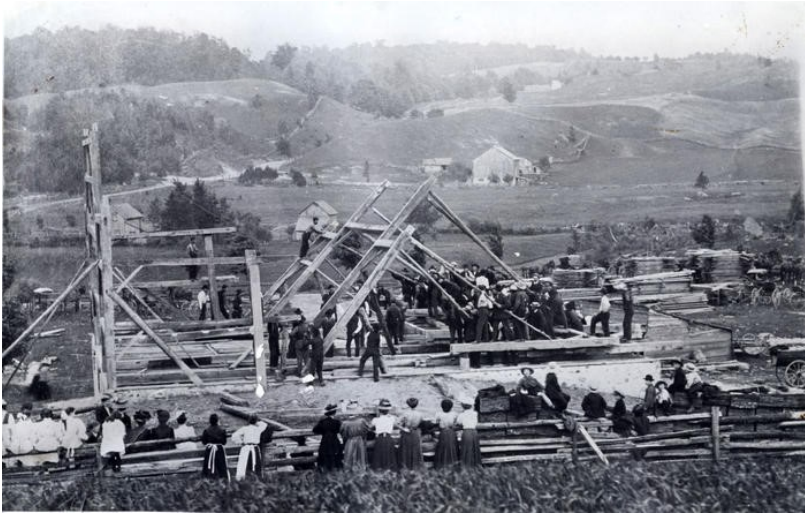
Barn Survey of Simcoe County

Amanda Wilce, SCHA

The Innisfil Historical Society barn survey is under way in Simcoe County. The purpose of the Barn survey is to document all of the barns in Simcoe County. Jan Blommaert, Mark Hall President of Innisfil Historical Society and myself along with the guidance of Ted Duncan President of SCHA and Donna Wice secretary of SCHA and IHS, have started to document the Barns in Innisfil, Ontario, Canada. The images will be used to provide documentation for The County of Simcoe via The Simcoe County Historical Association and The County Connections Association of all the barns in Simcoe County.

Having a survey completed will not only provide beautiful pictures of the many farm landscapes, handmade and hand raised barns along with the homes that are attached. They will also provide a glimpse into the past, some dating back to the early 1800's. while preserving images and adding to Simcoe County's recorded History.





We are starting by taking pictures of the barns in Innisfil, including the previous lands that were a part of the Innisfil boundaries. After this is complete, we will be looking to document and research the properties, which will include the history of the barns along with details of each barn regarding the overall make and structure.

There are many barns in Innisfil and Simcoe County, that are intact but now have years of history and a beautiful, weathered look. However, because some are disappearing, it is important to do a photo survey of them.

When seeing the barns, it feels as though you have gone back in time, and can see the hope and the triumphs, that took place at each barn that was built. Many farms and barns are still in operation today, while using the same barn that was built some 150 years ago. Some have even been added to or made to be used in a different way, for example barns are highly popular spots for wedding venues, some have been transformed into homes and others are still used to serve the many purposes that a barn can provide.

Preserving barns, be in in the form of restoration, re purposing, by telling the stories, or by documentation and images, help to provide the history, heritage and remembrance of the families and communities that helped to make Simcoe County, Ontario what it is today. As well as preserving for generations to come.

Vanishing Barns: Remembering the 18th century gentle giants through photos, stories, diaries and genealogy.



Cathy Johnston Walton

Did you miss our AGM presentation 'Vanishing Barns' with Cathy Walton? Watch the replay video [here](#)



Mystery Historical Object

This one comes from June Chambers.

Description: White cotton with a hand embroidered floral motif (satin stitch) and scalloped edges finished with button hole stitches. Measurement is "8 x 8". Period was likely turn of the century when women wore great large hats and had hair piled high.

The item has been taken apart to be able to see it better. To assemble it, you need a bodkin to thread the narrow coil of satin ribbon through the islets (*the little holes*) leaving enough to make a loop so it could be hung near a mirror or dressing table.

Did you guess that the "mystery" item is a hair receiver?

This one is unusual as most were china hair receivers and part of a dresser set.

You Will Fall This Night: The Carruthers Tragedy

Mary Harris, Barrie Historical Archive



Even though the County Jail had stood on the Mulcaster St. hill in Barrie for nearly three decades, no prisoner had ever been executed on the property. That all changed after a quarrelsome Essa Township man took too much to drink one day and ended the life of his wife.

James Carruthers and his wife, Rebecca Abernathy, lived a fairly unpleasant domestic life near the village of Ivy, southwest of Barrie. Even though Rebecca was as good a rural housewife as any other in those years, and an attentive mother to a number of children, James was never happy with her.

Whether he suffered from mental delusions and took a drink in an attempt to calm his mind, or years of liquor consumption led him to have disturbing thoughts, James began to believe that Rebecca was a bad woman, and he liked to tell her so.

James Carruthers was mainly consumed by jealousy. He was sure that Rebecca had been unfaithful to him. He openly disliked their eldest son, William, and claimed that the boy was the son of some other man. He once chastised his wife for picking wild berries with a male cousin, saying she should be ashamed of herself, and suggested that housekeeping work she did for a local doctor was solely done for the purpose of the doctor's "ambitions" towards her.

Rebecca accepted her lot in life. A nineteenth century wife had little choice. She had children to look after, no money of her own and an unbreakable vow that she had made. She argued back some, but mostly tried to ignore James, and once spent a week away with relatives in Medonte Township after a particularly bad argument.

Why December 3, 1872 was more unpleasant than any of the hundreds of days before in the Carruthers home, no one is certain. James arose late from his bed and spoke very little, the children later testified. They went off to school and could not say what transpired through the day.

Young Isaac, aged 14 years, came home about 5 p.m. and his mother asked him to go and find his father and bring him home for supper. He would not be hard to find. James, when not working, would be found either chatting with local blacksmith, David Carruthers (no relative), or partaking at nearby Ritchie's farm that doubled as a tavern.

Isaac found him at the blacksmith shop, although it appeared that he had been to Ritchie's beforehand. James refused to come home and sent the boy off with the horses and sleigh, saying he would follow soon after.

True to his word, James arrived home not long after Isaac returned. Rebecca was preparing bread to be baked and she had several of her children huddled around enjoying the warmth of the stove. James asked Isaac where his mother was. Puzzled Isaac pointed to her. James again asked where his wife might be and Rebecca calmly answered "Here." James then commented that she was readying bread that she would never bake.

"You will fall this night." said James. Rebecca was used to abuse and continued with her work.

"How will I fall?" she replied without looking up. James said nothing, only looked at her steadily. Rebecca gave him a plate of dinner and James sat down at the kitchen table but never ate any of it. After a while, he got up, gave Rebecca a shove and walked outside, repeating that she would fall yet, and saying that he was off to Ritchie's again.

James was not gone for long. Fortified with more drink, he returned to the house and asked for a lamp. Rebecca handed it to him. By the light of the lamp, James removed his coat and produced a horse whip. Very quickly, he hit Rebecca several times with the stock of it. She attempted to fight back but a last blow sent her to the floor unconscious.

The children scurried outside into the snowy night in fear. Another son, Robert Carruthers, ran for Mrs. McDonald across the road, who came quickly accompanied by her boarder, Frank Wood. The two of them believed that Rebecca was dead and James remarked that if "she is not dead, I surely will kill her."

The neighbours soon realized that Rebecca yet had a flicker of life and sent one of the Carruthers boys for the doctor. They helped James into his bed and Frank Wood escorted Mrs. McDonald home again. When Frank returned to the Carruthers home, two doctors had arrived and were attending to Rebecca who seemed to be much more badly injured than she had been before he departed 20 minutes earlier.

She was bleeding from a large wound on her forehead that was not observed by her neighbours earlier. It would seem that James had struck a final blow when no one was looking.

As he himself had admitted to injuring his wife, although he insisted he had only pushed her against the stove, James Carruthers was arrested and charged with her murder. He was lodged in the Barrie Jail and tried before a jury on April 5, 1873. The jury brought a verdict of guilty but recommended mercy. The judge disagreed on the second part and pronounced a sentence of death.

From that day until June 11, James Carruthers awaited his date with the hangman in the jailhouse. He had frequent visits from Rev. Crompton of the local Methodist Church, and twice daily visits from Rev. Morgan of Trinity Anglican, as he prepared to meet his maker.

This story should end at the moment that the trap door of the well-constructed gallows sprung open, but it does not. James Carruthers is notable as being the first man hanged at the County Jail, but also because he was also a man who killed again after he was deceased. Yes, *after*.

Local legend has it that a doctor tasked with completing an autopsy on the deceased prisoner suffered an unfortunate cut to his hand, which led to blood poisoning that eventually killed him.

Essa Historical Society Secretary Passes

Written by friend and fellow historian, Richard Blanchard

Long time Essa Historical Society secretary Olive Lee has died at 77.

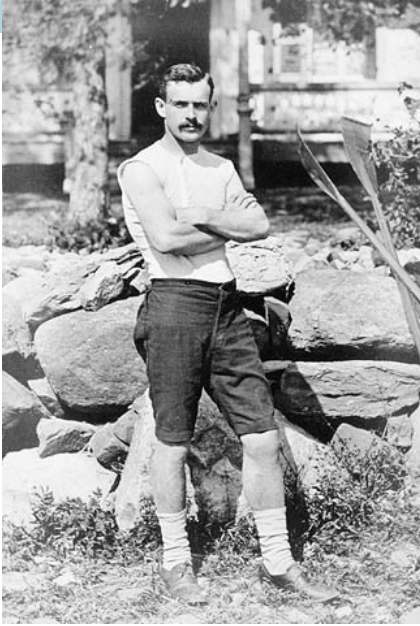
Olive joined the society in 1997 and became the society's secretary shortly afterward. "Olive was such a driving force behind the society's projects over the past two decades. From our plaques to our annual calendars and her authorship of several local histories of the township's villages and hamlets, she played a crucial role" said society president Richard Blanchard.

Olive came by her love of township history easily. Born in the township, she lived there all her life until a recent move to the Muskoka area. During her professional career, she worked as a secretary at several Barrie schools including Barrie Central and at the school board office in Midhurst. She was a member of the Barrie Chapter of Professional Secretaries International and obtained her CPS rating in 1988. She held many positions within PSI locally, provincially and internationally. She and her husband, Ross, were instrumental in producing annual calendars for over a decade and the erection of seven plaques through the township. Olive's service was recognized when she was elected to the Wall of Honour at the Museum on the Boyne in Alliston in 2012.

In addition to her husband, Ross, she is survived by her sons Allan and Ralph and by her sister, Elenore Helmer. A memorial service is planned for the future.

“The Talk of the Town”: Barrie’s Hanlan Regatta, August 1878

By John Merritt, SCHA



On a hot evening in August, 1878, thousands of people lined the shores at the head of Kempenfeldt Bay, stretching from Judge Gowan’s Ardraven estate at the north end of Barrie to the village of Allandale in the south. The water of the bay, still as glass, reflected the colours of the evening sky as the sun sank lower in the horizon. Strewn across the surface of the bay were water crafts of many kinds, from humble rowboats to some of the graceful passenger steamers of the lake, all of them lying still, their passengers focused, like the crowds along the shoreline, on the long lines of buoys that stretched parallel to the western shore of the bay. Waiting at one end of this laneway was a row of sleek racing shells, each of their occupants poised at their oars, tense and waiting. Suddenly, the crack of a starter pistol echoed out over the bay and the scene burst into life again, the rowers propelling their craft forward as the crowds all around burst into excited cheers. The headlining race of the Hanlan Regatta had begun.

The idea of the regatta had originated among some of the business leaders of the town of Barrie, who formed a committee to begin organizing the event. At the time, regattas, boat racing, and the sport of rowing in particular were all extremely popular, and the organizing committee set its sights high, at some of the best rowers in the world. The organizers spared no expense in enticing such high-level athletes to their town, offering generous prizes. To help pay for it, committee members raised funds from other supporters in the community. Donations streamed in, from local enthusiasts of boat racing as well as from local entrepreneurs hoping to make a quick buck off the expected throngs of onlookers. Supporters of the regatta were also inspired in part by the idea of showcasing their town’s picturesque location and investment potential to wealthy and influential outsiders drawn to Barrie to see the event. Some supporters also hoped that the regatta would prove to be the first of many professional boat races to be held on Kempenfeldt Bay, and that Barrie would eventually become world-renowned as a site for professional boat racing.

In the eyes of the organizers, the main attraction of the regatta was to be Toronto’s own Ned Hanlan. Hanlan, then just 23 years old, had grown up rowing on Toronto Bay, travelling daily between the mainland and his family’s home on Toronto Island. He began racing at the age of 16, won his first race at the age of 17, and won his first professional race in 1874, at the age of 19. In 1876 Hanlan elevated himself from regional to international fame with a surprise victory at the Centennial Regatta in Philadelphia, in the process setting a new record for the three-mile scull. Two years after his appearance at the Barrie Regatta in 1878, Hanlan would go on to win the world championship of sculling, a title he retained for five consecutive years. After some cajoling, Hanlan’s cadre of handlers, the Hanlan Club, finally accepted the committee’s invitation to participate in the regatta. Other famous rowers soon followed suit, including Ephraim Morris, Wallace and Edward Ross, William McKen, Fred Plaisted, Pat Luther and many others. In the days leading up to the event on August 13th, townspeople of all kinds busied themselves in preparation for the expected flood of spectators. A grandstand was built along the lakeshore across from the railway station, all the steamboats on Kempenfeldt Bay were commandeered to serve as floating observation platforms, and the Northern Railway even agreed to operate an “observation train” that would carry spectators along the lakeshore parallel to the racecourse, keeping time with the scullers from start to finish.

All the hotels of the town prepared themselves for the expected visitors as a small army of vendors of food, drinks and merchandise erected their stands all along the lakeshore. Even local churches made preparations for the event: two cushioned pews were reserved at Trinity Anglican Church exclusively for the use of the rowers competing in the regatta, who were also treated to a special sermon by the Rev Canon Morgan, ruminating on the Biblical verse, "So run that ye may obtain."

On the Saturday before the race, a reporter from the Northern Advance dropped in on Wallace and Edward Ross at the Queens Hotel as they were enjoying an early tea. The reporter was astonished, at the same time that the two Rosses were elaborating on the physical discipline and exacting training required of them as athletes, to see both rowers devour every dish laid before them, including a large slice of apple pie. That evening, the boats to be used in the regatta laid in waiting along the shore, carefully cleaned and well maintained, protected by fitted canvas covers.

Monday, the first day of the regatta, dawned calm and clear, with a slight breeze from the northwest and the waters of the bay lying relatively calm. The peace and quiet of the scene was short-lived, however, as the first of a series of full-capacity trains began rolling into Barrie from as far south as Hamilton and Toronto, soon delivering between fifteen and twenty thousand visitors to the town, more than tripling its population within the space of a few hours.

A number of special constables had been temporarily sworn in to help the town's regular police force maintain law and order during the two days of the event. While some of the newly-minted officers did little to impress visitors with their bearing and manner, the majority did well enough, arresting drunks, dispersing crowds, and generally keeping the peace. Despite their presence, however, a daring theft was committed before the day's event could even begin, when a man reached in through the ticket window at the Northern Railway Station, where a clerk was selling admission to the grandstand, and made off with an estimated \$35 from the till.

The event began early that afternoon with a friendly race between the steamship *Lady of the Lakes* and the tugboat *Victoria*, won by the *Victoria* with a four-minute lead. Next came an amateur four-oared race featuring boats from the Toronto, Argonaut and Leander rowing clubs, won by the Leanders, a Hamilton rowing club, at just under 16 minutes. The next event was a double scull race for the championship of Lake Simcoe between three pairs of brothers: Neill, Boos, and Gaudaur. The race was an easy win for the Gaudaur brothers of Atherley — one of the brothers, Jake Gaudaur, later went on to become one of only two First Nations men to win the World Sculling Championship. The double scull was followed by an amateur single scull featuring local rower H. Sanford, who performed well, later receiving positive reviews from the *Toronto Mail*, despite placing third of four.

Next came the professional single scull race, the headline event of the whole regatta. Although not the most graceful or notable of races witnessed by some aficionados, the event certainly did not disappoint the thousands of people gathered to watch. Hanlan, distinctive in his signature blue racing shirt and, at 5'8 and 150 lbs., noticeably smaller in size than most of his competitors, was in magnificent form, easily placing first, though Wallace Ross might have given the champion more of a run for his money if he had not struck the wrong buoy on the course (and, the Northern Advance reporter later opined, not eaten that piece of apple pie days earlier).

At the end of the race, the crowd converged at the Barrie Hotel, where Hanlan emerged onto the balcony to three cheers from those gathered below. He was followed by Wallace Ross, who modestly implied he would have lost the race even had he not struck the wrong buoy. Later that evening, the winners of the day's races gathered at the town rink to receive their prizes and speeches were given by the local members of Parliament and the Mayor.

Following the day's races, many of the visitors who had earlier flooded the town by train were just as quickly carried away again, so that by nightfall Barrie was relatively quiet again — but not completely uneventful. That night a number of men were locked up for public drunkenness and a visitor had his gold watch, valued at \$13, stolen from his hotel room while he slept — he had not locked the door because he was never provided with a key.

Tuesday, August 14, the second day of the regatta, dawned calm and clear, with rain later in the morning, followed by a strong wind which, fortunately, died down completely in time for the day's races. The crowds were much smaller than on the previous day, though still substantial. Unlike on the previous day, when 3,000 spectators had paid to watch from the grand stand built at the head of the bay, most of Tuesday's onlookers preferred to stand along the lakeshore, even though admission prices to the grand stand had been reduced to just ten cents a ticket.

The day's events included an eighteen-foot open skiff race featuring Wallace Ross, a twenty-six-foot open skiff race featuring the Gaudaur Brothers, and a consolation race featuring all of Hanlan's competitors from the previous day's big race. Fred Plaisted managed to win the consolation prize, with Pat Luther a close second. Ross, sailing a heavy, ordinary skiff, was unable to complete the eighteen-foot race, and the Gaudaurs placed second in the twenty-six-foot race to Ned Hanlan's own brother.

Sunset that day saw the end of the regatta, and just as quickly as the town had filled up, it was empty again, leaving townspeople to clean up the mess, count up their profits and losses, and reminisce about the past two days' events for many days to come.

Orillia Hall of Fame Inductee - Reverend Cannon Richard W. Greene (1848-1934)

The Orillia Museum of Art & History (OMAH) History Committee continues to celebrate local history by profiling inductees in the **Orillia Hall of Fame** and by highlighting the immeasurable contributions they have made to our community. Reverend Cannon Richard W. Greene's induction into **The Orillia Hall of Fame** is well deserved. From his Orillia arrival in 1888 to his departure in 1911, Reverend Greene was a multi-faceted person who left a wonderful legacy in our community.

As a pillar of the church, he graduated from Trinity College, University of Toronto and was ordained in St. James Cathedral in Toronto, where he served for thirteen years. Arriving in Orillia in 1888, Canon Greene was a highly respected and beloved minister of the Church of England at St. James' Anglican Church. He served as an "eloquent preacher," a strong and respected supporter of the community and as a trusted friend and adviser. During his tenure in Orillia, and under his leadership, the present church was built in all its glory. He was dedicated to nurturing the youth in the church. In 1908 he was elected President of the Ontario Sunday School Association.

As a talented artist in his own right and teacher and promoter of art, Reverend Greene nurtured music and art in the community. He encouraged young artists with their work. He founded the Orillia Sketch Club. Orillia-born Group of Seven artist Franklin Carmichael studied as a boy under Reverend Greene's tutelage, influencing Carmichael's ability to make an enduring mark in capturing the beauty of our Canadian and local landscapes. Also, Reverend Greene was one of the judges involved in choosing the design by Vernon March for the Champlain Monument.

As an expert wood carver, Greene carved an exquisite eagle lectern and presented it to the church in 1903. The lectern survived a fire that leveled the church. The eagle lectern remains domiciled in St. James' Anglican Church in Orillia today.

During the twenty-three years he served in Orillia, Reverend Canon Richard W. Greene made an indelible mark on our community, making it richer due to his passion and commitment. OMAH is honoured to have some of Reverend Greene's artworks in the OMAH collection, donated by local citizens, so that his legacy can be preserved for future generations.

More from Miriam King

My real apprenticeship as a reporter was working at the Bradford Gazette, in the late '80s, under founder, newspaper woman and entrepreneur Donna Purkis. It was where I learned the basics, that any journalism student learns in school today: the importance of the five Ws (who, what, where, when and why); the importance of constructing a story so that it not only provided the facts, but gripped the interest of the reader.

I also learned a few business basics. During its last year, in 1990, the Bradford Gazette became very spotty in its publication, as the owner struggled with bills. I saw firsthand the unwisdom of making 'contra' deals – trading advertising for goods – when there were things like rent and printing costs to consider.

The Gazette suddenly closed its doors, in a welter of unpaid debts, and Bradford's only paper became a publication, produced out of Newmarket by Metroland, that provided mostly York Region news. By that time, I had been bitten with the journalism bug, and strongly felt that there was enough happening within the community to warrant full newspaper coverage – especially since 1991 was an election year. I had the nerve to go to Simcoe-York Printing in Beeton, which published The Innisfil Scope, Beeton Record Sentinel and other papers, and ask owners John Archibald and Bruce Haire to back a paper in Bradford. It would be called "The Bradford Times" – the stodgiest name I could think of, and the least likely to suggest the kind of instability demonstrated by the Bradford Gazette in its final days – and I would be photographer and reporter.

They seemed lukewarm to the idea. I waited two weeks, without hearing a word, and then went to Bradford businessman, Casey Bak – owner of the iconic Bak's Market – and pitched the idea to him. Bak was enthusiastic, but had a caveat: Realizing I lacked experience, he insisted that Donna Purkis come back as co-editor, to get the Bradford Times off the ground.

I was certainly on board, and in October, 1991, The Bradford Times published its first issue.

It was not the most professional-looking community newspaper. Our masthead – the title on the front page – looked like it had been designed after midnight by high school students, and the ads didn't look much better. There was also admittedly the start of some friction between the co-editors.

Alarmed for his investment, Casey Bak made the best possible decision for the future of the fledgling newspaper. Within weeks, he brought in long-time West Coast newspaperman Rick Fonger to serve as Publisher.

Rick not only had years of experience in community newspapers, he was an enthusiastic supporter of new technologies. He redesigned and cleaned up the Masthead, set standards for the font type and size, emphasized the importance of design, and reorganized the office, hiring a talented graphics person to design the advertisements, and an office manager for the front desk.

More importantly, Rick continued to bring in cutting-edge technology, from digital photography to new computer programs that allowed the Times to get away from cut-and-paste, waxing and laying out the paper on flats, to doing the pagination completely online.

Through his connections, we were able to test the Fotoman, an early digital camera. With limited capacity, focal range and images that looked like they were taken by a very bad box camera, we weren't enthusiastic – but that changed as the cameras evolved. We came to rely on digital imagery, which was cheaper than film, and could be instantly downloaded and incorporated into the paper.

SCHA Speaker Series

Black & White and Read All Over...NOT!



Ian McInroy and Miriam King

April 27, 2021

SCHA

Did you miss our April Speakers Series?

Watch the replay video [here](#).

The Bradford Times lasted for 26 years in a competitive market. Unfortunately, the co-editorship didn't survive the first year.

Things came to a head on the issue just before the 1991 election – the first election since the amalgamation of Bradford and West Gwillimbury into the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury. The final page of the paper was to be a full page of photographs and bios of all the election candidates. It had taken me long hours to gather the information.

The paper was being laid out at our printer in Newmarket. This was before the era of digital photography, so that each photo had to be made into a PMT, before printing. My co-editor, overseeing the layout, asked me to run into Bradford to pick up something she had forgotten.

By the time I got back, she was on her way out the door, stopping just long enough to tell me that our publisher had just pulled the final page. The photos and bios were not to run. I would have to fill the page with something else. She left.

It was nearly midnight, and deadline was looming. Cursing, I sat down – and managed to write enough 'background' stories on the election to fill the page. Some of the stories were admittedly below standard; some of the headlines used a larger-than-normal font to fill space.

Fuming, I could barely wait to get back to the office and have it out with the publisher. As soon as Rick came in, I lit into him about the fiasco, and his lack of professionalism and consideration, in pulling an entire page of copy just before deadline.

I stopped when his jaw dropped. He had no idea what I was talking about. He hadn't stopped by the printer. He hadn't seen the page in question. He certainly hadn't ordered that anything be pulled.

Seeking Heritage Business Award Nominations for 2021

Local businesses are the backbone of Simcoe County's community. Annually, SCHA wishes to commemorate the long-term contribution made by a business located within its boundaries.

Please consider nominating a business from your part of Simcoe County. Past winners have included Les Bertram and sons of Midhurst in 2018 and Beatties' Potato Farm & Distillery in 2019.

Kindly check with your proposed nominee and then contact SCHA secretary Donna Wice at mdwice@sympatico.ca.

Award Criteria/Information Required

Local businesses are the backbone of Simcoe County's community. Annually, SCHA wishes to commemorate the long-term contribution made by a business located within its boundaries. Please send the following information to SCHA secretary

- Name of Company:
- Contact Name:
- Contact Position:
- Phone Number:
- Address:
- Email:
- Year established in Simcoe County:
- Milestone of continuous family ownership reached in 2021:
- Contribution to the history & development of Simcoe County:
- Past Names, Owners, products sold:
- History- some interesting details:

SCHA would like to honour your business circa Sept/Oct 2021

MEMBERS' CORNER: The Essa Historical Society — Long-time organizational member of the SCHA

By John Merritt, Membership Chair, SCHA

In this edition of our "Members' Corner" series, we will be featuring the Essa Historical Society. SCHA membership is open to both individuals and groups, including many well-established and active history societies and museums from many different communities across Simcoe County. The EHS is one such group, having been a member of the SCHA for most of its 42-year history.

The Essa Historical Society was founded in May 1979, at a meeting of 37 founding members in Egbert. The founding members of the EHS brought to the association a huge well of local history knowledge based in their own deep family roots in the area.

Over the past four decades, the group has erected 14 plaques across the Township of Essa commemorating significant people and places. It has also published 11 books on local history, including histories of local communities and significant families as well as a history of the township celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2000. In more recent years, the EHS has printed seven annual calendars featuring photographs of the township's historical schools, churches and century farms. The group also typically hosts a live history speakers' series on Saturday afternoons at the Essa Public Library, monthly from September to May. For groups like the EHS, membership in the SCHA brings a unique set of benefits, including the ability to publish content and promote your organization in our newsletter, on our website and in our social media. Member groups are also eligible to apply for our Community Partnership Grants and to appoint a representative to our Board.

If you are part of a local history group or institution that is not yet a member of the SCHA, consider joining us today! If your group is already a member, tell us how long it has been part of the SCHA. You can reach our Membership Chair any time at membership@simcoecountyhistory.ca.

Member Organizations

Please contact organizations directly for current information as regularly scheduled events or meetings may be cancelled due to Covid-19

[Allandale Neighbourhood Association](#)

Contact [Cathy Colepatch](#)

Alliston Historical Society
Box 88 Alliston ON 705-435-5626

Contact [Carolyn Knowles](#)

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

[Barrie Historical Archive](#)

Contact [Deb Exel](#)

Bass Lake Rate Payers Association
12 Ward Ave Oro-Medonte ON
705-955-2262 basslakera@gmail.com

[Bradford/West Gwillimbury Public Library](#)

Bradford/West Gwillimbury Local History
Association Contact [Jan Blommaert](#)

[Coldwater Canadian Heritage Museum](#)

[Collingwood Museum](#)
Contact Susan Warner 705-445-4811

[The Cookstown Community Development Team](#)

Deb Crawford contact at 705-791-2051 or [Email](#)

Essa Historical Society

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](#)

Huronian Chapter, Ontario Archeological Society

Contact [John Raynor](#)

Huronian Museum Box 638, 549 Little Lake Park
Rd. Midland ON, 705-526-2844

huroniamuseum@gmail.com

[Innisfil Historical Society](#)

[Contact](#) Donna Wice

[Museum on the Boyne](#)

[Contact](#) Katie Huddleston

705-435-4030 x. 1802

[Orillia Museum of Art and History](#)

Contact 705-326-2159

[Orillia Public Library](#) 36 Mississauga St. W Orillia,
705-325-2338 turvey@orilliapubliclibrary.ca

[Ramara Historical Society](#)

Contact [Cathy Westcott](#)

Simcoe County Archives
1149 Hwy 26 Minesing ON, 705-726-9331
archives@simcoe.ca

[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

Township of Essa [Contact](#)

Township of Oro-Medonte Heritage Committee
148 Line 7 South Oro-Medonte ON L0L 2E0
705-487-4003 cathy.keane@oro-medonte.ca

Township of Tiny 12
Contact [Pamela Zimmerman](#)