

NEWS views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

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President's Report

Thanks everyone for supporting the Simcoe County Historical Association. I have been your President since 2017 and have chosen to go forward again in that position. Remember to mark September 10th on your calendar for Simcoe County's and the SCHA's first History Conference. A conference takes a lot of work and planning. If you can contribute a few hours or more to making this a success contact Donna Wice by email or telephone

to volunteer. Stay tuned for updates but definitely set aside that day.

Our plans for the conference include the participation of history and heritage organizations throughout the County. Together we can keep Simcoe County's history alive. Our history is the sum of our parts. Together we are strong.

This newsletter is the launch of SCHA's new look. Be part of the History Conference, be a member of our

Board of Directors, be a volunteer, a speaker as part of the Speaker Series, have an article for the newsletter or have an idea how we can build on what we already do. Call or email me or contact one of our directors to discuss how we can all work together to:

Get to Know your Long Ago

Ted Duncan;
President SCHA

Introducing.....Our new look!

This edition of SCHA's News and Views introduces our new logo and tag line adopted by the association beginning this year. Same great people, same love, and passion for the history of Simcoe County but a new and more colourful look. Isn't that what spring represents? In a (hopefully) post COVID lock-down world we need something new and vibrant to revitalize us.



Get to Know your Long Ago

Did you forget?

Remember to renew your membership as soon as possible using one of the following ways:

Pay by PayPal – payments may be sent to info@simcoecountyhistory.ca

Pay by Credit Card online - <https://www.simcoecountyhistory.ca/memberships/>

Pay by Credit Card over the phone – please email us at info@simcoecountyhistory.ca

Pay by Cheque: download our form and return by mail -

<https://www.simcoecountyhistory.ca/memberships/>

If you're not sure if you have already paid for 2022, please check with the Membership Chair John Merritt at membership@simcoecountyhistory.ca

From the editor:

First let me congratulate Jill Hynes on her retirement and while we will certainly miss her efficient publishing of the News and Views, we also wish her the best in her leisure years!

We are the sum of all the parts of the County and beginning with this issue, a section has been set aside to highlight the people and organizations who continue to work to preserve our past. Thank you to Janine Harris-Wheatly for submitting the history of the Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society to kick this off.

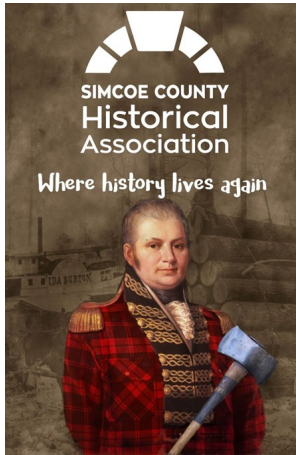
A section of the newsletter has also been set aside for at least one seasonal article. Thank you, Donna Wice, for submitting an article on the history and challenges of plowing .

And finally, in future issues, I would like to include a calendar of upcoming events – but of course you need to send the information to us if this is going to work.

Please note, the deadline for our Summer Edition is 1 June, but feel free to submit articles for future editions at any time to : news@simcoecountyhistory.ca

I am new at this – but I enjoy preserving our history. Together we can learn and celebrate our past and the accomplishments of many.

Deb Crawford



September 10th and the first Simcoe County Heritage Conference will be here before you know it!

Our conference planners have been working hard to make ideas into reality and the conference is gradually taking shape. The venue if you have been wondering is the Simcoe County Museum in Midhurst and we look forward to seeing everyone come out for an entertaining and enlightening day. There is still a lot of work to be done but be sure you mark the date on your calendar and watch for registration details. Participation will be limited so don't forget to register early. I am sure you don't want to miss the chance to hear "the 1492guy" our keynote speaker.

Dave Patterson is "the1492guy," professional speaker, and international author. Dave reaches audiences across North America with his mix of passion, fun, practical communication, positivity, and understanding.

(<https://the1492guy.com>)



Annual General Meeting— 2022

Our AGM was held virtually once again this year on March 22nd. Meet

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| * Ted Duncan | President— |
| * Mark Fisher, | Vice President |
| * Donna Wice, | Secretary |
| * John Merritt, | Director/Membership Chair |
| * Janine Harris-Wheatley | Director |
| * Bruce McRae, | Director |
| * Jan Blommaert | Director |
| * Amanda Wilce, | Director |
| * Deb Crawford, | Director/Newsletter Editor |

Special thanks to our guest **Dave Town** who spoke about Chief Yellowhead, an indigenous leader who stood up to the white man and his fellow chiefs in a battle against residential schools.

Working the fields — Excerpts from the Farms of Innisfil

(submitted by Donna Wice)

Until about 1840, fieldwork was done by oxen, but this quickly changed to horse-power. Until the 1930s and 1940s, work in the fields was primarily done by horses.

Plowing was a difficult and time-consuming process. A good plow man with a steady team of horses and a single furrow walking plow could cut a furrow six inches deep and ten to twelve inches wide. The horses supplied the power, but the plow man had to steer the horses and control the depth and width of the furrow by the two handles. If he hit a stone, he might break a plowshare, or the handles might jump up and hit his ribs. Sometimes in a tight sod, the sward turned up on its edge might roll back down again. The plow man would have to walk in the furrow with his left foot and use his right foot to step on the newly turned soil to firm it down.

Both the man and the horses needed a good feed and rest at midday. Sometimes plowing was done in the spring or in the heat of summer but more often in autumn. On a cold windy day, this could be a real endurance test. In good conditions, a man and team could plow up to an acre a day. That is 10 days for a 10-acre field. (Wm. Bill Kell)

NH Lot 9, Concession 9, Innisfil

About the time of World War 1, Fred Reynolds was plowing with horses and somehow lost his encased pocket watch in the field. To prove that many duties were recurring and precise, such as plowing at the same depth, the following year, while plowing in the same field, he recovered the lost pocket watch. The watch is now in the possession of Merv Wice and to this day, works when wound. (Merv Wice)



NH Lot 16, Concession 2, Innisfil

Along with his Scottish accent, Bob Campbell brought a deep abiding love of the art of plowing, inherited from his father John who in 1907 was the Scottish Champion plow man. Indeed, the fall plowing matches were always the high-

light of the year. When the South Simcoe Plowmen's Association was formed, Bob immediately became a member, serving as director from 1940 until his death in 1972.

In the fall of 1938, he packed up his team of horses and headed off to the International Plowing Match (IPM) at Minesing. In this competition he placed first in his class of 30 competitors and was awarded the *Family Herald and Weekly Star* trophy.

On Saturday, October 11, 1941, the Campbell family proudly hosted the annual South Simcoe Plowing Match- with 45 entries, the largest of any local plowing match in Simcoe County up to that time. This was a defining moment in the Campbell family's plowing tradition as his son Jack began his plowing career in the stubble class and Bob switched from competitor to coach. (Ian Campbell)

(Photo The Clydesdale horses of Robert Boyes Sr., plowing at the 1941 South Simcoe Plowing Match held on the farm of Robert Campbell.)

2021-22 Andrew Hunter Awards update By John Merritt, SCHA

The SCHA will be running our newly-revamped Andrew Hunter Awards program again this year. Originally awarded each year to post-secondary students writing about local history topics, after a several-year hiatus the Andrew Hunter Award was recently retooled to honour three local secondary-school students each year for excellence in history essay writing. The first of the new Hunter Awards were issued last year to two students from Innisdale Secondary School in Barrie and one student from Bradford District High School. All three of last year's winners spoke to our group at our February meeting.

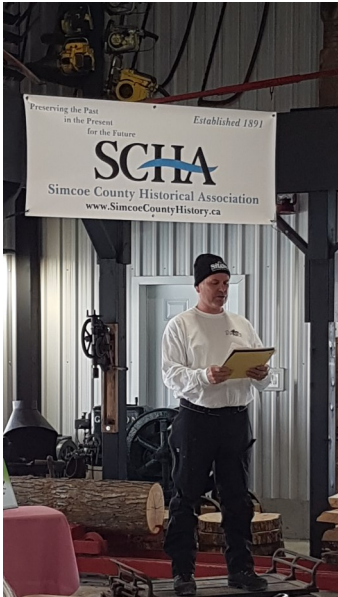
For this year's awards, we have already received three submissions and are looking forward to receiving more by the end of the school year. We usually touch base with participating teachers towards the end of each semester. Most of the submissions we receive are the final term papers from Grade 10 Canadian History students. We have received interest from four local secondary schools this year, up slightly from last year. Participating schools this year are Bradford District High School, Eastview Secondary School and Innisdale Secondary School in Barrie and Nantyr Shores Secondary School in Innisfil. If you know of any teachers who might be interested in participating in this program, please spread the word! We are hoping to grow this program to include secondary schools of all kinds from across the county.

We expect to begin evaluating submissions by the beginning of July and expect to announce the winners in September. Stay tuned!

Shaws Maple Syrup in the Win Column

On April 5th 2022 SCHA, local dignitaries, friends and neighbors gathered to recognize Shaws Maple Syrup as the winner of the 2022 Heritage Business Award.

Located in Oro-Medonte, Shaws Maple Syrup is home to a seasonal restaurant, the Pancake House and to modern maple syrup production equipment. Five generations of Shaws, spanning nearly 120 years have contributed to the viability and well-being of one of nature's greatest sweeteners—maple syrup.



Congratulations to Tom and Terri-Lynn!



The Shaw Story—by Tom Shaw

In 1893 Eleanor and Thomas Shaw purchased our Old Growth Maple Bush from the Grand Trunk Railroad for the purpose of selling sleigh loads of firewood at the Orillia Farmers Market. The commercial production of our maple syrup began in 1904. James Shaw, at the age of 16, was the driving force behind the production and market sales of the first maple syrup. A three series iron pot method was used in a small lean-to.

In 1907 our first evaporator was purchased from Grimm Manufacturing Company in Montreal and the original sugar camp was constructed.

In 1957 the first gravity flow tubing was installed on 400 trees. Although the syrup

still needed to be transferred by bucket into the horse drawn sleigh, it was a good start towards a better collection method.

Myrtle and Norman turned the seasonal business into a year-round business in 1965 with the installation of an airline across the driveway. The “ding” would alert them to the arrival of a customer year-round.

The construction of the new Sugar Shack in 1966 let customers see the production of their syrup. Myrt and Norm installed electricity and running water - a huge step up from the primitive shack. This was the start of becoming a destination for people.

In 1970 the wood-fired evaporator was replaced by an oil-fired one with tremendous sap throughput. The last buckets were replaced by tubing and an automated vacu-

um system delivers sap to the holding tanks.

The new oil-fired evaporator provided tremendous sap throughput able to handle the 4,000 trees. By 1970, the total trees tapped reached 4000.

In 1980 Ruthanne and Ronald undertook an ambitious plan to open a Pancake House. They built a new Sugar Shack and converted the old one into a restaurant. Decades of information gathering trips to Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, New York, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Connecticut, and Vermont had given them inspirational ideas towards creating a tourist attraction.

The Heritage Business Award recognizes businesses who have been part of the growth and development of Simcoe County for many decades and continue to be important in our County's future and our local communities.

The Shaw Story (continued from page 5)

In 1982 a very leading-edge technology machine called Reverse Osmosis was purchased. High pressure pumps pushed sap into a chamber that held a membrane which only allowed water particles through. It basically squeezed water out of the sap. This energy saving machine gave sweeter sap to start boiling.

In 1985 a high-pressure boiler was installed to produce steam that circulated through coils submersed in the evaporator pan. Steam is a lower heat than a flame on the bottom of a pan, so the syrup cannot burn.

Ronald Norman Shaw made significant contributions toward the betterment of the Maple industry in Ontario and North America. Travelling to many small meetings with producers throughout Ontario he was instrumental in the 1966 forming of The Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association. Ron served as President in 1970 at 30 years of age.



As quoted in NorthAmericanMaple.org:

“In 1973, the 14th Annual Meeting was a milestone. It took place in Canada for the first time at Orillia, Ontario. It was hosted by the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers’ Association. At this meeting, the directors amended the Constitution and By-Laws of the Council to allow maple producing provinces to join if they wished. The name of the Council was amended to

“The North American Maple Syrup Council.”

In 1980 Ron was the first Canadian to be elected Chairman of the Council and in 1987 Ron became an inductee into the Maple Hall of Fame. This is the highest honor afforded by the Maple Syrup industry to recognize those who have excelled in research, development, and leadership.

Ron’s contributions over his years were unfailingly forthright and sensible. He was always quick to give thanks to his parents who gave him and Ruthanne the opportunity to travel in pursuit of improvements. Myrt and Norm were happy to look after the 1,000 pigs and two children back at



home, looking forward to hearing about the latest maple news.

In 1985 Terri-Lynn began working in our Pancake House at 16 years of age. She is a natural at mentoring many a local girl working at their first job. In turn, these girls became part of our maple syrup family, now returning to share the experience with their children.

In 1991 Terri-Lynn and Tom started Shaws Catering, a move which made the existing facilities much more useful and productive. This enterprise has been challenging and fruitful, allowing us to work in many unique places and events during the maple syrup off season times.



In 2010, Terri-Lynn and Tom became 5th generation owners, for the last decade undertaking a large project of burying our main sap lines underground to connect our 4,500 trees. This collects around 160,000 liters of watery maple sap each season which produces approximately 1,000 gallons of quality maple syrup.

The goal of a tourist destination during mid- February to mid-April has been achieved. Our warm Pancake House serves up tasty treats and families can avail themselves of a 1.5-kilometre hiking trail complete with plaques detailing the maple syrup-making history on these Shaw lands. Weather permitting, on weekends we have Percheron drawn wagon rides through our trails. Shaws has opened a larger, second building on-site to accommodate physically distanced seating. Some guests will eat in the original location and others in the second building, which contains a museum-quality display of farm equipment and tools used by the family through the generations

Terri-Lynn and Tom are committed to maintaining the standards set for us long ago. We enjoy sharing our family story with the public and strive to create a memorable, enjoyable, and quality experience for young and old alike.

Our First Forty Years 1978 – 2018

Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society (submitted by Janine Harris-Wheatley)

The history below, up to 2018, is from [Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society: Our First Forty Years, 1978 to 2018](#) / compiled by Janine Harris-Wheatley, June Chambers, & Helen Yielding; edited and layout by Mark Burchell. 173 pages.

On April 29, 1978 Bernice Merrick Ellis and Chester Ellis invited people from Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Townships to their home on the 10th concession of Tecumseth Township. Bernice's goal was to create the Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society. She once said, "Sometimes when you want to do something you start it for yourself!" (P. 16) I suspect that it was also her goal to combine the two Townships into one Society because her family was connected to many of the original Europeans who had settled across both municipalities.

Most of the Society's first meetings were held at the Newton Robinson United Church — which was built in 1887 by Bernice's grandfather Isaac Merrick and her father John Merrick. Later meetings were located next door in the Tec We Gwill Women's Institute Hall, another heritage building in Newton Robinson. Situated conveniently at the boundaries of the two original Townships, the Hall remains our home base today.

The public meeting held on October 27, 1978, with oral historian Alan Anderson as its inspiring speaker; set the Society's purpose for all of our subsequent years. "The members of the Society and friends present expressed their interest in local history by deciding to make the research and reporting of the history of Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury hamlets and former hamlets a continuing objective of the Society." (P.17)

Bernice Ellis was President for the first two years of the Society when its Constitution and mission were established. In the years since, each new President has brought their own style and interests to the TWGHS platform, but our Mission remains the same:

"To protect, preserve, and promote our local heritage." (TWGHS Constitution, 2019) Subsequent Presidents were: Franz Aschwanden 1980-1983, Betty Anderson 1984-1988, Allan Anderson 1989-1990, John Farmer 1991-1992, Franz Aschwanden 1993 to 1994, David Yielding 1995-2009 (2nd Constitution), Patricia Blackstock 2009

-2016, Janine Harris-Wheatley 2016-

(3rd Constitution). With the municipal amalgamations imposed by the

Province in 1990, Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury were incorporated, along with other municipalities, into two new Towns, New Tecumseth and Bradford West Gwillimbury. Regardless, the Society has retained its original name and members from both Towns continue to meet and support projects and publications inspired by the local history of both of the old Townships.

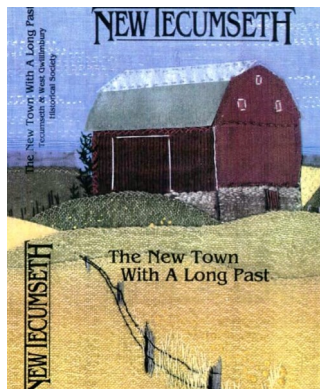
From the start the members became enthusiastically involved in researching and reporting. They advocated for plaques to be erected in Bond Head and Middleton in 1980 to commemorate the Old Plank Road built between the hamlets of Bond Head and Bradford, where County Road 88 now runs. In 1980 the first of seven "Journeys Into the Past Heritage Tours" was held in West Gwillimbury. The first major publication by TWGHS was in 1982, the 392 page [Cemetery Inscriptions: Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury](#)

[Townships, Simcoe County, Ontario](#), edited by Bernice Merrick Ellis. The previous year a federal student employment grant was used to hire students who, along with members, visited every cemetery in the two Townships to record the inscriptions (excepting Alliston which had its own historical society). Over the years several printings have sold out and digital copies are still being purchased.

1984 was the bicentennial of British colonization and settlement in what is now called Ontario. The occasion was marked by the fifth "Journeys into the Past Heritage Tours" held in Tottenham and the publication of four local history chapbooks written by Bernice Ellis. One of them provided historical background for the main celebration of the year. On August 26 Travel Down a Storied Road featured a parade of antique cars transporting passengers robed in period costumes on historic Highway 27, from Cookstown to Highway 9, with a stop in Dunkerron to erect a plaque at the Friends (Quaker) Cemetery.

1984 was also the year Tecumseth Township published its 930 page history, [Tecumseth Township: The Unforgettable Past: A Local History of Tecumseth Township, Simcoe County, Ontario, Canada](#). Compiled and edited by Allan Anderson and Betty Tomlinson Anderson, many of its entries were written by Society members.

In 1987 Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society hosted the unveiling of a plaque at Rowelands, the former home of the Honourable William Earl Rowe, 1894 to 1984. A stellar number of Honourables, and federal, provincial, and municipal politicians studded the guest list. Over the following years members kept active with a number of special pro-



Our First Forty Years 1978–2018 (continued from page 7)

jects that brought local history into the community. Various entertainments were productive fundraisers to support these special projects: Cookbook Capers and Autumn Tea in 2002, Turn of the Century Tea and Fashion Show in 2012, and A Temperance Tea and Melodrama in 2018.

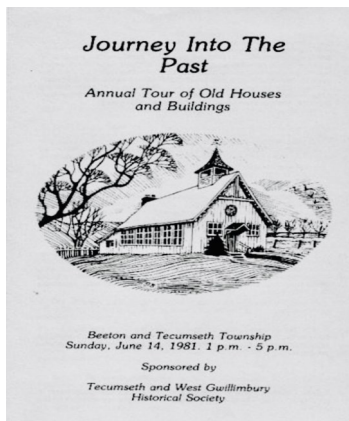
In 2012-13 a series of programs were held for the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812-1814, with discussions such as the lives of soldiers at the time, military costumes and accoutrements, the function of drums and other military musical instruments, the role played by women during the war, and how war affected food security.



If forced to pick just one exceptional meeting, it would have to be in November 2004. It was standing room only when people came from afar to listen to Ron Brighty, a retired engineer who had worked on the Avro Arrow at A.V. Roe. Just before the scrapping of the project by the Diefenbaker government, Ron managed to film a test flight of the Arrow. The 100+ people were silent and still as they watched those few minutes of flight.

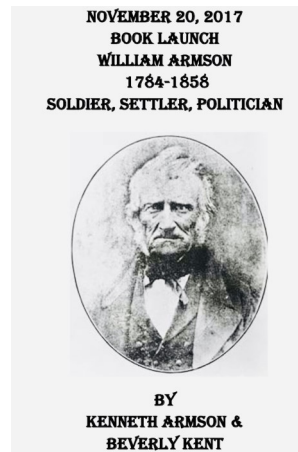
The Society continued to publish local history titles, but expanded their interests to a variety of formats. 1985 saw the publication of The Journal of Richard Rorke, 1829-1847, the transcription of an early settler's diary of his day-to-day life in the wilderness of Tecumseth. In 1993 members compiled, wrote, and narrated the video New Tecumseth: The New Town With a Long Past, which received a

Dorothy Duncan Award from the Ontario Historical Society. Members worked with painstaking thoroughness to compile an Index of names for the Tecumseth history book, finally releasing it in 2006. In 2008 the Society went in search of a playwright and enlisted Darlene Flanagan to dramatize the Beeton Rustling scandal and murder which sold out Toronto newspapers for months in 1927. The Rustling won a new play award from Theatre Aurora's Playwrights of Spring. In 2017 authors Kenneth Armson and Beverly Kent asked the Society to edit and publish their biography of the first elected Warden of Simcoe County, William Armson, 1784-1858: Soldier Settler Politician. It was a wonderful opportunity to preserve details of this little known hero of Simcoe County. The following year we compiled and published our Society's history, receiving an award in 2019 from the Museum on the Boyne Wall of Honour Committee in recognition of our 40 year efforts to protect, preserve, and promote our local heritage.



The Cemetery Guardians, a subcommittee of both TWGHS and Bradford West Gwillimbury Local History Association, received permission in 2017 to do volunteer work restoring some of the Heritage Cemeteries in BWG. In 2021 the Ontario Historical Society recognized the Guardians' commitment to the restoration of Wilson's Hill Heritage Cemetery by awarding the project the 2020 Ceme-

tery Preservation Award. Since then the group has expanded their efforts to two other heritage cemeteries at Christchurch/Middleton and the Auld Kirk at Scotch Settlement.



In the year 2020, the January and February monthly meetings were held in the Hall, but we had already decided to cancel the March meeting as well as our annual get together at the Ellis Sugar Bush when the Covid 19 Lockdown was announced. The Board held outdoor meetings in September 2020 and October 2021 to handle Society business. About twenty members attended the sugaring off in March 2022 when we discussed the possibility of holding outside picnic meetings in May and June 2022. No one wants to risk the health of our friends.

One day soon we hope TWGHS members will resume meeting eleven times a year, entertained and informed by June Chambers' excellent choice of speakers and our traditional activities: the Annual Show and Tell in January, welcoming Spring at the Ellis Sugar Bush, the AGM in March, the June Picnic, the November Remembrance program, and our Annual Old-Fashioned Christmas Party, the highlight of the year and the event most longed for by TWGHS members.

Oh Percy!

Written by Mary Harris, Barrie Historical Archive (continued from Fall 2021)

Percy Pelch, now on the run from the Barrie Jail, took off to Midhurst where he caught a train. He found himself in the hamlet of Lisle and it was there that he was nabbed on July 2, 1911 after a resident found the unfamiliar man lurking around his house. Four men, Constable Sweeney, Deputy Sheriff Smith, Jailer Sissons' son and theatre owner, R.F. Garrett, all were dispatched in Garrett's car to collect the escapee.

Things took a turn for the odd during the return trip to Barrie. Young Mr. Sisson's watch became momentarily lost and, while the others were out of the car and searching for it, Pelch told Garrett that he wished to make a statement. Constable Sweeney advised him against it but Pelch was eventually permitted to give Smith a statement which was dictated as they all sat on the side of the dirt road.

Percy Pelch had expressed to the others in the auto his fear that he might be looking at some serious jail time. His statement became a bit of a bombshell when he disclosed that W.J. Reid, the turnkey at the jail, had helped him escape! He repeated his accusation in front of the judge when he next appeared in court.

This shocking claim set in motion a larger investigation into the inner workings of the jailhouse, something that been a source of complaint by employees and members of the public for a while. While Mr. Reid was eventually cleared, the

spotlight was shone upon alcohol in the jail, use of prisoners for unsupervised chores at Sisson's Clapperton St. property and improper purchasing of goods supposedly for jail use.

Percy Pelch recanted his statement about W.J. Reid. For his trouble, Percy Pelch remained in the Barrie Jail while he awaited a trial on the additional charge of perjury. Mr. W.A. Boys represented the accused and asked for a suspended



sentence stating that "Pelch was a young man and has a wife and children depending on him" and added that "the ends of justice would be carried out if the prisoner was liberated and still had the charge over him which would cause him to walk more upright in future."

Crown Attorney Cotter replied "This is one of the most deliberate cases of perjury I have ever heard of!" He asked for five months in jail. Police Court Magistrate Radenhurst gave Pelch four. In true small-town Barrie fashion, Mr. Radenhurst was an uncle of defense counsel Boys, but appears to have been a fair and impartial magistrate.

As for walking more upright in the fu-

ture, Percy Pelch was too much of a trouble magnet for that. A little more than a year later, our Percy was back in town. The front-page headline in the *Northern Advance* of November 28, 1912 read "Notorious Pelch Once Again Inmate of Castle Sissons" with the subheading adding "Drunk And Disorderly And Took Entire Collingwood Force To Arrest Man Who Broke Out Of County Jail" Oh Percy! In a well crafted but short piece, the uncredited *Advance* reporter described how Percy, through no fault of his own naturally, met up with a man who had just stolen an entire case of whisky from the Collingwood railway station. That man, feeling generous with his loot, gave Percy a bottle which "caused his latest fall from grace."

"Percy's bottle appears to have been too strong for him and becoming hilarious, the police invited him to the lock-up. As he did not care for the accommodations offered, he used such weapons as he had at his command, including his teeth, to resist the police and indeed it took the full posse to induce him to take up his lodgings in the town's quarters.

The next morning, he was taken to the police court and the magistrate, who had been dealing with him tenderly for some time past, thought it time to use stronger measures and accordingly sent Percy down to Barrie to endure sixty days hard labour."

MAPLE SYRUP Trivia

Sometime during February or March, the sap begins to flow. This usually occurs when we have a warm day of +3 degrees c, and then a frosty night of below -3 degrees c. The change in the temperature creates sap flow in the tree. We gather sap from our 4500 trees and boil it into maple syrup. It takes approximately 40 gallons of maple sap to make 1 gallon of maple syrup.



Thinking about getting more involved in SCHA?
 Contact our President or any of the executive for
 more information:

- * Ted Duncan, President: 705 326 9809 president@simcoecountyhistory.ca
- * Mark Fisher, Vice President: 705 728 3825 mwfisher2@hotmail.com
- * Donna Wice, Secretary: 705 436 2578 mdwice@sympatico.ca
- * John Merritt, Membership Director: membership@simcoecountyhistory.ca
- * Janine Harris-Wheatley, Director: janinehw20@gmail.com
- * Bruce MacRae, Director: BruceMacRae@yahoo.com
- * Jan Blommaert, Director: janblommaert@gmail.com
- * Amanda Wilce, Director: amandawilce@hotmail.com
- * Deb Crawford, Director: debl.crawford@outlook.com

Get To Know your Long Ago

Organization Members:

Alliston Historical Society Box 88 Alliston ON 705-435-5626 Contact Carolyn Knowles	Friends of Fort Willow Contact Bryan Wesson	Simcoe County Archives 1149 Hwy 26 Minesing ON, 705-726-9331 archives@simcoe.ca
Archives of Ontario Library Contact Frank Van Kalmthout	Heritage Barrie Contact Tomasz Wierzb	Simcoe County Museum Contact Kelly Swift-Jones 705-728-3721
Barrie Historical Archive Contact Deb Exel	Historic Military Establishment of Upper Canada Contact David Brunelle	Stayner Heritage Society Contact Tom Scholte 705-517-5171
Bass Lake Rate Payers Association 12 Ward Ave Oro-Medonte ON 705-955-2262 basslakera@gmail.com	Huronian Chapter, Ontario Archeological Society Contact John Raynor	Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury Historical Society Contact: Janine Harris- Wheatley 905-936-6549
Bradford/West Gwillimbury Public Library	Huronian Museum Box 638, 549 Little Lake Park Rd. Midland ON, 705-526-2844 huroniamuseum@gmail.com	Township of Essa Contact
Bradford/West Gwillimbury Local History Association Contact Jan Blommaert	Innisfil Historical Society Contact Donna Wice	Township of Oro-Medonte Heritage Committee 148 Line 7 South Oro-Medonte ON L0L 2E0 705-487-4003 cathy.keane@oro-medonte.ca
Coldwater Canadian Heritage Museum	Museum on the Boyne Contact Katie Huddleston 705-435-4030 x. 1802	Township of Tiny Contact Pamela Zimmerman
Collingwood Museum Contact Susan Warner 705-445-4811	Orillia Museum of Art and History Contact 705-326-2159	Please contact organizations directly for current information as regularly scheduled events or meetings may have changed or be cancelled due to Covid-19.
Essa Historical Society Richard Blanchard, President rbb@interhop.net	Orillia Public Library 36 Mississauga St. W Orillia, 705-325-2338 jturvey@orilliapubliclibrary.ca	
Essa Public Library Contact	Ramara Historical Society Contact Cathy Westcott	