

NEWS *views*

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) news@simcoecountyhistory.ca

Attention History Geeks and Lovers of Simcoe County History!

**Simcoe County Historical Association looks forward to
hosting you at our conference where:**

History Lives Again!

Excitement is mounting as we get closer to a day of eating, breathing, listening and talking Simcoe County history! Who could ask for more?

Saturday, September 10, 2022

10am until 3pm

Simcoe County Museum, 1151 Highway 26, Minesing, ON



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

Vice President's Message:

Ted Duncan, our president is slowly recovering from major surgery, so I am acting on his behalf. He is on the mend, however, and we wish him well with his return to full health. Ted has served as president for many years and has inspired us to keep the association going. We are grateful for all his efforts in this regard.

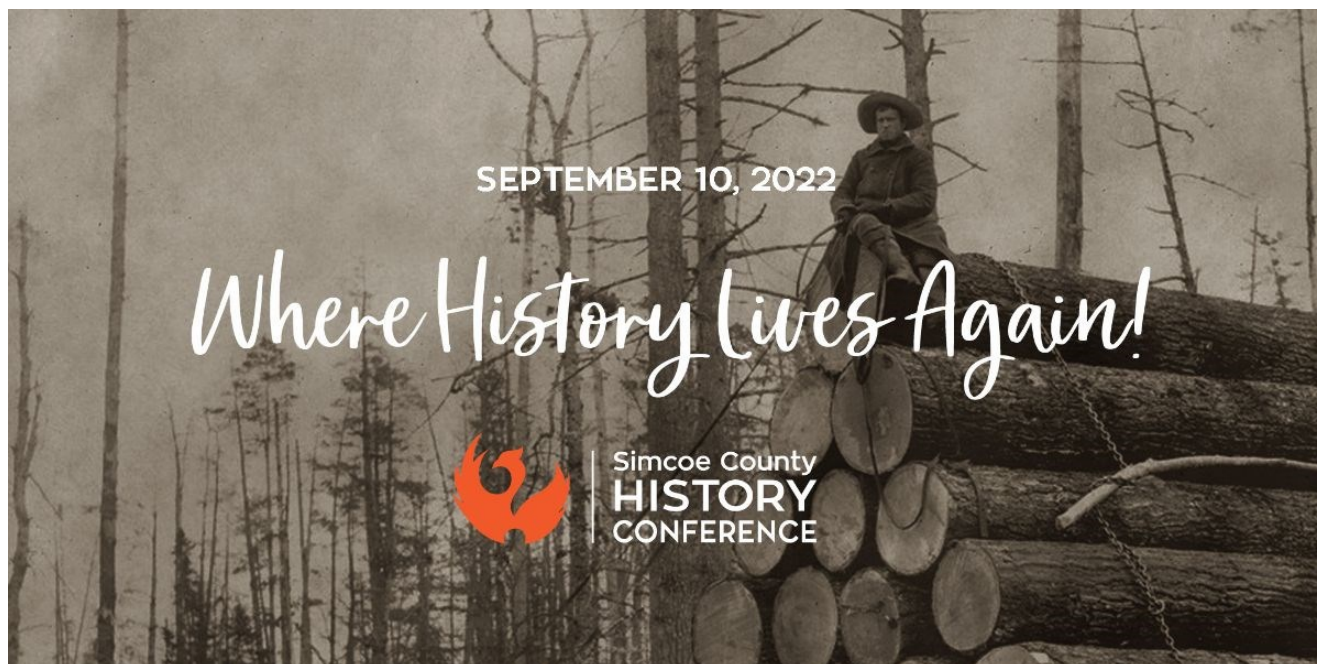
Our thanks to the Executive for a successful Annual General Meeting held last March. SCHA remains healthy financially thanks to a number of generous donors and 75 current members, largely due to the efforts of John Merritt our membership chairman. We are currently sending in our application for the annual Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant.

Now that the Covid pandemic is hopefully behind us planning is well underway for our September History Conference, "Where History Lives Again." Many thanks to Donna Wice and Deb Exel on this. It promises to be a rewarding and outstanding event.

We are also working to revive our speaker series in a live format for next October and November.

Stay tuned for more details.

Mark Fisher
Vice President SCHA



***Come play in the past with experiences,
objects and stories designed to
delight and educate!***

Your ticket includes snacks, luncheon, key note speaker, historical vignettes, museum and archives tours and a day full of opportunities to communicate with fellow historians.

Register for conference tickets [here](#)

Speaker Series Revival:

We are planning on revitalizing our Speaker Series beginning in the fall but would appreciate your ideas and feedback.

Follow the link to complete this quick survey that will help us create a series of events scheduled with you in mind that will inform and entertain you.

[Link](#)

Editor's Corner:

Before you know it, the fall will be here and once again it will be time for the next issue of News and Views.

Look forward to stories about the fall harvest, Thanksgiving gatherings and a section will be dedicated to Remembrance Day. Submit your articles by 20 September to: news@simcoecountyhistory.ca

Deb Crawford

Summer in the County



Photograph of the Grose Family Reunion, likely at Killarney Beach 1912 (Our Stories: 2289)



Joe Lennox at the head of the Parade at the Thornton Old Boys' Reunion. 1933 (Our stories: 6154)

Horn of Plenty 1967
Bradford's entry in the parade—vegetables spilling from Cornucopia (Our Stories: 3265)



ANOTHER ADDED TO IVY'S STRING

Wins Over Thornton at Home by Good Margin of 14 to 4.

The Ivy Champions made their string of victories three straight in the South Simcoe Baseball League when they walloped the Thornton Tigers by 14-4 right on the Thornton home lot, Saturday afternoon and thereby assumed undisputed leadership of the series. The Champions seem to be well on their way to repeat last year's performance.

The winners went on the rampage in four innings, securing five countouts in the third, four in the fifth, three in the eighth and two in the ninth. Thornton obtained a brace in each of the fourth and ninth. Bert Jennett's homer in the eighth with one on, featured.

Herman Jennett again pitched airtight ball for Ivy, striking out no less than fourteen batsmen and allowing only five safe hits. Two of these came in the fourth, one in the eighth and two in the ninth. He gave free tickets to 1st to four Thorntonians, and two of these figured in the scoring. The home team used three pitchers, Elmer Felts being the first of the trio. The Thornton team played poor ball behind their twirlers. Play by innings:—

First Innings

Ivy—Hatton out pitcher to 1st; E. Jennett fanned; F. Lennox out to left field. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors.

Thornton—L. Stewart out 2nd to 1st; Felts fanned; Dungey fanned. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors.

Second Inning

Ivy—C. Lennox out pitcher to 1st; B. Jennett singled; Smith walked; H. Jennett out short to 1st; Coxworth walked filling bases; L. Jennett fanned, out at 1st. 0 runs, 1 hit, 0 errors.

Thornton—Ayerst fanned; Wonch fanned; D. Stewart to 1st on error; Henry fanned. 0 hits, 0 runs, 1 error.

Third Inning

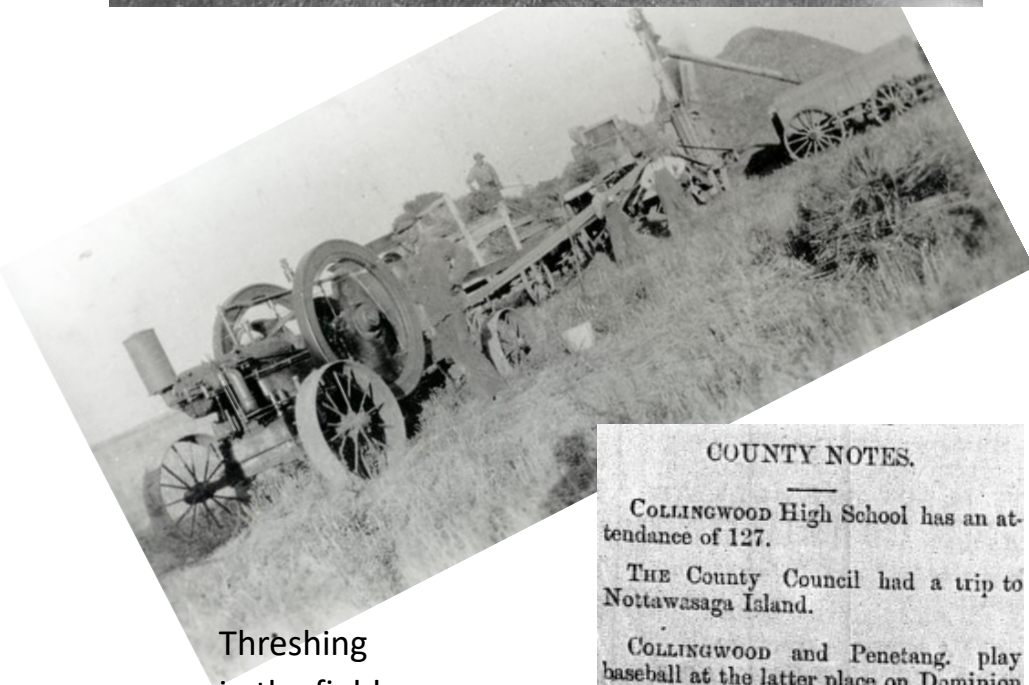
Ivy—Hatton flied to short; E. Jennett singled, out at 2nd; F. Lennox to 1st on fielder's choice; C. Lennox doubled; B. Jennett doubled scoring F. Lennox and C.



Barrie Examiner 14 June
1923

Playing at Stone- croft Motor Camp 1932

(Our Stories: 4337)



Threshing in the field

(Our Stories:
1688)

COUNTY NOTES.

COLLINGWOOD High School has an attendance of 127.

THE County Council had a trip to Nottawasaga Island.

COLLINGWOOD and Penetang play baseball at the latter place on Dominion Day.

THE South Simcoe Grit Association is without a president, Mr. T. Maconchy having resigned.

THE Northern Railway Co. are erecting a small wind-mill to pump water for the engines in Orillia.

At the sale of Short Horns in Toronto recently, Mr. Jas. Dinwoodie, of Cookstown, bought "Lord Bloom," a young bull, for \$150.

REWARDING fire companies seems to be quite in order. The Bradford brigade were presented with \$20 by a grateful citizen after the late fire.

THE Bradford News learns that the South Simcoe License Inspector has evidence to convict a number of parties in the Riding of selling liquor without a license.

Northern Advance 29 June 1876

Summer in the County

“Chicago of the North”: The Founding of Midland, 1871-1890

What we now know as Midland took shape 150 years ago this fall, when the sparsely populated settlement of Mundy’s Bay was chosen as the new Georgian Bay terminus of the Midland Railway and renamed “Midland City”.

Founded in 1854, what became known as the Midland Railway Company had originally planned to connect Port Hope to Peterborough but, thwarted by a rival railway that completed a line to Peterborough first, the company shifted its sights northward, to the creation of a much longer rail line that would eventually connect Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay. Construction of the new railway had been completed as far as Beaverton by December 1870.

Shortly after it reached its decision to extend its rail line from Beaverton to Mundy’s Bay in November 1871, the Midland Railway Company’s real estate arm began snapping up land in the area. The town site of the new “Midland City”, which featured spacious lots and wide road allowances, was surveyed during the winter of 1872-3.

In 1872 the contract for the new 53-mile section connecting Beaverton to Midland was awarded to notable Canadian railway engineer Frank Shanly. Within a



year, unforeseen difficulties with the terrain and a rapid increase in labour costs had left Shanly strapped for cash and, unable to pay for the overages, the company seized the contract back in February 1873. A change in man-

agement at the company convinced stockholders to show some leniency, and construction of the new line resumed, reaching Orillia in 1873, Waubauskene in 1875, and Midland in 1879.

Attracted by the prospect of railway access and the convenience it would bring, new settlers began to arrive in Midland long before the railway did. Soon the young community included three stores and a hotel. Construction

of the area’s first sawmill was completed in the summer of 1872, and a post office was opened that September. A grist mill was established in 1875. A bustling community that had on-

ly recently existed just on paper, within five years of the initial survey Midland’s population had swelled to nearly one thousand people and it was incorporated as a village in October 1878.

After the official opening of the new railway line to Midland in July 1879, the fledgling community continued to thrive, nourished by the shipping industry on Georgian Bay and the thriving lumber and grain trades. Midland’s first large grain elevator was completed in 1881. Continued economic and population growth led Midland to be incorporated as a town in January 1890.

By John Merritt, SCHA

Member's Corner: The Historic Military Establishment of Upper Canada

For this edition of our Members' Corner series, we will be featuring the Historic Military Establishment of Upper Canada (HMEUC), a group of passionate historical re-enactors who have helped educate the public about Simcoe County's role in the War of 1812 for over 30 years. The HMEUC has been a member organization of the SCHA for over thirteen years.

In 1990, the Historic Military Establishment of Upper Canada (HMEUC) started modestly as a collection of a few historical enthusiasts that met as volunteers at the Historic Naval and Military Establishments (later renamed Discovery Harbour) in Penetanguishene. Members were united by a common interest in re-enacting the military history of the War of 1812. It was decided that the group would portray soldiers of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment (RNR), circa 1795-1816.

For the founding members of the HMEUC, the choice to portray the Royal Newfoundland Regiment was a simple one as this regiment marched right through Simcoe County in 1814 on its way to relieve the isolated British outpost on Mackinac Island in Lake Huron, establishing what is now known as Fort Willow on the way. Being natural sailors from Newfoundland, soldiers of the RNR also served on gunboats and ships during the War of 1812, which gave members of the HMEUC the opportunity to portray not just soldiers but also sailors and artillerymen. To attract recruits, the newly-

founded HMEUC began offering costumed demonstrations at local Canada Day festivities, participating in re-enactments of War of 1812 battles, and providing public education at local schools, museums and historic sites, including Discovery Harbour, Nancy Island and Fort Willow.

As time went on, the HMEUC took part in many events across Simcoe



County and began hosting its own events locally in order to draw other re-enactors to the area and create large-scale, tourism-based War of 1812 heritage events right here in Simcoe County. One of these events grew in popularity, culminating in "the Battle of Georgian Bay" in 2001, which featured 1,800 re-enactors, tall ships, and a large grand encampment at Discovery Harbour that portrayed War of 1812 camp life. The event returned to the area in 2019 when Discovery Harbour hosted that year's War of 1812 Grand Tactical for North America.

As part of bicentennial commemorations of the War of 1812, the HMEUC received grant funding from the federal government to create a legacy project commemo-

rating veterans of the War of 1812. The resulting website, www.gravesideproject.ca, lists individual veterans and their biographies. Contributors can send in biographies of known War of 1812 veterans and, once approved, can receive a black granite plaque to mark the grave as being that of a War of 1812 veteran. To date, the project has compiled almost 400 biographies and distributed plaques across Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes. The project marks the first time deceased War of 1812 veterans have been recognized for their service.

As the HMEUC has evolved over the years, it has continued to provide heritage programming across Simcoe County and the province of Ontario and as far away as Fort Meigs, Ohio. With the advent of Covid-19, this intrepid group of War of 1812 re-enactors has adapted to modern technology. Their videos have been sent to events as far away as Sault Ste. Marie in order to continue to provide programming to the public despite the travel restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

Although its members are united by a love of historical re-enacting, the theme of education lies behind all their activities, and the aim of the HMEUC is to bring history to life in an informative and enjoyable fashion.

For more information on the HMEUC, please visit their website, www.hmeuc.com.

**By John Merritt,
Membership Chair, SCHA**

SCHA Board of Directors 2022 –2023:

* Ted Duncan President	705 326 9809	president@simcoecountyhistory.ca
* Mark Fisher, Vice President	705 728 3825	mwfisher51@gmail.com
* Donna Wice, Secretary	705 436 2578	mdwice@sympatico.ca
* John Merritt, Membership Director		membership@simcoecountyhistory.ca
* Janine Harris-Wheatley, Director	905 936 6459	Janinehw20@gmail.com
* Bruce McRae, Director		Brucemcrae@yahoo.com
* Jan Blommaert, Director	705 456 1870	Janblommaert@gmail.com
* Amanda Wilce, Director		amandawilce@hotmail.com
* Deb Crawford, Director	705 456 1453	Debl.crawford@outlook.com

Wanted: Treasurer! If you are interested in joining the Board and/or taking on the role of Treasurer we would like to hear from you! Contact Donna Wice for more information.

Member Societies

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

Essa Historical Society
[Richard Blanchard](#), President

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](#)

Huron Chapter, Ontario Archeological Society
Contact [John Raynor](#)

Huron Museum Box 638, 549 Little Lake Park
Rd. Midland ON, 705-526-2844
huronmuseum@gmail.com

Innisfil Historical Society
Contact: innisfilhistoricalinfo@gmail.com

[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 jturvey@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
Contact [Pamela Zimmerman](#)

Please contact organizations directly for current information as previously scheduled events or meetings may have been cancelled or changed.