

# NEWS views

*The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association*

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## President's Report:

Hello again as your SCHA President;

We have some things to celebrate at the Simcoe County Historical Association! On September 10<sup>th</sup>, after months of preparation and planning we held our first (of many it is hoped) History Conference at the Simcoe County Museum. We were sold out and had a great day with tours of the Museum and the County Archives.

Our keynote speaker "Dan Needles" talked about our stories in a context of fun and some chuckles. He swore that they were based on facts but we were not so sure. Mr Needles is a great story teller. Thanks to the County Museum and the Archives for being part of the day.

Special thanks to our Secretary Donna Wice for her hard work and leadership. Even more she was an outstanding MC for the day. Also special mention and recognition for the work of the two "Debs"; Crawford and Exel in planning and organizing the day. Still more the work of the whole Board of Directors made it all happen. Thanks All!

We are continuing the Speakers Series and so look for the announcements in the next while. Also we have a greater number of history essays this year from County Grade 10 students. We look forward to awarding prizes to the top three soon. Thanks John Merritt for your work. Thanks to Deb Crawford for Editing our Newsletter

"NEWS and views". Together we can do much!

The Conference had another benefit and that is the addition of 2 new Board Members: Lindsay Earl, History Coordinator, Orillia Museum of Art and History (OMAH) and Vanessa Kennedy owner of Red Quills Consulting Hillsdale. Her specialty is Indigenous consulting and knowledge sharing, understanding the history and culture of our region, connecting to Indigenous population of Simcoe County". The SCHA Board will be much stronger because they have joined us.

Ted Duncan;  
President SCHA



*Get To Know your Long Ago*



## Membership Update:

As we pass deeper into the second half of the year, remember that it's not too late to renew your membership if you haven't already. Still only about 60% of our individual, family and group members are up to date with their memberships. Your membership fees help us do the things we do to support local history, like our Heritage Business Award, Andrew Hunter Award and this year's Local History Conference.

To renew, go to the membership page on our website: [www.simcoecountyhistory.ca](http://www.simcoecountyhistory.ca), or contact me at: [membership@simcoecountyhistory.ca](mailto:membership@simcoecountyhistory.ca) for more information.

Our organization continues to grow, which is great to see. We are always looking for new Board members. If you or someone you know might be interested in helping steer this organization and its activities into the future, contact us at: [info@simcoecountyhistory.ca](mailto:info@simcoecountyhistory.ca).

We are especially looking for a Treasurer, so if you or someone you know has a passion for financial management, we need you!

**Pay by PayPal** – payments may be sent to: [info@simcoecountyhistory.ca](mailto:info@simcoecountyhistory.ca)

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

**Pay by Credit Card over the phone** – email us at : [info@simcoecountyhistory.ca](mailto:info@simcoecountyhistory.ca)

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

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

John Merritt, Membership Chair

## 2022-23 ANDREW HUNTER AWARD COMING SOON!

The SCHA is very excited to announce that with the start of a new school year comes the start of another year of our Andrew Hunter Award program. Named after Andrew F. Hunter, an early historian of Simcoe County and co-founder of the SCHA, the Hunter Award was originally offered to local post-secondary History students until it was retooled in 2021 to recognize excellence in essay writing by local Grade 10 Canadian History students. There are currently four high schools across the county participating in the program, but we are always looking to add more! Anyone interested in learning more about this program can contact us at [info@simcoecountyhistory.ca](mailto:info@simcoecountyhistory.ca).

We have received eight submissions for last year's iteration of the award program. SCHA Board members are currently hard at work choosing the winners and are very excited to be announcing their selections in the very near future.

Stay tuned to recognize some more incredible young scholars!

John Merritt, Award Coordinator

# County Connections

a sample of upcoming events

**Last Blast- Fall Steam Up**  
October 15, 2022 10am-4pm



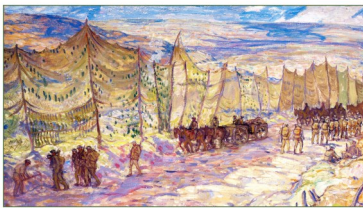
**An Evening of Halloween**  
October 26-28, 2022  
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm



For more information contact: Simcoe County Museum  
Phone: 705 728 3721 or  
Visit: [Upcoming Events 2022 - At The Museum \(simcoe.ca\)](https://www.simcoecountymuseum.ca/upcoming-events-2022-at-the-museum)

2022 CARMICHAEL ART HISTORY LECTURE

## JACKSON'S WARS



Detail from Screened Road 'A' by A.Y. Jackson (Canadian War Museum)

### A.Y. Jackson, the Birth of the Group of Seven and the Great War

Before he cast his lot with a group of like-minded Toronto artists, Alexander Young (A.Y.) Jackson was an artist with a growing international reputation, as well as a soldier and a war artist. In this lecture, award-winning author Douglas Hunter will give a captivating account of the many wars Jackson fought, on and off the battlefields of Europe, with critics, collectors, public galleries and fellow artists, as he became one of the best-known Canadian artists of the 20th century.

**ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 7 P.M.**

On-line access is \$10 per person, payable through the registration link: [www.orilliamuseum.org/4](https://www.orilliamuseum.org/4), by credit card over the phone (705 326 2159) or by cash, debit or credit card in person at OMAH from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday. You will be sent a link to the presentation.



VIRTUAL HISTORY SPEAKER SERIES 2022

## The Dieppe Raid



The Royal Regiment of Canada, D Company, 21 Platoon (1941) PHOTO: COLLECTION OF JACK POOLTON

### 80 Years of Tragedy and Tribulation

On Aug. 19, 1942, in what has been called Canada's darkest day of World War II, 907 Canadians were killed and 1,946 taken prisoner in the Dieppe Raid. What happened on that day 80 years ago is personal for **Jayne Poolton-Turvey**, whose father Jack was taken prisoner in the raid and spent nearly three years in Stalag VIIIb in Germany, including 410 days in chains. Join Jayne as she honours the 354 soldiers in her father's regiment and recounts some of the stories of the loved ones left behind.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19 AT 7 P.M. ON ZOOM**

To receive a link to the talk visit [www.orilliamuseum.org/3](https://www.orilliamuseum.org/3) or call Monica at 705-326-2159. Admission is free, donations to OMAH are appreciated



Take a journey back in time!  
October 1, 2022

Tickets available at:  
<http://fortwillow.nvca.on.ca>

Festival at  
**Fort Willow**

Check your email, Facebook and Twitter feeds for the launch of our 2022-2023 :

*Get to know your Long Ago*

Speaker Series

**October 18th 2022 7PM via ZOOM**

# Where History Lives Again!



Simcoe County  
**HISTORY**  
CONFERENCE

## A First For Simcoe County Historical Association

From the moment the first attendees arrived at the Simcoe County Museum on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, there was a distinctive buzz and excitement in the air, voices mingling and greeting one another- all signs of the joy that 55 historians felt at being together. At last, months of planning their first ever SCHA History Conference came to fruition.

Every chair was occupied and a hush came over the crowd as Coordinator Donna Wice paid fitting tribute to Queen Elizabeth and read the association's newly created Land Acknowledgement Statement. President Ted Duncan opened the day's events by providing a brief history of SCHA, noting the inaugural members were many of the distinguished doctors, scholars, judges and politicians of the 1890's.

SC Warden George Cornell greeted the wonderful cross-section of SC attendees noting representation from all corners of the county and pledging the County Council's active reconnection with their historical roots in the future.

OHS Director Janie Cooper-Wilson spoke eloquently about the significance of preserving and being involved in history given the fast-paced world of

modern times. She spoke of her role on the OHS Board and the fascinating board with which she serves.

"A Fractured History of Simcoe County" was the title of Dan Needles' keynote address and the title lived up to its name. With a co-mingling of wit and fact, Dan fully kept our attention while recounting anecdotes about living and farming in Simcoe County, and its unique geography.



A delightful boxed lunch eaten outside at picnic tables or in the conference area allowed for opportunities to meet new fellow historians or head around the museum facilities, easily filling the lunch hour. The afternoon's activities varied. They included break out activities involving behind the scenes tours of both the SC Archives and the Museum, giving all the chance to stretch our legs and see the sections and processes not usually visible to the public.

At the same time, previously videotaped lightning talks were

rolled out.

Alan Johnston, aged 97, recalled farm days in Minesing. Coldwater Heritage Mill Curator Gwen Robinson shared the process of incorporating Hillsdale Mill treasures with the Coldwater collection. Tom Scholte of Stayner Heritage Society visually walked us through many decades of changes in Stayner's landscape. Mary Harris of Barrie Archives shared insights into history storytelling and recording. Members of the Simcoe and Grey Foresters lovingly spoke about the World War 1 and 2 memorabilia housed in their Mulcaster Street, Barrie Museum. Using the backdrop of the Auld Kirk, Bradford, talented craftsmen and historians David and Bruce Chambers elaborated on the door and window renovations recently completed there.

By 3:30pm, the day was over- participants heading home with door prizes, swag bags all thoroughly perused, and a very satisfied planning committee- well done SCHA!!!

Donna Wice  
Secretary of SCHA



Warden George Cornell brought greetings from the County\*



Dan Needles, our keynote speaker shared anecdotes about living in Simcoe County.\*



An inside tour of the Simcoe County Archives\*\*



Donna Wice, our MC, kept the agenda moving! Thank you Donna for making this conference such a success!\*



Janie Cooper-Wilson brought greetings from Ontario Historical Society.\*

**The behind-the-scenes tour of Simcoe County Archives and all that it takes to keep our history safe!\*\***



\*Photos courtesy of Karen Mahoney

\*\* Photos courtesy of Deb Crawford

## 2022—2023 Board of Directors:

*Ted Duncan, President	705 326 9809	<a href="mailto:president@simcoecountyhistory.ca">president@simcoecountyhistory.ca</a>
*Mark Fisher, Vice President	705 728 3825	<a href="mailto:mwfisher51@gmail.com">mwfisher51@gmail.com</a>
*Donna Wice, Secretary	705 436 2578	<a href="mailto:mdwice@sympatico.ca">mdwice@sympatico.ca</a>
*John Merritt, Membership Director		<a href="mailto:membership@simcoecountyhistory.ca">membership@simcoecountyhistory.ca</a>
*Janine Harris-Wheatley, Director	905 936 6459	<a href="mailto:Janinehw20@gmail.com">Janinehw20@gmail.com</a>
*Bruce McRae, Director	705 330 6570	<a href="mailto:Brucemcrae@yahoo.com">Brucemcrae@yahoo.com</a>
*Jan Blommaert, Director	705 456 1870	<a href="mailto:Janblommaert@gmail.com">Janblommaert@gmail.com</a>
*Amanda Wilce, Director		<a href="mailto:amandawilce@hotmail.com">amandawilce@hotmail.com</a>
*Deb Crawford, Director	705 456 1453	<a href="mailto:Debl.crawford@outlook.com">Debl.crawford@outlook.com</a>
*Karen Mahoney, Director		<a href="mailto:karenmahoney25@gmail.com">karenmahoney25@gmail.com</a>
*Vanessa Kennedy, Director		<a href="mailto:redquills1@gmail.com">redquills1@gmail.com</a>
*Lindsay Earle, Director		<a href="mailto:historycoordinator@orilliamuseum.org">historycoordinator@orilliamuseum.org</a>

**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](mailto:Carolyn.Knowles)

Archives of Ontario Library  
Contact [Frank Van Kalmthout](mailto:Frank.Van.Kalmthout)

[Barrie Historical Archive](http://BarrieHistoricalArchive.com)  
Contact [Deb Exel](mailto:Deb.Exel)

Bass Lake Rate Payers Association  
12 Ward Ave Oro-Medonte ON  
705-955-2262 [basslakera@gmail.com](mailto:basslakera@gmail.com)

[Bradford/West Gwillimbury Public Library](http://BradfordWestGwillimburyPublicLibrary.com)

Bradford/West Gwillimbury Local History  
Association Contact [Jan Blommaert](mailto:Jan.Blommaert)

[Coldwater Canadian Heritage Museum](http://ColdwaterCanadianHeritageMuseum.com)

[Collingwood Museum](http://CollingwoodMuseum.com)  
Contact Susan Warner 705-445-4811

Essa Historical Society  
[Richard Blanchard](mailto:Richard.Blanchard), President

Essa Public Library  
[Contact](mailto:Contact)

[Friends of Fort Willow](http://FriendsOfFortWillow.com)  
Contact [Bryan Wesson](mailto:Bryan.Wesson)

Heritage Barrie  
Contact [Tomasz Wierzba](mailto:Tomasz.Wierzba)

[Historic Military Establishment of Upper Canada](http://HistoricMilitaryEstablishmentOfUpperCanada.com)  
Contact [David Brunelle](mailto:David.Brunelle)

Huronian Chapter, Ontario Archeological Society  
Contact [John Raynor](mailto:John.Raynor)

Huronian Museum Box 638, 549 Little Lake Park  
Rd. Midland ON, 705-526-2844  
[huroniamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:huroniamuseum@gmail.com)

Innisfil Historical Society  
Contact: [innisfilhistoricalinfo@gmail.com](mailto:innisfilhistoricalinfo@gmail.com)

[Museum on the Boyne](http://MuseumOnTheBoyne.com)  
Contact [Katie Huddleston](mailto:Katie.Huddleston)  
705-435-4030 x. 1802

[Orillia Museum of Art and History](http://OrilliaMuseumOfArtAndHistory.com)  
Contact 705-326-2159

[Orillia Public Library](http://OrilliaPublicLibrary.com) 36 Mississauga St. W Orillia,  
705-325-2338 [turvey@orilliapubliclibrary.ca](mailto:turvey@orilliapubliclibrary.ca)

[Ramara Historical Society](http://RamaraHistoricalSociety.com)  
Contact [Cathy Westcott](mailto:Cathy.Westcott)

Simcoe County Archives  
1149 Hwy 26 Minesing ON, 705-726-9331  
[archives@simcoe.ca](mailto:archives@simcoe.ca)

[Simcoe County Museum](http://SimcoeCountyMuseum.com)  
Contact Kelly Swift-Jones 705-728-3721

[Stayner Heritage Society](http://StaynerHeritageSociety.com)  
Contact Tom Scholte 705-517-5171

Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury Historical Society  
Contact: [Janine Harris- Wheatley](mailto:Janine.Harris-Wheatley)  
905-936-6549

Township of Essa [Contact](mailto:Contact)

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

Township of Tiny  
Contact [Pamela Zimmerman](mailto:Pamela.Zimmerman)

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