



Get To Know your Long Ago

Annual General Meeting **2022 Annual Report**

Held on April 29, 2023 at
Simcoe County Museum

SIMCOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

PO Box 144, Barrie, Ontario L4M 4S9

www.simcoehistory.ca Facebook: @simcoecountyhistoricalassociation Twitter: @simcoehistory

MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 22, 2022 7pm Held in ZOOM meeting format

In Attendance: 17 participants

Called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Ted Duncan who welcomed the attendees thanking them for their interest in SCHA . He pointed out the new logo and the fresh look, and thanked the executive for their ideas and energy. In particular, Deb Exel was recognized for her significant role in setting up AGM details and sharing these on our website.

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were posted on our website for review and were sent out to members ahead. A Motion to accept the minutes was moved by John Merritt seconded by Deb Crawford. Carried. There was no business arising from the minutes.

President's Report: Ted Duncan

Amid Covid challenges, SCHA has pressed on, striving to bring pieces of SC history together to share. Ted spoke about the successful programs held for members on zoom. Longtime editor Jill Hynes was thanked for her 20 year commitment to sharing history in News and Views. Kudos go to John Merritt for refreshing the Andrew Hunter Writing award for Grade 10 history students and the selection of 3 winners in 2021. The County wide Barns project continued with seeking photos and information ongoing in Innisfil, other townships completed and still more to be attracted to participate. We look forward to honouring our 2022 Heritage Business Award, Shaws Maple Syrup, the 3rd recipient since being created in 2018. A message from Ted: new faces on the board would lighten the load significantly.

Treasurer's Report: Deb Exel

- The YE report was reconciled by our accountant Marian Wild and approved by the board of directors –
 - SCHA was the recipients of 2 grants: HODG, and a county grant to be used for the specific purpose of a brand refresh and for expenses related to the history conference. A portion of that funding was used in 2021 and the remainder will be spent in 2022 –
 - we funded 1 community partnership grant to writer Mark Jacquemain
- Moved by Adrienne/ Mark Burchell , to accept the Treasurer's year-end financial report as of Dec. 31, 2021. Carried.

In Memoriam

We remember and honour Olive Lee, beloved long term secretary of Essa Historical, who passed away in May of 2021.

Membership Report John Merritt noted the efforts made to follow up with long time members. The personal touch has made an obvious difference as paid numbers increased to 108 in 2021.

Board of Directors slate for 2022:

- President: Ted Duncan Vice President: Mark Fisher
- Treasurer: Position vacant (Deb Exel interim)
- Secretary: Donna Wice

- Directors at Large: Deb Crawford, Jan Blommaert, John Merritt, Amanda Wilce, Bruce McRae
- New director: Janine Harris Wheatley

Moved by Mark Burchell and seconded by Jan Blommaert to accept the slate of Officers and Directors for 2022. Carried.

New Business:

- History conference plans for September 10 at SC Museum well underway, volunteers welcome
- News and Views new editor Deb Crawford shared ideas, soliciting articles for themes, encouraging all societies to participate
- Dorothy McKeown suggested including an indigenous article each newsletter and was encouraged to contribute them.

Adjournment 7:40 pm

President Ted introduced speaker Dave Town who eloquently shared his research on Chief Yellowhead of Rama. Thank you DAVE

The program ended at 9:15 p.m. SCHA Secretary: Donna Wice

President's Report

Another year has passed and I'm happy to report that the Simcoe County Historical Association is still working hard to record and protect our history. My health has not been good over this past year. but I'm looking forward to improvement and being more active in the coming year. The Board has continued to pursue the goals that we have set for ourselves and maintain and continue the activities necessary to meet them.

You will see the reports on our activities outlining the work that we continue to do. The Speakers series, the Hunter Writing awards, the Heritage Business awards, the support of our member organizations, and the News and Views newsletter are the core of who we are. Something new this year was a History Conference held at the Simcoe County Museum that brought us together to celebrate our history.

We are able to do the things we do because of the outstanding member volunteers that we have. Our board officers; Mark Fisher, Vice President, Donna Wice, Secretary and Chair of the History Conference and Bryan Wood our new Treasurer provide the leadership.

All Directors provide knowledge and experience to the Board and at the same time provide needed skills. Deb Crawford (Editor of News and Views) Vanessa Kennedy, Lindsay Earle and Karen Mahoney look after our social media, John Merritt looks after membership and the Hunter awards, while Jan Blommaert, Janine Harris-Wheatley, Bruce McRae and Amanda Wilce represent our member partners.

I encourage those interested in our history to join us. We would like members from all corners of the County to be with us. Ted Duncan, SCHA President; 2017-23

SCHA Financial Report as of December 31, 2022

INCOME	2022	2021	BUDGET
Donations (unrestricted)	565.00	1045.08	450
Donations (restricted)	766.00	1000.00	450
Grants	3,782.82	7,960.75	1,150
Memberships	1,442.22	1,500.00	1,250
Funds transferred from GIC	0	0	0
Funds transferred from Savings	0	0	0
Conference revenue	1,033.31		
Meridian visa refund	100.00		
Total Operating Income	7,689.35	11,505.83	3,300

EXPENSES

AGM/Meetings	0	0	
Bank/Visa/PayPal	48.33	36.18	
Speaker Series	475.00	300.00	600
Partnership Grants	0	500.00	1,500
History Writing Awards	636.20	600.00	600
Conference	8,568.71	2,500.00	
Insurance	990.36	486.00	900
Membership	65.00	60.00	60
In Memoriam	0	0	100
Postage/Stationary	40.22	141.23	100
Printing	0	112.88	100
PO Box rental	230.52	224.87	225
Marketing	4,215.95	0	200
Domain renewal/website	16.95	226.00	100
Tax Preparation	565.00		
Newsletter	177.92		
Heritage Business Award	0		
Total operating expenses	16,030.16	5790.57	4485.

Other Income	Interest term deposit	10.70
	Interest Savings	<u>1.78</u>
		12.48

Assets	2022	2021
Scotia Bank Investment	5,510.05	5,499.20
Meridian Savings	2,496.93	17,371.68
Term deposit (visa security)	649.23	642.80
Meridian Chequing	14,581.12	
Total Assets	23,249.81	
(Assets and Other Income)		

Membership Report

We currently have 85 individual members, 28 member groups and 5 honorary members, for a total of 118 members of all kinds. This is an increase of 10 new members from the 108 total members I reported this time last year. This is despite losing some members who have chronically not been in good standing for the past several years -- we have been getting steady numbers of new members joining our group over the past few years. Great to see our membership list getting revitalized in this way.

However, so far only 24 of our members have paid their fees for 2023 -- just over 21% of the total number of members who pay annual fees. This is actually slightly better than last year, and not at all out of the ordinary. I typically begin emailing out payment reminders to members who haven't yet paid their fees by the end of March, when they are officially due. This usually helps bring in more payments, though not all of them -- by the end of last year we received just under 67% of the membership fees we are entitled to. I try to follow up with members whose fees are still outstanding throughout the year, and members who chronically do not pay their fees for several years in a row I typically remove from our membership list.

Remember that membership fees are due by the end of March each year. If you haven't yet paid your membership fees, please do! You can visit the membership page on our website, www.simcoecountyhistory.ca. If you have paid already, thank you! If you aren't sure you have paid or not, please send me an email at membership@simcoecountyhistory.ca and I can find out for you.

Respectfully, John Merritt Membership Chair

Congratulations to Shaw's Maple Syrup – Heritage Business Award

Beginning in 2018 the Simcoe County Historical Association (SCHA) added the Heritage Business Award to the menu of community-based programs.

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.

In order to be considered for the award a business must be:

A farm, or registered business offering and/or producing products or services

Have a fixed physical presence in Simcoe County

Be a multi-generational enterprise in operation for over 75 years.

SCHA has had the pleasure of recognizing the following past businesses:

Bertram & Sons 2018

Beattie's Farm & Distillery 2019



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.

“Where History Lives Again” Conference Donna Wice

Conference Coordinator Donna Wice welcomed the 56 attendees to this one of a kind event followed by a tribute to Queen Elizabeth and the reading of our Land Acknowledgement Statements. 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.

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. “A Fractured History of Simcoe County” was the title of Dan Needles' witty and factual keynote address and the title lived up to its name. 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 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 including: 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!!!

Andrew Hunter Writing Award

The third Andrew Hunter Writing Award was available for the 2022-23 academic year. The winners, all from Eastview Secondary School, were:

1st Place: Leo Weibrecht

2nd Place: Uzair Qureshi &

Austrian Exchange Student

Archi Patel (tied)

The Andrew Hunter Award, named after an early historian of Simcoe County and co-founder of the SCHA, was originally offered to post-secondary Canadian History students at Laurentian University's Barrie campus. When Laurentian phased out its history program, the award went dormant for a few years until it was relaunched in 2020, this time focused on students of Canadian History at high schools across Simcoe County.

This program considers the final essays submitted by Grade 10 students enrolled in Canadian History classes at any secondary school in Simcoe County during either of the two semesters during the academic year.

Participating teachers can select what they consider to be the best 1-3 term papers from their class each semester and approach their students for permission to submit their essays to us for the chance to win. Teachers can submit the essays at any time during the school year. Essays are ranked according to a rubric during the summer and the winners will be announced in the fall after school resumes.

Three winners are selected each academic year—1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Each winner receives a certificate, a modest cash prize, and the gift of a book on local or Canadian history. Winners are also be announced through our organization's social media and website as well as through local media. Winners may also have the opportunity to speak to our group about their experience, their essay and their plans for the future.

The program is a great opportunity to recognize local Grade 10 students who excel in the study of Canadian history and to help encourage them in their future studies.

To obtain more information or to submit essays for consideration email:
info@simcoecountyhistory.ca .

Speaker Series

Beginning in October 2022 Simcoe County Historical Association revitalized the pre-COVID speaker series to begin offering a mixture of virtual and in-person sessions throughout the year excluding the summer months



October 18th, Vanessa Kennedy of Red Quills, an Ojibway and Pottawatomi member of Wasauksing First Nation spoke about the lasting impacts of residential schools, the orange shirt movement and how to become an ally.

On November 15th Bruce McRae, a fervent history buff, uncovered outstanding examples of sculptures commemorating the sacrifices of the Great War sculpted by top artists of that post war era. In Central Ontario there are exceptional examples sculpted by top artists including Orillia-born Elizabeth Wyn Wood, and her husband Emanuel Hahn



The February 2023 session is posted to our YouTube site at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3acji94HqcQ> We will make every effort to record future sessions. Interested in presenting? Know a presenter or a topic of interest – email us at: news@simcoecountyhistory.ca

Media Report

The SCHA has a social media presence on the following sites:

Facebook

Instagram

Twitter

And we are currently in the process of setting up LinkedIn and TikTok

Karen Mahoney together with Vanessa Partridge-Kennedy took over the duties of promoting the SCHA on the social media sites in early fall.

Since then, with regular posting and engagement our audience has grown. Our reach has reached 1,000's of others on social media.

The team has also been updating our website.

In Memoriam

Simcoe County Historical Association sadly acknowledges the December 2022 passing of member Gary Bagley of Orillia and sends sincere sympathy to his family and friends.

Nomination Report for 2023

President	Ted Duncan	Vice President	Mark Fisher	
Treasurer	Bryan Wood	Secretary	Donna Wice	
Directors:	Jan Blommaert,	Deb Crawford	Lindsay Earle	Janine Harris- Wheatley
	Vanessa Kennedy	Karen Mahoney	Bruce McRae	Amanda Wilce