



# Annual General Meeting

## 2023 Annual Report

March 23, 2024

Hawkestone Community Hall  
Hawkestone, Ontario

*Get to Know your Long Ago*

**MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**April 29, 2023, 1pm**  
**Held at Simcoe County Museum**

**In Attendance:** 20 members

**Called to order at 1 p.m.** by President Ted Duncan who welcomed the attendees thanking them for their interest in SCHA . He commented on the age of the organization and the very evident signs of the resiliency of its members and executive. He noted the AGM report was posted on our website and all members were directed to that location to review the various reports.

**Land Acknowledgement Statement:** was read by director Lindsay Earle.

**Introduction of Current Board of Directors:** Ted Duncan, Mark Fisher, Bryan Wood, Donna Wice, Deb Crawford, Jan Blommaert, John Merritt, Amanda Wilce, Bruce McRae, Vanessa Kennedy, Karen Mahoney, Lindsay Earle, Janine Harris Wheatley. Special thanks were given to John Merritt, retiring after 6 years as a director.

**The minutes of the 2022 AGM** were posted on our website for review. 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**

Recovering from Covid, SCHA has pressed on, striving to re-energize its *program and* newsletters. 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 newsletters 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.

**Treasurer's Report: Bryan Wood**

- SCHA was the recipient 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 was spent in 2022 on the conference.

- No community partnership grants were awarded in 2022
- Moved by Vanessa Kennedy/Mark Fisher, to accept the Treasurer's year-end financial report as of Dec. 31, 2022. Carried.

### **In Memoriam**

We remember member Gary Bagley who passed away in May of 2021.

### **Membership, Conference, Media, Andrew Hunter Writing, Heritage Business Reports**

Moved by John Merritt/ Deb Crawford to receive all additional reports as posted on our website.

Carried.

**Board of Directors slate for 2023:** Ted Duncan, Mark Fisher, Bryan Wood, Donna Wice, Deb Crawford, Amanda Wilce, Janine Harris Wheatley, Vanessa Kennedy, Lindsay Earle, Karen Mahoney

- Moved by Lindsay Earle and seconded by John Merritt to accept the slate of Directors for 2023. Carried.

### **New Business:**

Nil

### **Adjournment 1:20 pm**

**Thank you to Donna Wice for creating the tea biscuits and raspberry jam for today's refreshments.**

### **Program**

**Bryan Charles spoke very knowledgably about wampum belts, sharing insights into Indigenous history. 34 attendees**

**The program ended at 4 p.m.**

**SCHA Secretary: Donna Wice**

## 2023 President's Report: Ted Duncan

I joined Simcoe County Historical Association (SCHA) 8 years ago. I was interested in our local history; Orillia's and all of Simcoe County. I saw an organization that had a great history itself; but one that had fallen on hard times. Membership, especially at the Board level had a few dedicated members who were working to preserve and record our County's history. I saw the value of SCHA as a force that could bring together the various historical Societies within the County to preserve the stories that tell our collective history. The pieces could make up the whole fabric of the County's history.

I realized that no one individual could "make SCHA great again" to paraphrase an unlikely person. I credit Donna Wice, our long time Secretary, for challenging me to take the role as President so as to keep SCHA viable and attract new people on to the Board. Mark Fisher, John Merritt, and Deb Exel along with Donna were the stalwarts who helped keep SCHA afloat early on. They brought enthusiasm, hard work, and ideas to rejuvenate our old but storied organization. Over time, others joined us on the Board; Deb Crawford, Karen Mahoney, Venessa Kennedy, Jan Blommaert, Janine Harris-Wheatley, Lindsay Earl, Bryan Wood, Bruce McRae, and Amanda Wilce; some for a short time but others for a longer time. Its made difference!

New initiatives have been developed and old ones have been continued sometimes in a new format! Our Newsletter "News and Views" continues in a digital form, Our Speakers Series is via Zoom and the Hunter Writing Awards go to high school students who write about Canadian History.

What is new? The Heritage Business Awards honour family companies that *have for generations* contributed to the growth and development of our County, the Connections meetings of our member organizations that we host to support them in preserving our collective past and new two years ago; a History Conference held at the Simcoe County Museum that brought us together to celebrate our history. We have been busy; but the future could be even better.

My health has been good over this past year; but now I face more challenges. Therefore I am stepping down as your President. Deb Crawford has indicated that she is ready to take on the role of President of Simcoe County Historical Association. She brings experience, energy, and knowledge to the Board. Deb is an excellent person to lead SCHA into the future, supported by the Board members who continue with us. I hope to continue on as Past President to help pursue the goals that we have set for ourselves.

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; 2017-24

**Simcoe County Historical Association  
Financial Statement Period Ending 31 December 2023**

	2023	2022
<b>Income:</b>		
Donations (unrestricted)	203.25	565.00
Donations (restricted)	500.00	766.00
Grants	1,159.00	3,782.82
Memberships	851.80	1,442.22
Funds transferred from GIC	0.00	0.00
Funds transferred from Savings	0.00	0.00
Conference Revenue		1,033.31
Meridian Visa Refund	145.80	100.00
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>2,859.85</b>	<b>7,689.35</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
AGM & Meetings	87.13	
Bank/Visa/PayPal Fees	0.90	48.33
Speaker Series	912.99	475.00
Partnership Grants	500.00	
Andrew Hunter Writing Award	636.20	636.20
History Conference	0.00	8,568.71
Insurance	731.16	990.36
Membership (OHS)	65.00	65.00
In Memoriam	0.00	0.00
Postage/Stationary	34.90	40.22
Printing	0.00	
P.O. Box Rental	232.52	230.52
Marketing	0.00	4,215.95
Domain Renewal/Website	711.78	16.95
Tax Preparation	0.00	565.00
Newsletter	0.00	177.92
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>3,912.58</b>	<b>16,030.16</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Meridian GIC 2 (prev. term deposit)	675.85	649.23
Meridian GIC 3 (prev. Scotiabank Inv.)	5,510.12	5,510.05
Meridian GIC 4 (new)	1,000.00	0.00
Meridian Chequing	4,823.66	14,581.12
Meridian Bus. Sav.	9,184.22	2,496.93
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>21,193.85</b>	<b>23,237.33</b>

## 2023 Activity Reports

### Membership Report:

At the end of 2023 we had 41 members and organizations. Membership continues to shift with the addition of new members while others have lapsed.

Just a reminder that membership fees are due by the end of March each year. If you haven't paid your membership fees, please do so! You can visit the membership page on our website: [www.simcoecountyhistory.ca](http://www.simcoecountyhistory.ca) . If you have already paid, thank you. If you are not sure you have paid or would like more information email [info@simcoecountyhistory.ca](mailto:info@simcoecountyhistory.ca)

### Heritage Business Award

Congratulations to Sanderson Monument of Orillia, the recipient of the 2023 Heritage Business Award

In 1872, R.J. Sanderson founded the Orillia Marble Works. Over a century and a half later, a fifth generation of Sandersons continue to operate Orillia's longest-running business, now called Sanderson Monument. The company has expanded to incorporate a number of satellite locations, and their work includes headstone and monument creation, cemetery management, and burial services. Congratulations, Sanderson Monument on 151 years of business excellence!

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.

To enquire about the program or nominate a local business email [info@simcoecountyhistory.ca](mailto:info@simcoecountyhistory.ca) .

### Andrew Hunter Writing Award:

Congratulations to the 2023 the Andrew Hunter Writing Award recipients:

1 <sup>ST</sup> Place:	Abiishan Nanthakumar – Bradford District High School
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place:	Katie Jung – Bradford District High School
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place:	Claire McCormick – Bradford District High School

The Andrew Hunter Writing 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. For more information email: [info@simcoecountyhistory.ca](mailto:info@simcoecountyhistory.ca)

## **Speaker Series:**

Beginning in February Harry Hughes (former mayor of Oro-Medonte) and Samah Othman (Communications Officer) presented The Story of the Oro African Church: Preserving History.

During our AGM in held in partnership with the Simcoe County Museum in April, Brian Charles explained the importance of wampum belts and provided insight into Indigenous history.

In partnership with the Innisfil Historical Society, Karen Mahoney gave a detailed history of the British Home Children.

Mark Burchell told the story of his father's experience on the HMCS Restigouche escorting 14 convoys during WW1.

Interested in being part of our Speaker Series? Email [news@simcoecountyhistory.ca](mailto:news@simcoecountyhistory.ca)

## **Media Report:**

SCHA continues to be active on Facebook and LinkedIn continuously increasing our reach and market visibility.

## **Nomination Report for 2024**

President:	Deb Crawford
Past President:	Ted Duncan
Vice President:	Mark Fisher
Treasurer:	Bryan Wood
Secretary:	Donna Wice
Directors:	Amanda Wilce Karen Mahoney Vanessa Kennedy

\*\* SCHA is seeking additional Directors with previous volunteer board experience, experience with social media, website maintenance, newsletter editing, fundraising and/or a love of the history and heritage of Simcoe County. If interested email [info@simcoecountyhistory.ca](mailto:info@simcoecountyhistory.ca)