

NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

Vol. 37, No. 4

ISSN 0700-4427

In this issue...

Spring Meeting Details	1
SCHA 2010 Schedule	1
President's Ponderings.....	2
SCHA Executive	2
Grant Films Release Part II	3
Abandoned Ontario	3
Family Fun at the Museum	3
Osler Festival	4
Andrew Hunter Award 2010	5
The Canadian Encyclopedia	5
Coming Events	6

Visit our website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

Check our site often for the detailed updates provided

SCHA
SIMCOE COUNTY
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Preserving the Past,
in the Present,
for the Future.

Thoughts of Spring

I know, we're just getting used to the idea of snow and the cold weather that's here to stay. However, the SCHA likes to look ahead. Our March meeting, in conjunction with the Barrie Historical Association, will take place at their location of Barrie City Hall on Thursday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m.

As a joint venture, we have invited the celebrated lecturer Dr. Karolyn Smardz Frost, who will bring her latest thoughts and research on the Blackburns and the Underground Railroad. She specializes in teaching public and urban history, historical research methodology, and public archaeology, with particular focus on Toronto and the African Canadian/African American experience.

Karolyn's volume, *I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad*, won the

Governor-General's Literary Award for Non-Fiction in 2007. Critically acclaimed in both Canada and the US, it is the biography of Thornton and Lucie Blackburn, fugitive slaves who started Toronto's first taxi business. She is co-editor of *The Archaeology Education Handbook: Sharing the Past With Kids* (2000); co-author of *The Underground Railroad: Next Stop, Toronto!* (2002); and co-editor of *Ontario's African-Canadian Past: The Writings of Fred Landon, 1918-1967* (2008).

Dr. Smardz Frost's latest achievement is her nomination to the top 20 finalists in TVO's 2010 Big Ideas Best Lecturer Competition. If you would like to see an excerpt of one of her lectures, or visit her website, see http://www.tvo.org/TVO/WebObjects/TVO.woa?video?BL_Lecture_20091207_004667_KSFrost and <http://www.homeingloryland.com>

SCHA 2010 Schedule – various locations – please see below

March 25 – Dr. Karolyn Smardz Frost, Research Associate at York University's Faculty of Education Centre for Education and Community, on Canadian Black History – **7:30 p.m. at Barrie City Hall**

April 20 – Dr. Todd Stubbs, Professor of Canadian History, Lakehead University, discussing The Tudhope Car Company of Orillia – at the **Simcoe County Museum, Midhurst, at 7:30**

May 18 – Our Annual General Meeting – details to come

2010 Fall events will be detailed in the June issue

President's Ponderings

by Helen Coutts

Now that we've squeezed past the solstice hopefully your outlook will, like mine, lighten as the days lengthen and the sun regains a more prominent place. Even our coating of snow helps brighten the world. Our farm is grateful that we finished the last corn harvest just before the snow, even though the quantity and quality did not meet our expectations. 2009 will go down as a challenging year for the agricultural community, as it was for sunbathing and rain free days. However, as your president, I'm proud of the programmes we were able to present this fall, including the accessibility workshop.

We look forward to March: a joint meeting with Barrie Historical on

Black History, then April with The Tudhope Car Company of Orillia, and onto May with our dinner annual meeting with a lighter theme. (We're investigating some lighter entertainment).

As always check the front page for the details. In March we have a joint meeting with Barrie Historical, but we would like to collaborate with a joint meeting on a mutually agreed topic with any of our member associations. This could be at your location, but with us sharing the cost of speaker and hopefully encouraging extra attendance.

Having our meetings at the Simcoe County Museum has been wonderful and I wish to thank the staff there for

their cooperation and support. Also it's time to thank your SCHA Board for their leadership and patience with this president. May this festive season prove a blessing and may the New Year, (twenty ten has a nice ring, doesn't it?), bring all you could hope for and more.

The Executive and members of the SCHA extend our sincere condolences to the family of Arch Brown, our longtime member and supporter. This great man of Simcoe County brought much to his community and he is missed by all who knew him.



The SCHA acknowledges the financial support of the County of Simcoe and of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Culture.



Simcoe County Historical Association Executive

Helen Coutts, President	721-0587 roheco@sympatico.ca
Mark Fisher, Second Vice President	728-3825 mwfisher2@hotmail.com
Gord Harris, Treasurer	739-7649 gordon.harris@xplornet.com
Jill Hynes, Corresponding Secretary	739-6220 mark.jill@sympatico.ca
Ellen Millar, Recording Secretary	726-9300 ext. 1287 ellen.millar@simcoe.ca

For Membership Information, contact

Earl Elliott, Membership Chair 734-9808 earl.elliott@rogers.com

You are invited to submit photos and articles regarding your historical happenings in Simcoe County. Photos will be returned.

Mail to SCHA, Box 144, Barrie, ON L4M 4S9.

Deadline for the next issue is February 26, 2010

Grant Films Release Part II

by Lynda Whiston

In 2008 the Orillia Museum of Art and History released the hugely successful two disc set of DVDs containing movie film footage more than 80 years old taken by Orillian Jack Grant. Part II was released on Saturday, November 28.

This Grant film footage dates back to 1929 through to 1964 and includes some rare colour film footage from 1939. Fifteen reels in all have been copied to DVD and include scenes of Lake Couchiching and the park, shots of road paving using early steam

shovels, cranes, and steamrollers dating from the 1930s. Workmen completing renovations on a local home leap catlike up and down a steep rooftop, without safety harnesses. A train steams out of the station, and a monoplane lands on the frozen surface of Lake Couchiching. Vivid colour erupts onto the screen as the Grants' iris garden, at their country home (now Grant's Woods) appears in all its glory. Caught on film is extensive footage of a hockey game played on the ice of the lake

during Christmas week 1931. There are views of a team of horses at work shifting a tree trunk and much more.

A special bonus addition to this DVD is a 2009 interview with 84 year old Bill Grant. Mr. Grant is featured in the films from the age of four along with his two elder brothers and his parents.

The film is available for sale at \$29.99 each. For more information, call the museum at 326 2159.

Abandoned Ontario

Abandoned Ontario is a compilation of over 3000 photographs of historic homesteads and structures left forgotten in the jurisdictions of Grey County, Simcoe County, Dufferin County and Peel Region.

Driven by a passion for history and an intrigue of the unknown, this collection has inspired a 200-page book along with a museum exhibit.

The exhibit, Abandoned Places and Spaces will be on display at the South Grey Museum, 40 Sydenham

ABANDONED ONTARIO



ABANDONED BUILDINGS OF ONTARIO
Book One
GREY COUNTY · SIMCOE COUNTY · DUFFERIN COUNTY · PEELE REGION

Street, Flesherton until January 31, open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday to

Saturday. Please contact Sarah Redmond, Museum Curator, for details at 519-924-2843.

This book is photographed and written by Bruce Brigham, foreword provided by Chris Stillar, edited by Alice Gaynor, with Richard Schachow as the advisor of heritage architecture.

For more information, please contact Bruce Brigham, 705-443-2931 or visit the website, www.abandonedontario.ca

Family Fun at the Simcoe County Museum

December 28, 29 and 30, 2009 and January 2 and 3, 2010

Are you looking for something to do other than skiing or shopping during the Winter Break? Drop by the Simcoe County Museum for games and activities for all ages! Have you ever challenged someone to a Crokinole or Tiddly Winks match? Do you know how to play Shoot-a-Loop and Skittles? We'll show you how; maybe you'll find a new favourite!

While you're here, take a tour of our

galleries and as you wander through keep your eyes open for the Artifact Cart. Explore these artifacts close-up with our Education staff as they share some great stories and information with you and answer your questions.

The games and activities will take place between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on December 28, 29 and 30, and January 2, 2010 and from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Sunday January 3.

These activities are all included with the cost of regular Museum Admission: Adult \$6, Student/Senior \$5.00, Child \$4.00, Preschoolers – free.



Osler Festival – Saturday, October 3, 2009

by Dr. Richard Johnston

The Osler Festival, which took place on Saturday, October 3, at St. Catherine of Alexandria Church at Bond Head included lectures and tours on this outstanding day. This is the first of an annual event to honour Sir William Osler who achieved international recognition for his revolutionary and progressive approach to medical education and the practice of medicine. He received international acclaim for his holistic approach to medicine and was internationally recognized for his work of over 1,500 scientific publications detailing his research and medical innovations.



Seated left to right: Dr. Richard Johnston, President of the Simcoe County Medical Association, Dr. Joan Borland, Dr. Henry Barnett O.C., F.R.C.P., and Dr. Neil Watters, F.R.C.S., enjoyed some of the festivities at the event.

A memorial plaque on the wall of the north transept of St. Catherine's Church reads as follows:

1930

Presented by the
**SIMCOE COUNTY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

in memory of

Sir William Osler

Baronet, M.D. (McGill) F.R.S.
Regius Professor of Medicine at the
University of Oxford, England.

He was the sixth son of the

**Reverend Featherstone
Lake Osler, M.A. (Canada)**
first Rector of this parish

and his wife

Ellen Free Picton

Sir William was born on the 12th day of July 1849 in the Rectory which at that time was situated one mile west of this Church on lot 22. Con. Seven. He was baptized in this Church by his father on the 19th day of August 1849.

After a life of great usefulness and achievement he died at Oxford on the 29th day of December 1919

On this 160th anniversary of Osler's birth, all Canadians should take pride in this great Canadian born in Bond Head who went on to become Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University and who is still considered to be the Father of Modern Medicine.

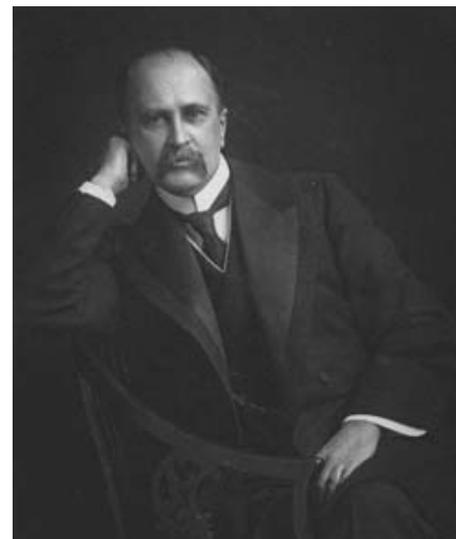


Photo from *The Gazette Online: The Newspaper of the Johns Hopkins University* May 7, 2001 Vol. 30, No. 33



The Osler stained glass window was donated to the church in 1930 by the Simcoe County Medical Association.

The Andrew Hunter Award 2010

The Andrew Hunter Award is offered annually for historical research on Simcoe County, Ontario, written by an undergraduate student for a course in any university or college. In this sixth year of competition, we look forward to receiving many worthy entries for each of the two awards being offered.

Conditions: The entry shall be an essay between 3,000 and 5,000 words in length or a fourth year undergraduate thesis paper (no length restriction) on some aspect of the history of Simcoe County, Ontario, written in English or in French. The author must have been a part-time or full-time undergraduate student in a degree program at an accredited university or college at the time of writing. The essay must have been written to meet the requirement of an undergraduate credit course during the 2009-2010 academic year. The thesis paper must have been submitted for grading in the 2008-2009 academic year. Entries become the property of the Simcoe County Historical Association and may be published as part of an essay collection.

Submissions: Essay entries shall be postmarked by April 9, 2010 and undergraduate theses shall be postmarked by January 29, 2010. Submissions will not be returned to the contestants. Papers must be typed in Times New Roman 12 point font, double spaced, and should not bear the instructor's comments or grade. Three copies must be provided. A cover sheet must list the author's name, address, phone number, year of study, school affiliation and department, and the name of the instructor for whom the paper was written.

Entries should be sent to:

The Corresponding Secretary
Simcoe County Historical Association
P.O. Box 144, Barrie, ON L4M 4S9

Adjudication: Entries will be judged by a distinguished panel appointed by the Simcoe County Historical Association. The winners will be announced in early May 2010 with the presentation of the awards to take place at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

Award: There will be two awards offered in Canadian funds, one for \$500 for the best undergraduate essay and one for \$500 for the best undergraduate thesis. The Simcoe County Historical Association may edit the winning entries for the purpose of publication.

The Simcoe County Historical Association is under no obligation to grant the awards. For more information, see www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

The Canadian Encyclopedia

This fall, the most authoritative resource on all things Canadian, The Canadian Encyclopedia very proudly launched a new and improved version of the popular online resource. Users are now able to “share” and email articles directly through multiple

social networking sites. They can also recommend and comment on articles, creating a forum where users can share ideas and historical, geographical or personal knowledge. The new website includes more media, galleries and images with

improved viewing capabilities, video and design. With an improved search engine, users can search a specific topic but can also now browse articles by most read, recommended and most commented. Visit the site at www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com



Andrew Hunter 1863 - 1940

COMING EVENTS *of our Member Societies*

Alliston Historical Society – contact Jackie Baillie 705-435-5626 or cknowles@rogers.com

Meet at Museum on the Boyne, Fletcher Cres., Alliston every 2nd Wednesday except July, Aug. & Dec. – 7:30 p.m.

Barrie Historical Association – contact Val Brucker

www.barriehistorical.com

Meet at Barrie City Hall – 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 14 – Tim Crawford – Wishart Campbell, Oro-born Musician

Collingwood District Historical Society – contact Joan Miller

www.historicallyspeakingcdhs.ca

Jan. 11 – Annual General Meeting – Darrell and Janet Reeder – The Joseph Lawrence House

Essa Historical Society – contact Olive Lee

Meet at Thornton Library every fourth Saturday – 1:30 p.m.

Genealogical Society

Meet at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

79 Ferris Lane, Barrie – 2:00 p.m.

www.simcoebogs.com

Jan. 2 – Dorothy Duncan – Canadian Cookbooks as an Unexpected Source of Family History

Feb. 6 – Susan Warner – Collingwood Local History

Huronian Museum Huron Ouendat Village

549 Little Lake Park Road, Midland
Call 526-2844

www.huroniamuseum.com

Innisfil Historical Society

Meet at Knock Community Centre, 10th SR at 9th Line, Innisfil – 2:00 p.m. www.innisfilhistorical.ca

Jan. 16 – Bring and Brag or Show and Tell

Midhurst Historical Society – contact Meagan Arnott

Meet at the Library, Finlay Mill Road
7:30 p.m. meganarnott@hotmail.com

Museum on the Boyne – contact Katie Huddleston

250 Fletcher Crescent in Riverdale Park, Alliston – Call 435-0167

Orillia Museum of Art and History – contact Gloria Taylor

30 Peter Street South, Orillia – Call 326-2159 www.orilliamuseum.org

to Jan. 8 – Cartoons: The Art of Humour

to Jan. 15 – The Twelve Days of Christmas

History Speaker Series – contact Dan Byers

Meet at St. Paul's United Church, Peter St. and Coldwater Rd., Orillia – 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 20 – Dorothy Duncan – Canadians at Table: Food, Fellowship & Folklore

Feb. 17 – Dr. Todd Stubbs and Dr. Reg Home – Orillia's Industrial Heritage

Mar. 17 – Cathy Ashton – Turning Clouds Inside Out: A Country Woman's Life in the 20th Century

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives

13 Burke St. at Beck Blvd.

Call 549-2150

www.pencenmuseum.com

Feb. 15 – Family Day at the Museum

Feb. 20-22 – Winterama Weekend

Simcoe County Museum

1151 Highway 26, Midhurst – Call 728-3721

Jan. 18-Apr.11 – Barrie Art Club Exhibit – Simcoe Themes

Stayner Heritage Society – contact Dorothy Millsap

Centennial United Church (corner of Oak and William Streets) – 7:30 p.m. 428-2917

www.staynerheritagesociety.com

Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury Historical Society –

contact Patricia Blackstock

pblackstock@sympatico.ca

Meet at Tec We Gwill Hall, Newton Robinson, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 18 – Show and Tell

Happy New Year!

from

The Simcoe County Historical Association

