

NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

Vol. 37, No. 2

ISSN 0700-4427

In this issue...

September 15 Meeting	1
SCHA Fall Schedule	1
President's Ponderings.....	2
SCHA Executive	2
September 15 cont.	3
Spring SCHA Meetings	4
From the Mailbag	4
Creative Contests	5
Coming Events	6

Visit our website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

Many thanks to Pat Elliott for her work maintaining this important tool



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

Tales (not tails) from the Trail on September 15

To kick off our fall meeting schedule, we are thrilled to announce that one of the two officers who undertook the Ontario Provincial Police 100th Anniversary Commemorative Patrol will be with us for the evening.

Constable Guy Higgott (below), along with Chris Johnstone of the Orillia OPP Museum, will recount the adventures this past February through stories and images.

continued on page 3



SCHA 2009 Fall Schedule – we will meet at the Simcoe Country Museum, Midhurst

September 15 – **Provincial Constable Guy Higgott**, OPP 100th Anniversary Commemorative Patrol – 7:30 p.m.

October 20 – **Jamie Hunter**, Curator, Huronia Museum and Ouendat Village providing an update on the restoration since the fire in 2007 – 7:30 p.m

November 7 (Saturday) – The Ontario Historical Society Accessible Heritage Tool Kit presentation with **Rob Leverty** – details TBA in the September issue of *News and Views*

President's Ponderings

by Helen Coutts

Ah, summer, a time to relax, to garden (not always compatible), to vacation, to read in a shady spot and to enjoy the lack of meetings. It's also a good time to do local drives and investigate some of the wonderful historical places and beautiful vistas we have in Simcoe County. That's what I intend to do after a drive to see the Maritimes again.

Your Board tries to arrange speakers that you will enjoy, but sometimes the commercial is better than the product. Still, we welcome suggestions from you for a topic and speaker, especially if one was really well received by your Society. That will certainly help us.

Check the front page for the fall schedule and come to the Simcoe County Museum at 7:30 on the third Tuesdays of SEPTEMBER (MUSH will be the operative word for both the OPP Officer and the delectable

refreshments with our coffee time) and OCTOBER (when Jamie Hunter reviews the progress at their Museum). My understanding is that there will be an O.P.P. 100th Anniversary display at the Simcoe County Museum during the same time frame as our September meeting.

For a change of pace, a workshop is being planned for Saturday, November 7. Watch the next newsletter for more details. There are no meetings planned for December, (we're all too busy) and none for January when the weather is too undependable, but we're beginning to brainstorm 2010.

We hope to be able gather together collected information and produce a pamphlet on the Historical Sites of the County. I understand Barrie may have one of their own sites. Encourage others to join us as we celebrate the history of this area.

An update on our two petitions:

Bill 149, Inactive Cemeteries Protection Act, 2009 has been referred to the Standing Committee on General Government after passing second reading in mid-March. Petitions continued to be received by

Jim Brownell, MPP
Ministry of Tourism
9th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E1

The petition demanding that 18th and 19th century Canadian history become mandatory learning in high school continues to circulate at historical reenactments and throughout the historical community of Ontario. The students of St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School in Belleville are guided in this endeavor by Joe Stafford, winner of the Governor General's award for excellence in teaching Canadian History.



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	
Jill Hynes, Corresponding Secretary	739-6220	mark.jill@sympatico.ca
Ellen Millar, Recording Secretary	726-9300 ext. 1287	emillar@county.simcoe.on.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 August 25, 2009

Tales (not tails) from the Trail on September 15

continued from page 1

The Commemorative Patrol

Two OPP officers undertook the 100th anniversary patrol by dog sled, snowshoe and rail this past February, 2009. The officers wore reproduction period uniforms (1922 - 1939) and used traditional equipment and wilderness survival skills while travelling in the bush. The final leg of the journey was completed by railway.

A salute

This expedition was a salute to the hardiness, resourcefulness and the determination of the officers who have worked and lived in Ontario's northern communities for decades.

The challenge

The patrol provided significant physical and endurance challenges for the two modern-day OPP officers. During the 1920s and 30s, a typical patrol range for one lone officer was 280 kilometres. Both officers put their wilderness survival training to the test, as they covered great distances in northern Ontario by dog sled, snowshoe and railway. The officers each drove their own team and were accompanied, as was often the case, by a guide.

The route

The route was based upon an overall representation of an arduous form of patrol rather than a specific event re-enactment. There are many historical examples of officers employing whatever travel options were at hand, to get the job done. The expedition left from Hearst on Sunday, February 1st and travelled through Kapuskasing, Timmins/South Porcupine, Cochrane, up to Moosonee and back to Cochrane, covering just over 1,000 kilometres in three weeks.

The OPP Museum helped make history

The OPP Museum carefully researched the project's historic background and played a key role in, literally, getting the patrol "up and running."

Whether it was using a railway speeder, flagging down a freight train, borrowing a canoe, setting out into the bush on snowshoes with a toboggan for supplies or engaging a guide and dog sled team, historically, OPP members have consistently proven their dedication to duty.

So too did Provincial Constables Erik Howells and Guy Higgott (pictured below) as they embarked on an once-in-a-lifetime historic OPP Commemorative Patrol on February 1, 2009.



100th Anniversary website

Visit www.opp100.ca for more information about the OPP 100th Anniversary and the history of the OPP.

Friends of The OPP Museum

"Friends of The OPP Museum" and The OPP Museum worked cooperatively to produce *MUSH!! Dining on the go in early northern Ontario*, a small "cook booklet" by author and Friends President, Dorothy Duncan. Dorothy worked tirelessly on collecting information, stories and recipes to encourage communities hosting the patrol to recall earlier times and meals of long ago. Dorothy is a member of the board of directors of the SCHA as well. We are looking forward not only to our evening with Constable Higgott and Chris Johnsotne, but also to a sampling of some of culinary offerings from *MUSH*, provided by Mrs. Duncan. See you at our exceptional event!

Spring SCHA Meetings

Gwen Patterson's presentation in March produced some inquiries, and for the benefit of the membership, here is her response!

Thinking about one of the questions concerning the naming of the "Chelsea and/or Commuted Pensioners" there are two articles in the OGS magazine from the early 1980s, written by Barbara Aikens, I believe, and she does a great job of explaining the differences.

My understanding, now that I think on it, is that some of the men were actually Chelsea Hospital "patients" while others had been discharged and thus could have been given the name of "Commuted Pensioners" because of how their pension funds were "worked".

This may give those who asked another avenue of investigation.

Our Annual General Meeting in May once again provided good food, a great silent auction table, and a terrific selection on the book table from Manticore Books in Orillia. All this was available prior to the formalities of our elections and receiving of reports.

We welcomed our new treasurer, Gord Harris of Midhurst upon his election to the SCHA executive. Gord



will assume his duties over the summer.

Once greetings were heard from a number of our member societies, we proceeded with our speaker for the evening, Prof. Geoff Booth of Oro who teaches at the Orillia Campus of Laurentian University at Georgian. Geoff took us on a tour of his extensive research on music and education, including schools of thought from ancient times to the late 19th century in Ontario.

Brian Baker won a lovely picture through the silent auction which he then presented to Donna Wice as a token of appreciation for all the work she has completed on various aspects of Innisfil's history.

From the Mailbag

Dear Editor:

I have a small collection of quilts made by Canadian women in WWII and sent to Britain. I have been researching into these quilts, their makers and recipients. Most of these were collected, labelled and distributed by the Red Cross. Recently, I was shown a quilt of the period, with all the attributes of its type, with a label "Simcoe War Fund Association". I have found out who Governor Simcoe was, and his significance in the history of Canada, and am wondering if the War Fund was one set up in your town, or whether it was a national organisation. Do you have any information about quilting during the war in Simcoe?

Best wishes

Maxine March

maxinemarch@waitrose.com

Dear SCHA members:

I am the author of a book titled *Thoughts of Our Canadian Soldiers at War* (2008 Edition), a collection of short stories that pay tribute to the men and women who went off to war, from the Boer War, two World Wars, the Korean War and peacekeeping duties that Canada has played a leading role in helping to maintain peace in the world.

I wrote this book to help encourage lifelong learning by our younger generations of what our brave soldiers and veterans have done for us. The book is meant to capture the human side of war, the affect on our brave soldiers and their families.

On November 11, 2008 we commemorated the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War (The Great War) and we as Canadians

of all ages need to reflect and show our respect for those who unselfishly put themselves in harm's way to allow us all the privileges we are offered today. It is very important for us to grow in our knowledge and respect for all those brave men and women.

To purchase a copy, please contact me personally; the cost of one copy is \$8.00 per book plus postage. If you are interested in purchasing multiple copies I will be pleased to quote the total price including postage.

Yours Sincerely

Brian Jones

YNH Books

10 McConnell Lane

Newmarket, ON L3Y 7M1

brian.jones6@sympatico.ca

Feeling *Creative* this Summer?

Here are two outstanding opportunities to express your artistic side and help to promote the ways in which history impacts our local places to make them meaningful in our beautiful county.

OMAH's 10th Anniversary: A Decade of Collaboration

Call for Artists

The Orillia Museum of Art & History is celebrating its 10th Anniversary as an art and history museum with a 12" x 12" Art Show inspired by historic images from our collection.

OMAH invites artists from around Orillia and area to submit pieces to be a part of this unique exhibit on a first come first serve basis. OMAH can accept up to 50 pieces in total.

This show is an exhibition as well as a fundraiser for OMAH who has been supporting Art and History in Orillia for the last ten years.

This exhibition will be on display from August 11–29 which includes the evening of the Starry Night downtown Gallery & Studio Tour.

Entry Rules:

- The exhibition is open to all artists of any medium as long as it falls within the 12" x 12" criteria.
- 50 historic images will be made available on our website www.orilliamuseum.org and at OMAH by slideshow for artists to gain inspiration from.
- Pieces will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. OMAH can only take up to 50 pieces in total.
- An application and a fee of \$10 (canvas provided upon request) which goes towards the hanging of the exhibition must be submitted to OMAH by July 31, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Once the application has been received by OMAH your entry will be put on a list and it will be considered part of the exhibition.
- Any applications that are received after July 31 or after we have reached our maximum capacity of 50 pieces will not be accepted.
- All accepted pieces must be dropped off by Aug 7, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. ready to hang with the artist's name, the work's title and medium, and a contact number affixed to the artwork.
- All pieces will be for sale for \$200 and split 50/50 between the artist and OMAH. The artist will also receive a \$100 donation receipt if the piece sells within the duration of the exhibition.
- Pieces must remain on display throughout the duration of the exhibition from August 11 to August 29, 2009. All pieces must be picked up by August 31, 2009.

For more information please contact Katie Calcaterra at OMAH 705-326-2159 or programs@orilliamuseum.org

Ontario Conservation Areas Photo Contest

Whether it's a close-up of a native flower in the Rouge Valley, the view of a waterfall cascading through the Canadian shield, a shot of snow shoe trails in the Ganaraska forest, or pictures of a family hiking the Niagara Escarpment, Conservation Ontario is looking for your best photograph taken in a Conservation Area.

From March 2009 until January 31, 2010, Conservation Ontario is hosting a photo contest offering prizes totaling more than \$1,500!

"We encourage people to visit our Conservation Areas, take some terrific photos and get some exercise while they're at it", said Don Pearson, General Manager of Conservation Ontario.

The contest is open to all ages and you can submit any photo you like, but judges will be looking for outstanding images that showcase the best of what Ontario's Conservation Areas have to offer.

For more information on this contest, please visit <http://www.ontarioconservationareas.ca/>

C O M I N G E V E N T S

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

Meet at Barrie City Hall – 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 20 Doors Open Barrie

Collingwood District Historical Society – contact Joan Miller

www.historicallyspeakingcdhs.ca

Aug. 25 AGM

Guest Speaker Georgina Whitehead. The Retreat Hotel, 266 Nicholson St Abbotsford, 8 p.m.

Essa Historical Society – contact Olive Lee

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

Friends of Historic Fort Willow

Sept. 19 Nine Mile Portage Heritage Festival

<http://www.nvca.on.ca/ConservationAreasRecreation/index.htm>

Genealogical Society

Meet at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

79 Ferris Lane, Barrie – 2:00 p.m.

www.simcoebogs.com

Sept. 12 Fawne Strafford Devai

Leaving Ontario

Huronia Museum Huron Ouendat Village

549 Little Lake Park Road, Midland – Call 526-2844

www.huroniamuseum.com

Innisfil Historical Society –
contact Ross Wallace

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

Sept. 19 Art Jack, Donna Wice and more

Community of Churchill

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

July 2 – August 8 4th Annual ODAC & OMAH All-Ontario Open Juried Art Show

Opening Reception: July 11

August 11-29 10th Anniversary: A Decade of Collaboration - see page 5

History Speaker Series – contact Ross Wallace

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

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives

13 Burke St. at Beck Blvd.

Call 549-2150

www.pencenmuseum.com

July 1 Canada Day Celebrations 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

of our Member Societies

Sept. 19 Settlers' Day - all day events

Dinner Honouring A.A. Thompson Family 7 p.m.

\$50 Inn at Bay Moorings

Simcoe County Museum

1151 Highway 26, Midhurst – Call 728-3721

July 20-Oct. 11 Rural Roots Barrie Art Club Exhibit

Sept. 3 Warden's Annual Golf Tournament

Sept. 18-20 Simcoe County Quilt, Rug and Craft Fair

Stayner Heritage Society –
contact Dorothy Millsap

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

www.staynerheritagesociety.com

July 4 13th Annual Heritage Day Station Park

Featuring South Simcoe Concert Band, Pancake Breakfast at Jubilee and Main, Street Parade, Food Fair and the Beinn Gorm Highlanders

Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury Historical Society –

contact Patricia Blackstock

pblackstock@sympatico.ca

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

SCHA
SIMCOE COUNTY
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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