First Huronia, then 100 Years of Canadian Flight

Our October and November meetings promise to bring tales not only from the past, but for the future. On October 20, we welcome Jamie Hunter, curator from Midland, who will update us on the plans for this important Simcoe County museum, home to over 1,000,000 artifacts. In May, 2007, an extensive fire caused the museum to suffer losses to their village, including the longhouse. After endless fundraising and reconstruction efforts, there is much to celebrate in the renewing of this landmark.

In November, we will bring the Canadian Centennial of Flight presentation which commemorates the 100th anniversary of the flight of the Silver Dart, the first heavier-than-air powered flight in Canada that took place on February 23, 1909. The presentation covers many aspects of the history of aviation in Canada over the past 100 years; the evening is brought to us by members of 16 Wing at Borden, the largest training wing in the Canadian Forces which educates nearly 2000 students every year.

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

October 20 – Jamie Hunter, Curator, Huronia Museum and Orendat 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 – please see insert

November 17 – 100 Years of Flight – Members of the 16 Wing from CFB Borden – 7:30 p.m.

2010 events will be detailed in the December issue
**President’s Ponderings**
by Helen Coutts

On this sunny September morning, after last night’s wonderful winter trip across Northern Ontario via slides and commentary with Constable Guy Higgott, supported by Christine Johnson, education director at the O.P.P. Museum at Headquarters in Orillia, and authentic northern food with our coffee (Thanks Dorothy Duncan), my mind embraces the other exciting topics for our regular meetings this fall.

We will have Jamie Hunter and the Huronia Museum’s rebuilding of the Indian Village in October, the Accessibility Workshop in early November, and a bonus November evening on our regular night, when we explore the History of Flight on the 100th anniversary of the first successful Canadian flight in Nova Scotia. In December, there will not be a meeting as we all celebrate the season; in January and February no meeting to avoid the possible bad weather. Keep checking the front page of *News & Views* for details.

It is wonderful to have this stretch of sunny warm weather this month after a dismal summer. Our farmer friends are rejoicing as they finish early grain harvest late, but successfully dry and cure hay to supplement the shortages from the poor weather in early summer. On our farm, we hope the warmth and sunshine are maturing the soybeans and corn.

Ron and I enjoyed a motor trip to the Maritimes late June, early July and found out more about their blueberry industry in northern Nova Scotia, visited an amazing mine museum, the home of the Men of the Deeps choir in Glace Bay, Cape Breton. We also visited some fishing villages on the South Shore of Nova Scotia, the Acadian area of New Brunswick and the historical village, Kings Landing, also in New Brunswick; and yes, we visited the cradle of Confederation in Prince Edward Island after crossing the Confederation Bridge. There is so much history in that region of Canada.

Summer brought family reunions, drives across Simcoe County and other parts of Ontario, and the opportunity to attend theatre in several locations. Now, trees are beginning to turn and as you enjoy the colours make your destination some of our historical spots across the County and the special events mentioned in this publication. Perhaps it will be your first trip to the O.P.P. Museum in Orillia.

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

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The Executive and members of the SCHA extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes for the years to come to our President and her husband on the event of their 50th Wedding Anniversary, celebrated on September 12.
Our September 15 Meeting

Those of you unable to attend our first meeting of the fall missed a humourous, detailed presentation of the joys and challenges of the OPP Commemorative Patrol. Constable Higgot brought his stunning images and often hilarious anecdotes from his adventure last February. For those who wish to know and see more, including the daily check-in reports mentioned during the presentation, visit this special website: www.opp100.ca/English/commemorative_patrol.html

The OPP was formed on October 13, 1909 to create a unified provincial police force. From one superintendent and 45 provincial constables with detachments of often one officer, the force has grown to approximately 6,000 uniformed members, 2,600 civilian employees and 850 Auxiliary members who provide services to both the province and more than 315 municipalities, through 165 detachments, six regional headquarter facilities and OPP General Headquarters in Orillia.

A Centennial Celebration will take place on October 13, one hundred years to the day since the inception of the Ontario Provincial Police. At that time the Anniversary Time Capsule will be sealed to be opened in 2059.

Our Heritage Matters
by David Chambers

Can you imagine driving through your community if it was void of its heritage buildings? In some areas, this could be reality very soon. Some of the most magnificent structures in a community could be lost forever: the heritage churches, farmhouses, barns, town and city homes. Some heritage buildings have been fortunate to be given a new life, such as schools, stores and grand homes. Now popular restaurants, shops, stores and theatres are housed in wonderful old buildings, full of character, with spectacular architecture.

There’s a new group in Simcoe County which has been formed over the concern for our heritage. The Simcoe County Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) was formed in March, 2009 by a group of concerned citizens over the loss of several farmhouses in Innisfil. Development of the countryside is rampant and as the land is cleared, the buildings are being demolished, as they have no protection.

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario was formed in 1933 by well-known architect Eric Arthur, over his concern for the preservation of our architecturally significant landscapes and structures, not just those of the 18th and 19th centuries, but more modern ones as well, saving them for future generations.

The Simcoe County Branch would like to have representatives and members in all areas of the County, to be the “eyes and ears” in their community with regard to changes or threats to its heritage.

The goals of this organization are to educate and inform the public about the significance and importance of our heritage and also how re-adapting these structures is “greener” than demolishing and building new.

Under the guidance of a heritage expert, the committee members of the branch recently toured two homes built in the 1800s, documenting the architectural heritage details, both on the exterior and interior. In the future, we plan to offer heritage house tours as a public educational event.

To learn more about this organization, or to support the ACO by becoming a member, please go to arconserv.ca (click on Simcoe County Branch) or email acosimcoecounty@arconserv.ca.

Watch for upcoming events and articles featuring our local heritage.

History comes alive with Friends of Minesing Wetlands

Join the Friends of Minesing Wetlands at their Annual General Gathering starting at 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 26th at Historic Fort Willow.

Witness a dramatic interpretation of Tecumseh and the War of 1812, followed by a BBQ dinner and other activities. For more information call 424-1479.
A Wonderful Gift Idea

RETURN ONCE MORE
The Christmas Poems of W.A. Fisher
1941-1989
Edited and introduced, with explanatory notes,
By Mark W. Fisher

This collection of 44 poems is being privately printed in a limited edition for distribution before Christmas, 2009. Some of you may remember my father’s annual Christmas poem that accompanied each Christmas card. Whether you revisit them or are new to them you will find them a nostalgic trip through the past, a history lesson and a commentary on political and social events that is still pertinent to the present. The book, including photographs, will make an excellent present for friends or relatives or anyone who knew of or was associated with W. A. Fisher. The cost will probably be $15, but at this point I am trying to determine the size of the print run. If you are interested please send me an email (mwfisher2@hotmail.com) or leave a phone message at 728-3825.

From the Mailbag

Dear SCHA:

I am looking to purchase the following publications:


They Came To Mara: Pioneers of Mara Township Circa 1829-1900, by the Corporation of the Township of Mara, 1993. 886p. illus. maps. A collection of the genealogies of Mara families, in alphabetical arrangement.

Would you be able to point me in the right direction?

Thanks,

Kathryn Mulvihill
kittymulvi@sympatico.ca

Essa Pictures Needed!

Help please!

If you know anyone who may have pictures of Baxter Train Station, Colwell and Utopia Flag Stations, War Veterans, or school pictures of Angus, Baxter, Colwell, Elmgrove, Nicholson and Thornton, please consider providing members of the Essa Historical Society with access for the purpose of making copies. We still need other schools as well, so contact us to ask if your pictures can be contributed. We would like to collect copies of originals for the Essa Historical Society in preparation for future Essa books.

Secondly, information and pictures on the following churches would add to our collection: Trinity United Church – Thornton, First Essa Presbyterian Church – Braden Corners, Essa Townline Presbyterian Church, West Essa Methodist Church – Turnbull Corners, Egbert United Church, Nicholson United Church, Burns United Church, St. Peter’s Anglican Church – West Essa, and Elmgrove Methodist Church.

As well, please provide pictures of Essa’s families. Start with you and your family, parents with siblings, grandparents and family, and great grandparents, plus a brief history of where the family originated, the year settled in Essa, and the lot and concession number. If possible, provide occupations and whether the family members are still in Essa. A copy of photos of the family house or farm would be wonderful.

We appreciate the support of the historical community as we work to document the history of Essa while the memories are fresh and documents available! Please contact Joan at 424-9895 with any questions or to let us know of materials we can procure.
Orillia Museum of Art and History

Dr. Kirk Wipper

Internationally renowned as an environmentalist, heritage conservationist, leadership and fitness advocate, Kirk Wipper is best known as the founder of the Canadian Canoe Museum. Over a period of about forty years, Kirk collected 700 water craft of every time and culture - canoes, kayaks, and dugouts.

An early career as a teacher, VMCA leader and Navy veteran led Kirk to the U of T and degrees in Phys. Ed., Social Work, M. Arts, M.Ed and a later D.Museumology. He has received the Order of Canada, Order of Ontario, U of T Arbor Award, and many other honours. He is a founding member of many outdoor and camping organizations, and served as the National Director of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

---2009 Carmichael Canadian Art & History Lecture---

Thursday, October 1, 7:30 pm - SWANMORE HALL, at the STEPHEN LEACOCK MUSEUM, off the Atherley Road, in Orillia, Ont.

Dr. Kirk Wipper will give an illustrated presentation on the history of the canoe in all its forms and his quest. His talk will be accompanied by a display of artistic works inspired by canoe journeys into the Canadian outdoors - sculpture and sketches by Elizabeth Wyn Wood (1903-1966) and paintings in oils and acrylics by Orillia artist Jeff Millier.

Tickets are available at the ORILLIA MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY, or by calling 705-326-2159. Admission is $10. per person. A cash bar will be available, and light refreshments will be served following the lecture.

Three Fall Events Throughout the County

Saturday, October 3, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Osler Festival

St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church (formerly Anglican)
Bond Head (Highways 88 & 27)
Activities: music, artisans’ displays, food, educational presentations and tours, draws, auction and special church service
Purpose: to educate the public and celebrate the life and times of Sir William Osler, world renowned medical practitioner and educator. The day is also a fundraiser for the much needed restoration of this historical church.

Saturday, October 10, 11 a.m. start

Hillsdale Hotel Foundation

Nostalgia Nosh: Fresh Eats with an Old Twist

Hillsdale Community Park
Activities: Antique Cars, 1812 re-enactment, book signing, local artisans, Heart of Hillsdale Business Showcase, entertainment and games
Food: cotton candy, funnel cakes, candy apples, apple cider, cranberry juice, sausages, hot dogs, soft drinks, tea and coffee
Purpose: Help Save the O’Neil (Simcoe) House Hotel; learn about future plans for the structure.

Friday and Saturday,

November 20-21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Cook Book Caper

Swanmore Hall, Stephen Leacock Museum, 50 Museum Dr., Orillia
Buy new and used, modern and historical cookbooks, food and beverage books, food related gifts, treasurers for your kitchen, and much more!
To donate books or other items, call Dorothy Duncan at 329-3084.
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
Meet at Barrie City Hall – 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 12 – Clint Lovell – WWII History Project at Eastview Secondary

Collingwood District Historical Society – contact Joan Miller
www.historicallyspeakingcdhs.ca
Oct. 14 – working meeting
Nov. 14 – History Walk – 2 p.m.

Craigleith Heritage Depot
Beaver Valley Community Centre, Thornbury – 1-2 p.m. – Call 444-2601 www.thebluemountains.ca
Oct. 26 – Charles Cooper – The Great North Railway
Nov. 30 – LTC (Retired) Tom Christianson – Our Bravest and Best: Heroes of the Great Wars
Dec. 7 – Dr. George Weider – History of Blue Mountain

Essa Historical Society – contact Olive Lee
Meet at Thornton Library every fourth Saturday – 1:30 p.m.

Friends of Historic Fort Willow
Sept. 26 – Friends of Minesing Wetlands Annual General Gathering – 5 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

Huronia Museum Huron O Wendat Village
549 Little Lake Park Road, Midland
Call 526-2844 www.huroniamuseum.com
Sept. 26 – Canoe Presentation with Sandra Mayberry and the students of James Keating Public School who built and portaged the canoe as a class project

Innisfil Historical Society – contact Ross Wallace
Meet at Knock Community Centre, 10th SR at 9th Line, Innisfil – 2:00 p.m. www.innisfilhistorical.ca
Oct. 17 – Brian Baker – Old Rural Routes
Nov. 21 – Annual banquet at Cookstown Anglican Church

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
Oct. 1 – The View from the Canoe – see page 5
to Oct. 3 – The Passengers art display – Austin and McGarvey

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
Oct. 31 – Halloween Spooktacular 1-4 p.m.

Orillia Museum of Art and History
– contact Gloria Taylor
30 Peter Street South, Orillia – Call 326-2159 www.orilliamuseum.org
Oct. 1 – The View from the Canoe – see page 5
to Oct. 3 – The Passengers art display – Austin and McGarvey

Stayner Heritage Society – contact Dorothy Millsap
Centennial United Church (corner of Oak and William Streets) – 7:30 p.m. 428-2917
www.staynerheritagesociety.com

Simcoe County Museum
1151 Highway 26, Midhurst – Call 728-3721
Oct. 17 – Last Blast – Equipment run
Oct. 28-29 – An Evening of Hallowe’en – 6-8:30 p.m.
Nov. 21-22 – Artsians Museum Christmas – 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Dec. 13 – Victorian Christmas – 1-4:30 p.m.

Stecumseth & West Gwillimbury Historical Society – contact Patricia Blackstock
pblackstock@sympatico.ca
Meet at Tec We Gwill Hall, Newton Robinson, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 19 – Chris Raible – Memory Boxes carved by rebels of 1837 Rebellion awaiting their fate in a Toronto jail

Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury Historical Society – contact Patricia Blackstock
pblackstock@sympatico.ca
Meet at Tec We Gwill Hall, Newton Robinson, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 19 – Chris Raible – Memory Boxes carved by rebels of 1837 Rebellion awaiting their fate in a Toronto jail

Nov. 19 – Remembrance Day
Dec. – Old Fashioned Christmas Party