

NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

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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.

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.



Photo courtesy of www.forces.gc.ca, 2008

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

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** – 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.

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.



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

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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 November 25, 2009

Our September 15 Meeting

Those of you unable to attend our first meeting of the fall missed a humorous, 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.



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:

Reflections of the Past: The Story of Rama Township, compiled and edited by Gabrielle Latimer, 1989. 409 p. illus. A compilation of genealogies, history, social history, and community development.

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

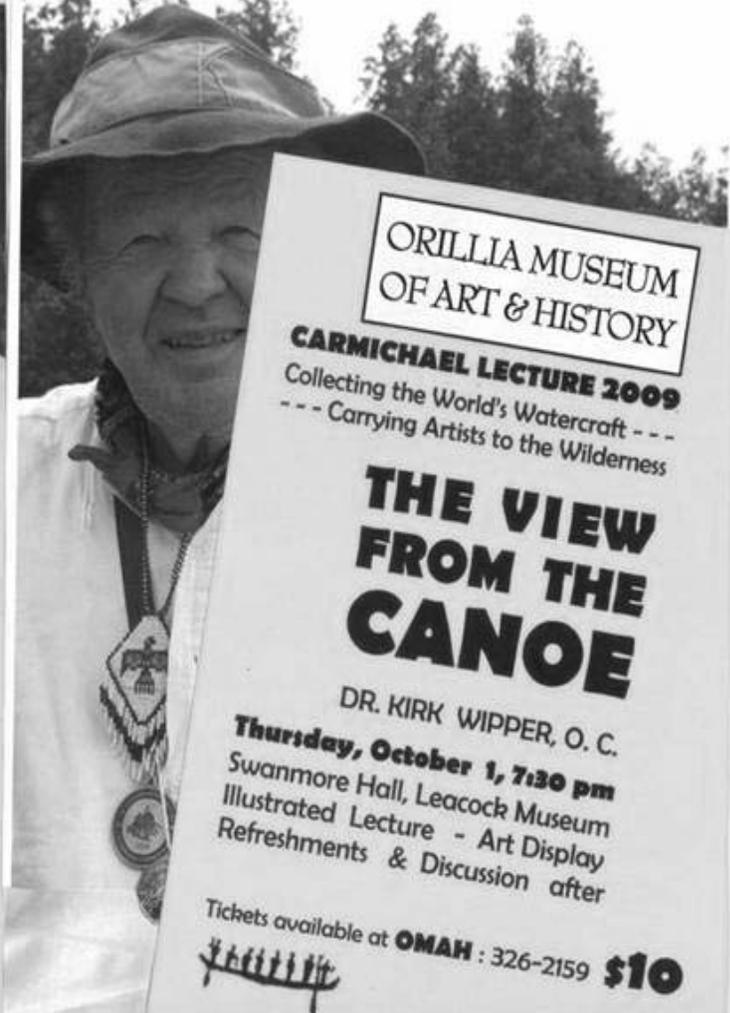
grandparents, plus a brief history of where the family originated, the year settled in Essa, and the lot and concession number. If possible, provide occupations and whether the family members are still in Essa. A copy of photos of the family house or farm would be wonderful.

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.

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, YMCA 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.Museology. 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 Miller**.

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!

Purpose: fundraiser sponsored by the Friends of the OPP Museum, Orillia Museum of Art and History, and Stephen Leacock Museum.

To donate books or other items, call Dorothy Duncan at 329-3084.

C O M I N G

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.

Craigeith 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

E V E N T S

Oct. 17 – TBD

Nov. 7 – TBD

Huron Museum Huron
Ouendat 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. meaganarnott@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.

of our Member Societies

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.

Nov. 27 – Festival of Lights – 6:30 pm

Dec. 19 & 20 – Breakfast with
Santa

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 – Artisans Museum
Christmas – 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Dec. 13 – Victorian Christmas –
1-4:30 p.m.

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.

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