

NEWSviews

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

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Visit our Website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

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

Date Changes for Spring Meetings and AGM Details

Since planning our time with Dr. Smardz Frost earlier this year, her schedule has found her in the USA on the date she was to be with us. Therefore, we are grateful to report that Dr. Todd Stubbs, along with Dr. Reg Horne of Lakehead University Department of Interdisciplinary Studies in Orillia, will be speaking to us this month instead.

We will meet on Tuesday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the museum for the promised evening entitled "The Tudhope: Orillia's Car and the People Who Built it". Please see page 4 for more details on this topic.

Dr. Karolyn Smardz Frost, author and instructor at York University, will present her latest research on

Canadian Black History. This meeting is a joint venture with the Barrie Historical Association, and it will take place on Thursday, April 29 at 7:30 at Barrie City Hall Rotunda.

As well, final details for our May 18 Annual General Meeting are in place. This year, we will dine and meet at the new Fendley Hall, 565 Bryne Drive, Barrie. Following our regular elections, we will welcome Anne Brolley, who will demonstrate handwriting analysis and its use with historical documents. Tickets are \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Purchase at our March or April meetings, or call Jill at 739-6220 to reserve. See pages 4 and 5 for directions and more details on this evening!

SCHA 2010 Schedule – various locations

March 23 – Dr. Todd Stubbs, Professor of Canadian History, and **Dr. Reg Horne**, Professor of Geography, Lakehead University, discussing The Tudhope Car Company of Orillia – at the **Simcoe County Museum, Midhurst, at 7:30**

April 29 – Dr. Karolyn Smardz Frost, Department of History, York University, on Canadian Black History – **7:30 p.m. at Barrie City Hall**

May 18 – Our Annual General Meeting – Dinner, Elections and **Anne Brolley**, Handwriting Analyst – **Fendley Hall, Barrie, cash bar 5:30, dinner 6:00**

2010 Fall events will be detailed in the June issue

President's Message by Helen Coutts

The winter that wasn't as rough as usual in total is slipping towards spring. Your Board had to change some speakers to a different month. As usual check the front page for the exact details, as we look to a regular meeting in March and our joint meeting with Barrie Historical to hear Karolyn Smardz Frost at the Barrie Rotunda on April 29. The Annual General Meeting is also falling into place. We have a new venue, (see address on front page and map on page), including the promise of a good meal, harp music, another silent auction, and a handwriting analysis person instead of a historical lecture. We hope your calendar will let you join us.

Plans for our fall meetings are still flexible, so let us know if your group

would welcome a joint meeting at your location with us sharing the cost, and hopefully bringing some of our members to augment the attendance. Contact any of our Executive to discuss possibilities.

I have to admit that retirement and enough savings are encouraging Ron and I to see some of the rest of the world before we are too old to travel. A one week guided tour in Cuba seeing land, tobacco and sea as we travelled 1200 kilometers started our year on the right note, and shortly after we spent two weeks in Arizona with friends who are wintering there. Then we hope for an early spring so Ron can help with most of the cultivation, seeding and weed control on the farm before we join friends on an Italian land tour linked

with a western Mediterranean tour. That should put me well behind with my gardening and have me spending all summer trying to catch up. Hoping to see you at at least one of our spring meetings.

In Memoriam

David Yielding, past President for Tecumseh & West Gwillimbury Historical Society and faithful SCHA member, passed away February 5, 2010. He was a cherished friend, mentor and leader who guided T&WGHS officially for 15 years, but was "always there". He will be much missed. Our condolences to his wife Helen and their family.

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

SCHA Membership Fees Reminder

Thanks to all who have renewed already. For those who haven't, here are the details:
Please send your fee (\$12 for individual or institution, \$15 for couple or family) to
SCHA, Box 144, Barrie, ON L4M 4S9.



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 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 May 25, 2010

Friends of Historic Fort Willow

by Gord Hanson

In a press release dated December, 2009, chairperson Peter Monahan announced the formation of this volunteer group operating under the authority of Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) to promote the preservation and operation of Historic Fort Willow conservation area.

Friends of Historic Fort Willow intends to expand upon the work initiated by the Fort Willow

Improvement Group (whose members announced their retirement earlier in 2009 after thirteen years of activities to "revive the spirit of Fort Willow").

A picture-filled website <http://fortwillow.com> is maintained by 'Friends', setting out the details of events and volunteer opportunities, and providing a map to the Fort Willow site in Springwater Township. The conservation area is abundant in

aboriginal, fur trade and military history.

For further information or to join the Friends of Historic Fort Willow, please contact vice chair, Richard Dixon at 705-424-6525, or chair, Peter Monahan 705-435-0953, or refer to the website. Members meet the third Thursday of each month (April to October) at NVCA offices, Tiffin Centre, Utopia Ontario.

Memories of Cookstown...The Beat Goes On!!!

by Donna Wice, Project Coordinator

Don't you wish you had so much time on your hands that the only commitment you willingly faced on most given days was to listen to someone (well over 85 years of age) tell a heart-warming story from their growing up years? Or that you had an unencumbered afternoon to look at a tattered box full of cherished photos?

For the last three years I have had that privilege. Until I retired I didn't even suspect I would have such a zest for preserving history! My days are full of Cookstown connected photos and stories: the horses that fell down the long forgotten well and lived!, dear old Archie McLean, school custodian; nurse Marling who capably assisted at over 400 Cookstown children's births; the honour of having Prime Minister and Mrs. Diefenbaker at the Cookstown Fair's centennial celebration...to name but a few of the hundreds now in my possession.

This book is in contrast to the wonderful compilation of genealogy and property ownership in Joan McLean's *Glimpses of Cookstown* launched in November of 2008.

Memories of Cookstown, as the name implies, touches on times of heroism, nostalgia, sadness, mischief, achievement and change, all to do with people who lived in Cookstown and area.



Prime Minister and Mrs. Diefenbaker admiring the historical display at Cookstown Curling Club, September 1958

Over 300 interviews have been conducted by myself and my team of Nancy Hildebrand, Marj Mossman, and Beverley Jones using varied means to collect the stories: visiting retirement homes, family homes, even coffee shops and telephone interviews. Albums have been pulled out from under beds or from basement storage areas.

Another stroke of good fortune for Innisfil Historical Society was the awarding of a Community Reinvestment Fund Grant which allowed us to attain the professional editing and design skills of Gail Lucas. Gail, an Innisfil native and Old Girl (a term of endearment establishing that she has been in Innisfil over 60 years) is well known for having edited the very successful *Farms of Innisfil* local history book published in 2006.

So the *Memories of Cookstown* project moves along steadily, ever closer to completion. Very soon the process of collecting advance orders will begin, with a public launch of this hard covered treasure loosely scheduled for early fall. Looking for local history in a very readable format...stay tuned.



Nurse Martha Ann Marling

March Meeting and AGM Details

continued from page 1

The Tudhope: Orillia's Car and the People Who Built it

In 1908, the Tudhope Carriage Company of Orillia embarked on a brief stint as an automaker. Beginning small with a relatively inexpensive motorized buggy, by 1910 the company began manufacturing larger, mid-priced touring cars largely for a Canadian market; this venture lasted until 1913 when the autoplant went out of business.

The Tudhope Motor Company, as the auto business came to be called, reflected the wider expansion of Orillia's prewar industrial sector. This period witnessed substantial growth in industrial output accompanied by an influx of working people into the town to take up jobs

in the new and expanding factories.

In this presentation, Todd Stubbs and Reg Horne explore the impact of the Tudhope Motor Company on Orillia, with a particular focus on the experience of the people who worked in the plant.

We look forward to this presentation and hope to see you there March 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Annual General Meeting

Fendley Hall, 565 Bryne Drive, Barrie.

Take Highway 400 to Mapleview Drive exit. Turn west (toward Wal-Mart) and travel to the second stop light (Bryne Drive). Turn left on Bryne Drive and travel 1 km to 565 Bryne Drive on the lefthand side of the road. There is plenty of parking.

We will enjoy a three-course meal,

accompanied by local harpist, Amy Hynes. As well, our annual silent auction will be in place, and we welcome any donations from our members. Please bring them along to the spring meetings, or call Ellen Millar at 726-9300 ext. 1287 before May 10 to let her know what you can offer.

Following our regular elections and meeting, we will welcome Anne Brolley, certified graphoanalyst, who will demonstrate handwriting analysis of historical documents, prediction of personality traits, and dominant characteristics of writing styles from a few people you might recognize!

When a past employer analyzed Anne's handwriting as part of their hiring practice, the revealing

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Sir John A. Macdonald Twelfth Annual Dinner

by Dr. Richard Johnston

On Saturday, January 9, 2010, the twelfth annual John A. Macdonald Dinner was held in Orillia. Again, the dinner was totally sold out with former Secretary of State and Cabinet Minister, Barbara McDougall as our guest speaker. A large number of out-of-town guests attended this year's gala on what would have been John A.'s 195th birthday (1815-1891). The Toast to Canada was given by Fayne Bullen, and the Toast to John A. Macdonald by Dr. Richard Johnston. Wally Bremner was, again, the evening's Master of Ceremonies.

Our Guest Speaker, Barbara McDougall, gave an outstanding review of a number of past Prime Ministers, including World War One Prime Minister Robert Borden, and R.B. Bennett who, in her opinion, have been underrated and under appreciated by historians.

One of the highlights of the evening was

a cell phone call from the podium to John A.'s great-grandson, Hugh Gainsford, now living in Saskatoon at age 92. Hugh received a huge ovation from the crowd over the phone and was quite appreciative of this recognition. He had attended every dinner until this year, but because of age and distance, he felt unable to join us.

We are all looking forward to the bicentennial of John A.'s birth in 2015 and arrangements are underway to make this a huge celebration.

Next year's speaker will be Arthur Milnes from Kingston who is a noted authority on Prime Ministers and Canadian history.



Guest speaker Barbara McDougall, left, chats with Qennefer Brown at the Annual Dinner.

The Andrew Hunter Award 2010

character representation gleaned from that analysis surprised, amazed, inspired and motivated her.

Years of personal investigation lead Anne through innumerable libraries, pools of research books, papers and reports on handwriting analysis. She met her mentor Mary Ann Matthews, a Certified Graphoanalyst, TV and radio personality, who offered a basic handwriting analysis instruction course. After months of study, Anne was awarded a Certificate of Merit for the 8 Basic Steps Program in 2003.

The ‘basic’ curriculum of this program certainly wet her whistle for information. Her mentor prompted Anne to take the Certification Program from the International Graphoanalysis Society. After she completed the course of study and having successfully passed the required examinations, the title of Certified Graphoanalyst was awarded to her in March, 2006.

Anne is a past Editor of *Penstrokes*, a newsletter within the Ontario wing of IGAS and continues to update her knowledge today with the American and Canadian societies of the International Graphoanalyst Society.

Some of Anne Brolley’s notable articles include “I Know Who You Were”, and “Just a Thought” both published in *Penstrokes* newsletter. She was featured in the 2007 spring issue of *The Alliston Herald’s Sideroads* magazine where an outline of Sir Frederick Banting’s personality was revealed through handwriting analysis.

Tickets are \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Purchase at our March or April meetings, or call Jill Hynes at 739-6220 to reserve. See you there!

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

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

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

Doug Hamilton

Meet at Barrie City Hall – 7:30 p.m.

www.barriehistorical.com

Mar. 11 – Graeme King,, City of Barrie – Allandale Station Restoration

Apr. 8 – AGM – Central United – \$25

Apr. 29 – Karolyn Smardz-Frost – Joint meeting with SCHA

May 13 – Mary and Frank Boddy – *Echoes of Six Mile Lake: A Journey through time in Muskoka*

Collingwood District Historical Society – contact Joan Miller

www.historicallyspeakingcdhs.ca

Apr. 6 – Captain Bruce Sheppard – From the Bridge: Captain on the Great Lakes

May 29 – Tour of Historic and Architecturally Interesting Collingwood Homes

Essa Historical Society – contact Olive Lee

Meet at Thornton Library fourth Saturday of the month except July, Aug. & Dec. – 1:30 p.m.

June – Annual Mystery Bus Tour by Brian Baker in conjunction with Innisfil Historical

Genealogical Society – contact Linda Mitchell

Meet at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

79 Ferris Lane, Barrie – 2:00 p.m.

www.simcoebogs.com

Apr. 10 – Elsie Cole – Genealogy 2.0

May 1 – Rick Roberts – Family Tree Maker

Huronia Museum Huron

Ouendat Village – contact Jamie Hunter

549 Little Lake Park Road, Midland – Call 526-2844 www.huroniamuseum.com

Innisfil Historical Society – contact Donna Wice

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

Mar. 20 – Ellen Millar – Simcoe County Archives

April 17 – Distinguished People of Innisfil and Area

May 15 – Historica Projects from local students plus an overview of old Innisfil Schools

June – Annual Mystery Bus Tour by Brian Baker in conjunction with Essa Historical

Midhurst Historical Society – contact

Meagan Arnott

Meet at the Library, Finlay Mill Road 7:30 p.m.

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

Mar. 15-19 – March Break Day Camp

to Apr. 17 – Setting the Stage: 40 years of Playing Around: Mariposa Arts Theatre

Apr. 27 – bus trip to Toronto Distillery District for tour – \$70

History Speaker Series – contact Dan Byers

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

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

Apr. 21 – Geoff Booth – The Use of Music in Education in the 19th Century

May 19 – Bud Trivett – The 100th Anniversary of the Canadian Navy

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives – contact Nicole Jackson

13 Burke St. at Beck Blvd.
Call 549-2150 www.pencenmuseum.com

Mar. 15-19 – March Break Day Camp

Apr. 3 – Easter Eggstravaganza

May 18 – National Museum Day

June 5&6 – Doors Open

June 12 – Victorian Tea

Simcoe County Museum – contact Kelley Swift-Jones

1151 Highway 26, Midhurst – Call 728-3721

to Mar. 31 – Starlab from the ROM

Mar. 15-19 – March Break at the Museum – 10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Activities scheduled for the whole family

Apr. 28 – Historica Heritage Fair

May 6 – Night at the Museum Gala

June 12&13 – Wheels and Tracks in Motion

Stayner Heritage Society – contact Dorothy Millsap

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

www.staynerheritagesociety.com

Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury Historical Society – contact June Chambers

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

Call 905-775-7144

Mar. 15 – Mo Bayliss – Clay the Archaeology Way

Have a Wonderful Spring at your Historical Society!