

NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

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Contact the editor, Jill Hynes
at 705-739-6220 or at
mark.jill@sympatico.ca

Visit our Website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

SCHA

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

Two Big Events on One September Weekend

2012 Festival at Fort Willow

On Saturday, September 15, come out to the Festival at Fort Willow to experience encampment life during 1812. Fort Willow was developed as a half way point between Kempenfelt Bay and the Nottawasaga River enabling a continuous trade and transportation route from Lake Ontario through to Georgian Bay. During the War of 1812, the British military utilized this portage route for the transport of supplies and personnel as the lower lakes were occupied by the Americans.

Admission is free and visitors can enjoy the various re-enactors as they demonstrate their daily tasks including blacksmithing, candle making and musket ball making. There is a surgeon, magician, traveling minister, musicians and a seamstress. The Fort is brought to life with re-enactors performing various tasks and interacting with festival visitors. The Festival at Fort Willow is a great venue for families with interactive stations, children's entertainment and hands-on historical displays.

Visitors are reminded that there is no parking available at Fort Willow. There will be free parking and a free shuttle at the Grenfel Community Hall located at 1989 Sunnidale Road. The shuttle will run from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm or you can park at George Johnston Rd & Seadon Road and walk the mile trail to the Fort.

Royal Visit to Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons

Their Royal Highnesses the Earl and Countess of Wessex (Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones) will visit the historic site Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, near Midland, on Sunday, September 16, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. This is the first time in history that British Royalty has visited the site.

Sainte-Marie plans an extensive, fun, and highly animated experience for the Royal couple as they tour the site. The public is welcome to attend, and are encouraged to arrive early. Sainte-Marie opens at 10:00 a.m., regular site admission rates will apply. ...cont. on page 2

SCHA 2012 Schedule – Simcoe County Museum

September 18 – Andrew Hunter Award winner 2012, Adrian Bowles with his essay, *The Paths of George McLean and Leslie Frost: Two Soldiers from Orillia and the First World War* – at the **Simcoe County Museum, Midhurst, at 7:30 p.m.**

October 16 – Dorothy Duncan, SCHA Board Member, with her recent book, *Hoping for the Best, Preparing for the Worst: Everyday Life in Upper Canada, 1812-1814* – at the **Simcoe County Museum, Midhurst, at 7:30 p.m.**

November 13 – **NOTE DATE CHANGE** – Ted Barris, CBC Host, Author and Journalist, at the **Simcoe County Museum, Midhurst, at 7:30 p.m.**

President's Ponderings

by Helen Coutts

The back to school move and the start up of regular events remind us that fall is here. Nature certainly gave us a HOT, DRY summer which was perfect for cottage, boat and holidays but difficult for farmers and gardeners. Cattle farmers are scrambling to have enough hay for the winter. Grain farmers have been thankful for the few rains which kept the crops developing. Pictures from other parts of Ontario show crop failures from drought. Meanwhile, gardeners tried to water and still saw vegetables decline. Personally many of the annuals I bought gradually died and some of my hardy perennials are

looking sick, too.

Our educational S.C.H.A. meetings start in September. Come out to the Simcoe County Museum, which is Barrie's also, on September 18 at 7:30 to meet the author of the winning essay this year. Details of that meeting and October and November are on the front page. Note the change of week of the November meeting only. War of 1812-14 celebrations continue into the fall and next year.

Our personal historical event this summer was a visit to the 100th Anniversary Calgary Stampede with a side trip to Fort McMurray to personally see the

installations that retrieve the oil from the sands there. As long as we remain dependent on petroleum these types of innovations will need to continue.

Don't forget Fort Willow on September 15. They have wonderful re-enactments at that event. Closer to home, our Midhurst United Church celebrates 125 years this month in various ways each week with a special service at 10:30 a.m. on September 16. Then the Coutts are off to Europe to see some of their built history from the Danube.

See you at the meetings!

Continued from page 1

As part of the royal couple's seven day visit to Ontario and the Arctic starting September 11, they will also visit St. James-on-the-Lines Anglican Church in Penetanguishene.

The two facilities found out about the visit about five weeks ago but it was just released publicly on September 5.

St. James-on-the-Lines was chosen because the Honorable David Onley visited the church last year for its 175th anniversary and was "so impressed" with its accessibility. A Federal grant made the

renovation of the historic church possible. Onley and his wife will accompany the Earl and Countess of Wessex when they take part in the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service at the church, which will be lead by Archbishop Colin Johnson as well as the Reverend Ray Porth, who will retire at the end of the month. The small garrison church has a congregation of about 108 people and it normally holds a maximum of 119 people.

Special provision from the Penetanguishene Fire Department will allow for 40 additional seats, so that all

the parishioners can attend along with the Royal visitors and dignitaries, including Penetanguishene Mayor Gerry Marshall, Simcoe North Member of Provincial Parliament Garfield Dunlop and Simcoe North Member of Parliament Bruce Stanton and their spouses.

The service will be broadcast to the parish hall across the road, for up to 100 more people, all of whom must pre-arrange passes. Following the service, the Royal couple will take part in a "walk about" before heading to Sainte-Marie among the Hurons at noon.



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, First Vice President	728-3825 mwfisher2@hotmail.com
Gord Harris, Treasurer	739-7649 gordon.harris@xplornet.com
Amber Bagg, Corresponding Secretary	252-7094 amberbagg@hotmail.ca

For Membership Information, contact

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

Please submit photos and articles about 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 30, 2012

Upcoming SCHA Speaker: Dorothy Duncan

Dorothy Duncan has worked with organizations across Canada and around the world to ensure that Canada's culinary history is recognized, researched, and recorded. In 2007 her book *Canadians at Table* won the Cuisine Canada and University of Guelph Culinary Book Gold Award. She lives in Orillia, and brings much wisdom and wit to our Board of Directors of the SCHA where she serves as a Director-at-Large.

Her latest book, *Hoping for the Best, Preparing for the Worst* explores the web of human relationships that developed in Upper Canada following the American Revolution, in the years leading up to the War of 1812, and during the conflict that raged for two years between the young United States and Britain, its

former master. The book focuses on the families, homes, gardens, farms, roads, villages, towns, shops, and fabric of everyday life in this frontier society. Upper Canada was a land in transition as First Nations, fur traders, Loyalists, entrepreneurs, m e r c h a n t s , farmers, and newcomers from every walk of life formed alliances and partnerships based on friendship, marriage, respect, religion, proximity, and the desire to survive and prosper.



With the declaration of war in June 1812, Upper Canadians realized that not only their lives, but their future peace and prosperity were threatened. They responded with perseverance, loyalty, and unexpected acts of bravery.

Join us on Tuesday, October 16 as Dorothy presents her research and discusses the aspects of early Canadian life before and during the war that are often excluded from other remembrances and historical records. We will meet at the Simcoe County Museum, Midhurst, at 7:30 p.m.

Photo and overview provided by Dundurn Press
http://www.dundurn.com/authors/dorothy_duncan

Upcoming SCHA Speaker: Ted Barris

On Tuesday, November 13, (take note that this is a week earlier than our regularly scheduled monthly meeting), we welcome Ted Barris to our monthly meeting at the Simcoe County Museum at 7:30 p.m.

Ted Barris is an accomplished author, journalist and broadcaster. As well as hosting stints on CBC Radio and regular contributions to the *Globe and Mail* and *National Post*, Barris has authored 16 non-fiction books and is a full-time professor of journalism at Centennial College in Toronto. He has also written a weekly newspaper column - The Barris Beat - for more than 20 years.

Writing military history was not Ted Barris's first choice. Like most writers, he began his writing career in search of stories, and, like his father (Alex Barris) before him, has established a solid reputation for getting the facts

straight and telling the history well.

Born in Toronto in 1949, Ted knew in grade school he wanted to become a writer. Coincidentally, it was during his research for a term paper – *The Causes of the War of 1812* – and at the urging of an inspirational elementary school teacher (Mike Malott) that he fell in love with history and historical writing. The practical side of writing hit him early, however, because while attending high school, he earned spending money by contributing stories on high school activities to the neighbourhood weekly, the *Agincourt Mirror*.

In 1968, Barris entered Ryerson Polytechnical Institute's three-year Radio and Television Arts program. Though he graduated with an RPI diploma, he eventually returned to his studies, made up the credits required and received his Bachelor of Applied

Arts from Ryerson University in 1976 (receiving his degree at the same graduation as his wife Jayne MacAulay – they had married in 1975).

Drawn initially to journalism associated with entertainment coverage, in the early 1970s Barris wrote freelance music reviews for the *Globe and Mail*, and a number of Canadian show-business magazines. This writing put him in line for a staff position with Warner Bros. Records in the company's artist and repertoire department, but instead he moved west to work in radio and television. For two years he worked on staff at the University of Saskatchewan, writing, directing and editing educational TV. One short film he wrote and directed – a public service message about noise pollution – won the White Owl Conservation Award (Montreal) in 1973.

Ted Barris, cont.

While residing in Saskatoon, Barris discovered data about the earliest days of steam navigation on western Canada's major waterways; he learned that there were first-hand witnesses, diaries and files in local archives brimming with similar material; so he set about tracking down the sources for a potential manuscript. On receipt of a Canada Council grant in 1974, he began researching, interviewing and writing his first book – *Fire Canoe: Prairie Steamboat Days Revisited* (McClelland and Stewart, 1977).

In 1978, Barris took up freelancing fulltime – as a journalist and broadcaster – moving back and forth across the country as work demanded. His documentary work was again recognized in 1978, when his conversations with witnesses in *The Sinking of the Titanic* aired on CKO, earned him the International Billboard Radio Documentary Award (New York).

Taking up residence in Edmonton in 1979, Barris returned to his writing of history as a focus for much of his freelance work and income. He wrote scripts for the Alberta Educational Communications Authority, including documentaries on Aboriginal and Metis life, as well as a series of history documentaries called *The Alberta Experience*, which celebrated the province's 75th anniversary year.

During his stay in Edmonton he also wrote his next three books – *Positive Power: The Story of the Edmonton Oilers Hockey Club* (ESP, 1983); *Rodeo Cowboys, the Last Heroes* (Prairie Books, 1985); and *Spirit of the West* (Key Porter, 1987). When Hurtig Publishers began preparing entries for its new *Canadian Encyclopedia* (1985), Barris was invited to write several history entries ranging from sport to navigation to wartime material.

Using Toronto as his base again in the late 1980s, Barris began writing a syndicated weekly column, called *The Barris Beat* and he freelanced on-air principally for CBC Radio. He began writing for *Facts and Arguments* in the *Globe and Mail* and when the *National Post* came on the scene in the 1990s, he wrote features for its *Issues and Ideas* section. And his features focusing on Canadian military history began appearing in *Legion* magazine, the *Canadian Aviation Historical Society Journal*, *Airforce* magazine and *Esprit de Corps*.

Documentary radio and periodical writing about Canadian military history led to longer manuscripts and the first of his military books – *Behind the Glory: The Plan that Won the Allied Air War* (Macmillan, 1992); *Days of Victory: Canadians Remember 1939-1945* co-authored with his father, Alex Barris (Macmillan, 1995); and *Deadlock in Korea: Canadians at War 1950-1953* (Macmillan, 1999). All were bestsellers in hardback and paperback. Macmillan also published his book *Playing Overtime: A Celebration of Oldtimers Hockey* (1995).

As a spin-off of his military writing, Barris was invited to join the roster of speakers travelling the country as a guest speaker for the Association of Canadian Clubs. In 1993, Ted Barris received the Canada 125 medal “for service to Canada and community.”

Academia came calling in 1999. Centennial College's School of Communications, Media and Design (in Toronto), needed a qualified journalist and broadcaster to teach at its Centre for Creative Communications. He re-instituted Remembrance Day activities at the college; each year since 1999, the communications school has come to a full stop as invited veterans

offer first-hand accounts of their wartime experiences during a full November 11 observance.

During this same period Barris completed two other books on non-military subjects. In 1999, he co-authored with Rod Austin *Carved in Granite: 125 Years of Granite Club History* (Macmillan); and in 2001, he co-authored with Alex Barris *Making Music: Profiles from a Century of Canadian Music* (Harper Collins).

In 2004, his most popular Canadian history work up to that time was released by Thomas Allen Publishers, on the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy. *JUNO: Canadians at D-Day, June 6, 1944* was a bestseller on the day it was published.

A rewritten and updated 60th Anniversary Days of Victory edition was published by Thomas Allen Publishers in 2005, as well as a republished edition of *Behind the Glory: Canada's Role in the Allied Air War*, completing Barris's trilogy of books on the Second World War.

His recent books, *Victory At Vimy, Canada Comes of Age, April 9-12, 1917* and *Breaking the Silence: Veterans' Untold Stories from the Great War to Afghanistan* received national coverage and accolades.

Barris also acts as historical consultant and guide for veterans' revisits to Second World War sites: to Juno Beach, liberation sites in Holland, and to the U.K. to visit the locations where their secret war was waged against the Axis. His wartime tour of Poland, Czech Republic and northern Germany was a unique glimpse behind the old iron curtain. He also led tours to join the 90th and 95th anniversary observances at Vimy Ridge, in France.

We look forward to his presentation to us on November 13.

Excerpted from Ted Barris' Biography website at <http://tedbarris.com/about/>

Book Reviews

Tiger Dunlop – Soldier, Engineer & Army Surgeon by Paul Carroll

The well-illustrated 140 page popular history presents Dr. Dunlop's recollections of the American War, with annotations, explanations and commentary by local heritage author, Paul Carroll. The book has been prepared to celebrate the contribution of a local hero for his service in the War of 1812.

To purchase a copy for please contact Paul Carroll at TheSolSean@aol.com or 519-524-8303 – Cost \$25.00

Our Ansley Story. Over 900 Years of Family Tales. by Margaret Ansley Ferguson

In a time in Canadian history before women had the vote, six Ansley sisters in a family of ten children ventured into an unknown field of operating a private residential school and home for severely mentally handicapped children. At the time of opening there were no Ontario laws to support them, no template to follow, and little encouragement from the psychiatrists who trained them. The Ansley Home for Children opened in St Catharines in 1920, having about eight or nine children, then moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1927, at the site of Riverbend Inn.

Two of the sisters were Ontario elementary school teachers, two had been nurses overseas in Italy in WW1, one had been editor of the Mothers' Magazine for the David C. Cook Co. in Illinois, and one was the music and calisthenics director. The School operated successfully for fifty-two years, closing in 1972 when only two sisters were left.

The author is a niece of these women, knowing them and their school from an infant to the time when she taught with her aunt for several years.

The book is enhanced by many photos, several maps, and a complete genealogy from 1066 to 2012. It is a tale of courage, adventure and dedication – a social, political as well as a family history.

To purchase a copy for please contact David Hemmings, bygonespublishing@gmail.com 905-468-4964 – Cost \$30.00

The Andrew Hunter Award 2013

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 eighth year of competition, we look forward to receiving many worthy entries for each of the two awards being offered.



Andrew Hunter 1863 - 1940

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 2012-2013 academic year.

The thesis paper must have been submitted for grading in the 2011-2012 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 22, 2013 and undergraduate theses shall be postmarked by September 30, 2012. 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 2013 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

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 2:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of the month February - June and October - November

Barrie Historical Association – contact Doug Hamilton

Meet at Barrie City Hall – 7:30 p.m.
www.barriehistorical.com

Sept. 20 – Dorothy Duncan – We Are At War: What Now?

Nov. 8 – TBA

Collingwood District Historical Society – contact Joan Miller

705-445-1119
Meet at Leisure Time Club, 100 Minnesota Street, Collingwood – 7:00 p.m.
www.historicallyspeakingcdhs.ca

Oct. 1 – Shane Ardiel – The Apples of Georgian Bay: The Road to Success

Nov. 5 – Ian Darling – Amazing Airmen: Stories of Canadian Fliers in WWII

Essa Historical Society – contact Olive Lee

705-458-9971
Meet at Thornton Library fourth Saturday of the month except July, Aug. & Dec. – 1:30 p.m.

Friends of Historic Fort Willow – contact Gord Hanson fortwillow.com

Sept. 14-15 – Festival at the Fort – See page 1

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

Oct. 6 – location change – 30 Worsley St. Barrie, Steckley Gooderham

Michael Fitton – Country Doctor/Military

Surgeon – A Canadian in the U.S. Civil War

Nov. 3 – Ron Wencer – Looking Through Steve's Eyes – Rediscovering a Forgotten Veteran

Huron Museum Huron Ouendat Village – contact Jamie Hunter

549 Little Lake Park Road, Midland – 705-526-2844 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

Sept. 15 – John Burns – Old Time Radio

Oct. 20 – Terry Boyle – Ontario Haunted Sites

Nov. 17 – The Celebration of our 40th Anniversary at Churchill Hall

Museum on the Boyne – contact Katie Huddleston-Naieb

250 Fletcher Crescent in Riverdale Park, Alliston – 705-435-0167

Orillia Museum of Art and History – contact Lynda Whiston

30 Peter Street South, Orillia – 705-326-2159 www.orilliamuseum.org
to Oct. 27 – Frozen in Time/Images Within

Oct. 28 – Art Meets History Tour

Nov. 6-Jan. 5 – Marta Brestovansky – Heart of Two Worlds – opening reception
Nov. 8 at 7 p.m.

Orillia History Speaker Series – contact Daniel Byers

Meet at St. Paul's United Church, Peter St. and Coldwater Rd., Orillia – 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 17 – Donald Macdonald – The Moose River Mine Disaster

Nov. 21 – Marc Stevens – Escape, Evasion and Revenge

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives – contact Nicole Jackson

13 Burke St. at Beck Blvd.
Call 705-549-2150
www.pencenmuseum.com

Sept. 29 – Settlers' Day honouring the Descendents of War of 1812

Oct. 27 – Halloween Spooktacular – 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Oct. 30 – Rescue Mediums Viewing and Tour – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. \$5 admission

Ramara Historical Society – contact Cathy Westcott

westcott.cathy963@gmail.com
Meet at Udney Community Centre, 2347 Concession Road 10 (east of Orillia) 7:00 p.m. Third Thursday of the month (except July and August)

Simcoe County Museum – contact Kelley Swift-Jones

1151 Highway 26, Midhurst – 705-728-3721 museum.simcoe.ca
Sept. 14-16 – Simcoe County Quilt, Rug and Craft Fair

Oct. 13 – Last Blast - Historical Construction Equipment Event

Oct. 24 & 25 – Evenings of Halloween

Dec. 17 & 18 – Artisans' Christmas Show

Stayner Heritage Society – contact Dorothy Millsap

www.staynerheritagesociety.com
705-428-2540

Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury Historical Society – contact June Chambers

Meet at Tec We Gwill Hall, Newton Robinson, 7:30 p.m.
Third Monday of the month January-May and September-November
Call 905-775-7144 or 905-936-4086

Sept. 17 – How I spent my Summer Holidays

Oct. 15 – War of 1812-14 and the pivotal role played by Chief Tecumseh

Nov. 19 – Veterans of both World Wars

Dec. 17 – Old-Fashioned Christmas Party