

NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

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Visit our Website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca



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

Tall Ships Return to Georgian Bay!

Building on the huge success of past Wasaga under Siege events, the Historic Military Establishment of Upper Canada in partnership with the Town of Wasaga Beach, Ontario Parks, Town of Collingwood and Nancy Island Historic Site look forward to hosting you once again from August 16-18. Wasaga under Siege "A War of 1812 Experience" will once again come to life as over 300 re-enactors will take part echoing history through the streets and waters of Wasaga Beach, Collingwood and Nancy Island Historic Site.

If you have never attended Wasaga under Siege in the past or have been a regular for the past decade this year is certainly the one not to miss! As part of Ontario's War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemorations the Tall Ships 1812 Tour, presented by

Redpath Sugar will be returning to the shores of Nottawasaga Bay as part of Wasaga under Siege 2013. In partnership with the port of Collingwood, three Tall Ships will be taking part in a sail past along Beach Area 1 and 2 on Friday evening and then participating in the planned skirmish re-enactment taking place on the shores of beach area two afterwards.

Confirmed tall ships are the square topsail schooner Lynx, the schooner Madelaine and the topsail sloop Friends Good Will. Both the Lynx and the Friends Good Will saw action in the War of 1812 and are replicas of the ships of the same name. The Madelaine is a reconstruction of a mid-19th century Great Lakes schooner.

For more information, see www.wasagaundersiege1812.com.



SCHA 2013 Schedule

Saturday, September 14 – Tour of the S.S. Keewatin at Port McNicoll. Meet at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons parking lot, at 10 a.m. sharp (go to SCHA sign). Each person to arrange their own transportation or carpool. **Must call Gord or Audrey Hanson by August 27th** for more information. **705-721-9401**

October 15 – Andrew Hunter Prize Winner, Aaron Kontkanen, on his topic E.C. Drury at the **Simcoe County Museum, Midhurst, at 7:30 p.m.**

November 19 – Ted Barris, at the **Barrie Legion, at 7:30 p.m.**

SCHA AGM

The SCHA Annual General Meeting found a new venue this year. We enjoyed a lovely meal at the Midhurst United Church, followed by our historically succinct business meeting.

As part of the meeting, we bid adieu to our president, Helen Coutts. Deep appreciation for her leadership over the past years, and her ability to maintain the Association's value in the eyes of the County was expressed by Audrey Hanson, below. Presentation of flowers and a life membership to Helen marked the occasion.



Helen is replaced by First Vice President Mark Fisher who is no stranger to the SCHA or the historical community of Simcoe County. We look forward to the coming months as Mark leads us into the next chapter of SCHA history.

Past secretaries Ellen Millar and Jill Hynes were honoured as well with life memberships and the gift of flowers. With over twenty years' experience between them, the secretaries stated that they were pleased to serve and also pleased to pass on the important jobs to other Association members!

Andrew Hunter Prize winner, Aaron Kontkanen, pictured left with Audrey Hanson, was in attendance to receive his award and a copy *The Visible Past*. Aaron will present his paper at the October SCHA meeting.

Our speaker for the evening was Jamie Hunter of the Huronia Museum. He

presented a detailed analysis of the history of the Penetanguishene Road. With intriguing images and stories, we learned of the impact this engineering challenge had for the early residents of this county. As well, Jamie included a number of tales regarding native lands, treaties and the War of 1812. The crowd was left with lots to explore in Huronia this summer.



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

Mark Fisher, President	728-3825 mwfisher2@hotmail.com
Gord Harris, Treasurer	739-7649 gordon.harris67@gmail.com
Amber Bagg, Corresponding Secretary	252-7094 amberbagg@hotmail.ca

For Membership Information, contact

Earl Elliott, Membership Chair	734-9808 earl.elliott@rogers.com
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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, 2013

Renew your membership for 2013! If you have not already, please support the SCHA by submitting your membership form at the March meeting, or by mailing it to Box 144, Barrie, ON L4M 4S9. Dues are \$12 for an individual and \$15 for a couple of family.

SAVE THIS DATE

July 20 . 2013 . 6 pm

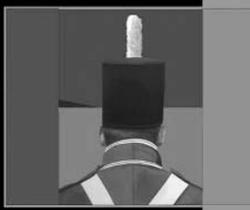
OMAH presents a one-time only

Live AUCTION of 16

Charles Pachter artworks

donated to the OMAH
building campaign fund by the artist

Invest in iconic contemporary art by a Canadian master
Invest in your community and help OMAH to grow...






OMAH would like to thank Charles Pachter, OC for his most generous donation of 16 major works of art to be auctioned off to benefit the Orillia Museum of Art & History. We are truly privileged to have the support of an artist of his stature.

ORILLIA MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY
inspiring creativity and celebrating history

30 Peter St. South, Orillia
www.orilliamuseum.org
705.326.2159

Destinations

Destinations is a brand new travel tool to help Canadians connect with historic sites, museums, and heritage organizations. Canadians can browse a map to pick and choose the sites they want to visit while traveling the country, save them to the Trip Planner, and export it to a PDF to take with them on their trip.

This interactive online treasure trove on the Canada's History website is sure to spark some ideas for local, and not so local, getaways this summer! Enjoy perusing the many interesting travel and tourism offerings at www.canadashistory.ca/Destinations.

Canada History Week

Beginning in 2013, July 1 to 7 will become Canada History Week. Starting on Canada Day, this week is an opportunity for Canadians to learn more about their history through local and national activities and events.

"Canadians want to know more about our history, and these new measures will make our history more accessible to all Canadians, particularly our youth," The Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages. "This is especially important as we approach Canada's 150th birthday in 2017, which provides an unprecedented opportunity to celebrate our history and the achievements that contributed to the united, strong, and free Canada we know today."

For more information on programs for museums and other initiatives in the coming years, visit pch.gc.ca and search the Newsroom, Canada History Week, June 11, 2013.

Simcoe County Heritage Fair

Once again, the Board of Directors of the SCHA provided funds for the Simcoe County Heritage Fair, held on April 24 at the Simcoe County Museum. Our annual sponsorship is a part of the Community Partnership Program available to all member organizations.

This year's fair was well attended by students from across the county. The topics for their displays ranged from mining to Canadian women's hockey to native music and Stomp'n' Tom

Connors. Of course, the War of 1812 was well represented too!

In all, twenty awards were presented, including the award for the top student in each grade, provided by the SCHA. Awarded by our president Helen Coutts, one student from grades four to eight received this honour recognizing "excellence in a project for each grade level."

The SCHA looks forward to a continued partnership with this historical research event!

The War of 1812: reminiscences and recollections

by Jill Hynes

The following notes were compiled by the author for a presentation to the SCHA in October, 2011. This is the third installment of the series and publication will continue in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

According to The War of 1812 website (www.warof1812.ca), an interesting collection of opinion and details, some provided by Parks Canada staff, the story of the capture of Detroit is as follows: on July 11th 1812, 2,500 American troops under General Hull reached the Detroit River and camped at Fort Detroit. At Amherstburg on the Canadian side of the river were 100 British regulars, 300 militia and 150 Indians led by Tecumseh.

Hull crossed the Detroit and made his headquarters in a Canadian farm house. He issued a proclamation which was printed for distribution among Canadians. It began:

INHABITANTS OF CANADA
After thirty years of peace and prosperity, the United States have been driven to arms. The injuries and aggressions, the insults and indignities of Great Britain have once more left no alternative but manly resistance or unconditional submission. The army under my command has now waves over the territory of Canada. To the peaceful and unoffending inhabitants it brings neither danger nor difficulty. I come to find enemies, not to make them; I come to protect not to injure you ... I have a force which will break down all opposition, and that force is but the vanguard of a much greater. If, contrary to your own interest, and the just expectations of my country, you should take part in the approaching contest, you will be considered and treated as enemies, and the horrors and calamities of war will stalk you...

General Hull was so preoccupied with his attempts to terrify Canadians with printed words that he neglected to protect American forts on Lake Michigan. As a result, a small force of British and Indians captured Fort Michilimackinac, while other Indians seized Fort Dearborn (Chicago).

After these small but strategic victories, the Indians took such courage that small bands of them hurried northward from the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to join Tecumseh on the Canadian frontier. Within a short time, the great Indian commander had more than six hundred braves ready and eager for battle.

Hull waited uneasily as Indians swarmed across the border and as Canadian militiamen rallied to the defence of their land.

The general became increasingly nervous at the thought of facing an enemy force of British regulars, sharpshooting backwoodsmen and hundreds of angry Indians.

His nervousness finally gave way to near panic. On August 11th, he ordered his army to retreat across the river to Detroit.

Two days after the withdrawal of the Americans, General Isaac

Brock arrived at Amherstburg, where he held an

immediate conference with his officers and with Tecumseh.

After a brief consideration of the border situation, Brock decided to cross the river and make a direct attack on Fort Detroit. Pleased with this firm and courageous decision, Tecumseh pointed at the British general and shouted "Ho! Here is a man!"

On August 16th, 1812, British regulars, Canadian militiamen and Indians advanced on Detroit as the guns of Amherstburg threw shells across the water. The site of the advancing redcoats and the sound of the shrill, wild Indian war whoops caused an uneasy stir among the Americans. General Hull's own forces still out-numbered those of the approaching enemy, but he did not know this. Feeling the situation within in the fort hopeless, he ran up a white flag and quickly agreed to surrender.

Once the surrender is accomplished, Hull emerges from his catatonic state like a man coming out of an anaesthetic. Scarcely able to speak or act that morning, he is now both lucid and serene. "I have done what my conscience directed," he declares. "I have saved Detroit and the Territory from the horrors of an Indian massacre." He knows that his country will censure him (though he cannot yet comprehend the magnitude of that censure).

In addition to an easy victory, the daring invaders captured valuable goods, including thirty three cannon, a large quantity of stores and equipment, a number of horses and a newly built sailing ship. As a token of appreciation of Tecumseh's part in

the affair, Brock slipped off his own red military sash and wrapped it about the chief's waist. In quick response, Tecumseh removed his beaded sash and handed it over to the general.

According to Egerton Ryerson, soon after Detroit was surrendered, General Brock took off his sash, and publicly placed it around the body of the chief Tecumseh, who received the honour conferred on him with evident gratification; but was seen the next day without his sash. The British general, fearing that something had displeased the Indian chief, sent his interpreter for an explanation. Tecumseh told him that he did not wish to wear the sash as a mark of distinction, when an older warrior than himself was present; he had transferred the sash to the Wyandot chief, Roundhead.

General Brock stated that "of many Indians whom he met at Amherstburg, he who most attracted his notice was the Shawnee chief, Tecumseh—a more gallant or sagacious warrior does not, I believe, exist; he was the admiration of every one, and was as humane as he was brave."

On congratulating General Brock, after the capture of Detroit, Tecumseh said to the General, "We observed you from a distance standing the whole time in an erect position, and when the boats reached the shore, you were the first man on the land; your bold and sudden movements frightened the enemy, and so compelled them to surrender to half their number." General Brock engaged the Indians to throw away the scalping knife—implanting in their hearts the virtue of clemency, and teaching them to feel pleasure and pride in compassion extended to a vanquished enemy. In return, they revered him as their common Father, and whilst under his control, were guilty of no excesses; and thereby the noble Tecumseh was humane as well as brave.

to be continued

The Andrew Hunter Award 2014

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 seventh 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



Andrew Hunter 1863 - 1940

of an undergraduate credit course during the 2013-2014 academic year. The thesis paper must have been submitted for grading in the 2012-2013 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 21, 2014 and undergraduate theses shall be postmarked by July 31, 2013. 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 2014 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

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

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.

Sept. 14 – Plaque unveiling for the
Commemoration of the Founding of
Utopia

Friends of Historic Fort Willow – contact Gord Hanson

fortwillow.com

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

Sept. 7 – TBA

Don't forget to **call Gord or Audrey Hanson by August 27th at 705-721-9401** for more information on the September 14 SCHA trip to tour the SS Keewatin, an iconic Canadian historical destination in our own county!

Huronian Museum Huron

**Ouendat Village – contact Jamie
Hunter**

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

www.huroniamuseum.com

June 28 – Opening of Tall Ships
and the War of 1812 Exhibit

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. 21 – Colonel Tammy Harris –
First Female Commander of CFB
Borden

Oct. 19 – Clint Lovell – Eastview
Collegiate

Nov. 15 – AGM and banquet at
Stroud Presbyterian Church

Museum on the Boyne – contact Katie Huddleston-Naieb

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

Orillia History Speaker Series – contact Daniel Byers

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

Orillia Museum of Art and History

30 Peter Street South, Orillia –
705-326-2159

www.orilliamuseum.org

to July 13 – Annual Women's
Show and the work of Marta
Brestovansky: Heart of Two Worlds

July 20-Sept. 8 – Charles Pachter:
Landmarks

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives – contact Nicole Jackson

13 Burke St. at Beck Blvd.

Call 705-549-2150

www.pencenmuseum.com

to July 26 – Egypt the Gift of the
Nile – Travelling Exhibit from the
ROM

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

July and August – Summer
Sundays with demonstrations,
activities and tours with costumed
interpreters

Aug. 25 – Sixth Annual Savour
Simcoe Food Tasting Event

Stayner Heritage Society – contact Dorothy Millsap

www.staynerheritagesociety.com
705-428-2540

July 6 – 16th Annual Heritage Day –
11 a.m.-4 p.m. including the
Heritage Car Show

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. 16 – TBA