

# NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

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### Visit our Website

[www.simcoecountyhistory.ca](http://www.simcoecountyhistory.ca)

# SCHA

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

## Remembering the Recent Past

by Audrey Hanson

Second in a series of articles to commemorate the past of the SCHA

The books featured in this article are still available for your enjoyment and provide an opportunity to read about the recent past of Simcoe County. Some of the books are available at the Barrie Public Library and/or at the museum and archives of Simcoe County. If any SCHA members have copies of these books, we would love to have them donated for display at our meetings and especially for the 2016 celebration of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SCHA. Please contact the editor of *News and Views* if any of these books are available for this purpose.

There is a photo by Adelaide Leitch titled *Mill on the Wye in Autumn, Wyevale*, in her book *The Visible Past* (1967). This black and white photo appears on page 264 in the chapter titled *Folio: The Visible Present*. I wonder if this is the mill, which no longer seems to exist, but is described by John Craig, the author of *Simcoe County The Recent Past*, and was the subject of our question in the December 2014 *News and Views*.

To further pique your interest, there is a chapter on Saw Mills and Grist Mills in a small book titled *Monty Leigh Remembers* edited by Grace Leigh and Sally Gower, 1983. The mills were dependent on water and steam power and often were destroyed by fire, floods, and dam breaks so that few remain except for the rubble of old foundations which may be found in travels around the county. An author connection in this interesting volume appears below, as it contains a reference to the Simcoe County writer Marion Keith:

“A water powered saw mill in South Orillia, Lot 10, Concession 2, west half, was owned by Alex Harvie and later by John Robertson. This mill burned down in 1915 and was rebuilt by George Jordan. This was on the property bought around 1965 for the proposed Simcoe College. On the north side of this mill pond was a log house owned by Mr. Miller who taught school in the log school house in Forest Home. He was the father of Esther Miller, the school teacher and author who wrote under the pen name of Marion Keith.” (p.87)

continued on page 2...

### SCHA 2015 Schedule

**April 18** – Larry Cotton – 100 Taverns in 100 Miles at Innisfil Town Hall, 2101 Innisfil Beach Road at 2 p.m. – Joint venture with six local historical societies

**May 12** – Annual General Meeting and Dinner – 5:30 p.m. at the Midhurst United Church, 91 Doran Road – \$25 per person

Guest speakers: Monarchy Society..Little known tidbits about the Royals!

Obtain your ticket by cash or cheque by May 1, 2015. Call Audrey @ 705-721-9401, see her at the April meeting or e-mail hanson9401@rogers.com

I looked up some books by Esther Miller MacGregor, whose pen name is Marion Keith. Her first novel was *Duncan Polite* with a first chapter titled *The Watchman of Glenoro*, published in 1905. Her last novel was *The Grand Lady*, in 1960. Here is a quote that was printed in *The Recent Past* (1977) by John Craig, who devoted two pages to this author in a chapter on the Women of Simcoe County. He quotes from her book *The Grand Lady* as it describes the life of a pioneer woman, based on a memory of Esther's Aunt Flora:

"I can see her yet, standing out there at the cookhouse door, washing the old churn dasher, and singing 'Over the Water and Over the Sea' ... and quoting Shakespeare or the Psalms ... and with half a dozen children underfoot.

We owe any progress we have made in life to her influence...

From the door of the log shanty, where her girlhood had been spent, she watched the little clearing around her widen, saw the great elms and maples come crashing to earth under the pioneer axes, saw the smoke of neighbouring clearings rise in a ring around her own, until they merged in wide, sunny fields.

But there was no corresponding widening of her horizons; she moved only once, from the first log shanty to the new log house, the width of a field. Two brothers and a sister went out into the world, father and mother went down the narrow farm road to the church yard, but she toiled until she was left alone, and

her work was done." (p.220-221)

In *The Story of Oro* edited by Joanna McEwen, 1987, there is also a brief excerpt about Esther who died at Owen Sound, her husband's family home, in 1961 at the age of 90. There is a slight discrepancy as to her actual date of birth. More important is that as we read her writing, Esther seems to be our very own Lucy Maud Montgomery, even as she married a Presbyterian minister and her books are "strongly influenced by her Presbyterian background". It appears that she was born at Edgar, taught school in Rugby and Orillia, and lived at Forest Home, thereby making her our very own homegrown author. She was married in Orillia when her writing career was already established, although marriage and travel influenced writing throughout her life.

The books by Esther Miller MacGregor, aka Marion Keith, are out of print now but copies can be found at the Simcoe County Archives. One book, *The Black Barbarian*, a biography, was found as an e-book on the Internet. *The Black Barbarian* was the name given to early Canadian missionary in China, George L. Mackay, and referred to his black hair and beard and his outsider status. She also wrote for a Presbyterian Sunday School publication and under the pen name of Martha Graham. The pen name Marion Keith was a composite of her sister's children. Her first book *Duncan Polite* shows her intimate knowledge of the strong and humorous characters who inhabited the area of Oro at the turn of

the twentieth century and earlier, even as various factions had to get along for limited resources.

*The Black Barbarian* and *Monty Leigh Remembers* both have a paragraph describing the breaking up of field stone for building material. One breaks up stone using the heat of wood fire and the other using sledge hammer and wedges. These draw a vivid picture of our pioneer roots. Monty Leigh decided later in life to split a stone for a patio, a stone that had been removed from a field years earlier:

"Monty remembered that stone because he had picked it from the field and piled it on the fence row more than half a century before. Now, he recalled the beauty of that granite boulder, not just the burden of moving it. At work or leisure, Monty enjoyed life. He liked people and was a good story teller, often talking about the old ways and the changes he had seen in his lifetime. At seven he was driving a team of horses; at seventy-seven he took his first trans-Atlantic jet flight. He was always conscious of the changes he was witnessing, and he remembered life around the turn of the twentieth century in great detail." (p.1 Editor's Introduction)

Monty (Jabez Montgomery) Leigh and his wife Grace Leigh were active members of the SCHA in the 1970s. A Monty Leigh Memorial Fund was established at his death to support the many interests of friends that led to the publication of the book *Monty Leigh Remembers*.

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## Simcoe County Historical Association Executive

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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 or e-mail to mark.jill@sympatico.ca.

# Show & Tell Simcoe County presents The Barrie Tornado: Remembering the Spirit of a Community

by Judith Banville

Where were you just before 5 p.m. on May 31, 1985? If it was anywhere near Barrie, chances are pretty good that you remember.



This year will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a day that changed Barrie and its people forever. Many have privately told

their stories of loss, survival, rescue efforts and how the community rallied, but there has never been a collective opportunity to share these stories or to acknowledge those who helped in so many ways.

Show & Tell Simcoe County will offer that opportunity to share your stories and photos, hear some incredible tales of survival, bravery and selflessness, to remember those whose lives were lost, and to thank the countless numbers who helped.

Local organizations will offer displays to show how emergency preparedness has changed and what you can do when disaster strikes.

Presented by Word Portraits with the support of community sponsors, including the City of Barrie, this free event runs 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Mady Centre, Sunday May 31. Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. for viewing of the displays by organizations involved in the tornado recovery effort. RSVP to reserve your free admission through EventBrite or [judith@wordportraits.ca](mailto:judith@wordportraits.ca).

If you have stories or photos to share about your tornado experience, or would like to help sponsor this event at levels ranging from \$10 to \$1000, please contact Judith directly at [judith@wordportraits.ca](mailto:judith@wordportraits.ca) or 705-790-6490 as soon as possible.

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## Historic Branch Line Parkette submitted by Shirley True

*This News and Views article from 2002 is re-submitted with slight paraphrase by Audrey Hanson*

In December of 1878, Hamilton & Northwestern extended the branch from Beeton to Collingwood passing through Alliston and Everett on the way. Ten years later, in 1888, the Grand Trunk took over the line and on January 23, 1923, Canada's first Crown Corporation, the Canadian National Railway became the new owners. The freight and passenger list was interesting and varied. Passengers might include students coming from Beeton to Alliston High School to obtain their Senior Matriculation. Classes were arranged to accommodate the train schedule. Hockey teams and fans also used the train to go to out-of-town games as did church debating teams.

Freight would include dry goods, hardware and the Royal Mail. Outgoing shipments might be lumber and farm produce. The train became affectionately known as The Hog Special, because it carried pigs to the packing plant in Collingwood. The train had nine scheduled stops, each

way, but alas The Hog Special made its last run October 29, 1955. The line north of Alliston was abandoned, but the CNR freight service to Alliston continued into the 1980s. One of the last products shipped out was Christmas trees, and sad to say the tracks were removed in 1993.

Rob McMullin, a local rail enthusiast was not going to let this piece of Alliston history fade away. He approached the Alliston Historical Society in October of 1994 with the idea of establishing a commemorative Parkette in memory of the CNR. A triangular piece of property at the corner of King and Nelson streets, where the tracks had been, was available and suitable.

The Alliston Historical Society endorsed this plan and together they approached New Tecumseth Council. The town approved of the Parkette, but in May of 1995 they informed the AHS that they could not assist in funding the project. Fortunately, the Alliston Rotary Club agreed to help and the

Parkette was started. Thanks to Rob McMullin, Alliston Rotary, Ontario Heritage Foundation, the Council of New Tecumseth, and the generosity of many others, the unveiling of the plaque commemorating the 1878 railroad was held July 11, 1998.

In 2002, a few changes to the Historical Branch Line Parkette were made. The small piece of track is now in front of the platform and CNR cross arms were placed beside the plaque. Station signs of Beeton, Alliston and Everett were elevated well above the wild roses.

Alliston now has a small but significant reminder that The Hog Special passed through town. Shirley Gibson, president of the Alliston Historical Society, was very instrumental in the planning and development of this historic railway site. Sadly, Shirley died on November 25, 2001. The Parkette is a reminder of her enthusiasm and dedication to the history of Alliston.

## John A. Turns 200

by Richard Johnston

On January 10<sup>th</sup> the Orillia Museum of Art and History held its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual John A. Dinner at the Best Western Mariposa Inn.

Approximately 210 were in attendance including not only guest speaker noted Canadian author John Boyko, author of *Blood and Daring*, but also authors Rae Fleming, who thanked the speaker, and Dorothy Duncan. Boyko kept the

audience spell bound with his highly energetic speaking style but also excellent research on how John A. saved Canada right after the Civil War from The American war hawks such as James Seward.

A highlight this year, in light of John A.'s 200<sup>th</sup>, was the presence of John A. himself who turned 200 the next day on January 11. John A. had a remarkable



resemblance not only to Benjamin Disraeli but also to local actor Chris Newton. A rousing “Happy Birthday John A.”, led by town crier Mike Saddy, completed the evening.

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## Expedition to the ancient world will unveil wonders of the Mediterranean

by Mark Hall, Georgian College

Fresh on the heels of a successful community learning experience to Alaska in 2014, University Partnership Centre professor Dr. Trudy Bergère is now launching an expedition to the Ancient World.

This trip is aimed at members of the community; enrolment in a Georgian College program is not necessary. The scope of the adventure is wide open, but is aimed at helping make the wisdom of the ancient world relevant to today's learners.

Participants will cross the Atlantic Ocean by cruise ship before landing in Europe, where they will spend about a week in a Tuscan villa. That's followed by a cruise through the Greek Islands and Turkey before returning to Canada by air.

All told, the trip will last about 24 to 36 days; the needs and interests of the group will determine the exact date, duration, itinerary and learning activities. The trip will take place in 2016 or 2017, depending on the wishes of the participants.

“There are so many things we can do,” said Bergère. “We have the opportunity

to visit such locations as Pompeii, to walk in the footsteps of the Medici family, or to explore the ecosystems, volcanos, and animals of the places we visit.”

Not only will this be a trip into the Mediterranean, it will be an exploration into scientific, historical, political, and cultural research.

Final details are being sorted out, but the adventure would cost in the range of \$7,500 per person for travel, meals and accommodation and will include a maximum of 10 to 14 participants. This price is well below the cost of similar trips.

The learning and discussion activities will begin during the Atlantic crossing where participants will build a foundation of knowledge about the history, politics and science of the area of the world now known as Greece, Italy and Turkey. That foundation will be enriched by further exploration and discoveries in those countries.

Bergère expects participants will bring a wide range of backgrounds to the expedition. “Regardless of academic

credentials or background, everyone with an interest in learning is welcome,” she says. “The bonds that join all of us together are a common love of learning about the ancient world and an interest in knowing more about our place in that landscape.”

Curriculum leaders for the trip are Trudy Bergère and Paul Baxter, two award-winning university instructors. Baxter teaches in York University's criminology program. He has diverse areas of expertise, including the history of ideas, philosophy, law, and restorative justice. He holds a B.A. and an M.A. and is completing a PhD in political studies. Bergère, a published author, specializes in teaching science to non-science majors. She designs and implements curriculum that works for students who often hold different emotions about science as a school subject. She holds an M.Sc. in biochemistry and a PhD in curriculum studies.

For further information, call Bergère at 705.728.1968, ext. 5495, or email to [Trudy.Bergere@georgiancollege.ca](mailto:Trudy.Bergere@georgiancollege.ca).

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## One More Piece from the Archives

*Hamilton's Other Railway* by Charles Cooper was donated to the Simcoe County Archives in 2001. A *Capsule Railway History of Simcoe County* by Charles Cooper was published in June 2004 of the *SCHA News and Views*. This 6-page article can be found in the archived issues of *News and Views* at

[simcoecountyhistory.ca](http://simcoecountyhistory.ca). It includes photographs and an extensive list for recommended reading. For additional interest, you might wish to look up [www.railwaypages.com](http://www.railwaypages.com) for Charles Cooper's Railway Pages.

From the article by Charles Cooper: “The good news is that there is no final

chapter to the saga of rail transportation; it continues to evolve, but at least Simcoe County can point proudly to its contribution to its pioneer railways that, notwithstanding its trial and tribulations, developed it both economically and socially.”

Happy reading and discovery!



Please join  
 Innisfil  
 Historical  
 Society on  
 Saturday  
 April 18<sup>th</sup>  
 at 2pm  
 Innisfil  
 Town Hall  
 2101  
 Innisfil  
 Beach Rd

Take this opportunity to visit Innisfil's new Town Hall and hear author Larry Cotton discuss his latest book

*Yonge Street: 100 Taverns in 100 Miles*

Here's an opportunity to connect with like-minded members of other local historical societies. Light Refreshments to follow. Copies of Larry's book will be available. For further info, please email Donna at [mdwice@sympatico.ca](mailto:mdwice@sympatico.ca)

Don't forget to purchase your SCHA Annual General Dinner and Meeting tickets before May 1<sup>st</sup>. An evening with the Royals awaits!



Tickets are \$25. Call Audrey at 705-721-9401, see her at the April meeting or e-mail [hanson9401@rogers.com](mailto:hanson9401@rogers.com)

## The Recent Past, a book review: Transportation and Changing Times

Second of a series of articles by Audrey Hanson

There have been a number of books compiled about the history of Simcoe County. One book, now out of print, *The Recent Past* by John Craig, illustrated by Margo Anderson, and published in 1977 by Simcoe County, presents a discussion of the first three quarters of the past century, with an introductory chapter entitled *Simcoe County 1895*. While based on historical research, it compiles this information into a fascinating journey, and honours the people of this county in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The author wrote that “development that was to have the most fundamental and far-reaching effect on the future of Simcoe County was the advent of the motorcar, automobile, or ‘horseless carriage’. This led to the gradual disappearance of the horse on county roads and town streets and the demise of the ‘graceful white steamboats which serviced resorts and cottagers on Lake Simcoe and the 30,000 Islands of Georgian Bay’. The day would come when travel by train was a thing of the past except for commuters to and from Toronto”. (p.58) How true that last statement still holds. Today, we enjoy commuting on the GO train from Allandale and South Barrie.

We can recall Lake Simcoe steamboats like the restored model of the *Emily* at the Innisfil town hall, and only see horse drawn wagons at special events and historical celebrations. *The Recent Past* notes that history is where you find it, while this article attempts to give just a few bits of interesting trivia from the book to pique your interest in the history of Simcoe County, imparting an appreciation of its historical treasures.

In the early days, automobiles were subjects of great curiosity and more than a little excitement:

“Mufflers had not yet been invented, and the noise made by an original Model T as it roared and backfired along at the reckless speed of 10 m.p.h. (miles per

hour), could be heard all over the countryside. Little wonder that countless horses tried to climb fences...to get away from the infernal racket.” (p.59)

An early garage was set up in Beeton, converted from a general store to a Ford sales agency, where by World War I the popular Model T was \$500 and more than fifty cars a year were sold. And in 1923 in recognition of growing motor traffic, a 25 mph speed limit was established throughout the county.

Most roads at the time were barely wide enough for two horse drawn vehicles to pass and no attempt was made to keep roads open in winter. There was a Statute of Labour, not abolished until 1921, that supported a system of citizen responsibility for road maintenance. This changed slowly to usher in a provincial subsidization of municipal road improvements of which Simcoe County took advantage, but provincial highways were not plowed for winter use until the 1930s. Many roads were impassable at spring thaw. In 1940, Innisfil Township purchased a truck-mounted snow plow! During the Great Depression years, WWII, and the early years thereafter, little advancement came due to lack of funds.

“In the severe winter of 1946-47 many township roads lay buried under up to 20-foot drifts and were blocked for as long as six weeks.” (p.62) Now we often take our well plowed roads for granted!

The establishment of Hydro Power and Telephone Service in the county makes for interesting reading.

The early Hydro came from water power, while “residents of Barrie saw electric lights for the first time in the early 1880s, when a circus thrilled district residents with a display of arc lamps, probably battery powered. In the late 1880s three prominent local citizens acquired the capital to form the Barrie Electric Light Company and to install the first street lights in the town. Power was supplied

by two dams in Midhurst and line poles came into Barrie along Bayfield Street. The night the lights were turned on was a gala occasion in Barrie...while disagreement arose over rates and other matters”. Farm electrification was not established until the Rural Hydro-Electric Distribution Act of 1921. (p.63)

Air travel as we now know it was unheard of at the beginning of the last century. Even now, with several small airports in Simcoe County and also flights from military Base Borden, a flight going on overhead is still noticeable in our relatively quiet environment. Near the end of the First World War, training planes had become a familiar sight. The first recorded flight in Simcoe County dates back to the summer of 1913, in Beeton, and by the post war years most County residents no longer considered flying a mad cap occupation. The first aerial survey photo ever taken in Simcoe County was shot in the Angus area in July 16, 1927, filmed at an altitude of 10,000 feet.

The year 1913 year also marked the Diamond Jubilee of Barrie’s sixty years as a town, at which among other celebrations there was a display of the *Red Devil* biplane powered by an 80 h.p. Hall-Scott motor. A 19yr old aviator, Cecil Peoli was said to have reached an altitude of 2,000 feet flying through the air at 75 miles an hour, finally reaching an altitude of 5,000 feet, a daring dizzy ascent into the realms of the clouds. Even as the crowds were entertained, flight was going to be incorporated into the establishment of Base Borden and the training of men and women for World Wars I and II and the development of the Royal Canadian Air Force. The first airmen were veterans of the Royal Flying Corps who also worked as Bush Pilots to prospector and mining camps flying north from Simcoe County.

Another major development came in the 1920s with the draining of the Holland Marsh which drains into Lake Simcoe at

## The Recent Past - continued

Cook's Bay. This area for an earlier time was productive with hay used for mattresses, when it was still a mere ditch, swarming with bullfrogs and snakes, but then as now yielding harvests of onions, carrots, cabbages and lettuce. Sadly the marsh was inundated with water in the storm of Hurricane Hazel on October 15, 1954. There is still an ongoing struggle to maintain this area in an environmentally sustainable way. The area is also one of many areas being observed for its impact on the now heritage designated Lake Simcoe. A paradox of progress in development!

We cannot help but notice the 400 Highway, the largest road through Simcoe County. Going north or south, through the Holland Marsh or across the Severn River, we are welcomed home to the county by a roadside sign with the motto that Simcoe County is established "FOR THE GREATER GOOD"!

The Highway 400, having received that number as the first four lane highway in Ontario, from Toronto to beyond Barrie, was sometimes called "Ontario's Vacationland Freeway". Originally planned in the 1950s to ease traffic on Highway 27 and Yonge Street (even though Highway 27 was still considered new at the time), use of the 400 Highway kept growing! It is today no longer just a one way vacation destination road but a daily commuter and service freeway. The area has come a long way from when Yonge Street was opened, Bradford had a toll booth, and every few miles a hotel or lodging was required for stage coach travellers. Many roads in Simcoe County traverse the paths of earlier people.



## The Andrew Hunter Award 2015

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 of an undergraduate credit course during the 2014-2015 academic year. The thesis paper must have been submitted for grading in the 2014-2015 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 20, 2015, and undergraduate theses shall be postmarked by July 31, 2015. 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 as soon as possible. Contestants should keep the SCHA aware of their contact information.

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](http://www.simcoecountyhistory.ca)

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



# 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

**Mark Fisher**

www.barriehistorical.com

**Apr. 18** – Larry Cotton – 100 Taverns in

100 Miles at Innisfil Town Hall, 2101

Innisfil Beach Road Joint Meeting with

IHS

### 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

**Apr. 13** – Annual General Meeting and Michael Moir (Head of the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections of York University Libraries) – The Great War, The Great Lakes and Collingwood Shipbuilding

**May 4** – Eric Conroy – Elegance and Luxury aboard the S.S. Keewatin

### Essa Historical Society – contact Olive

**Lee** 705-458-9971 teddylee1@rogers.com

Meet at Thornton Library fourth Saturday of the month except July, August and December – 1:30 p.m.

### Friends of Historic Fort Willow –

**contact Gord Hanson** fortwillow.com

### Friends of The OPP Museum – contact

**Ellen Blaubergs**

705-330-4178

support@oppmuseumfriends.ca

**Sept. 11** – Pedal for the Past Fundraising Bike Ride – All proceeds help promote and support The OPP Museum

### 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. 11** – (location to be determined)

Ellen Millar – Simcoe County Archives Holdings

**May 9** – Rick Roberts – Family Tree Maker

**May 29 - 31** – OGS Conference 2015 –

Georgian College

### Huronia Museum Huron

**Ouendat Village**

549 Little Lake Park Road, Midland – 705-

526-2844 www.huroniamuseum.com

### Innisfil Historical Society – contact

**Donna Wice**

Meet at Knock Community Centre, 10<sup>th</sup> SR at 9<sup>th</sup> Line, Innisfil – 2:00 p.m.

www.innisfilhistorical.ca

**Apr. 18** – Larry Cotton – 100 Taverns in

100 Miles at Innisfil Town Hall, 2101

Innisfil Beach Road – Joint venture with 6

local societies

**May 16** – Bill Warnica – Big Bay Point's

past at Knock

**June 20** – Rotary Fun Day at Innisfil Town

Hall, 2101 Innisfil Beach Road 10-2

### Museum on the Boyne – contact Katie

**Huddleston-Naieb**

250 Fletcher Crescent in Riverdale Park,

Alliston – 705-435-3900 ext. 1802

### Orillia History Speaker Series – contact

**Daniel Byers**

Meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Orillia Museum of Art & History, 30 Peter Street South. –

7:30 p.m.

**Apr. 15** – Irena Lawrenson Women of the OPP

### Orillia Museum of Art and History

30 Peter Street South, Orillia –

705-326-2159 www.orilliamuseum.org

**Apr. 19** – Mad Hatter's Tea Party and

Historical Fashion Show – 2-4 p.m. –

tickets \$20

**May 3** – Franklin Carmichael's 125<sup>th</sup>

birthday party — 1 to 4 p.m.

**to May 9** – World War

**May 14** — Annual Carmichael Lecture

Vicki Sherwood speaks about the Group of

Seven and the Night Sky

**May 24** — Clock Tower 100<sup>th</sup> birthday

party — 1 to 4 p.m.

### Penetanguishene Centennial Museum

**and Archives – contact Nicole Jackson**

13 Burke St. at Beck Blvd.

Call 705-549-2150

www.pencenmuseum.com

### 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)

**Apr. 11** – RHS Maple Celebration –

Pancake Breakfast – Udney Community

Centre – 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Apr. 16** – Ted Duncan – Stories from

Atherley

**May 21** – Catherine Ashton – A Pioneer

Ontario Woman in the Early 20th Century

**June 18** – Box Car Meeting at Cecil

Byers' Station (4100 Sideroad 20 – just

east of Uptergrove) Tour the box cars and

explore Ramara's railway heritage on-site

### Simcoe County Museum – contact

**Kelley Swift-Jones**

1151 Highway 26, Midhurst –

705-728-3721 museum.simcoe.ca

**to Apr. 28** – Game Over: The Story of

Arcades

**Apr. 29** – Simcoe Country Regional

Heritage Fair – 9-2

**June 13-14** – Wheels and Tracks in

Motion: Historical Construction Equipment

Event – 10-4

### Stayner Heritage Society – contact

**Dorothy Millsap**

www.staynerheritagesociety.com

705-428-2540

**Apr. 24** – The Blazing Fiddles – Stayner

Community Church, 8 p.m. – call for \$25

tickets

### Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury

**Historical Society – contact Patricia**

**Blackstock**

Meet at Tec We Gwill Hall, Newton

Robinson, 7:30 p.m.

Third Monday of the month January-May

and September-November 416-247-6551

**Apr. 20** – Dr. John Carter – Fate of the

1837 Rebels deported to Tasmania

**Visit our Website**

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca