

NEWSviews

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Visit our Website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

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

Remembering the Recent Past

by Audrey Hanson

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

Osler, Banting, Gallie and other Simcoe County luminaries!

Here we are looking at some historical names with roots in Simcoe County that were described in *The Recent Past* by John Craig. Some of these names became household words and may still inspire people of today to greatness and optimism. Enjoy!

This is the third and last of a series of articles by way of a book review of *The Recent Past* compiled by John Craig, illustrated by Margot Oswald Anderson, in 1977.

This book was published by The Corporation of Simcoe County and was reviewed with permission during 2014 for excerpts in the *News and Views* newsletter of the SCHA.

The Dumbells were a popular group of singers, dancers, and comedians organized during WWI for entertaining Canadian troops during

the later stages of the war. This group featured four members of the Plunkett family of Orillia: Captain Morley Plunkett (sic)*, the troop's organizational boss, who had gone to France as a Y.M.C.A. officer, and three other Plunketts, Merton, Fred, and Al who were among the star performers. After the armistice this group of Canadian entertainers continued in Ontario for another decade. (*note that it was Merton Plunkett who was the leader and captain, the eldest brother who maintained leadership in the family after the father became unable; see the more current *History of Orillia Y.M.C.A.* by David Town. This discrepancy with the book *The Recent Past* shows us the importance of primary research in local history and that published history must always be researched and updated if possible.)

The 1920s ushered in a new concept in the grocery business with T. P. Loblaw's idea of a chain of cash-

SCHA 2015 Schedule

September 22 – 7:30 p.m. – Donna Wice and Marj Mossman – Simcoe County Museum – Lake Simcoe a Heritage Lake and the *Emily May*.

October 20 – 7:30 p.m. – Simcoe County Museum – to be announced

November 17 – 7:30 p.m. – Major John Fisher – Barrie Legion – The history and the upcoming celebration marking the 150th Anniversary of the Grey and Simcoe Foresters (Joint presentation with Barrie Historical Association and Royal Canadian Legion)

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and-carry, self-serve stores, operated from a central office and a warehouse for maximum efficiency in keeping prices down and profits up. This idea had originated in the United States but had not been tried in Canada. Our interest here is that Theodore Pringle Loblaw was born and grew up in Essa Township near Alliston and was subsequently a great benefactor to his hometown with his complete support of the Stevenson Memorial Hospital. The Stevenson Farm, as it is now known has been honoured as a historic site. The SCHA has been privileged to hold an annual meeting with a tour at this historic home, which was a summer retreat for T. P. Loblaw in his later years. T. P. was the son of James Loblaw and Elizabeth (Stevenson). He died in 1933.

There have been a number of physicians who were highly regarded in Simcoe County and the author of *The Recent Past* cites several prominent names: "almost every Simcoe County community reveres the memory of at least one physician or surgeon who served above and beyond the call of duty", and three sons of Simcoe County would "attain world renown and lasting places in the history of medicine".

William Osler (1849-1919), while less than an early ideal student and

known for escapades, became Sir William Osler with a career at McGill University, Johns Hopkins in the United States, and Oxford in England. His first great textbook, published in 1891 was *The Principles and Practices of Medicine*, although he practiced a simple and revolutionary creed: that students should learn...from first-hand observation. An interesting bit of trivia is that he married Grace Revere Gross, the great-granddaughter of the famous Paul Revere. Sadly, they had one son Edward Revere Osler who lost his life in 1917 at the battle of Ypres. Following this event Dr. Osler died of pneumonia in 1919, carefully charting the course of his own illness. The Featherstone Osler family had four sons: Featherstone Jr., Britton Bath, Edmund Boyd, and William all born at Bond Head, Simcoe County, Upper Canada. All four sons gained prominence in the various fields of medicine, law, finance, and politics. Their father had come from England in 1837 as a young Anglican clergy, finding his first parish in Bond Head, although he did move later to the Hamilton area. William Osler completed some of his early education at the Barrie Grammar School.

Frederick G. Banting (1891-1941) lived a generation after Sir William

Osler. He was born in Essa Township, attended school in Alliston, entered Medical School in 1912, and served in the Canadian Medical Corps in WWI. He is well known for his research and discovery of insulin, having collaborated with Drs. Charles Best and John MacLeod. Banting was killed when a plane carrying him to Britain on military-medical assignment crashed in Newfoundland in 1941. His birthplace home in Alliston has now become a museum!

A name with which we are not as familiar in the field of medicine was Dr. W. Edward Gallie (1882-1959) of Barrie, who grew up on Mary Street and attended Barrie Collegiate Institute. Gallie achieved world fame as a surgeon through work at Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto General Hospital and as Dean of the Medical School of the University of Toronto. In Barrie, near the new Royal Victoria Health Centre, the street name of a medical office district is now Gallie Court in honour of his memory!

Dr Gallie was important in the development of orthopaedic surgery, and while skillful, believed that doctors must work with nature to induce healing. He developed a method of using "living sutures", a type of tissue grafting by

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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 Jill Hynes, Editor at mark.jill@sympatico.ca.

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transplanting bone tissue. He was known for his ability to do "constructive thinking along new lines ... and stood for years as a king on a peak of his own". He received the Gold Medal of the Royal Society of Surgeons in 1947 and he is still recognized for revolutionary advance in the field of surgery. We can be proud to see his name on our city street!

Another Simcoe County historical name is that of Eric Harvie. Research found his name in *The Canadian Establishment* as the only Canadian who leaves behind a popular legacy, and his magpie instinct for collection of artifacts. He was born in Orillia in 1892, amassed a fortune of over \$100 million, part of which came from Alberta mineral and oil rights, and yet seemed indifferent to power and fame. His would be an interesting biography to pursue more fully than can be presented here. He has been described as Alberta's most generous philanthropist but his birthplace was in Simcoe County.

Closer to home perhaps, *The Recent Past* remembers some endearing luminaries, such as Wallace Murdoch who drove the first school bus in Simcoe County to bring pupils along Highway 11 to Barrie High School in 1933. And Barrie remembers two survivors of the *Athenia*, a British Liner that was sunk in the early days of WWI by a German U-boat northwest of Ireland: Margaret Childs,

later a noted teacher and artist, and Esther M. Elgood, principal of Barrie's Ovenden College. The book continues in its journey through Simcoe County by remembering the development of Collingwood ski country, the growth of industry, even the establishment of Blue Mountain Pottery.

Of course an entire chapter is devoted to *The Sunshine Years*, commemorating Stephen Leacock, who, while born at a village named Egypt south of Jackson's Point, made his later home at Orillia where his home is now a literary museum. Under the title of *Past and Present*, we are reminded of home grown son Gordon Lightfoot and native son Arthur Shilling, with their contributions of music and art respectively. Even Mazo de la Roche is included under the *Women of Simcoe County* because she attended high school in Orillia for a time in the early 1890s, recorded in a school registry but not mentioned in her own autobiography. The contributions of the Women's Institutes are recorded, with Judge Emily Murphy as the first national president in 1919 and Mrs. Alfred Watt sowing the seeds of the organization overseas in 1914, both women of Simcoe County. Mrs. Henry Aitken of Beeton (Kate Aitken of radio fame) held the first Beeton Women's Institute meeting in Beeton at her home. More names can be found that are surely remembered by

their descendants, not the least of whom was E.C. Drury who wrote his own biography in *Farmer Premier: Memoirs*, 1966.

It seems appropriate to close this article with a quote from a lady who died in 1976 and who "fervently stated her love for the natural environment which had been so much a part of her long, productive and happy life", when she wrote: "*Those of us who visit or live in this land are shareholders in a trust in which all of North America has a significant stake. May we be worthy of it!*"

This was Mable Rawson who with her husband D. A. Gauley owned Camp Rawley, now Rawley Resort, which opened in July 1922 on the Severn River that borders Simcoe County and what is now Muskoka. She wrote a booklet *Port Severn, Crossroads Community** that summarized the recent past of Simcoe County life before some of our modern conveniences, "when ice was still cut from the river but spring water nearby could already be tested by the Medical Officer of Health at Waubaushene. Electricity was supplied by a Fairbanks Morse battery system but soap was still made with fat saved in the kitchen! Flat irons, heated on the stove were used for ironing, while milk came from T.B. tested cows!" * quoted from the book *The Recent Past*.

Truly, *The Recent Past* described a time of transition!

Blacksmithing School at Fort Willow

Saturday, July 25 and Sunday, July 26

Now here is an educational opportunity you don't see every day! Learn basic blacksmithing from a professional blacksmith over two days.

There is a limited number of spaces and pre-registration is required.

Contact Al and Beth Bristow
drgnfly@vianet.ca

See <http://www.bristowironworks.ca/>

Cost of the blacksmith course is \$400 per person for two full days {20 hours}. This is knowledge and training you will not find anywhere else!

Meet Donna Goodwin

Hello fellow Heritage and Culture enthusiasts

On June 13th, I was lucky enough to meet Audrey Hanson at the Wheels and Tracks event held at the Simcoe County Museum. The more we spoke, the more we thought I should introduce myself through your *News and Views*. I am the new Cultural Development Co-ordinator housed

within Tourism Simcoe County. This position was created as a result of the Plan for Culture developed by the County of Simcoe in 2014. Recommendations from stakeholder consultation identified an opportunity for the County of Simcoe to play a facilitation role in the arts and culture sector. That's where I come in!

For 20 years, I have worked in

heritage, culture and local economic development. Previous to coming to the County of Simcoe, I worked with Sumac (Simcoe County's Cultural Network) to develop product, promote, and advocate for its cultural members to the region and beyond. I look forward to making cultural connections across the county and can be reached at donna.goodwin@simcoe.ca

Coldwater Heritage Museum.....50 and growing

Devon Tea

Throughout June, July and August, Devon Tea will be served each Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. Enjoy the unique experience of a Devon Tea, consisting of a pot of tea, freshly baked biscuits accompanied by butter, whipped cream, Devon cream and strawberry jam all served on fine china in the 1840 homestead. \$8.00 per person (cash only please)

50th Anniversary Celebration July 18, 2015 12:00-5:00

Join our hosts, Jane and Garfield Dunlop, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum and the 175th year of the Woodrow Homestead by pre-purchasing a ticket to this very special event. Guests will be greeted with a Canadiana gift bag and a ticket

for their Fancy Box Lunch. You will want to explore the homestead, check out the unusual items in our gift shop and wander though our many outbuildings prior to enjoying your lunch at one of the tables situated along the River Walk, bordered by carefully tended heritage gardens. Silent auctions and various draws will also be of special interest. Musical entertainment by Dylan Lock and the Rugby Boys will be ongoing throughout the afternoon. Tickets for \$50.00 per person with a \$25.00 tax receipt are available from a volunteer, through our website (www.coldwatermuseum.com), or by phoning the Museum at 705-955-1930.

Heritage Day July 19, 2015

At the Coldwater Canadiana Museum your whole family will enjoy the

opportunity to take a step back in time and enjoy this special day designed as an old fashioned social.

Bring your lawn chair and enjoy an outdoor hymn sing and church service at 10:30. After lunch, tour the original 1840 homestead and outbuildings. The children will enjoy a number of activities designed just for them while the adults will enjoy the ongoing musical entertainment.

This year we are proud to be welcoming the OPP Commissioner's Own Pipes and Drums. You're sure to meet old friends and make some new ones as you enjoy a fun day of heritage celebration and community. Admission is by donation. A barbecue lunch along with soft drinks and water will be available for purchase (cash only please). Buildings are wheelchair accessible.

Discovery Tour PASS – Four Sites, One Price (And more!)

Check out this deal your editor discovered while surfing around the website of the Huronia Museum.

For one price you can visit the Huronia Museum, the Wye Marsh, The *Keewatin* and The Martyrs' Shrine. Also included in this amazing pass is a 50% coupon for Saint Marie Among the Hurons and Discovery Harbour! You will also find a coupon

for a free dessert with purchase at the Boathouse Restaurant at the Midland Town Dock!

Adults: \$34.95. Children 15 years of age and under admitted FREE with an accompanying adult. Just think of all those visiting relatives you can entertain!

Each Discovery Tour PASS is valid for one admission to each site.

Use anytime the site is open during its 2015 Season. Buy your passes at the Huronia Museum or through the online store.

<http://www.shopmidland.com/marketplace/?ad=10283473>

The Huronia Museum, Wye Marsh, and *Keewatin* are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Martyrs' Shrine is open daily from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Collingwood Events

Oro African Church Bus Tour

Sunday June 28 12:30-5:30 p.m.

The 46 seat school bus will leave The Heritage Church at 310 Seventh Street at After visiting the Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church, they will then go to the Simcoe County Museum where they will be greeted by Jim Crawford.

The cost for bus and museum is \$16.00 per person. Pack your own lunch to eat on the bus. Room at the back for wheel chairs and walkers.

To book a seat phone Carolyn Wilson at 705-445-2483.

100th Anniversary Celebration of the Collingwood Federal Building and commemorating the October 1873 departure of the North West Mounted Police from the Port of Collingwood to Canada's west

October 3 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tours and displays of artifacts will include the rarely seen second floor offices which housed Canada Customs and Transport Canada Shipping offices and the caretaker's quarters. View the amazing architecture, stained glass ceiling and windows, and more.

As well on display will be memorabilia of the RCMP and models of ships which carried the first NWMP officers (later renamed the RCMP) who sailed from Collingwood in Oct 1873 to Canada's west.

Be sure to be a part of one of Canada's most historic events. Hosted by the CDHS.



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

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



C O M I N G *of our Member Societies*

Alliston Historical Society –

contact Jackie Baillie

705-435-5626 or

cnowles@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

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

June 28 – Bus trip to the Historic
African Church in Oro – see page 5
for details

Oct. 4 – 10-4 – 100th Anniversary
Celebration of the Collingwood
Federal Building and
commemorating the October 1873
departure of the North West
Mounted Police from the Port of
Collingwood to Canada's west –
see page 5 for details

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

July 25-26 – Blacksmithing School
– see page 3 for details

Sept. 19 – Festival at the Fort

E V E N T S

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

Sept. 12 – Larry Cotton – Whiskey
and Wickedness Series – Simcoe
County Museum

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

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 3rd floor of the Orillia
Museum of Art & History, 30 Peter
Street South. – 7:30 p.m.

Orillia Museum of Art and History

30 Peter Street South, Orillia –

705-326-2159

www.orilliamuseum.org

June 26-Dec. 26 – touch – 400 year
anniversary of Samuel de
Champlain's travels through
Huronia, their context and influence

July 2-Sept. 26 – Nation to Nation
– Cultural Perceptions of Nation

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives – contact Nicole Jackson

13 Burke St. at Beck Blvd.

Call 705-549-2150

www.pencenmuseum.com

July 30-Dec. 1 – Penetanguishene:
400 years of History

July 31-Aug. 2 – Rendez-vous
Champlain
See www.rendezvouschamplain.ca

Ramara Historical Society – contact Cathy Westcott

westcott.cathy963@gmail.com

Meet at Udny 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. 18-20 – Simcoe County Quilt,
Rug & Craft Fair

Stayner Heritage Society – contact Dorothy Millsap

www.staynerheritagesociety.com
705-428-2540

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