

NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

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www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

Our Annual General Meeting – May 17, 2005 Bell Farm Road Banquet Hall, Barrie

We are pleased to feature Dr. Linda Ambrose, Chair of the Department of History at Laurentian University, Sudbury, as our guest speaker for the evening. Dr. Ambrose has written extensively on the Women's Institutes, with the books *Women's Institutes in Canada: The First One Hundred Years, 1897-1997* published in 2000 and *For Home and Country: The Centennial History of the Women's Institutes in Ontario*, published in 1996.

Collingwood. She was a founder member of the first Women's Institute in British Columbia, before moving to England where she continued her pioneering work with the Institutes. In 1933, she founded The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) with representation from 26 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and North America.

As usual, our evening will begin with a delicious dinner, followed by our annual business meeting. If you would like to seek nomination for any of the Association's positions, please forward your intentions to the Nominating Committee c/o Box 144, Barrie, ON L4M 4S9 before May 1st.

Tickets are available through the SCHA's post office address, as above, or by calling Bill Packham at 739-0906. The cost for the evening is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members.



Simcoe County Archives

Currently, Dr. Ambrose is researching Madge Watt, born Margaret Rose Robertson in

SCHA Spring 2005 Schedule

March 15 – Larry Cotton – *Whiskey and Wickedness in Simcoe County*, at the Simcoe County Museum, 8 p.m. – see page 5

April 19 – Dr. David Beasley – celebrated author of *Sarah's Journey* and *The Canadian Don Quixote; the life and works of Major John Richardson, Canada's first novelist*, at the Simcoe County Museum, 8 p.m. – see page 5

May 17 – Annual General Meeting – see above



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

President's Message

How many will we receive this year? What will they be about? What will we learn? Who will win?

This is an exciting time around Box 144, Barrie. We are eagerly awaiting this year's crop of Andrew Hunter Prize entries.

As you may recall, last year was the first in which SCHA awarded the Prize. David Osborne, who studies in the Laurentian University programme at Georgian College, Barrie, was our inaugural winner for

his paper on the black settlement in Oro Township.

The Association offers a first prize of \$750 and a consolation prize of \$250 for a university or college undergraduate paper on any aspect of the history of Simcoe County. This is one of the richest undergraduate essay prizes available in Canada.

Named in honour of Simcoe County's pioneering historian, it is hoped that the Andrew Hunter Prize

will stimulate a broader interest in the largely as-of-yet unwritten history of one of Ontario's largest counties.

At a future date, SCHA looks forward to publishing a volume of these prize-winning essays written by a new generation of Canadian historians.

The Andrew Hunter Prize – yet another way SCHA is working "To preserve the past in the present for the future."

Information Requests from Members and Readers

From Bernie Longson

Just wanted you to know how fast a response we got from the "wanted ad" regarding the *Genesis of Barrie* book. I had a call from past Mayor Janice Laking and she has a copy she will donate to the Fort Willow Improvement Group and may have access to others. It's gratifying to know what a great tool you have created in *News and Views*.

From Paul D. Syme

My grandfather, Gibson Mathie Syme, came from Scotland and lived in Hamilton, ON. He died there in 1902. I have a photograph of him and on the back of the photo it says: REEVES PHOTO/ARTIST, BARRIE.

I don't know why he would have been in Barrie to have his photograph taken and I am trying to find out just when this happened.

In a book of Ontario photographers, 1851 to 1900, Vol. 1 by Glen C. Phillips, there are two photographers names Reeves listed for Barrie:

Reeves, Harry – ph. 1892-1895

Reeves, William – ph. 1877-1890

Do you have any records of these photographers that would link one of them to the photographer who took my grandfather's picture?

Please contact me at 49 Huntington Park, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 3P3.

From Janet Brewer Forsburg

Many years ago I corresponded with the Historical Association trying to run down my great great grandfather James Brewer. He was one of the first merchants in Barrie about 1843. At that time, I sent a picture of him and his wife Mary, promising to send a profile on the pair when I finished researching the family. I am still trying to tie-up loose ends on this ancestor of mine.

I am wondering if there is anyone who could work with me in helping research a few odds and ends that need to be discovered, for example a search for James and Mary's marriage date, the port of entry for James and theyear. Also, recent information has been discovered that may link James' father, Joshua Brewer, arriving from England and settling in Tavistock. Would you have

any suggestions on someone I could contact for help in that area?

Please contact me at 601 Canon Dr., Kensington, CA 94708 USA

e-mail: fforsburg@aol.com
fax: 510-525-5012

If you are looking for assistance with research, searching for a rare Simcoe County publication, researching genealogy, or just wanting the answer to a nagging local history question, please contact *News and Views*. We are happy to help our readers share their knowledge through this contact page.

Visit our Website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca



Simcoe County Historical
Association

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

Innisfil's Heritage Garden and Hunter Plaque

by Donna Wice

A very special ceremony took place on the grassy lawn of Knock School Historical Site. The breezy yet sunny afternoon of September 18, 2004 featured the unveiling of the Andrew Hunter Historical Plaque and the dedication of the newly created Heritage Garden. Over 100 interested onlookers consisting of long-time Knock neighbours, Hunter family representatives and local historical and horticultural society members were in attendance.

Coordinator of the project, Donna Wice, welcomed those who had come from a distance and those who live nearby who get to more frequently admire the fine results of this joint project between Painswick Horticultural Society and Innisfil Historical Society.

The planning committee of Ethel Cope, Mona Boyd, Bill Markwick, Linda Lewer (horticulturalists) Doug and Jean Warrington, with Audrey and Gladys Miller (historians) were all introduced by Donna and were thanked for the very dedicated manner in which the year-long project was handled.

As well, the tradesmen Tom Bowman, Steve McKeever, Gerry Heels, Dave Dobinson and Elmer Spring were praised for bringing about such a remarkable change to the corner of the Knock property. Andrew and Ruth Cowan accepted thanks for having the foresight to preserve their boulder for future use and then for generously donating it as a central focus in the Heritage Garden.

Historical Society President Doug Warrington expressed delight in the day and the occasion and invited the

following special guests to bring greetings. MPP Joe Tascona spoke with admiration of the significance of Andrew Hunter and also encouraged the Historical Society to pursue an application for a Trillium Foundation Grant to aid in the restoration of the Knock School building.

Mayor Brian Jackson brought greetings from the Town of Innisfil and noted how the Community Reinvestment Grant was instrumental in funding the garden. He also



commended the two societies on their productive working partnership and how the visible results of their efforts certainly contributed to the recent five Blooms awarded by the Communities In Bloom judges.

Painswick Horticultural President Linda Lewer thanked everyone for their kind remarks and invited all in attendance to enjoy the bountiful refreshments situated inside the school. She then introduced Ontario Horticultural Association District 16 Director Dorothy Shropshire who complimented the Garden Planning Committee both on their successful

garden venture and on their fine selection of heritage plants.

Ross Wallace was then called on to set the stage for the unveiling of the historical plaque by supplying details about Andrew Hunter. Ross mentioned that not only was Andrew Hunter born in a log house built by his father, William, on this very land, but also offered several quotations from his childhood recollections. Andrew Hunter and his sister, Phoebe attended school in Victoria (Stroud) for a short time, but began school on a regular

basis at Knock when the school was opened in 1871 and attended until 1878 when he began high school in Barrie.

Ross went on to speak of the fine education received by Andrew and of his many accomplishments for which he is being honoured today. With a flourish, the Andrew Hunter plaque was then unveiled by granddaughters of Phoebe Hunter Carr, Pat Pyke and Mary Baggs, and by Joan Robertson, granddaughter of Phoebe Warnica Carr with assistance from MPP Joe Tascona and Mayor Brian Jackson.

continued on page 4

Saving the Archives of Ontario: an update from our last issue

by Kathie Orr

The government has continued to stall. The column by Ian Urquhart in *The Toronto Star* February 14, 2005, gives us the latest details.

A collection that has been valued at \$250 million sits in the present public facility, which is a 1960s office building that is cramped, unsound, has no sprinkler system, and mould is spreading into the walls and to other records. The collection is gradually decaying and losing value at the rate of \$13 million a year. Last week the request for proposal asking for ideas from the private sector for housing the archives was to go management board. According to Mr. Urquhart's sources Mr. Gerry Phillips, the minister responsible for Management Board and the Archives of Ontario, at the last moment pulled the request from the agenda of the meeting.

Mr. Phillips says he feels the urgency but he did not know that the collection was losing value at the rate of \$13 million a year. But

why should we be surprised? Mr. Phillips' office is within walking distance of the Archives but it took him over a year to actually visit.

To put it bluntly, the building is a sagging, mould infested, poor excuse for a building let alone an archive and there is not reason for this delay.

Please continue with writing letters, emails, etc., but please do not attack the government officials. **You can send an email but you must include your full name and postal address.**

Your emails or letters need to emphasize your use of the Archives, its importance to the province of Ontario that users have put up with the poor working conditions and health hazards at the Grenville Street site because we understood the Archives was moving to a new location that we are pleased that the new offsite storage building is being built. The records belong to the people of Ontario – they are our heritage.

The people of Ontario have a right to access the records under proper conditions and without fear of injury to their health.

The minister responsible and the person we have to get our message to is Hon. Gerry Phillips. His contact information is gphillips.mpp@liberal.ola.org

You can write to the Minister at Management Board Secretariat, 77 Wellesley Street West, 12th Flr, Ferguson Block, Toronto ON M7A 1N3. His constituency office is at 204-4002 Sheppard Ave E., Scarborough ON M1S 4R5.

You can also contact your local MPP, the provincial party leaders, and the Management Board critics. Their information may be accessed at <http://olaap.ontla.on.ca/laompp/daCurMbr.do?locale=en>

Please spread the word to others and write to express your concern. The Archives of Ontario holds an irreplaceable historical legacy that must be preserved for future generations.

Innisfil's Heritage Garden and Hunter Plaque continued

by Donna Wice

Additional members of the extended Hunter family then joined the smaller group for a photo.

Rev. Douglas L. Crocker, of Stroud Presbyterian Church, concluded the dedication with the following remarks:

As a result of painstaking and detailed research completed by Andrew Hunter, *The History of Simcoe County* tells us about who we are today, how in many ways our lives remain unchanged and yet

how drastically different. We need a perspective on both. Thus we learn from those who precede us....And so we are here today to dedicate this plaque – the Andrew Hunter Historical Plaque – to the ongoing and living heritage that we all thankfully share. So let us give thanks to God for the gifts received and the opportunity to pass on these riches for generations to come.

Picture and text displays about the Knock Community, the progress of

the Heritage Garden and the Andrew Hunter family drew the crowd indoors. Mums, ferns, fall flowers and stalks of corn flanked the stage and steps into the school adding a festive welcoming touch. Many enjoyed the delectable refreshments supplied by the Historical and Horticultural Societies and lingered to renew past acquaintances. Daffodil bulbs wrapped in a burlap bag were given to all who signed the guest book as living mementos of this historical occasion.

SCHA Speakers – a preview of March and April

Larry Cotton – March 15, 8:00 p.m. – Simcoe County Museum

Last year Mr. Cotton published two books – *Whiskey & Wickedness – Volume 1 – Barrie* and *Volume 2 – Orillia*. In early March, his latest book came off the press – *Whiskey & Wickedness – Volume 3 – Muskoka and Parry Sound Districts*. *Volume 4 – Collingwood & Clearview* will be out at the end of April and *Volume 5 –*

Grey County in the fall. He is shooting a television pilot for the fall, narrating various incidents and characters found in the books.

His talk will provide some insights into the important role that alcohol played in the social and economic development of early pioneer society in Simcoe County. Plan to be



entertained by a number of amusing stories to illustrate this subject and place some flesh on the "dry bones" of history.

Dr. David Beasley – April 19, 8:00 p.m. – Simcoe County Museum

We look forward to our evening with Dr. Beasley when he will speak about slavery in Virginia and the early abolition of slavery in Upper Canada, then deal with the black and white communities in Simcoe and the effect of events such as the rebellion of 1837 upon them. Regarding slavery he will mention John Richardson's experience in the West Indies as related in his biography of the our first novelist, *The Canadian Don Quixote*.

The following are excerpts of reviews of two of Dr. Beasley's books.

The Canadian Don Quixote; The Life and Works of Major John Richardson, Canada's First Novelist, ISBN: 0-915317-18-4

A nice combination of Canadian history, romantic biography, and literary research, the book is not only a good read but includes a

bibliography, index and other material. Actually it is a roaring adventure yarn about a highly eccentric dreamer and author of

gothic novels. *The Life of John Richardson* reads like one of his novels. David Beasley does justice to this Richardson, and what a story *The Canadian Don Quixote* is! Army service, gambling, duels everywhere, a happy marriage, constant litigation, and constant writing, even this summary only begins to highlight the rich vitality of John Richardson's 56 years. A man whose life was so filled with dramatic events, whose career brought him in contact with important historical figures and episodes, and who first showed that Canadian history was interesting enough to be matter for literature. *The Canadian Don Quixote* is the result of a great deal of enterprising research on Beasley's part and which does supply a mass of new information on Richardson and his times.

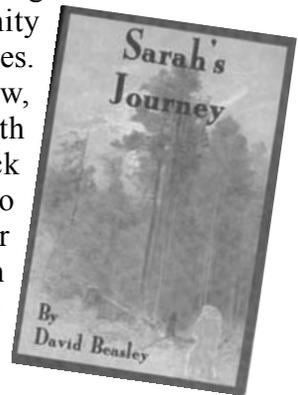
Sarah's Journey, ISBN: 0-915317-14-1

Born a slave in 1790 in the Virginia Panhandle Sarah, a beautiful woman, marries a supposedly free Negro, Lewis, whom she hopes will earn her freedom. Her husband is taken back to Kentucky from where he escaped and Sarah is sold to a neighbour who mistreats her. She is forced to escape with her three youngest children

through the Ohio wilderness and arrives in Simcoe, Upper Canada in 1822. She keeps house for a young Scotsman, Duncan Campbell, by whom she has a son. As Simcoe grows from a village to a prosperous town under Campbell's leadership, Sarah and her children flourish as does the growing black community of escaped slaves. Her son-in-law, George Smith or the Black Pimpernel, who helps her older black children escape to Canada, carries on his work for the Underground from Simcoe.

Faced with many challenges, including American invasion and the reintroduction of slavery at the time of the Canadian rebellion, Sarah Lewis shows courage and resourcefulness.

Sarah's Journey is not just escape to freedom but an adventurous passage through life. Her son by Duncan Campbell, hides his background and becomes one of the richest men in New York City; his untimely death leads to the discovery of his mother's story.



Fort Willow Improvement Group

*Dedicated to the Preservation, Improvement, Restoration,
and Promotion of the Fort Willow Heritage Site*

Proud recipients of the 2002 Ontario Heritage Foundation Achievement Award

Article No. 5 in a series for *News and Views*

Editor's note: the last excerpt should have been numbered 4 instead of 3



Fort Willow: The McDouall Expedition of 1814: continued

by Keith H.J. Bacon

In that previous article we reviewed a document that showed the expedition passing through York (Toronto) on their way to Lake Simcoe, en route for Michilmackinac. In this article we will look at the brief account of the expedition from the viewpoint of McDouall's adjutant, Lt Andrew Bulger of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, as outlined in his *Autobiographical Sketch*.

Let us take ourselves back 190 years again to the winter of 1814. Lt Col McDouall's expedition that left Kingston in early February, has marched with sleds to York and then up Yonge Street on their way to Lake Simcoe and the Nine Mile Portage.

Extract from *An Autobiographical Sketch of the Services of the late Captain Andrew Bulger of the Royal Newfoundland Fencible Regiment* published in 1865 by the Regimental Press of the 2nd Battalion, 10th Regiment, in Bangalore India, seven years after his death in 1858.

....we commenced our route in the beginning of February, in severe wintry weather, proceeded two hundred and fifty miles into a wilderness; erected huts in a grove of pine; assisted in opening a road through the woods for the conveyance of supplies; and, with timber cut down and prepared upon the spot, aided in the construction of twenty-nine large boats; embarked on 22nd of April, having previously loaded the flotilla with provisions and stores; descended the Nottawasaga River – the ice in the upper part of which being still firm, we opened a channel through it – encamped the night of the 24th April, in a most dismal spot, upon the north-eastern shore of Lake Huron; and, on the following morning, entered upon the attempt to cross that lake, covered, as it was, as far as the eye could reach, by fields of ice: through which, in almost constant and at times terrific storms, we succeeded, with the loss of only one boat, in effecting a passage a distance of nearly 300 miles, arriving at Michilimackinac on 18th of May.

The "grove of pine" is probably Fort Willow and the "road through the woods" the Nine Mile Portage. When he talks of the "Nottawasaga River", please remember that in 1814 Willow Creek was known as the East Branch of the Nottawasaga River. His "most dismal spot" is the mouth of the Nottawasaga, at what is now Wasaga Beach.

A total of 550 miles in the middle of winter. Records show that the winter of 1813/1814 was indeed severe. The expedition's march with sleds from Kingston to Fort Willow and the voyage down the Nottawasaga and through the ice flows on Lake Huron, represent heroism of the highest order, don't you think? I have driven from Kingston to Toronto on a number of occasions, and last year we drove from Toronto to Sault Ste Marie and visited Michilmackinac. It is hard to imagine the tremendous feat that the members of the expedition performed.

Two brief biographical notes might be of appropriate here

Lt Andrew Bulger, Royal Newfoundland Regiment

- 1789 Born in Newfoundland.
- 1804 Entered Army as Ensign in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.
- 1806 Promoted to Lieutenant.
- 1806 – 1812 Served in Canada.
- 1812 Participated in capture of Detroit for which he received a medal and clasp.
Served in detachments aboard armed vessels on Lake Ontario.
- 1813 Participated in Battles for Fort George and at Burlington Heights and served on board ships under Commodore Yeo's command. Received clasp for action at Crysler's Farm in November.
- 1814 Active participant in relief expedition to Michilimackinac, serving as Adjutant to Lt Colonel McDouall. He passed through York (Toronto) on 17th/18th February 1814 with a party of 68 troops of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. His *Autobiographical Sketch* published in 1865 provides a first hand account of the expedition and subsequent events. On 4th August, he participated in the successful defence of Michilimackinac against American attack.
In September, employing four boats, with Lt Worsley RN, he jointly led in the capture of the American ships Tigress and Scorpion. Seven Royal Newfoundlanders, including Bulger, were wounded in the action.
He was awarded the Naval War medal and clasp.
In October he was promoted to Captain and appointed to command Fort McKay at Prairie du Chein and operations on the Mississippi. He arrived under severe conditions at that post on 30th November, and subsequently suffered through the winter with very low provisions.
- 1815 Returned to Quebec to find his promotion to Captain had not been ratified, he remained a Lieutenant.
Placed on half pay following the disbanding of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.
Eventually granted 500 pounds compensation and an allowance equal to half pay of a Captain.
- 1822 Governor of Assiniboia.
- 1858 Died in Montreal.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert McDouall, Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles

- 1796 Entered British Army as Cornet.
- 1813 Served in Battle of Stoney Creek on June 6th.
- 1813 Appointed Commanding Officer of the beleaguered Michilimackinac, and to lead the heroic relief expedition to Michilimackinac via the Nottawasaga route in early 1814, passing through York (Toronto) on 15th /18th February 1814, arriving at Michilimackinac on 18th May. Successfully defended the post against an American attack in August.
- 1816 Retired on half pay.
- 1817 Awarded Companion of the Bath (CB).
- 1841 Promoted to Major General.
- 1848 Died in Scotland.

Sources for Biographical Notes: *MacMillan Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, *An Autobiographical Sketch of the Services of the late Captain Andrew Bulger of the Royal Newfoundland Fencible Regiment* published in 1865 in Bangalore by the Regimental Press of the 2nd Battalion 10th Regiment.

The next article in this series will cover a military letter reporting the success of the expedition to Britain.

Upcoming Historica Fair at the Museum

by Kelley Swift-Jones

On Wednesday, April 27th, the Simcoe County Museum is hosting the third annual Simcoe County Historica Fair. The Historica Fair offers students from Grade 4 to Grade 9 the opportunity to create a hands-on research project. Students learn and teach others about Canadian heroes and legends, milestones in their family, and stories that are important to our past.

Students from across our county have been busily preparing their projects to present at this year's fair. There are some very exciting projects currently being researched by our local students, including World War II, Pete Townsend, and the Canadian Flag.

The Simcoe County Historica Fair planning committee is pleased to have the ongoing commitment and support of the Simcoe County

Fêtes **HISTORICA** Fairs

Historical Association, and plans to honour this commitment by presenting an award for an outstanding local project to a worthy recipient. We extend an invitation to all members of the Association to attend the fair for the day, beginning with the opening ceremonies at 10:00 a.m., and view these incredible history projects.

Orillia Museum of Art and History Update

by Dr. Richard Johnston

On January 15, 2005, 170 people turned out to hear an outstanding talk about Sir John A. Macdonald from former M.P.P. Sean Conway. At age 25, Conway was first elected to Queen's Park representing Nipissing/Renfrew/Pembroke. He ran successfully until his recent retirement in 2003. Mr. Conway is seen frequently on *Studio 2* on TVO.



The Orillia Youth Symphony provided a string ensemble for the Grand Opening of the Sir Sam Steele Memorial Building on December 10, 2004 during the members and donors tour and reception.



The annual Sir John A. Dinner took place at the Kewadin Inn, Orillia. Once again, Hugh Gainsford, great grandson of Sir John A. joined the group. Wally Bremner participated as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Next year's dinner, on January 14, will feature Hugh Segal as speaker.



(L-R) Ruth Anne Barnes, Jim Watt, Dr. Nancy Ironside and Dr. Barb Fallis enjoy a chat at the Grand Opening of the Museum.

In Memoriam

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Joe Lundy, who passed away February 21, 2005 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was, for a number of years, a member and supporter of both the Simcoe County Historical Association and the Barrie Historical Association.

Membership Renewals

Memberships for 2004 are now due. Rates are \$10/individual, \$12/family. Send fees to Box 144, Barrie, ON L4M 4S9. This will be the last issue of *News & Views* that will be sent to members who have not renewed.



Simcoe County Historical
Association

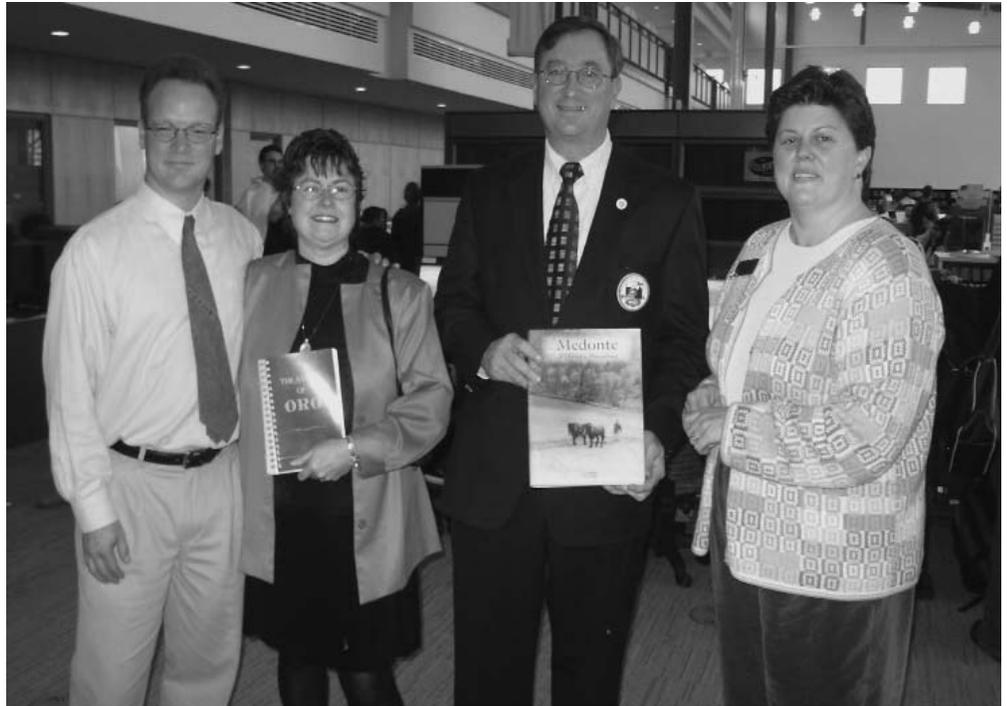
Visit our Website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

Local History and *Ontario History* find a home at Georgian College

This past fall, the Ontario Historical Association made the Simcoe County Historical Association aware of the availability of copies of 158 back issues of *Ontario History*. This long-standing journal is one the premier publications for important historical research in our province.

The Board of Directors of the SCHA agreed to purchase and donate the issues to the developing Georgian College, Barrie Campus, Library. With the addition of second and third year history course offerings to the Laurentian at Georgian history department, this contribution was welcomed for providing easily accessible scholarly resource material. As well, the holdings are available to community residents for their own research and reading purposes.



SCHA Member Geoff Booth (far left) and Katherine Wallis, Georgian College Librarian (far right), accepted a generous donation of Oro Medonte books. The books are a great addition to the holdings for students of history in the courses offered by Laurentian University at Georgian College.

Treasures and Tales Warm a January Night for Tec We Gwil

by Helen Yielding

What do the members of the Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society and the Royal Mail have in common? It appears that, despite wind and weather, both groups soldier to their appointed tasks. The Society met on a miserable January night to show and tell about personal artifacts and stories.

Marilyn Dodds and Dave Pooley, displayed items from the first World War. Marilyn's father's personal postcards and pay book for his years of service and Dave's tin box embossed with British Expeditionary Force's motifs both recalled that perilous time in Canadian history. An earlier time was evoked by the tintype photo, circa 1880, of Patricia Blackstock's grandfather, perfectly

upgraded by 2005 technology. Even older was a pierced and notched flint amulet whose owner, John Northwood, believes came from the war of 1812-1814. It was in that war that Tecumseh, after whom our township was named, was shot fighting alongside the British.

On a lighter note, both June Chambers and Barbara Northwood amused the audience with more recent memories. Barbara's Shirley Temple doll, in original clothes, brought many smiles as did June's poster advertising the popular 1930s radio show, MA PERKINS. Maggie Magee, who creates and furnishes miniature room settings, reminded us that Queen Mary's Doll House was a work of art complete with miniature

books written by famous British authors. A pewter candy jar was a treasure from Hazel Johannsen's childhood.

The Brightys, Ron and Myrtle, each showed memorabilia from other countries. Myrtle recalled an exciting trip to the Grand Canyon and Ron recounted being stationed during the war in a pub in Robbie Burns' territory in Scotland.

Lastly, Bruce Chambers, a talented local craftsman, exhibited an artifact-in-the-making, a copy of a beautiful 1750s Windsor chair shaped and turned by hand. Once again, our members were impressed and entertained by the artifacts and the accompanying stories that were presented.

Cone Sheds of the Tree Seed Management Facility

The Ministry of Natural Resources' property known as the Tree Seed Management Facility in Angus has undergone some changes recently. The deteriorated condition of a number of buildings required their demolition. As part of the process, a number of historically significant artifacts were identified and removed to Cone Shed #3 (seen below) which will be retained as a representative sample of the buildings as recommended by the Heritage Study undertaken on the property. The SCHA, following the advice of the Essa Historical Society, urged the owners to seek historical site

designation for the remaining building under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

An extensive collection of artifacts retained are as follows: galvanized metal trays, tin storage cans, drying racks, a work table, a bottle storage crate, glass bottles, sign boards, a message box/tag holder, storm glass windows, large storage crates and their metal contents, potting bins and screens, a galvanized wash tub, and a wooden box of metal rack pegs, among other building materials.

We appreciate the care and labour that have gone into the preservation

of this unique site.

The Ontario Tree Seed Plant was established in 1923 to process tree cones and supply seed for the province's reforestation program. Staff at the seed plant operate state-of-art equipment to extract coniferous, deciduous and shrub seeds of high quality. (from the website)

To learn more about the management of Ontario's forests, this facility, and its various products, visit <http://ontariosforests.mnr.gov.on.ca/otspoverview.cfm>.



SCHA's Heritage Day Event



(L-R) Sheila Creighton, editor of the *Ontario Historical Society (OHS) Bulletin*, was the keynote speaker. John Morton of Kwik Kopy Barrie provided a printer's perspective. Jill Hynes, editor of *News and Views* and Su Murdoch, editor of *Community Heritage Ontario (CHO) News*, both shared some of their trials and successes in newsletter creation.

To celebrate Heritage Week, the SCHA organized an afternoon seminar focusing on newsletter composition, organization, and funding. Representatives from a variety of not-for-profit groups shared their experiences while a local printer and a graphic designer were on hand to provide their expertise as well.

Sheila Creighton, editor of the *OHS Bulletin*, described her journey of the past two years working part time as the communications person and editor for the Ontario Historical Society. With a publication run of 2,000 copies five times per year that reaches a readership of 20,000, the *Bulletin* is one of the best known newsletters in the Ontario historical community. Sheila emphasized the

need for regular columns, for example, book reviews and cemetery news. She is able to rely on consistent submissions from regular contributors. She emphasized the wisdom in recognizing new members, providing flexible deadlines, integrating archival photos when possible, and supporting local heritage tourism.

Su Murdoch, editor of *CHO News* for over ten years, discussed her newsletter's role as the voice of the advisory municipal heritage committees. Community Heritage Ontario is a provincial organization mandated to support the Ontario Heritage Act. Her quarterly newsletter is distributed to the province's 110 committees and costs approximately \$8,000 per year to

produce. Su solicits and edits the content, selects the images and placement, but does not write for or oversee the technical production of the work. She emphasized the need to vary the format to keep an attractive and interesting information vehicle. She also provided an example of a copyright notice statement which should be included in newsletters.

Jill Hynes provided an overview of the journey of *News and Views* in the past two years from a photocopied reproduction of other societies' items to an original document produced with state of the art publishing tools such as QuarkXPress. She outlined the research and choices necessary to receive a Trillium Foundation Grant for hardware, software and training. As well, the ongoing challenges to fund and fill the newsletter were presented.

John Morton, owner/operator of Kwik Kopy on Anne Street South in Barrie presented a detailed analysis of the process a printer can provide from formatting of text and photos to reproduction of camera-ready documents. The effects of cost on quality were analyzed as well as the variety of formats for presentation available from pamphlets to newsletters to spiral bound documents to books.

Rhonda Long of Kempenfelt Graphics Group answered questions from the audience and attended as the technical expert on QuarkXPress and other newsletter and graphics software programs.

Many good ideas were shared throughout the afternoon, benefiting not only those in the audience, but also the presenters themselves!

COMING EVENTS of our Member Societies

Barrie Historical Association – contact Val Brucker

Meet at Barrie City Hall – 7:30 p.m.

Apr. 14 – Annual Dinner Meeting

May 12 – TBA

Genealogical Society – contact Claudia McArthur

Meet at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

79 Ferris Lane, Barrie – 2 p.m.

Apr. 2 – Fawn Stratford Devai – all day seminar – location and fee TBA

May 7 – Louise St. Denis – Professional Learning Certificates in Genealogical Studies

Huron Museum Huron Ouendat Village – contact Jamie Hunter, curator

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

Mar 14-18 – March Break Camp

Apr. 8 - May 23 – Janice Hudson Art Show

May 7 – Annual Heritage Dinner

May 16 – Annual General Meeting

Innisfil Historical Society – contact Ross Wallace

Meet at Knock Community Centre, 10th SR at 9th Line, Innisfil – 2 p.m.

Mar. 19 – Gloria Taylor – Simcoe County Museum Restoration

Apr. 16 - Old Boys/Old Girls panel of speakers

May 21 - Show and Tell

Midhurst Historical Society – contact Alice Mitchell

Meet at the Library, Findlay Mill Road

7:30 p.m. Call 726-7363

Apr. 18 – Peter Randall – 60th Anniversary of Allies win in Italy

May 16 – Ruth Byers – History and Heritage

Museum on the Boyne

250 Fletcher Crescent. Alliston

Call 435-0167

Saturdays for Kids – pre-register:

Mar. 14-18 – March Break

Day Camp

Mar. 19 – Let's Hit the Bunny Trail

Orillia Museum of Art and History – contact Ross Wallace

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

Mar. 16 – Janice Reinhard – Women's Institute

Apr. 20 – Michael Buss – Fur Trade

May 18 – James Bartleman – A Personal Odyssey – to be confirmed

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives

13 Burke St. at Beck Blvd. – Call 549-2150

Mar. 1-Apr. 30 – Passages to Freedom: Secrets of the Underground Railroad

Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury Historical Society – contact Helen Yielding

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

Call 905-775-7144 or 905-936-3659

Mar. 21 – TBA

Simcoe County Historical Association Executive

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For Membership Information, contact

Bill Packham, Membership Chair

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Please submit photos and articles regarding your projects, meetings and coming events. We would love to hear from you. Photos will be returned.

Deadline for the next issue is May 20, 2005

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