

NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

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Visit our Website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

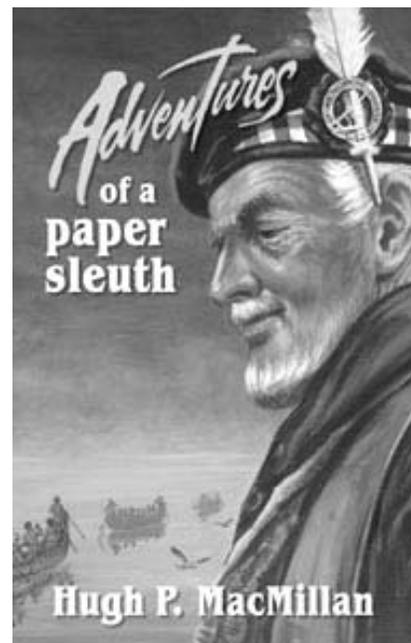
SCHA March and April Meetings



On Tuesday, March 21st we will have a post-St. Patrick's Day theme as we welcome a few of the Woodgate Irish Dancers and author Mary Munnoch. Join us at 7:30 p.m. at the Simcoe County Museum as the girls perform pair and solo step dances in the Riverdance tradition, followed by Mary's presentation on "Irish Settlement in Simcoe County". Cead Mile Failte (Welcome!)



highways, attics and basements of Ontario seeking out the often forgotten, usually unappreciated treasures of our documentary heritage. He involved himself in the founding of the Glengarry Historical Society, the Dunvegan Pioneer Museum, and the Nor'Wester and Loyalist Museum at Williamstown. In 1964, Hugh persuaded the Ontario Archives to hire him as a "roving archivist." Over the next 25 years, he secured the deposit of an invaluable mass of documentation. All Canadians are in his debt for his initiative in 1967 to retrace voyageur canoe routes and to re-enact fur trade history. In 1984, MacMillan was honoured with a Doctorate of Letters by Laurentian University, Sudbury.



Join us on Tuesday, April 18th at 7:30 p.m. when we welcome Dr. Hugh Pearson MacMillan as he presents his latest book *Adventures of a Paper Sleuth*. We will meet at the Simcoe County Museum. Dr. MacMillan roamed the



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

President's Message

As I cast my eyes over this number of *News and Views*, I cannot help but reflect just how well-served are the history and heritage of Simcoe County by its many organizations, institutions, politicians, and dedicated volunteers.

Hardly a week goes by that something of heritage interest is not made available to Simcoe County residents. Meetings, dinners, seminars, workshops, exhibits, history fairs, essay contests – we have them all. Moreover, they are happening close to home and at a nominal cost. Indeed, a great many

are offered free to the public. So ... come on out and bring a friend or two.

In Simcoe County, we are blessed with a deep appreciation of, and concern for, our long and storied past. As you work through this quarterly installment of *News & Views*, keep in mind that there are many paths to the past, and that its cause will only be strengthened by open discussion and debate.

As I eagerly anticipate "the darling buds of May," I also look forward to welcoming the Ontario Historical Society that will be holding its annual general meeting in Orillia on

May 6. I look forward to our own AGM on May 16. I especially look forward to presenting this year's Andrew Hunter Prizes. Through them, a new generation of young scholars is becoming aware of the great and vibrant history that we all share in Simcoe County.

In Memoriam

The SCHA wishes to extend condolences to Patti McLeod on the death of John Joseph Atkins in late December, 2005. John and Patti have been members of our Society for many years.

Directory to Municipal Archives in Ontario, Second Edition, Revised

The SCHA's Recording Secretary, Ellen Millar, recently has completed editing the Second Edition, Revised, of the *Directory to Municipal Archives in Ontario*. A project of the Municipal Archives Interest Group (MAIG) of the Archives Association of Ontario (AAO), the resource was originally published as part of the *Resource Guide and Directory to Municipal Archives in Ontario*. The Second Edition contains entries for more than 50 archives, historical societies, libraries and museums which hold municipal archival

records. It also includes references to 750 pre- and post-amalgamation municipalities in the Province of Ontario. The repositories and municipalities are all listed in a comprehensive index. The full publication will soon be available, in both Adobe Acrobat PDF and HTML formats, in the MAIG section of the AAO's website: <http://aao.fis.utoronto.ca/aa/maig.html>.

For more information about the Directory, or the Municipal Archives Interest Group, contact Ellen Millar,

MAIG Secretary, at emillar@county.simcoe.on.ca.

The Archives Association of Ontario also supports ARCHEION, Ontario's Archival Information Network, a publicly available, bilingual, online, searchable gateway to descriptions of archival records located in Ontario. It is our part of the Canadian Archival Information Network which is being developed by archives across the country. Visit the ARCHEION website at: <http://archeion-aaofis.utoronto.ca/>.

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Does your society have an active correspondent who can provide reports on your activities?

Historical groups are invited to submit photos and articles regarding your significant event. Photos will be returned.

Deadline for the next issue is May 25, 2006

From the Mailbag

Hello Fellow Genealogist:

Please pardon this intrusion, but as someone like you who researches genealogy, I thought you might like to know that I have recently reprinted all the county sections, including Simcoe, Grey, Dufferin, York, Peel, and Muskoka, from *The Farmers Directory for all Counties in Ontario, 1890-91*. I have found county sections from this directory to be of great assistance with my own genealogical research, so I figure that others will also find them useful, most especially because the 1890 date helps narrow search strategies for the 1891 Census of Ontario. Indeed, just check out the comments others have made on Ebay under my handle mctaggart67.

Anyhow, if you desire to obtain those county sections pertaining to your geographic areas of genealogical research interest, I'd be happy to email you a brief four-page catalogue (MS Word format) which outlines the county sections. The catalogue also includes details about two other reference sources I have authored and published, *The Ontario Photographers List (1851-1900)* and *The Ontario Photographers List, Volume II (1900-1925)*, which are both very helpful genealogical aids for documenting old family photographs.

If you'd like to peruse a catalogue, simply contact me by email at glenphillips67@sympatico.ca. Thank you for your time.

Yours in the great ancestral hunt,

Glen C. Phillips

Researching Lane, McTaggart, Morden, Van Skiver, Betsky, Howell, Curtis, Lee, and Williams in Ontario (519-273-6380)

Dear Sirs:

For some time I have been carrying out research on the railway and mining history of the Sudbury area. Currently, I am researching the early days (circa late 1881) of the Sault Ste. Marie branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The "Soo branch" was initially abandoned when the decision was made to re-route the main line beginning at Sudbury Junction.

Tenders were called for construction work beginning at Algoma Mills and working easterly in August, 1881. The contract was awarded for the first 60 miles to Sullivan, Marpole & Co. in October, 1881. Unfortunately, the major newspapers, the *Toronto Globe* and the *Toronto Mail* do not provide much information on either Sullivan or Marpole. George Sullivan, who survived the sinking of the steamer *Manitoulin* in Manitowaning Bay in the fall of 1882, is shown in the 1881 Canada Census as a pump manufacturer. Richard Marpole, in the same 1881 Canada Census is shown as a station master.

I would appreciate finding a little further background on these two individuals. The report of the Provincial Secretary in *Ontario Sessional Papers* (45 Vic. Sessional Paper (No. 67), 1882) for Joint Stock Companies incorporated in 1881 doesn't show any company registered as Sullivan, Marpole & Co. so that it may have been an unregistered syndicate. However, in late 1882, the company failed and the railway work was taken over by Harry Abbott of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Please contact me at cachetesoro@hotmail.com or at 5052 Montpellier Rd. Chelmsford, ON P0M 1L0 705-855-9849

Sincerely, Allan Stacey

January 27, 2006

Dear Members:

I am writing to you with concern over the preservation of the birthplace of the discoverer of insulin, Sir Frederick Banting, in my riding of Simcoe-Grey in the Town of New Tecumseth.

As you may already know, Edward Banting, the last owner of the homestead, bequeathed the property to the Ontario Historical Society in 1999 so that they could preserve and maintain it for the benefit of all Canadians. Unfortunately, the OHS hasn't lived up to its end of the bargain. In most countries, the birthplace of their heroes is a place of pilgrimage; but not in Canada. Counter to their published mission, the Ontario Historical Society has let Banting's Birthplace fall into ruin.

While he was alive, Edward Banting had more than a dozen meetings with executive members of the Society, during which he expressed his wishes. Any sensible person immediately would grasp the sense of Edward's bequest. He trusted the Society to do what he had discussed with them. He thought this more than 100-year-old organization with a well-established reputation for promoting and preserving Ontario history would maintain the homestead as a lasting memory of the wonderful, globally recognized accomplishments of this great Canadian.

Unfortunately, Edward was wrong. His trust in the Society has been terribly broken. And so has the trust of the Banting family, all Canadians, and 350 million insulin users worldwide. Indeed, the Society has broken its word, neglected to provide

From the Mailbag continued

even minimal maintenance to the property for the past six years, allowed the buildings to deteriorate beyond repair, and has abandoned them to possible vandalism.

In an attempt to preserve the homestead, I introduced the *Frederick Banting Homestead Preservation Act* in the Ontario Legislature. [Editor's note: For a copy, see http://www.ontla.on.ca/documents/Bills/38_Parliament/session2/index.htm#P236_16620] The Bill passed Second Reading unanimously with the support of MPPs from all parties. It protects the homestead and forbids alteration or demolition of any of the farm buildings except for repairs and renovations or for use as an educational and interpretive centre. It also designates the entire 100-acre farm as a not-for-profit enterprise restricted to agricultural purposes and allows the property to be used as a camp for diabetic children.

I am respectfully soliciting your support in requesting that the McGuinty government expedite the Third Reading of the Banting Bill, in order for it to become law. I am also encouraging you to express support for this initiative directly to the Ontario Historical Society.

Enclosed please find copies of a pamphlet that I am distributing across the province in an attempt to gain support for my Bill. If you would like additional copies of the pamphlet please feel free to contact my office. You will also find a copy of a speech I gave to the Alliston Rotary Club on this topic, a copy of my Bill, and a copy of a letter from the lawyers for the Ontario Historical Society threatening me and other local

elected officials with trespassing charges after we tried to bring attention to this issue more than a year ago.

It's time to respect and honour the Banting family and express the gratitude of 350 million insulin users worldwide. The restoration work has got to begin now. We need a dramatic change of direction because it's time to repair the damage that six years of carelessness have caused. It's time to restore those buildings and it's time to protect the property from potential vandalism and further wearing away.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Jim Wilson, MPP
Simcoe-Grey
180 Parsons Road, Unit 28,
Alliston, ON L9R 1E8 705-435-4087

15 February 2006

Update to Members of the Ontario Historical Society In Respect of a Gift by Edward Knight Banting

Introduction

For several months, a campaign has been mounted against The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) regarding its ownership of a 100-acre parcel of land in the Town of New Tecumseth that was donated to the OHS by Edward Knight Banting. Edward was a nephew of the late Sir Frederick Banting and a member of the OHS. Sir Frederick was a scientist who co-developed a treatment (insulin) for sufferers of diabetes. Some members of the Banting family have been displeased by the donation of this property to the OHS and have tried, through a variety of means, to persuade or compel the OHS to

relinquish its ownership of the property in favour of an entity that they control or influence.

The initiatives of the OHS to manage this property responsibly and to plan for its future have been consistently frustrated. The Banting Educational Committee, a subcommittee of Council for New Tecumseth, is dominated or materially influenced by members of the Banting family. They have won the ear of MPP Jim Wilson (Simcoe-Grey) and as a result of their influence he has introduced Bill 20, a private member's bill, described as "An Act to ensure the preservation of the Frederick Banting Property."

The introduction of Bill 20 has been accompanied by a well-orchestrated campaign that attempts to vilify the OHS, its Executive and Board of Directors. Although those persons have no vested interest in the property, some members of the Banting family and their supporters have written a number of letters to the press and other media suggesting that the President and Executive Director of the OHS, and the Chair of The Ontario Historical Society Foundation (OHSF) should be "charged as incompetent agents, incapable of upholding the values of truth and honesty" and have demanded their resignations. The OHS has been defamed by such publications. At present, the OHS is attempting to find a means by which to resolve the existing challenge, short of expensive and protracted litigation.

Background Events

In 1999, the OHS received a 100-acre (approximately) parcel of farmland at Alliston by way of bequest from Edward Banting. A residence and

From the Mailbag continued

collection of farm buildings stand on the parcel. The late Sir Frederick Banting was born on the property and resided there during his youth.

In 1925, the house, in which Sir Frederick had been born, was demolished and replaced by the current dwelling. The house that stands today was the residence of Edward, and it was this house that was bequeathed to the OHS. The OHS believes that Edward's ownership and gift should be acknowledged and recognized. The property was not owned or gifted by the late Sir Frederick Banting. Edward's gift was made to the OHS without condition as to its future use. Indeed, there is evidence that he had recognized and accepted that the sale of portions of the property by the OHS might be appropriate in order to generate funds to support the work of the OHS or to maintain, restore or renovate structures on the property.

It is significant that Edward was a long-time member of the OHS and that there is no substantiation for the suggestions that he wanted the property to house a diabetes centre or that the OHS be prohibited from selling any portion of the property, as stated in Bill 20.

It has been alleged that the OHS was involved in the sale and prospective development of a 50-acre parcel of land in Alliston, adjacent to Edward's parcel, on which stands a Paleo-Indian archaeological site. Contrary to such allegations, the OHS does not, and never has had, an ownership interest in the Paleo-Indian parcel.

In 2004, the OHS negotiated with the Town of New Tecumseth and (through it) with the Banting Educational Committee and members of the Banting family. It did so in an effort to chart a course for the future

of the property that would be historically sensitive and acceptable to the municipality. The municipality provided to the OHS a draft Agreement that was supposed to reflect the substance of the negotiations. The draft Agreement required the transfer of the 100-acre parcel to the municipality without payment or consideration to the OHS, but did not restrict or regulate the sale of the property by the municipality. The OHS had not discussed and could not agree to such terms, and for that reason, the negotiations failed. Allegations made in the articles that have been published, accusing the OHS of having negotiated in bad faith and of reneging on an agreement that it had made, are entirely false.

More recently, some members of the Banting family appear to have solicited politicians to take up their cause, and to submit a series of articles for publication in the media. Politicians who have become involved in issues related to the property have sought to enact legislation that would prohibit or restrict the ability of the OHS to sell any portion of the property.

As the proposed legislation has proceeded toward enactment, numerous articles have been published in the media, in which the OHS, and specifically Brian Osborne, Chris Oslund and Patricia Neal, each of whom has faithfully represented the interest of the OHS, have been vilified in an unwarranted fashion, and portrayed as incompetent and unethical.

Issues Related to Bill 20 and the *Ontario Heritage Act*

The OHS has undertaken and continues to investigate initiatives by which the heritage of the property can be acknowledged and recognized.

Designation of the buildings under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, is preferred over the restrictive provisions that are a feature of Bill 20. Jim Wilson, the proponent of Bill 20, has disagreed with the perspective of the OHS, for the following reasons:

In his correspondence dated December 5, 2005, he adopted and accepted a claim by or on behalf of the municipality that designation of the relevant portion of the property pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act* would force "... thousands of dollars in legal fees on the ratepayers of New Tecumseth." The fact is that the cost of designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act* would result in a nominal cost to such ratepayers, consistent with expenses and costs incurred in the designation of other properties that are regarded as having cultural significance.

In his December 5, 2005 correspondence, Mr. Wilson alleged that the OHS had not met with the Town of New Tecumseth for one year, and that the last meeting took place in December, 2004. It must be said that the last occasion on which Mr. Wilson attended a meeting with the OHS and the municipality occurred in December, 2004. Mr. Wilson failed to acknowledge that the OHS met with representatives of the municipality on no fewer than four occasions in 2005, the most recent meeting having occurred on September 15, 2005.

Proposal for Development of a "Diabetic Camp"

In correspondence authored by him and published on December 1, 2005, Peter Banting alleged that Edward had hoped that some day the property "... would also continue his legacy in

From the Mailbag continued

the form of a Camp.” No evidence to corroborate or support this allegation has been provided to the OHS, and Edward’s Will does not mention this.

Peter Banting’s correspondence contains references to meetings of “... a Banting family representative ...” with the President of the OHS in an endeavour to find a solution to the problem or to offer support. Regrettably the position adopted by members of the Banting family at meetings attended by the OHS was one of non-negotiation and their insistence that title to the entire 100-acre parcel revert to the Banting Educational Committee.

The OHS was assured that the family would aggressively fight any other solution or compromise proposed by the OHS. The President of the OHS indicated that the Society would not accede to any such demands.

The OHS has, at meetings that were convened by the Deputy Minister of Culture, indicated that it remains open to a proposal for the future use of the property for a camp that would or could provide assistance or comfort to persons with diabetes, provided that a well-reasoned business plan is supplied in which evidence of adequate funding for such purpose and assurances as to the proposed use of the property are established. The OHS needs to have assurances as to the long-term financial viability of the organization to which it agrees to convey the property, know that the heritage integrity of the property will be protected, and be shown that the latter is not threatened by the planned development of such an undertaking. No satisfactory evidence or assurance

has been provided to the OHS by the Banting family, nor, indeed, by any other party.

Representatives of the Banting family (including Bob and Peter M. Banting) who attended the meeting that was convened by the Deputy Minister of Culture orally assured the Ministry and the OHS that the process of creating the “Sir Frederick Banting Legacy Foundation” as a valid not-for-profit entity had been commenced and that evidence thereof together with a reliable and complete business plan would be provided at the conclusion of such process. No such evidence has been provided to the OHS to date, and for that reason the OHS had not given further consideration to the Legacy Foundation proposal.

Allegations against the OHS

The following are some of the inaccurate and unfair allegations that have been made against the OHS, in an effort to undermine its credibility. The allegations do not take into account the Society’s reputation for protecting and nurturing the heritage of Ontario for more than a century.

Allegation A: “Sufficient income” has been generated from the rental of the property for farm purposes to fund maintenance of the property and unavoidable expenses such as municipal property taxes and insurance premiums.

Response: The allegation is false. The OHS has expended amounts in excess of its rental income to meet its obligations for municipal taxes, insurance, repairs, heating and other expenses directly related to the property. The OHS acknowledges that additional funds need to be

expended in the restoration and conservation of the existing buildings on the property. Annual operating funds that the OHS receives from the government of Ontario are dependant upon a variety of factors including the use to which the funds will be put in order to serve the broad mandate of the OHS. Such funds are not available to be diverted to matters related to repairs to or renovation of heritage buildings, however worthy such purpose might be. All attempts by the OHS to raise funds to permit such restoration have been frustrated, for the most part by parties who have been most strident in criticism of it.

Allegation B: The roof “... blew off 3 weeks ago.”

Response: This allegation is misleading, excessive and false. Some shingles were blown off the roof by high winds during a recent storm. Such damage was consistent with damage sustained by other local properties during that storm. Since the date of the storm, the damaged shingles have been replaced and the OHS has obtained professional advice that the building is now weather-tight and secure. A contract has been let for the replacement of the roof and eavestroughs, but the work cannot be undertaken until the Spring of 2006, when weather conditions are more favourable.

Allegation C: The OHS is motivated by “... greed and greed alone ...” when it considers the sale of a portion of the property.

Response: The purpose of the OHS in considering a sale of a portion of the property has consistently been to raise funds that will be needed for the restoration and conservation of the heritage buildings that stand on the property and to create an endowment for future conservation and heritage

From the Mailbag continued

initiatives of the OHS. The OHS has plainly stated such purposes to representatives of the municipality during meetings convened by the Deputy Minister of Culture, and such purposes have subsequently been reconfirmed from time to time.

Allegation D: The portion of the property on which the existing farm buildings stand includes lands that comprise the adjacent significant archaeological site.

Response: Prior to his death, Edward Banting severed and sold the lands that encompass the archaeological site. The OHS has never owned the archaeological site.

Allegation E: The OHS has “lied” to its membership and others about the heritage significance of the property and issues related to the demolition, reconstruction or remodelling of the dwelling in which Sir Frederick Banting had been born.

Response: The dwelling in which Sir Frederick Banting was born was demolished in 1925. The building that stands today was constructed on the stone foundations of the original building. It is said that some materials salvaged from the original dwelling were used in the construction of the building that stands today. The OHS recognizes and supports the heritage value of the property and its association with the boyhood years of Sir Frederick Banting.

Allegation F: The bequest by Edward was received by the OHS “... on the understanding that it would preserve and maintain it for the benefit of all Canadians ...” as a “... permanent memorial to a great Canadian.”

Response: The text of the Will that Edward signed does not include such a provision, nor did Edward mention it to members of the OHS who met

with him before his death.

Allegation G: The Will of Edward stipulated that he wished the OHS to retain the entire 100-acre parcel, intact.

Response: The allegation is inaccurate and unsubstantiated. The clear and documented recollection of persons who met with the late Edward at the time of his bequest, is that he understood and accepted some portion of the property might have to be sold in order to raise funds for the restoration and conservation of the buildings situate thereon.

Summary

The fundamental objectives and assumptions of the OHS are as follows:

The OHS continues to honour and respect the wishes of the late Edward Knight Banting.

The realities related to the financial resources of the OHS and to its responsibilities require that it concentrate its efforts on the preservation of the existing buildings and on a 20-acre portion of the land defined to protect the setting of those buildings.

As anticipated by the late Edward Banting, the OHS seeks to sell up to 30 acres of the property in order to generate funds for future restoration and maintenance.

Following a sale by the OHS of up to 30 acres of the property, the purpose and intention of the OHS will be to reach an agreement with a properly constituted organization (either public or private) that proposes an appropriate use for the property, and is committed to respect the property’s heritage and integrity.

The purpose and intention of the OHS will continue to be to manage the remainder of the property (approximately 50 acres) as a long-term rental property.

Conclusion

It is hoped that the foregoing responds to any questions and concerns that may have been raised in respect of the status of the Alliston property that the late Edward Knight Banting bequeathed to the OHS, and the stance that the OHS has adopted on this issue. Issues of a legal nature in respect of Bill 20 have not been addressed here as that matter is currently the subject of review by counsel for the OHS. Members will be provided further information related to Bill 20, and to other issues related to the property at an appropriate date. Your continued support and understanding is recognized and appreciated.

Sincerely,

The Ontario Historical Society

Brian Osborne, President

Chris Oslund, First Vice-President
Chair, The Ontario Historical Society
Foundation

SCHA Memberships

Memberships for 2006 are now due. Rates are \$12/individual, \$15/couple or family.

Send fees to: SCHA, 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.

Have you renewed? If it says ‘2005’ in the top right corner of the address label on the envelope that this copy of *News & Views* arrived in, then you have not renewed.

Please phone Bill @ 705-739-0906 to check your status.



Simcoe County Historical
Association

Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Happenings

By Helen Yielding

Show and Tell a Popular Event

There's a wealth of fascinating and honoured articles residing in the homes of local citizens. The members of the Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society saw some of those articles and heard their stories at the Annual, January Show and Tell meeting. From viewing a turtle-shaped spittoon to an 1850's highchair to a modern woodworking "smoothing plane" based on a traditional model, the audience enjoyed the experience thoroughly.

Marie Moyes displayed a family treasure – a hand-painted tea set dated from 1775. Stuart Calhoun's father's baby cup, a candy dish and an inkwell recalled past times. The excitement of fancy balls came alive as Elizabeth Davis shared the delights of wearing exotic paper face masks owned and used by her grandmother. Evelyn Davis recalled school fairs and showed her prize, a silver rose bowl, donated by the T. Eaton Co. for her achievements. Evelyn was curious to know if others knew of the Eaton connection with school fairs.

Glenna Ogle and Helen Yielding both shared books. Glenna is the proud owner of a signed and dedicated copy of Igor Gouzenko's autobiography. Helen read from an 1880s self-help book on how to find and treat a young wife, from a male point of view, of course. Peter Van Dyke's collection of magazines about the Maxwell car intrigued many. Also in the print line was a trio of old-fashioned local postcards, one of which required a mirror to read the secret message, collected by June Chambers.

Framed articles were offered by Isobel Abbott and Ron Brightly. Isobel's

grandparents' beautifully decorated marriage certificate, complete with photos is a family treasure. Scenes from Robbie Burns country were captured in paintings done by Ron when was billeted in Burns' former schoolhouse during the war. Myrtle Brightly displayed an intricately-carved jewellery box, sent to her from another of Ron's war postings, Kashmir, India.

Franz Aschwanden had an unusual take on the three unique cameras he owns, one from each of East Germany, Russia and Czechoslovakia. He noted that the countries of origin no longer exist as such on modern maps. All in all, 2006 was a banner year for Show and Tell.

Congratulations to Authors

It is with great pleasure and pride that we announce that Betty Anderson and her late husband, Allan, have been recognized for the Wall of Honour by the Museum on the Boyne. Both the Andersons have been diligent in preserving and promoting local history through books, newspaper columns and lectures. The incredible history book of Tecumseth Township, *The Unforgettable Past*, stands as a monument to their passion for history.

Disappearing Barns Tell Stories

All buildings tell stories but the ones told by barns are particularly precious as barns, local and distant, are disappearing. George Duncan, an architectural historian, told some stories, showed slides and related information on this fading rural heritage.

George reminded his audience that barns developed to meet the needs of individual farmers. While clearing the land early settlers built log barns that functioned as grain storage with threshing floors. Later, as mixed

farming became the norm, other, larger barns, built into a bank of earth or raised on foundations, appeared with a granary on top and a stable below. Barns were generally built with a gable roof prior to 1890 and a hip roof after that time. Other variations were cultural; the Dutch gambrel roof, the Pennsylvanian-German saltbox and the English style barn resting directly on the ground reflected their builders' backgrounds. Some barns were sided horizontally, some vertically. Some were painted with earth pigments and linseed oil while others were left to weather naturally. One can still find a rare brick barn.

A study of these barns may well reveal layers of history for the curious observer. Old hinges, leftover windows and doors from previous buildings reappeared in new structures. Recycled stone foundations can be detected. Decorative cutouts near the roofline or builders' marks often date a building specifically. Lightning rods, "fire letters" (a paper bearing a bible verse imbedded in a beam) or an opening for birds to enter the barn were attempts at fire protection.

Now, besieged by development, "agribusiness farms" or changing farm production, some old barns are being sold for their lumber value or left to decay and crumble. George had several slides to demonstrate how some structures have been re-used in innovative ways such as a farmers' market, a restaurant, retail stores, a winery, equipment storage and a museum display. But the best use is still agricultural.

The next time you drive along our side-roads give a thought for the beauty, the timelessness and the record of history that these impressive structures bear.

Museum on the Boyne Activities

by Rachelle Clayton

The Museum on the Boyne is planning to celebrate the 185th year of the naming of the Townships of South Simcoe, April 14 1821. We want to feature some of the people for which the townships are named. Unfortunately there is some confusion about a few and we were wondering if anyone could guide us to a resolution.

Obviously the County is named for John Graves Simcoe, New Tecumseth for Chief Tecumseh, and Lady Simcoe's maiden name is Gwillim for West and East Gwillimbury (Don't forget about Tiny, Tay, and Flos. Does anyone ever claim to be the poor black lab Simcoe almost ate?)

Adjala is supposed to be the wife of Tecumseh. Tecumseh had three wives and so far we have not found reference to Adjala. Can anyone help? Does it stand for something else? Does anyone know who first made this claim? Secondly, Essa is supposed to be a Shawnee Princess,

or Tecumseh's daughter or a Indian Chief's Daughter in an unidentified Indian Language. True?

Lastly, I am conducting my research and have contacted the Ontario Legislature to get a list of the townships which were named on this date (Thanks to Tom I realize that Tossorontio was a later addition).

Also if anyone would like to speak on the topic or has suggestions of speakers I would welcome any leads. If all goes well I hope to have an entire lecture series and invite you all to attend.

Below: Banting Homestead Photo courtesy of Museum on the Boyne



Museum on the Boyne is proud to announce that through funding from Canadian Heritage, Virtual Museum, Communities Memories Program, we are creating a Virtual Museum Exhibit. *Banting Homestead: It's the Best Place for a Kid!* will give a personal tour through the Banting homestead through a child's eyes and will focus on the theme "Child's Play". If you or a family member ever worked, played or attended a social gathering on "Ballyfin" please fill out a Banting Homestead Memories Work Booklet, available at the Museum or at www.town.newtecumseth.on.ca.

Ontario Historical Society Annual General Meeting

The Simcoe County Historical Association is pleased to host this year's meeting, in partnership with the Orillia Museum of Art and History and the OPP Museum. The Annual General Meeting, including the 39th Annual Honours and Awards Presentation will take place on Saturday, May 6th.

This year, the featured speaker will be Charles Garrard, noted author and historian. The day will include the regular business meeting and annual elections for the Society.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Patricia Neal at the

Ontario Historical Society,
34 Parkview Avenue
Willowdale, Ontario, M2N 3Y2
Telephone: 416-226-9011
Fax: 416-226-2740
E-Mail Address:
ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca



Historica Fair

Fêtes **HISTORICA** Fairs

On Wednesday, April 26th, the Fourth Annual Historica Fair will take place at the Simcoe County Museum. The Historica Fair offers students from Grade 4 to Grade 9 the opportunity to present their research projects, with some progressing to provincial and national competitions. The SCHA is pleased to provide continued support, and 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.

Exploring The Giants Around Georgian Bay: Grain Terminals, Ships and Trains

by Brian Baker

Noting my penchant for playing with boats in any puddle or pool I could find when I was a kid, my old grandfather, George Baker commented to my Mother, Rosie, "I think my grandson will follow the sea!" I was perplexed by these words. What did he mean by "follow the sea"? It was ages later when the logic of it finally tumbled to me. To follow the sea, of course, was to make a career of life at sea, which from his point of view was the second most honorable occupation after his own as a farmer.

Well, as it turned out, I too was to become a life-time Simcoe County dairy farmer a thousand miles from the actual sea he was referring to. But wait a minute! My Uncle Reg. Baker, then a surveyor on the Southern Pacific Railroad in California (Live Oak) aroused in me a keen interest in trains with his exciting railroading stories.



Brian Baker at our January meeting

Following the intriguing network of railroads of Huronia, and the trains that plied them to supply some of the *Barrie Examiner* stories, latterly under "Rural Routes," was to lead me into the awesome marine-land of giant grain (wheat, oats and barley)

transfer storage elevators, and ship buildings around Georgian Bay. Over the long years I have explored and photographically recorded this mind-boggling world in a way few inlanders have been privileged to experience.

The first elevator in Collingwood was supplied by sailing boats bringing wheat from Chicago soon after the mid-1850's arrival of the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railroad (Grand Trunk, C.N.R.) that came through Allandale. In the early 1900s, the present 2-million bushel concrete elevator was built. Sadly, it now stands unused, a lonely, gleaming white landmark sentinel standing out in Nottawasaga Bay.

Again, in the mid 1800s, the Watts family started the tradition of ship-building in Collingwood with the famed Watt's Skiff. From the late 1800s to the mid-1990s, the Collingwood Shipyards produced an amazing number and variety of ships starting with wooden hulls and graduating to double-hulled steel vessels. Included in the line-up were, number one, grain freighters, oil tankers, ice breakers, and even warships like the famed submarine-hunting Corvettes that distinguished themselves in the North Atlantic World War II.

It is with great sadness that we have watched the demise of three of Midland's Bay Port grain elevators. First to go many years ago was the old and smaller Aberdeen Elevator. Then went the Midland Sunnyside Elevator on the north shore close to the old Iron Foundry. We watched the attempt to dynamite the top elevator head off, but so well did the steel reinforce the concrete hold, that only

a small portion crashed to the ground. No trace of this once busy elevator complex remains, now the site of Bayport Marina.

Around the corner we later watched a towering crane with a massive 1500 kg iron wrecking ball slowly smash down the Tiffin Elevators, leaving only the basement over which it is said a big apartment building will soon sprout.

A seemingly endless stream of huge capacity bulk hopper trailer trucks, like the 33- to 39-tonne Cros-Croft rigs from Essa Sideroad 5, now carry the daily flour production from A.D.M. Mills (formerly Olgivie) to bakeries throughout Southern Ontario. Freighters are yet frequent visitors to this facility on the walls of which is painted one of the world's largest and most magnificent wall murals depicting the meeting of a Jesuit priest with an aboriginal Huron at Saint Marie Among the Hurons.

Long vanished are the Midland Shipyards that, like Collingwood, once produced proud Great Lake's freighters east of King Street bay ending. Today, the Uni-Min Plant processes pure quartzite silicone stone, finely milled for paints and a host of other industrial products on the site. The stone is also brought in by freighter, and you feel dwarfed by the mountain of material stock-piled beside the crushing plant, over 200,000 metric tons!

Now only ghostly winds wail through the dark basement of the great 6-million bushel Port McNicoll elevators, which were established by the Canadian Pacific Railway in the early 1900s as a transfer storage facility between Thunder Bay and the Maritime ports. It was reached by

Exploring The Giants Around Georgian Bay

continued

way of the world's longest trestle bridge at over 2,000 feet. Considered a strategic war target, it was watched over day and night by armed guards during both World Wars. This and other Bay Port elevators helped assure a steady supply of flour cereal products to Britain and the Allied Armies.

The Owen Sound Great Lakes Elevator Co. is one of the two (counting A.D.M.) last Georgian Bay grain terminals still operating, of the original seven built to handle Western Canadian Wheat either for regional distribution or for transfer to Atlantic export ports. Built in the later 1920s, the impressive block of concrete tower bins have a storage capacity of over 100,000 metric tonnes which would fill a convoy of big tanker trailer transport trucks stretching from Owen Sound to Collingwood. We watched as the big hopper transport trucks laboriously climb the heavy grade up onto the southward-bound uplands highways, part of the daily 700 tonnes of special grades of wheat shipped to bakeries in distant towns and cities.

Although the transfer grain elevators of Georgian Bay continue to operate for many years after, the completion of the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959 heralded their demise, and a very colourful facet of our history. The ports would often have loaded freighters lined up at the docks at the start of winter freeze up for unloading into the elevator storage silos throughout the winter.

Marine and Terminal Terms

She's riding high: Unloaded freighters stand high out of the water, making navigation more difficult

against wind and waves.

Old Man is the traditional term for the skipper or captain.

Port side is on the left of the vessel; *Starboard* is on the right.

Bow is the front of the vessel; *Stern* or *Back-aft* is the rear.

To Ride Her Down was the never-to-be-forgotten experience of being on board a new ship during a side-launch, as at Collingwood.

The *Leg* was the elevator arm that descended into the holds of grain carriers from the side of the elevator terminal to unload the ships and is still used in Owen Sound.

Most ore and grain carriers today are self-unloaders with hopper-shaped holds from which conveyors unload onto swinging boom conveyors into the *Receiver Bin* high up on the grain terminal.

Star Bins are the spaces between the blocks of circular storage bins, also used for grain storage.

Grain Vortexes form at the top surface of grain as it is unloaded from the basement, and could swallow up and suffocate a man unlucky enough to be trapped by its deadly pull.

From the weigh-scales for out-going wheat the grain would roar down with such force as to blow off the heavy hatch covers of the railcars being loaded far below. Sadly, today all of the Bay Ports have lost their railroad connections.

But yes, in a way, my grandfather's prediction did come true, and I did "Follow the Sea!" From being invited to eat lunch with freighter captains, to riding front end freight trains to the ports, to being awed by the immensity and complexity of the Bay

Port elevator terminals, I have been extremely privileged and my life has been enriched by this facet of Huronia's history.

Farewell, Giants Round The Bay

Farewell, giant grain elevators round the bay,
Well you have served, but you have had your day.
With the stroke of a pen your doom was sealed,
When the Eastern freight rate was repealed.

Tall and strong like mighty castles on guard,
Proud landmarks in Huronia's own front yard.
As we fondly gaze out across the water bright,
We find your simple beauty pleasing to our sight.

With your feet in the clay, your hands in the sky,
Waves splash at your sides, gulls round you fly.
Scorched by summer's sun, chilled by winter's blast,
Forlorn now you stand, Mute testimony to the past.

Gone are the freighters big, gone are the trains,
Gone are the transports, all gone are the grains.
Gone are the people who kept you and worked you,
Gone are the good old days, vanished into the blue.

It was a thrill to explore you both inside and out,
From basement dark to roof tops high, and all about.
Marine tower, workhouse, car puller, hand carts,
Loffer, tripper, skip boards, we knew your parts.

Too bad, we recall the demise of old Aberdeen,
Just razed to the ground as if it had never been.
For the Tiffin, the Simcoe, the Port, time is late.
What can we do before they're dumped into the lake.

People for you have lived, for you some have died.
Yet we love you, and to save you many have tried.
All too soon your walls may come tumbling down,
Your space is planned for houses in a growing town.

For ever in our hearts you'll live, though you die,
Across the bay like mirages, we'll see you in the sky.
Time is running out, and now we must come to say:
Good-bye, Farewell, Giants standing round the bay.

By Brian Baker
Innisfil

Many thanks to Brian for sharing this information at our January meeting. What a gift for stories and poetry!

History for the 21st Century: The Promise (and Perils?) of Computer Simulations and Games

Through a series of questions, stories, and interactive experiences, Dr. Kevin Kee of Brock University brought his research to life at our 2006 Heritage Week Event. Kee challenged, "It is time that historians explore other ways in which computers might be used for teaching. Instead of employing the new technology of the computer to duplicate what we have been doing with the old technology of paper, we need to think about what it is that we want to achieve as historians and teachers of history, and look for ways that computers might help us realize these goals."

Some of Kee's past work with the National Film Board saw the development of an interactive site where students analyze past uses of the War Measures Act from the viewpoints of three stakeholders, then decide whether or not to invoke a similar act to deal with a cyber terrorism crisis. Visit



Dr. Kevin Kee at our Heritage Day Event at the Museum

http://www.nfb.ca/enclasse/wma/war_measures/html/frameset_e.htm to investigate this learning experience yourself.

In <http://www.civ3.com/>, we encountered a "game (that) is an addictive blend of building, exploration, discovery and conquest. Players match wits against some of history's greatest leaders as they strive to build the ultimate civilization to stand the test of time." Dr. Kee explained that researchers supplied students with the game for a few weeks and told them to play. Upon the researchers' return, students were asked to explain what they had learned. "Nothing," was the response, "but the game was great." Delving a little deeper, students described investigation of historical time periods at the library, searches in encyclopedias, and analysis of agricultural growth vs. war in the development of civilizations, all undertaken to assist in their ability to win the game. But, they didn't learn anything. Right.

Kee's final challenge to the group asked, "What are the best practices for the creation of educational computer simulations and serious games to communicate history? Engagement allows users remain in the games long enough to learn; understanding of content takes place through the use of visualization and other non-textual formalisms; and understanding of historical practices comes from generating, corroborating, representing and assessing interpretations of the past."

We can look forward to the amazing possibilities for future educational experiences foreshadowed at this cutting edge presentation.

OMAH Sir John A. Dinner

by Dr. Richard Johnston

Once again, the Orillia Museum of Art and History hosted a sold-out Sir John A. Macdonald dinner. Guest speaker Senator Hugh Segal was excellent and remained totally non-partisan in his very humorous talk on John A. Little did we know when we invited our presenter a year ago that he would be a Senator speaking ten days before a Federal Election! Nonetheless, he was very professional and gave, as requested, a tribute to Sir John A. and to Canada.

He was thanked by past OMAH chair Jean Sargeant (pictured below with the Senator) after they were piped in to dinner by Peter Gill.



Many out-of-town guests included Hugh Gainsford, John A.'s great grandson from Manitoba, who visited St. Paul's Church the next morning with a warm reception.

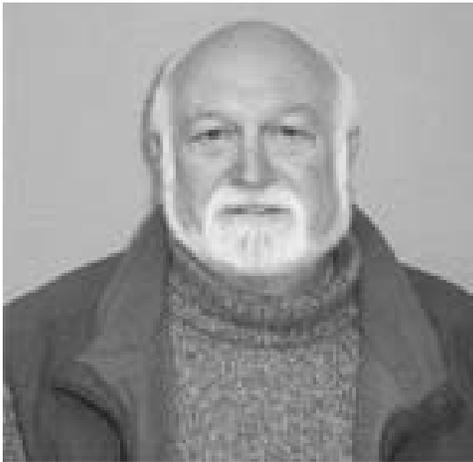
Another notable visitor to Orillia

Gordon Lightfoot, Canadian music legend, and Orillia native, visited St. Paul's Church on Sunday, December 4th as part of their Homecoming. Lightfoot was a boy soprano in the late 1940s. He is certainly a part of Simcoe County history.



SCHA Annual General Meeting, May 16, 2006

This year, the SCHA is pleased to welcome Dr. Brian Osborne, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography at Queen's University, Kingston, as our guest speaker for the evening. Dr. Osborne will have become the immediate past president of the Ontario Historical Society the week prior to our meeting. Dr. Osborne will focus on his passion for local history.



Dr. Osborne's biography, supplied by Queen's University, provides some details of our guest's pursuits. "Despite several seductive diversions along my academic odyssey, I continue to be an unreconstructed historical geographer. My past research interests have been concerned with the settlement geography of such diverse locales as Wales, Colorado, Western Canada, and Ontario. Some of this research will appear in the volume I am editing, *Canada's Changing Countrysides* (McGill-Queen Press).

In particular, for both academic and populist reasons, I enjoy studying the place in which I live and the volume I wrote (with Donald Swainson) *Kingston: Building on the Past* (1987) forged very satisfying

links with the local community. Because of this, I have undertaken another community project, *The Rock and the Sword: A History of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kingston*.

Recent publications have addressed the role of art, literature, and the "culture of communications" in the development of Canadian national identity. The latter has been related to canals, railways, and postal systems, all of which have also resulted in contract work for such agencies as Parks Canada and Canada Post. My current interests are in the area of monumentalism, commemoration and performance as contributors to the construction of social memory and national identity. In particular, I am interested in examining the relevance of past national metanarratives to an increasingly plural and cosmopolitan society. These matters will be central to my ongoing project, *Establishing the Centre, Integrating the Margins: An Historical Geography of Canadian National Identity* (Cambridge University Press)."

As usual, our evening will begin at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the Bell Farm Road Banquet Hall, Barrie, 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 by May 1st.

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

In accordance with our Constitution and By-laws, the following motion is provided to our membership:

SCHA Board of Director's Meeting,
March 8, 2005

6.2 The Constitution of the Simcoe County Historical Association

The Association's Constitution, By-Laws and the number of directors constituting quorum were discussed. It was

MOVED BY: Bill Packham

SECONDED BY: Ross Wallace

THAT a notice of motion "to reduce the number of directors required for quorum from eight to six, and the Association's Constitution and By-Laws be adopted as amended," be presented to the membership at the 2005 SCHA Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

Unfortunately, we were unable to bring the motion to the attention of the membership in a timely manner in 2005 as *News and Views* was in the mail already! We will remedy this situation now and formally present the motion at the AGM. If you would like a copy of the Constitution and By-laws, they will be available at the March and April meetings, and on the night of the AGM. You also may request a copy by contacting the executive members listed on page 2 of this issue.

We look forward to another evening of great food, fine conversation, short order of business, and enlightening historical presentation.



Simcoe County Historical
Association

The Andrew Hunter Prize 2006

The Andrew Hunter Prize is awarded annually for the best essay on the history of Simcoe County, Ontario, written in a course by an undergraduate student in any university. In this third year of the competition, we look forward to receiving many worthy entries.

Conditions: Entries must be undergraduate essays between 3,000 and 5,000 words in length on some aspect of the history of Simcoe County, Ontario, written in English or in French. The author must be a part-time or full-time undergraduate student in a degree program at an accredited university or college. The essay must have been written to meet the requirement of an undergraduate credit course during the 2005-2006 academic year.



Submissions: Entries shall be submitted no later than March 31, 2006 and will not be returned to the contestants. Essays must be typed in Times New Roman 12 point font, double spaced, and should not bear the instructor's comments or grade. Two copies must be provided. A cover sheet must list the author's name, address, phone number, status, school affiliation and department, and the name of the instructor for whom the paper was written.

Entries should be sent to:

The Corresponding Secretary
Simcoe County Historical Association
P.O. Box 144, Barrie, ON L4M 4S9

Adjudication: Entries will be judged by a distinguished panel appointed by the Simcoe County Historical Association. The winners will be announced in early May, 2006 with the presentation of the prizes to take place at the Annual General Meeting.

Prize: There will be two prizes awarded, one for \$750 and one for \$250, in Canadian funds. 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 award a prize. For more information, see www.simcoecountyhistory.ca.

The Simcoe County Historical Association is pleased to offer The Andrew Hunter Prize again this year to college and undergraduate university students studying Simcoe County topics. Last year's recipients, Kate Morris, first place, and Virginia Morrow, second place, both study history through the Laurentian University at Georgian College program.

Be sure to encourage any college and university students you know, grandchildren, friends, and adult students to submit a qualified paper.

Congratulations Pat!

We are pleased to report that our SCHA Board Member, Pat Elliott, received the 2006 Award for Teacher Librarian of the Year at the Ontario School Library Association's annual conference last month. The Simcoe County Board of Education reported, "Exceptional contributions to literacy and librarianship at local and provincial levels, infused with Pat's strong focus on nurturing a love of words among students, resulted in a nomination supported by all teacher-librarians in Simcoe County." Pat is the Simcoe County representative for Historica Fairs as well, carrying her love of history into the lives of our local students as well.

Ontario Heritage Act

New regulations required to fully implement the improved Ontario Heritage Act are now in place. These regulations mark a major step forward for heritage conservation in Ontario for designation of heritage properties, protection of marine archaeological sites, and licensing of archaeological field work.

To see the entire regulations visit www.e-laws.gov.on.ca, Regulations 8/06, 9/06, 10/06, and 11/06. More information is available at www.culture.gov.on.ca.

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*With thanks to
The Ontario Trillium Foundation
for their financial support.*

Treasures at the Simcoe County Archives

by Virginia Morrow

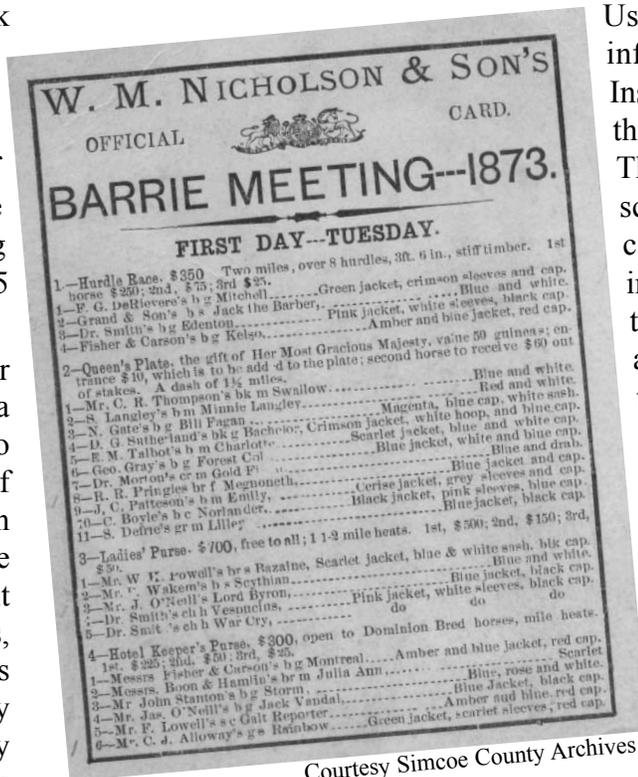
For those who haven't had their fill of sports after the Olympics, try heading to the Simcoe County Archives on Highway #26. The Simcoe County Sports Heritage Collection is full of great information about local sports and our talented athletes.

The Barrie Flyers Junior "A" Hockey Club is an integral part of Simcoe County's incredible hockey history, and the Sports Collection is home to some great documents from the club's past. The collection includes many photographs, programs, newspaper supplements, telegrams, and more. There are some fascinating photographs of the team in a more casual setting than their formal portraits, such as scenes inside the dressing room. There is also a picture of a young Don Cherry during his time as a Flyer. Archie Marshall (secretary-treasurer) and Hank Partridge (trainer) donated personal papers from their time with the club, which are a great addition to the collection. There is also a wealth of information on everyone's favourite OHL club, the Barrie Colts, dating back to their formation in 1905 through their Jr. "B" years.

The collection documents the career of Minesing's Frank Foyston, a Hockey Hall-of-Famer considered to be among the best hockey players of his time. Until the 1990s, Foyston was the only player to have won the Stanley Cup with three different teams. The collection has pictures, hockey cards, and more about this great hockey player, including a diary from his early years, donated by his sister-in-law. It recalls his time playing with the Barrie Colts, and what his daily life was like in Minesing.

There are also pictures and newspaper articles about Bobbie Rosenfeld, Canada's Female Athlete of the first half of the century. Although born in Russia, Bobbie moved to Barrie as a young child and always considered it her home. She was an outstanding all-round athlete, and won two medals in track for Canada in the 1928 Olympics, which was the first time that women were allowed to compete.

Horse racing fans will be familiar with the Queen's Plate thoroughbred race, now held at Woodbine Racetrack. What is not as well known is that the race was once held in Barrie. In 1873, a Barrie racetrack in the Tiffin Street area was home to the Queen's Plate. The archives have an original race card from the event (seen below), which is a true treasure.



Courtesy Simcoe County Archives

If your interests also go beyond sports, why not take a look at the Tweedsmuir History books? These

are local history books created by the women of the County's Women's Institutes. The books are in different forms, ranging from scrapbooks to large bound volumes. The project was inspired by Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor General of Canada from 1935-1940. The Women's Institutes in England had already been creating similar books, and Lady Tweedsmuir felt it was important to preserve local history, and encouraged the Canadian branches to do the same. For more information on the history of the Women's Institute and the Tweedsmuir books, Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, visit the website at: <http://www.fwio.on.ca/>.

The Tweedsmuir histories are full of information about the area, and are a great resource to any researcher. Usually the books contain information about the local Institute branch, and a history of the area and its early settlers. There are also histories of the schools, churches, community centres, and other places of importance in the area. Often, the books contain information about local families, ladies of the Institute, community events, and newspaper clippings of interest. The Tweedsmuir histories are an ongoing project for current Institute branches, and are a valuable addition to the collection at the archives.

So, if you need to beat the winter blues, get out of the house and head down to the Simcoe County Archives. Do some research on the great history of our County area.

COMING EVENTS of our Member Societies

Barrie Historical Association – contact Val Brucker

Meet at Barrie City Hall – 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 9 – “Historic Photo Restoration”
by Extreme Imaging

Apr. 13 – AGM and 10th Anniversary
at Allandin Banquet Hall

May 11 – Donna Wice and Bill Kell,
Farms of Innisfil book project

Essa Historical Society – contact Olive Lee

Meet at Thornton Library – 1:30 p.m.

Fourth Saturday of the month
Call 458-9971

Huronian Museum Huron Ouendat Village – contact Jamie Hunter, curator

549 Little Lake Park Road, Midland –
Call 526-2844 www.huroniamuseum.com

Mar. 11, 12, 25, 26 – Traditional Skills and
Knowledge Workshops

Apr. 29 – Annual Heritage Dinner

May 15 – Annual General Meeting – 7 p.m.

Innisfil Historical Society – contact Ross Wallace

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

Mar. 18 – Su Murdoch, *Beautiful
Barrie: The City and Its People*

Midhurst Historical Society – contact Alice Mitchell

Meet at the Library, Findlay Mill Road
7:30 p.m. Call 726-7363

Mnjikaning Fish Fence Circle – contact Janet Turner

Call 835-9331

Museum on the Boyne – contact Rachele Clayton

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

www.allistonontario.com/MuseumontheBoyne.html

Apr. 8 - July 1 – Simcoe's Legacy:
Investigating 185 years of South
Simcoe County

Orillia History Committee – contact Ross Wallace

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

Mar. 15 – Mac Wilding, Kitimat

Apr. 19 – Brig.-Gen. John Hayter,
Grey & Simcoe Foresters

May 17 – Wally Bremner, The
Hindenburg: Death of the Airship

June – Spring Social – TBA

Orillia Museum of Art and History – contact Sim Salata, curator

30 Peter Street South, Orillia – Call
326-2159 www.orilliamuseum.org

to Mar. 11 – Reflections....Still Life
and Landscape: The Work of Dave
Beckett

Mar. 13 - Apr. 22 – Sometimes You
Have to Wake Up the Frog by Lise
Melhorn Boe
Opening reception: Mar. 14, 7 to 9p.m.

Apr. 4 - May 27 – Celebrating
Stitchery: Heritage Handbags and
Historical Needlework
Opening reception: Apr. 8, 1 to 4p.m.

Apr. 26 - May 20 – The 12th Annual
Orillia High School Art Student Show
Opening reception: Apr. 27, 7 to 9p.m.



Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives – contact Pierre Moreau

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

to Mar. 18 – Franco-Ontarien Quilts &
Exhibit

May 18 – National Museum Day

May 19 – Museum Tag Day

Simcoe County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society – contact Claudia McArthur

Meet at Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints

79 Ferris Lane, Barrie – 2 p.m.
www.simcoeogss.com

Apr. 1 – Marian Press, A General
Overview on What's Available on the
Internet for Genealogists – meet at the
Barrie Public Library at 1:30 p.m.

May 6 – Dianne and Steven
Clendenan, TBA

Simcoe County Museum – contact Gloria Taylor

1151 Highway 26, Midhurst –
Call 728-3721

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
<http://www.newtecumseth.library.on.ca/twghistoricalsoc.htm>

Mar. 20 – Clair and Nancy Eves –
Historical Happenings in Upper
Canada

Apr. 17 – John Warburton as Dr. Zonk,
phrenologist

May 15 – David and Janet Fayle –
Visit their 1820's Adjala home

June 11 – Box Social and tour of
Sharon Temple
