

NEWS and views

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Simcoe County Historical Association

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Visit our Website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

New Start Time for our New Year

Please plan to join us a half hour earlier at our regular monthly meetings. We have altered our start time to 7:30 p.m. in an effort to better serve those from outside the Barrie/Midhurst area who attend our meetings.

This October, we look forward to what we plan to be a new tradition. Our Andrew Hunter Prize winners will present their papers to the membership. Kate Morris will bring her first prize winning entry, "Noble or Savage? An analysis of historical native stereotyping". The second prize winner is Virginia Morrow with "Women's Life in 19th Century Simcoe County: A comparison to the status of women in New France".

In November, George Jackson of Bradford will visit us to share his experiences of working on the book *Governor Simcoe Slept Here: The Legacy of West Gwillimbury*.

You can read more about this ambitious project at <http://www.littlebrickbookhouse.com/books/bradford/bradford.html>. The motivation for this project is obvious in a quote from its authors: "In our ever-changing world of today who knows how long before the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury loses its identity and becomes a part of another larger municipality. When this happens, West Gwillimbury will become a mere footnote."

SCHA 2005-2006 Schedule

October 18 – The Andrew Hunter Prize winners, Kate Morris and Virginia Morrow present their papers at the Simcoe County Museum, 7:30 p.m.

November 15 – George Jackson "Governor Simcoe Slept Here: The Legacy of West Gwillimbury" at the Simcoe County Museum, 7:30 p.m.

January 17 – Brian Baker slide show "Grain elevators: Giants 'Round the Bay" at the Parkview Centre, 7:30 p.m.

February 18 – Heritage Week Saturday Seminar – Dr. Kevin Kee, Brock University, Canada Research Chair in Digital Humanities, at the Simcoe County Museum, 1:00 p.m.

March 14 – Mary Munnoch, Irish Settlement in Simcoe County at the Simcoe County Museum, 7:30 p.m.

April 18 – Dr. Hugh MacMillan, *Adventures of a Paper Sleuth*, at the Simcoe County Museum, 7:30 p.m. (Learn more at www.lpg.ca/JoyRead/sepoct05/titles/adventuresofpapersleuth.htm)

May 16 – Annual General Meeting at the Bell Farm Road Banquet Hall



Simcoe County Historical Association

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

President's Message

As this number of *News and Views* goes to press, Simcoe County looks forward to the unveiling of three new historical plaques. The Ontario Heritage Foundation will unveil two of its familiar blue and bronze plaques, while the Essa Historical Society will add the third.

The first OHF provincial plaque will be unveiled at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 3rd at Broadeaves, 551 Innisfree Place, in the Town of Innisfil. It will commemorate Sir Byron Edmund Walker (1848-1924), banker, philanthropist, patron of the arts, and founder and first president of the Champlain Society.

The second, to be unveiled on Friday, September 9th, also at 2 p.m., at the Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives, 13 Burke Street, will mark one of that town's pre-eminent industrial concerns, the C. Beck Manufacturing Company. Then, at 1 p.m. on Sunday, September 11th, Essa Historical Society will reveal its newest plaque at the Egbert Pioneer Cemetery (Lot 11, Con. 8, Essa Township).

SCHA is pleased to note these worthy additions to our county's historical plaques.



Heartiest congratulations to all of those involved. Over the years, SCHA has erected a good number of plaques on its own and in partnership with other groups. One of the Association's sub-committees, ably chaired by Brian Baker, is devoted to all matters pertaining to Archaeological, Historical and Heritage Sites. As well, limited funds are made available each year

in support of historical plaquing. If you are interested in sitting on this or any of our sub-committees or have an idea for a plaque, please contact us.

Currently, SCHA is working with Christ Church Waubauskene in the erection of a plaque to mark that church's 125th anniversary in 2006. As well, your Association supports Essa Historical Society's bid for the erection of an Ontario Heritage Foundation plaque in honour of native son, retail grocery innovator, and philanthropist, Theodore P. Loblaw (1872-1933).

Historical plaques – a highly visible way to “Preserve the Past in the Present for the Future.”

In Memoriam

Alex McInroy, a long time member of the Simcoe County Historical Association, passed away August 29, 2005. Alex was a member of our executive for many years. He is survived by his wife Jean and his son Ian of Barrie.

Young Historians' Adventures in Simcoe County

Historica at Innisfil

submitted by Ross Wallace

Innisfil Historical Society invited participants from Innisfil Central School in the Simcoe County Historica Fair in April to come to their May 1st meeting. Members of the Society enjoyed having these students attend and present the projects they had prepared, first for their own school fair, and later at the Historica Fair. The audience found the projects interesting and asked the students a number of questions.

Lauren Singh's project was on the Barnardo Homes and the children who came to those homes. Lauren had a special interest in this project because her grandmother had come from a Barnardo home. Daniel Kucharczuk's project was on the Avro Arrow. He had done considerable research and was able to speak quite well about his subject and the great interest it has generated. Lindsay Kucharczuk had

an interesting project on the goldrush to the Yukon in 1898 which she called Klondike Gold.

Stuart Dare was unable to come to the meeting as he was attending the provincial Historica Fair in Hamilton on the same day. His project was Ranks – a World War I Game.

It was, indeed, a pleasure to have these students from Innisfil Central School take part in the meeting.

Orillia Museum of Art and History Update

by Sim Salata, Curator

Art and Antique Appraisal Clinic

Wednesday, September 28

10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Ever wondered what the painting you found in the attic is worth? Should you sell your grandmother's silver or will it increase in value over the years? Find out at the Orillia Museum of Art & History's appraisal clinic. Linda Rodeck of Bridge Fine Art Consultants Inc. will be on hand with colleagues to give verbal appraisals on art, pottery, glass, jewelry, furniture, and collectibles. Appraisals are \$10.00 per item or three items for \$25.00. A limit of three items per person please.

Reservations are necessary so please call for an Object Information Form or download one at www.orilliamuseum.org and return it with payment to ensure your appointment!

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Historic Quilts of Simcoe County

September 22 to November 27, 2005

An historical and cultural presentation of Simcoe County quilts from the early 19th century to today will be on display. The origins of the pioneer quilt (the new climate and the hard economic times faced by immigrants) and the occasions for its creation (a female child was expected to make the twelve quilts she would need as a bride) will be examined. In response to contemporary feminism, quilting has been redefined as an almost underground aesthetic movement, one that developed outside of the male-dominated realm of recognized "fine arts".

The Underground Railroad and Ontario Black History Colloquium

Saturday, November 5, 2005

10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Highwayman Inn

The colloquium features speakers including Rosemary Sadlier, President of the Ontario Black History Society and Dr. Karolyn Smardz Frost, an historian and archaeologist who specializes in the Underground Railroad.

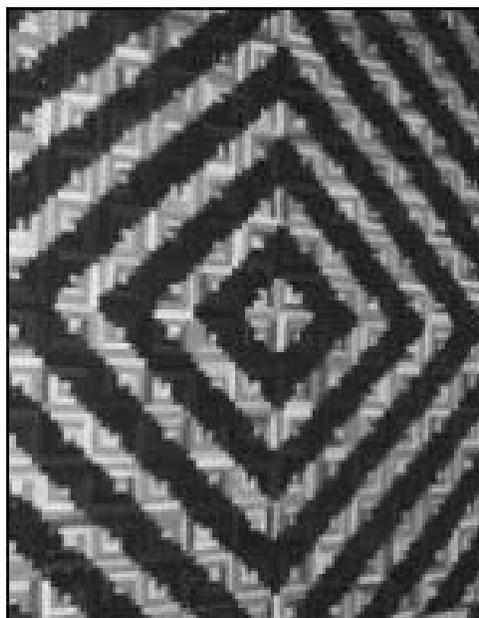
We will explore history and recent archaeological and genealogical discoveries that throw light on individual stories of heroism, escape and settlement in Canada.

The day will conclude with a tour of the Welland Historical Museum's Passages to Freedom: Secrets of the Underground Railroad exhibition at OMAH.

Tickets are \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members and \$17 for students



and are available at the Orillia Museum of Art and History, Spotlight and Manticore Books. Cost includes a catered lunch and museum admission. Speakers will have publications available for purchase. For more information or for tickets, please call 705-326-2159. Spaces are limited.



Nineteen unique heritage quilts of outstanding artistic merit from all over Simcoe County will be on display at OMAH.

Passages to Freedom: Secrets of the Underground Railroad

A traveling exhibit from the Welland Historical Museum

October 3 to November 28, 2005

Passages to Freedom presents the dramatic story of the escape of over 40,000 people from slavery in the United States to freedom in Canada in the mid-1800s. By learning the secrets of the clandestine paths northward on the "Underground Railroad", refugees met dedicated anti-slavery activists while being smuggled through safe houses in order to hide and rest. Education programs are available for teachers and students. Call 705-326-2159 to reserve or for more information.

Beautiful Barrie: Hot off the Press

From the introduction: Neither his guide crossing Kempenfelt Bay in September 1832, nor Henry Byam Martin, the Royal Navy officer who sketched him, could know that a city would one day rise on these shores.

Beautiful Barrie: The City and Its People, An Illustrated History of Barrie, Ontario will take you on an exciting journey into that future.

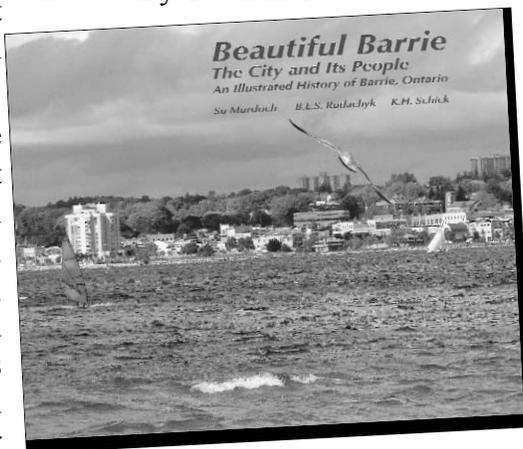
With over 780 illustrations, numerous maps, sidebars, and a timeline of events running along each page, this book tells the story of Barrie's rise from the terminus of an ancient portage to a vibrant, beautiful city on the shores of Kempenfelt Bay.

At 150 years of age in 2003, Barrie compared to world history is a recent development. Yet its history is equal with that of Canada. Ever a gateway, within the past century and a half, this horseshoe of land around the head of Kempenfelt Bay has been transformed from a forested wilderness into a vibrant city of over 120,000 people.

In 1815, Colonel George Head waited here alone for news of his transfer after the War of 1812 was won against the United States. Fascinated by the natural wonder and beauty of the area, Head observed the movement of aboriginals, explorers, fur traders, and military personnel. They were passing along the nine-mile portage leading from the north shore of Kempenfelt Bay to the Nottawasaga River and the Upper Great Lakes. Settlers would soon follow to confront the hardships and joys of life in the Canadian frontier.

As the southeastern terminus of the portage, the north shore became a very active place. Arriving in 1825, portage teamster Alexander Walker

was the first permanent settler. The survey by William Hawkins in 1833 carved the area into building lots that were sold by the Crown to encourage more people to settle. When the portage was abandoned in the 1830s in favour of the Penetanguishene Road to the east, the future of the community rested with the critical decision of whether Barrie, Kempenfeldt, or Tollendal would become the administrative centre for the new Simcoe District. Barrie's destiny was secured when it became the County Town in 1843.



A decade later, the railway arrived nearby and Barrie resumed its position as the gateway between eastern and western Canada. By the late 19th century, Barrie's professionals, merchants, tradesmen, and officials oversaw a thriving administrative and regional market centre.

The first two decades of the 20th century saw the town striving to transform itself into an industrial centre. The First World War quickened the pace of town life, especially with the opening of Camp Borden in 1916. The 1920s brought the automobile and new ways of seeing and doing. The Great Depression of the 1930s fortunately arrived later and left earlier in Barrie

than it did in many other Canadian urban centres. The Second World War began a series of events that would ultimately see Barrie overtake its long-time rival, Orillia, as the largest municipality in Simcoe County.

The arrival of Canadian General Electric after the war was the much needed catalyst to Barrie's industrial economy. The boom continued well into the 1960s. New industries, businesses, and citizens severely tested services and infrastructure, while pushing development literally to the town limits.

A series of land annexations from neighbouring townships provided room for continued growth. On January 1, 1959, Barrie became Canada's newest city and the first to be incorporated in Simcoe County. The 1980s witnessed further annexations and the beginning of the explosive growth that would propel the city to the metropolitan status enjoyed at the time of its 150th anniversary in 2003.

Chronicling Barrie's history has been both a challenge and a privilege. Much remains to be researched, written, and illustrated. Barrie's story is one of successive generations of citizens who took the quality of their beautiful community to heart and continued to flourish on the strong foundations upon which it was built. All this and the jewel of Kempenfelt Bay!

Researched and written by historians Su Murdoch and B.E.S. Rudachyck, and presented in a design crafted by Kurt H. Schick, *Beautiful Barrie: The City and Its People*, is a tribute to the history and life of this beautiful city.

This much-anticipated book's launch will take place within the next few weeks. Watch for details of the event.

Photographic Treasures at the Simcoe County Archives

by Virginia Morrow

The Simcoe County Archives is home to a wonderful photograph collection, with many different pictures to interest all. There is an excellent index of the photographs, which is easy to use. Most of the pictures are cross-referenced, which makes it helpful to find what you are looking for. If you are looking for a certain person who played on a hockey team, if the members of the team were known, you could look in the index under the name or the team. It is also important to remember to keep looking; you never know what you might find.

A collection of pictures that was taken by the Huronia Tourism Association to be used in its promotional material for the area is available. There are many pictures of stores, restaurants, hotels, resorts, and attractions in the area. Many of the operations are still going, and it is interesting to see how the popular attractions have changed over the years as the area grew. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing pictures of an area resort that I worked at a few years ago, as it was in the 1970s.

There are many pictures of old sports teams from the Barrie area, especially everyone's favourite, the Barrie Flyers. The archives have some of the pictures from the files of the *Barrie Banner*, some of which include different sporting events in the area, and local events such as the Barrie Fair. There are many pictures of the towns and villages in the county, including pictures of churches, businesses, streets, homes, and more.

As the one and two room schools of the area were closing, the school inspector, Mr. Peter Scott, took pictures of them. Now many of them are homes, and it is interesting to see what they used to look like, especially since many people remember being students at those schools!

It is also fascinating to see the different types of photographs, and how they have changed through time. There are glass negatives, which are very fragile. Luckily some have survived and we can enjoy looking at them today. Some of the index cards indicate what type of photograph it is, so if you are looking for a certain type

photo such as a tin type, cabinet photo, or daguerreotype, that can be helpful.

There are pictures of interesting people, for instance Canada's first movie star, Mary Pickford. There are also photographs of politicians, such as a cabinet photo of Sir John A. Macdonald, a picture of Pierre Trudeau at the CKVR television station during his visit in 1973, and many images of local politicians from the different levels of government in the area. There are also photographs of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip's visit to Midland in 1959.

The archives also have collections of greeting cards and postcards, which can tell a lot about the time that they were made, and are fun to look at. So, if you have an interest in old pictures, feel free to drop by the Simcoe County Archives on Highway #26, and take a look through the index.



Simcoe County Historical
Association

History Book Sale

Saturday September 17, 2005

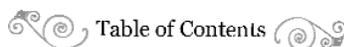
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

John McKenzie House

34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale

This is a rare and special one-time event of history only books. There are over 2,000 books donated from the private collection of professor & historian Michael Bliss, as well as other academic and amateur historians, including many **rare** titles, and are priced from **\$3 each**. These books are excellent reference resources for researchers and are of interest to any antiquarian book collector.

Support The Ontario Historical Society
with this fundraising event!



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10. Religion
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For more information call: 416.226.9011
or email: ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Innisfil Historical Project

The newest project of the Innisfil Historical Society involves collecting information from past and present farmers of Innisfil. They are in full swing with material steadily flowing in. A committee has created a list of possible topics that farmers can use as a guideline for submissions. To receive this outline, please call Donna Wice at 436-2578 or mdwice@sympatico.ca. All materials should be submitted by September 30th. For more details, see www.innisfilhistorical.ca/farms.php

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



The last article in a series of 7 for *News and Views*

Fort Willow: Military stores in 1815 and Ox-cart transportation in 1824

by Keith H.J. Bacon

It is November 1815; the War of 1812 is over, as is the war in Europe. Britain remains vigilant and suspicious of the intentions of the United States. With men and resources now available, she builds up her defences in Upper Canada and on the Great Lakes. Michilimackinac has been returned to the United States and the British Garrison is now located at Drummond Island, where it will remain until 1828 when it is declared US territory by the International Boundary Commission, and it moves to the Naval Base at Penetanguishene.

Statement of Provisions etc. Remaining at Holland River, Kempenfeldt Bay, Nottawasaga, and Nottawasaga Bay Upper Canada 24th November 1815

At What Place	Flour	Biscuit	Salt Pork	Salt Beef	Salt	Sugar	Pease		Coffee	Rum	
	lbs	lbs	lbs	lbs	Bus:	lbs	B	G	lbs	Gals	oz
Holland River	21,934	10,561	21,708	3,736	9	-	1	A	-	719	-
Kempenfeldt Bay	11,771	3,033	200	2,899	-	1,129	56	A	1,108	483	-
Nottawasaga	50,192	377	64,669	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	A
Nottawasaga Bay	31,360	-	35,305	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	115,257	13,971	121,882	6,635	9	1,129	58	-	1,108	1,215	-
of which is damaged	226	377									

York 19th December 1815
[Signed] Geo. Crookshanks,
A.C.G. [Assistant Commissary General]

Statement of Public Stores Remaining at the Different Store Houses on the Communication for Drummond Island

At What Place	Naval Department		Indian Department	Barrack Department		
	Gun Carriage Wheels	Gun Carriages	Indian Presents	Stoves	Candles	Sheet Irons
	No.	No.	No. of Packages	No.	Boxes	Boxes
Holland River	-	2	-	-	-	-
Kempenfeldt Bay	-	-	-	6	-	-
Nottawasaga	-	-	177	-	10	1
Nottawasaga Bay	4	-	143	-	-	-

York 19th December 1815
[Signed] Geo. Crookshanks
A.C.G.

Author's note – "Nottawasaga" above is Fort Willow/Willow Landing

In 1815 an inventory is ordered of stores and equipment at various posts, and the preceding transcribed tables give us an indication of the quantities stored in transit at the four outposts on the Nottawasaga communication. Transcriptions of the original documents are in the Simcoe County Archives.

The above quantities are impressive, at Nottawasaga (Fort Willow), they include over 50,000 lbs of flour, over 64,000 lbs of salt pork, 177 packages of Indian treaty presents, and 10 cases of candles.

Looking at the totals for the four outposts, one marvels at the resources required to transport such quantities, and has to conclude that the warehouses, the Nine Mile Portage, and boat transportation were all quite well developed. It was quite an operation.

Over this route in the years immediately following the War of 1812, travelled the military personnel and materials to maintain the garrison at Drummond Island, and the naval personnel, support labour, and materials to build and maintain the post at Schoonertown near the mouth of the Nottawasaga River (just across the river from where McDonald's restaurant is now located in Wasaga Beach).

In 1817 the Naval establishment was removed to Penetanguishene, where a formidable facility was built. Personnel, materials and supplies to establish and maintain this base and the supplies required to build a number of ships, all passed over the Nine Mile Portage. The large anchor abandoned at Anchor Park in Holland Landing gives the observer some food for thought. Personnel and equipment required for the Hydrographic Survey of the Upper Great Lakes also passed this way. It would be some years before the Penetanguishene Road became an all-weather route, and the original Sunnidale Road came into use.

In 1824, as a youth, the Reverend Thomas Williams was employed by Alexander Walker of what would become Barrie, on the ox-cart transportation on the Nine Mile Portage. The following extracts are from his reminiscences written in 1890, that appear in the *Simcoe County Pioneer Papers* – No. 2, published in 1908. They give us a unique insight into transport on the Portage in 1824:

The teaming work on the Portage was done by Alexander Walker, a border Scotchman. To me it seemed that he was the contractor to the commissariat and the fur traders for the work. To assist him there was a negro man called Ben, and myself, a lad of fourteen years. This was the portage family and we lived in the best of the government houses then standing. There were three strong waggons with racks on them, such as a man would make with an axe, a drawing knife and a couple of augers, with two loose planks for a bottom, and a yoke of strong oxen to each waggon. The load was twelve barrels of flour or their equivalent in weight of other matter. It was never expected that all three teams would be on the road on the same day. Each team with its teamster had two days in succession on the road, then a day of rest for the team, while the driver had charge and care of the premises and goods, received and receipted goods if any came by boats, and did the hospitalities besides keeping busy chiming up the barrels for the next days load. The portage being only a short nine miles over, the storehouses ample and secure, it was easy to make the journey, deliver the goods, and return, while a good portion of the afternoon remained. Mostly we took our lunch with the Corporal (at Fort Willow) - the oxen had theirs in the rich grass which grew abundantly in the openings at that end of the road. In the fine summer weather and long days it was not an unpleasant service. For two or three months the teams were on the road nearly every day, when the forenoon was not raining. Mr Alexander would never start in the rain nor would he "hitch up" on Sunday....

The goods were brought to us over Lake Simcoe in small sailing vessels, one of which was owned and commanded by Eli Beaman.... Besides the supplies for the "Naval and Military Establishment" at Penetanguishene going by this portage, there were two great fur-trading companies which took much of their goods by this route. The firm name of one was "P and W Robinson."... The other company was called "Borland and Roe,"...

About this time, and before, the Imperial authorities were carrying on a survey of the great upper lakes, Huron and Superior - under direction of Captain Bayfield RN, which survey extended over several years, and employed a large party of men. And just then, or the year afterwards, Captain Franklin RN, afterwards Sir John Franklin, went this way to make an effort to reach the pole by the land route....

One party coming south took my attention particularly, the principal of which was an elderly gentleman, named Thompson, who was said to have been a commissioner, in conjunction with an officer of Engineers of the United States army, who was with the party.

The reminiscences of the Reverend Thomas Williams in the *Simcoe County Pioneer Papers* – No. 2 make fascinating reading. This is the final article in this series. It is hoped that the series of seven articles the has given the reader a glimpse into the fascinating local history that the Fort Willow Improvement Group has gathered together, whilst researching the history of the Fort and the Portage.

Archaeological Exploration at Fort Willow Depot

by Gord Hanson

In May 2005, the *Barrie Advance* reported on the activities of a St Joseph's High School group who were conducting a "dig" at Fort Willow Conservation Area under the supervision of their history teacher Trevor Carter, and on their success in unearthing artifacts and in mapping the fort interior for exploration and historical documentation.

Mr. Carter is a licenced archaeologist and his group are grade 12 university-bound students, all with an excellent academic rating and possessing the ability and desire to participate in "inter-disciplinary studies" (integrating their skills in mathematics, geography and history with advanced hands-on learning).

The aim of the dig is to preserve the resources of the site, an important War of 1812 location (previously

partially explored by Professor Wilfred Jury in 1959) and to allow the students to appreciate the excitement of discovering history and also its fragility. Great professionalism, care and correct methods are used to provide a photographic and written record of the explorations. Artifacts from the site will be catalogued, then held by Simcoe County Museum.

It is hoped that some portions of the dig can remain preserved in a just-uncovered format to allow visitor involvement. For example, the footings of a building might be put under plexiglas just as when they were first viewed during the dig. Fort Willow Depot may have been inhabited by First Nations peoples, or by fur traders and artisans in a "village" just outside the fort, prior to

or during its employment as a military depot.

The archaeological exploration resumes in May 2006, with a student group capped at twenty-four persons. Students arrive at the site by bus, and dig from about 11:00 a.m. until normal classroom hours end, during a five or six week period.

Mr. Carter credits the Fort Willow Improvement Group and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority with making the dig logistically possible. These organizations maintain storage facilities, washrooms and shelter at the site.

Stay tuned as history comes to life in Simcoe County!

Thanks to Trevor Carter for his input to this article.

The Nine Mile Portage Festival

by Gord Hanson

An event with the above title has been planned for September 17, 2005 and annually thereafter to commemorate the reopening of the Nine Mile Portage Trail in 2004. The Township of Springwater will host a walking opportunity on the recreational trail from the Township border on Sunnidale Road to Fort Willow conservation area where the Royal Newfoundland Regiment re-enactors are holding a garrison weekend campout with military drills and demonstrations.

Plans this year include entertainment and wagon rides aimed at families with children, available corn-on-the-cob and beverages, and shuttle vehicles to move participants between parking and the fort. The public are invited to park at Grenfel Community Centre, take a shuttle vehicle to the 10:00 a.m. start point, walk to the fort arriving at about noon, then return by shuttle to the original parking lot after they have had an opportunity to view the re-enactors.

The dreams of the organizers for future festivals include artisans and craft booths, scheduled shuttle buses and walks of various lengths. This event is intended to have considerable public impact, with both historical significance and support from Simcoe-on-the-Move health and recreation staff.

Advertising of this event for 2005 will be flyers posted in Springwater business and community locations. Call Township of Springwater offices at 728-4784 for more details.

A Court for "Mr. Barrie"

Congratulations to our own Simcoe County Historical Society member, Mr. Arch Brown, on the City of Barrie naming a street in his honour.

Arch Brown Court, behind the East Bayfield Community Centre, is named for this former Canadian Tire dealer in recognition of his many

contributions to Barrie, including Georgian College and his extensive support of local historic community activities.

Museum on the Boyne Activities

by Rachelle Clayton

WHO SHOULD BE ON THE WALL OF HONOUR?

Selection Criteria

Individuals, groups, organizations, companies or businesses who have made significant contribution(s) or donation(s) to the preservation of history in South Simcoe County or Museum on the Boyne.

Those who have contributed significant volunteerism over a period of time at the Museum on the Boyne or to South Simcoe County history.

Those who display, sustain, and exercise leadership in heritage preservation.

Those who demonstrate vision, innovation or creativity in the presentation and learning from artifacts of our past.

Those who enrich and improve the quality of life in South Simcoe through the sharing of historical knowledge.

Those who promote and support the expansion of heritage opportunities in our community and Museum on the Boyne.

Those who have been nominated in the past but have not received a Museum on the Boyne Wall of Honour Award.



A Day at the Races!

Are You Interested?

Come join the staff and volunteers of the Museum on the Boyne for an evening of dining, socializing and racing at **Georgian Downs Raceway**.

Date: Saturday, October 15, 2005

Place: Georgian Downs Raceway, Barrie

Cost: \$34.50 per person for dining and racing (drinks & betting extra)

Dress: historical costume, national dress or whatever strikes your fancy

This is not a meeting, nor a fundraiser; it's a chance for the history buffs of Simcoe County and beyond to get out, have fun and meet others who share our interests.

If you are interested in participating, please contact:

Laura Camilleri 705-435-0167 mobprogrammer@yahoo.ca
Peter Monahan 705-435-0953 / petemonahan@sympatico.ca

RSVP: Tuesday, September 13th
in order to make group arrangements.



The Process

1. Nominations are open. Nominations can be made for individuals, groups, organizations, businesses or companies.

2. A nominee maybe re-nominated over several years but can only receive a Wall of Honour Award once. Should a nominator wish to use a past nomination application they may request to do so in writing to Museum on the Boyne Staff or Committee.

3. The nominator completes the nomination form and assembles all of the required materials as part of the nomination package.

4. All Nominations must be received at the Museum on the Boyne annually by the first Museum on the Boyne business day in October by 3:00pm. No exceptions will be made.

5. Museum staff may choose to verify nomination information. The Museum on the Boyne Committee will review nominations in October each year. Final selection(s) will be considered by the end of October.

6. All nominators will receive notice of receipt/thank you. Award Recipients will be notified by letter.

7. The Awards function will be held on Heritage Day, third Saturday of February, of the following year.

8. Notification of the awards function and the names of the award recipient(s) may be published in the local media.

9. If selected the nominee must provide a bio or resume.

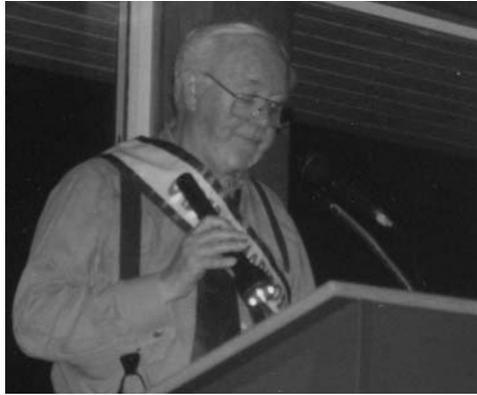
Nomination Requirements

One completed nomination form available at the museum. Nomination forms must be accompanied by a statement of nomination: a maximum of one page which describes the nominee's merits. Make sure to relate the relevant points of background, education, training, volunteerism, activity and organizational involvement, other recognitions and awards, achievements and contributions to our heritage community.

Letters of support are encouraged. A maximum of three letters will be accepted.

Tales from the Leacock Awards Dinner

With the power off thanks to a severe electrical storm, head table guests at the Annual Leacock Award Dinner were forced to improvise. Below, Will Ferguson, this year's winner of the Leacock medal and the \$10,000 TD-Trust award is shown with President Dick Johnston providing some light on the medal.



Morley Torgov, left, previous two-time medal winner, is shown with "torch" in hand, reading his acceptance speech after being inducted into "The Order of Mariposa". While other gala Leacock dinners have been memorable, the sold out audience all agreed that the 2005 dinner is one they will never forget.



OMAH provides a unique experience

Orillia Museum of Art and History was pleased to have a summer exchange student from St. Sauveur, Quebec working with curator Sim Salata for July and August.



Above, Elisa Legault (second from the left) is seen with curator Sim Salata on her left, archive assistant Melissa Kitchen and OMAH president Jean Sargeant.

Simcoe County Historical Association Executive

Brad Rudachyk, President	726-7380 rudachyk@allstream.net
Christina Austin, Vice President	733-7740 allcanadian_elliott@yahoo.com
Mark Fisher, Second Vice President	728-3825 mwfisher2@hotmail.com
Peter Wiseman, Treasurer	725-0224
Jill Hynes, Corresponding Secretary	739-6220 mark.jill@sympatico.ca
Ellen Millar, Recording Secretary	726-9300 ext. 1287 emillar@county.simcoe.on.ca

For Membership Information, contact

Bill Packham, Membership Chair 739-0906 wpackham2795@rogers.com

In our last number of *News and Views*, Andrew Hunter Prize judge Ellen Millar, Assistant Archivist of Simcoe County, was listed as holding an MLS. In fact she holds an MAS.

Visit our Website

www.simcoecountyhistory.ca

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 November 20, 2005

Don't forget to notify our Membership Chairman, Bill Packham, if you have a change of address. Contact him at our post office box, or through the information listed above.

Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury

Out and About with the Historical Society

The Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society doesn't wait for history to come to it. Oh no! They go out in search of it, and history abounds in our part of the countryside.

For our May meeting, we toured the Keogh-Stief house, circa 1865, one of the first houses in Tecumseth to be designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Beautifully restored, this stunning brick home and several outbuildings are now a thriving antique business. Jane Stief shared her knowledge of period furniture and architecture, and her stories of the joys and problems in restoring her home to its time period. It was a most enjoyable outing.

Then, in June, before our break for the Summer, we enjoyed a combined "History Hunt" and picnic. Starting in Newton Robinson, each carload was given a route map and a list of "treasures" to see or find. The route explored the forests, cemeteries, early homes, and markers of famous people in the northern half of New Tecumseth. The countryside was particularly beautiful and the various searches were great fun. We finished our outing with a picnic lunch and an ice cream social back in Newton Robinson.

That will be the location for our September 19th meeting, and we hope that newcomers, neighbours and friends will join our activities for another season of exciting local history.

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.

COMING EVENTS of our Member Societies

Barrie Historical Association – contact Val Brucker

Meet at Barrie City Hall – 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 9 – David Morris – R.A.F. Pilot reenactment

Essa Historical Society – contact Olive Lee

Meet at Thornton Library – 1:30 p.m.
Fourth Saturday of the month –
Call 458-9971

Genealogical Society – contact Claudia McArthur

Meet at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

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

Oct. 1 – at Pentanguishene Museum – War of 1812 re-enactment

Nov. 5 – Marj Kohli – Home Children

Dec. 3 – Annual Show and Tell

Huron Museum Huron Ouendat Village – contact Jamie Hunter, curator

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

to Oct. 11 – Mark Tumber Art Show – reception September 9

Oct. 14-Nov. 14 – Watercolour Quest Club Art Show – reception October 14

Innisfil Historical Society – contact Ross Wallace

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

Sept. 17 – Evelyn Davis – Camp X: secrets of life at the World War II Spy Camp in Oshawa



Oct. 1 – 11 a.m. – Auction of Antiques and Collectables with a Bake Sale at Knock School

Oct. 15 – Women's Month – panel of War Brides sharing their stories

Nov. 19 – Annual Dinner – Lefroy Grange Hall 5:30pm

Midhurst Historical Society – contact Alice Mitchell

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

Sept. 19 – Archer Colwill, Auctioneer

Mnjikaning Fish Fence Circle – contact Janet Turner

Call 835-9331

Oct. 8-9 – Mnjikaning First Nation Annual Thanksgiving Pow Wow at Mnjikaning/Rama First Nation – call 325-3611 ext. 1294 for information

Museum on the Boyne – contact Rachele Clayton

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

www.allistonontario.com/MuseumontheBoyne.html – see page 9

Orillia History Committee – contact Ross Wallace

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

Oct. 19 – Roger Pretty – Coldwater and Narrows Indian Reserves

Nov. 16 – Jim Watt – Story of Pilot Officer Hinrick Guttornson

Dec. – Christmas Social – TBA

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

30 Peter Street South, Orillia – Call 326-2159 www.orilliamuseum.org – see page 3

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives

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

to Oct. 8 – Art Pike and Friends Art Exhibit and Sale

Oct. 18-Dec. 15 – Proud Traditions: Métis Culture & Heritage

Oct. 20-Jan. 27 – Once Upon A Time Knights, Castles & Common Folk

Simcoe County Museum

1151 Highway 26, Midhurst –
Call 728-3721

Sept. 17-19 – Simcoe County Quilt, Rug, and Craft Fair

Oct. 16 – Last Blast – Equipment run

Oct. 27-28 – An Evening of Hallowe'en

Nov. 12-14 – Christmas at Simcoe County Museum

Dec. 12 – Victorian Christmas

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

Sept. 19 – Lori Whittamore and Doug Pitkin – Digital Pioneers creating a pictorial history of our township

Oct. 17 – Bert Platt – More Characters I Have Known – tales of local citizens from Beeton's past

Nov. 21 – Susan Stein – Remembrances from World War II – memories and experiences in war-torn Europe

Dec. 4 – Annual Christmas Party

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

Visit our Website
www.simcoecountyhistory.ca