



# Newsletter

Lake Scugog Historical Society

Fall/Winter 2016

President, Paul Arculus • Secretary, Bill Minors • Treasurer, Daphne Naassana • Editor, Wendy Hatherley

## President's Message

Greetings,

We are quite excited about the coming months, as we prepare for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Nation. There will be many events locally and at the National level to celebrate this occasion. However, 2017 not only marks our nation's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it has two other important notations for us: One is the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of our town's namesake, Peter Perry. He was born in Napanee in 1792. Next year also marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, an event of particular significance to us as a nation. There is more reference to these events elsewhere in this newsletter. As our nation matures and gains stature it is so important to develop a vision for the path that our nation should be taking in the future. It is also extremely critical for us to reflect on our growth and particularly on the positive accomplishments in our history. In this era of profound change we must ensure that the positive aspects of our heritage are preserved. Our Historical Society executive and membership are dedicated to those goals. We note that we have had several new members join over the past year and we welcome you all!

For our October meeting this year, we have arranged a meeting that should stimulate a lot of interest; an information meeting on the Old Mill at the Port Perry waterfront. This will be a temporary change in venue for our meetings as it will take place at the Latcham Centre beside the mill and not at our usual meeting place at the Presbyterian Church. For many years, my good friend Peter Hvidsten has taken many photos of the mill both inside and out. He will be showing many of these historic photos to us at that meeting. Members of Scugog Council will also be in attendance to give an update on the mill's status. We do hope that you will be able to join us at this important meeting and also at our November meeting, back at the Presbyterian Church, when we will be given a presentation on the history of the Ontario Regiment.

Cheers  
Paul Arculus

## Guest Speakers

Wednesday, October 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Various Speakers  
The Currie Mill

Wednesday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Rod Henderson  
150 Years of the Ontario Regiment

*Our October Meeting will be held at the Latcham Centre, beside the Currie Mill at the foot of Queen Street.*

*Our November meeting will be held at St. John's Presbyterian Church (319 Queen St. @ Simcoe St.) Port Perry*

*Please join us in the downstairs meeting room, using the rear door, from the side parking lot.*

## Upcoming Guest Speakers

### **October 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting: The Currie Elevator**

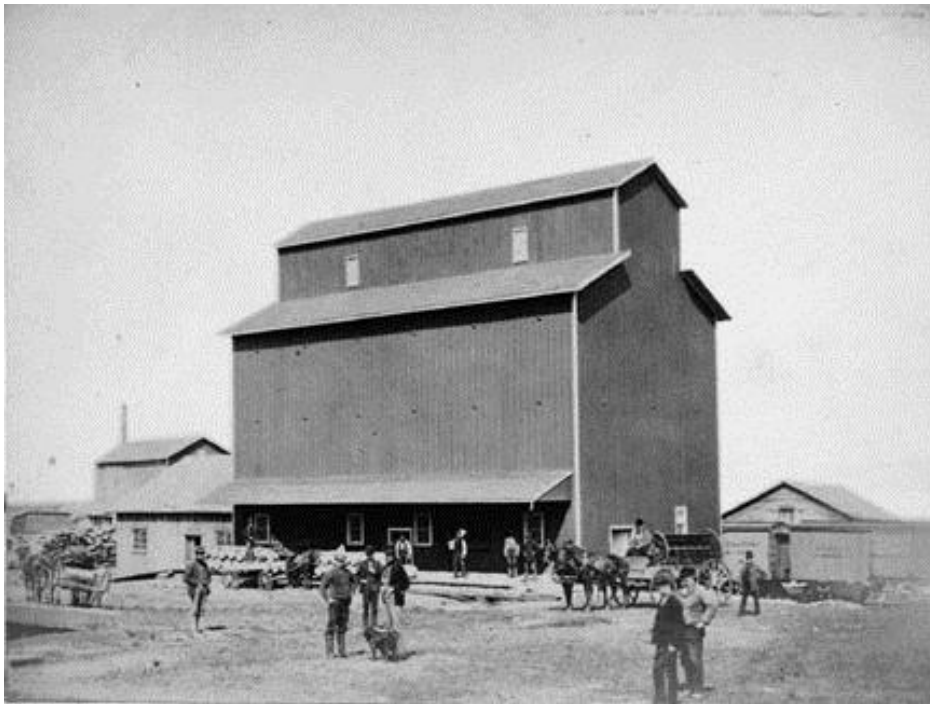
The Port Perry Mill, also known as the Currie Elevator is the focus of the LSHS October meeting. Port Perry's waterfront elevator is Canada's oldest remaining wooden elevator/grain mill in Canada and is the second oldest in the Americas. To help understand the significance of this building and to present an update on its condition and future, the Lake Scugog Historical Society, in conjunction with the Scugog Council is presenting an information evening on the historic building.

LSHS President Paul Arculus and Scugog Council Heritage committee member Peter Hvidsten will give a slide presentation on the history of the structure. Scugog Council member Don Kett will be discussing the Council's position on the mill and give an update on the Engineer's report on its condition. Scugog Heritage Committee chair Dan Stone will also present information.

The National Trust For Canada has placed Canada's wooden elevators on the top 10 endangered types of buildings in the country and Port Perry's elevator is the oldest remaining building of its type. In the mid twentieth century almost 6000 of these elevators dotted our landscape, notably across the prairies. According to the National Trust web site, "They are being torn down at an alarming rate. Today less than 14 percent remain."

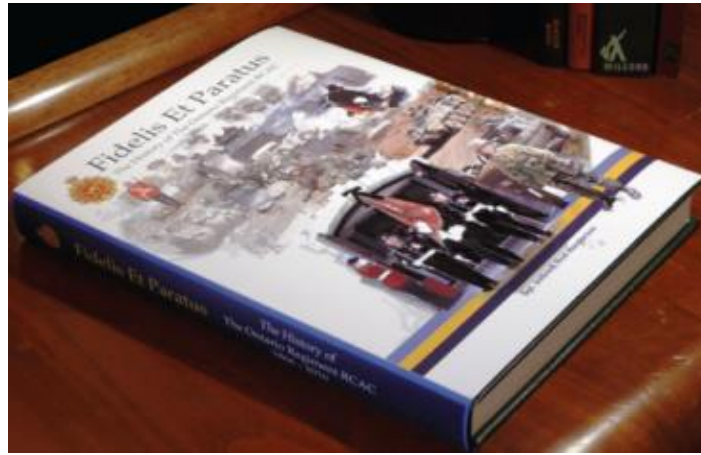
Port Perry's elevator was the only downtown building to survive the devastating fires that destroyed the entire downtown core in 1883 and 1884. It was, in 1873, built by grain merchant George Currie shortly after the railway from Whitby to Port Perry was opened. The grain storage facility stands today as a symbolic reminder of the basis of the economy of this region: agriculture.

The meeting will take place at the Latcham Centre on Wednesday October 19 right beside the elevator at the Scugog waterfront. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.



**November 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

Rod Henderson, author of “Fidelis Et Partus: The History of the Ontario Regiment, 1866-2016” will discuss his book. In 1866 the Province of Canada was under threat of attack from the Fenians and the Ontario Regiment was formed. They have served through two world wars, and are one of the oldest continuously serving regiments in Canada and one of the senior armoured regiments.



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**Vimy Ridge, April 1917**

2017 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of the most epic battles in Canadian Military history. It was the Canadian success and huge sacrifice paid by Canadian soldiers at the Battle of Vimy Ridge that placed Canada on the world stage. Canadian soldiers achieved what the more experienced soldiers from Britain and France could not achieve; capturing the strategic position at Vimy Ridge from the German military might. Canadian soldiers fought as a Canadian unit and not as part of a combined international unit. The event gained recognition, admiration and respect for their prowess and determination. Vimy Ridge had been held by the Germans since the fall of 1914. The Ridge dominated the countryside and gave the Germans control of the region. Lieutenant General Julian Byng led the four Canadian Divisions in an assault on the Ridge which was held at that time by the mighty German Sixth Army. The battle began on April 9, 1917 and lasted for three days and finished with the Canadian victory on April 12. Today a 250-acre park has been created on the battlefield. It has the Canadian National Vimy Memorial as its focal point.

The Scugog heroes who fought and died at Vimy in 1917:

- Private Martin King, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred King. Martin enlisted in Uxbridge with the 116<sup>th</sup> Battalion but was transferred to the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He was killed in action in the preparation for the main battle at Vimy on March 24<sup>th</sup>, and was buried in the Ecovres Cemetery at Mont St. Elio in France.
- Private Clarence Irvel Real, son of William and Annie Real. He signed up with 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the New Brunswick Regiment. Clarence was wounded at Vimy on April 6<sup>th</sup> and died of his wounds a month later, on May 10<sup>th</sup>. He is buried at Lapugnoy Cemetery in France.

The following Scugog lads all died on the same day, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1917:

- Private James Laidlaw, 38<sup>th</sup> battalion, died during the main battle. He is buried at the Canadian Military Cemetery Neuville, St Vaast, in France.
- Private Arthur William Shackelford, of the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion, killed at Vimy Ridge; buried at the Zivy Crater Cemetery at Thelus France.
- 20 year old Private John Cooper Sumner, also of the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion, killed at Vimy Ridge. He is also buried at the Zivy Crater Cemetery.
- Private Thomas Murray Watson, son of Mr. and Mrs. T.H. Watson, killed at Vimy Ridge.

## 2017: The 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Peter Perry's Birth

Peter Perry is one of the most underrated politicians in Canadian history, particularly since he made so many significant contributions to the early growth of our nation and our local municipalities. Regrettably there is very little reference to Peter Perry in most history books. Perry was born in Napanee, on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1792, the son of Robert and Jemima Perry. The Perrys were devout Loyalists and operated a farm New York State. Robert had fought against those who had sought independence from the British in the civil war that became known as the War of Independence. During that conflict he was wounded at the Battle of Bennington. Since he had shown loyalty to the British cause, he and his family were forced to abandon their farm and property at the conclusion of the conflict. They fled to Canada and took land in Ernestown, near Bath, in Lennox and Addington Counties. Their son Peter was born there.

In 1824 Peter Perry ran successfully for office as a representative of Lennox and Addington in the Legislature. By 1828 Perry was clearly regarded as the leader of the Reform movement showed his leadership by moving or seconding almost every piece of legislation that advocated change or reform. Peter Perry served on 35 Legislative committees while in office. When a political crisis arose in 1836, Lieutenant Governor Sir Francis Bond Head actively campaigned against Perry and wielded enough influence to defeat Perry and the Reformers. Within months of losing, Perry took his family and moved to what is now Whitby where he had purchased land including the Windsor Harbour. Here he poured himself into his business ventures.

In the early nineteenth century, lumber began to overtake the fur trade as the main driver of economic growth. There was a growing timber trade developing on Lake Scugog and in Victoria County to the north, but the timber was being transported down to Port Hope. Perry wanted to increase the volume of trade through his harbour at Whitby. In April 1843 Perry purchased the waterfront on the southwest corner of Lake Scugog and began a settlement that he called Scugog Village. In 1844 he built a store on the Lake Scugog waterfront (at the site of the present Remax Realty at Queen and Water Street in Port Perry). Here he sold goods to the settlers at Borelia and traded furs with the Mississaugas. Perry drew up a street plan in 1845 for this property: Water Street, Queen Street, North Street, Mary Street (named after his wife, Mary), John Street (after their son, John) and Cinderella Street (named after their first daughter, Cinderella, and later renamed Casimir Street after the railroad engineer Casimir Gzowski). He convinced W.S. Sexton, Aaron Ross, Thomas Paxton, Daniel Way and Samuel Hill to build steam powered sawmills at the Lake Scugog waterfront ensuring a reasonable hope for economic growth for Scugog Village and its residents.

Meanwhile, on the shores of Lake Ontario, he established a store at the northeast corner of what is now Brock Street and Highway #2 (Dundas Street). This area became known as Perry's Corners. He also drew up a town plan for Whitby Village in 1846. In this plan he again used the names of his wife, Mary and his son John, but ventured into names of trees for the other streets; Chestnut and Walnut. This original town is to be found on the north side of Dundas Street. Once his settlement was well established, he helped to found a library and, in 1846, Whitby Grammar School.

Unfortunately his boundless energy exhausted him and he died in 1851. To commemorate his passing, Scugog Village was renamed Port Perry in his honour.



## **SCUGOG SHORES MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES – MUSEUM NEWS**

Canadian Wildlife Photography of the Year PLUS the 30 winners of the Township of Scugog photography contest, on display until January 15, 2017 at the Scugog Shores Heritage Centre & Archives, Tuesday – Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$4 adults, \$3 students, \$2.50 seniors, \$2 for children 5-12, and free for children under 5.

**Culture Days** **Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 2** **12:00-3:00**  
**Heritage Centre and Archives**

Celebrate our beautiful brand new exhibit by joining us on Culture Days for children’s nature crafts for all ages. We will also be providing visitors a chance to go behind-the-scenes into the museum’s storage areas to see what the museum’s collect and how we care for them.

**Children’s Photography Workshop Saturday, October 8** **1:00-4:00**  
**Museum Village**

Join us at the Museum Village for a fun nature photography workshop for children aged 8-12. All participants must bring their own camera or phone to take pictures. A light snack will be provided.

**Public Lecture** **Sunday, October 16** **1:00**  
**Heritage Centre and Archives**

Matthew S. Wiseman will present his research on the environmental and cultural impacts of scientific exploration on the Canadian Arctic. His talk, “The Biology of Truth and Reconciliation: Inuit Bodies, Arctic Research, and the Cold War Canadian State”, will be followed by light refreshments.

**Adult Photography Workshop** **November, Date TBA**  
**Heritage Centre and Archives**

This talk by Jonathan van Bilsen will discuss some of the ways to improve your nature photography. Jon will give hints from his own vast experience as a professional photography. This is not a hands-on workshop.

Further children’s craft activities will also be happening in November.

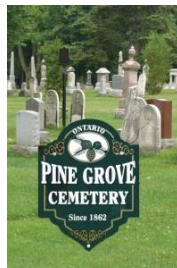
**The Children’s Old Fashioned Christmas** will be held Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Scugog Shores Museum.

For more information, please contact us at 905-985-8698 x103 or email [museum@scugog.ca](mailto:museum@scugog.ca)  
Heritage Centre and Archives: 1655 Reach Street, Port Perry (2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Scugog Arena)  
Museum Village: 16210 Island Road, Port Perry

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### **Pine Grove Cemetery Book**

Sales of our Pine Grove Cemetery book are going very well. There are still copies available at *Books Galore and More* on Perry Street, in Port Perry. The book is the work of local historian and President of the Lake Scugog Historical Society, Paul Arculus. The cost is \$10.00 and all proceeds go to the Lake Scugog Historical Society.



The Antique and Nostalgia Show and Sale  
Port Perry Arena - February 4 & 5, 2017  
10:00 to 4:30 Saturday, 10:00 to 4:00 Sunday

This is our sixth year sponsoring this event, and we again ask for volunteers to bake and to assist with different duties the two days of the show. Please call Wendy Hatherley or Daphne Naassana, at the numbers on the back page of this newsletter, if you can help with any baking for the show.

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/marilyn.pearce/antiqueshow.htm>

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Watch for the next Newsletter in late-March/early-April, 2017

[www.lakescugohistoricalsociety.com](http://www.lakescugohistoricalsociety.com) for updates

This is to remind members that we will not send a separate renewal notice in the mail. For all Annual Renewal Members, there is a renewal notice included with this Newsletter. Please fill it in and send back, or drop off at Books Galore & More, before the busy Christmas Season gets underway. We will try to save postage and hold your membership cards for pick-up at our open meetings. Thank you; your Historical Society appreciates your support.

## Lake Scugog Historical Society

c/o Books Galore & More  
Box 5172, 175 Perry Street, Ontario L9L 1B8  
905-985-8645

[www.lakescugohistoricalsociety.com](http://www.lakescugohistoricalsociety.com)

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