



Newsletter

Lake Scugog Historical Society

Fall/Winter 2014

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

President's Message

Greetings to our Historical Society Members! After the "summer that never was," we are back into a busy fall schedule at the Lake Scugog Historical Society. Unfortunately, due to health issues I had to cancel our first event, the first of two tours of Pine Grove Cemetery in Prince Albert. However, the medical issue has been resolved and I am looking forward to leading our second walk on Wednesday, October 1, at 6:30p.m. This walk will focus on the strange and unusual burials in the cemetery. It is entitled *Murder, Mystery and Misfortune*, and I look forward to seeing you there.

As usual, your executive has organized an excellent slate of speakers for the fall and these are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

At the time of writing this message, we were anxiously awaiting the vote on Scotland's future affiliation. My wife was born in Scotland and I was born in England and, along with our Canadian passports, we presently have UK passports. So, among the many issues which the Scottish referendum addresses, we will find out whether or not we will have "a house divided" in that we would need different passports.

It seems ironic that here in Canada we went through a similar experience in 1980, and after a hectic and nervous campaign, the unity side won by the narrowest of margins. We all breathed a sigh of relief. We all realize that in spite of our cultural differences, together we are a stronger and more prosperous nation. By the time you receive this newsletter we will know whether or not the citizens of the UK are breathing more easily too. Let's hope that they are.

See you this fall.

Cheers
Paul Arculus, LSHS President

Guest Speakers

Wednesday, October 15, 7:30 p.m.

Millie Morton
A History of One-Room
Schools in Ontario

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Dave Hodson
A Port Perry Lawyer
In Afghanistan

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.

Paul Arculus
The Speedy – Murder at
Washburn Island, 1804
and it's Disasterous
Consequences

*Please note that all open
meetings 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 parking lot.*

Upcoming Guest Speakers

Millie Morton will talk about “Ontario History and One-Room Schools,” with stories from her book *Grace: A teacher’s life, one-room wchools, and a century of change in Ontario*. Grace was born in 1907, grew up on a farm in Peterborough County, and taught in several one-room schools. Her lessons went far beyond the classroom. She participated actively in her community and was a role model to many. Her stories illustrate how daily life and education have changed during the past century.

Millie is a sociologist and author who lives in Kingston. With insight and humour, she will help us remember our past and understand the important roles teachers played in both classrooms and communities.

Copies of Grace will be available after her talk for \$25.00 cash. More information is available at: <http://milliemorton.wordpress.com>

* * * * *

Dave Hodson, a Port Perry lawyer, served in Afghanistan and was recognized for service to that country in promoting peace and posterity. The acknowledgement came from General Sher Mohammad Karimi the highest officer in the Afghani army. Major Hodson will speak on Wednesday, November 19th, at 7:30 p.m.

* * * * *

Paul Arculus, This year, 2014, marks the 210th anniversary of one of the most devastating events in early nineteenth century Canada, the sinking of the Speedy. And, it all started here on Lake Scugog. In the spring of 1804, John Sharp, a fur trader was murdered on Washburn Island at the north end of Lake Scugog. As a result, an Ojibwa man by the name of Ogetonicut, was arrested and charged with the murder and placed in jail in York (now Toronto). A surveyor was sent to Lake Scugog to determine which administrative district the murder had taken place. When he showed that Washburn Island was in the Newcastle district, east of the Home District, the legal authorities ordered the trial to be held in the brand new settlement of Newcastle on Presqu’ile. The prisoner and the leading judiciary were put on a boat named Speedy and set sail for Newcastle on Sunday, October 7, 1804.

As they approached Presqu’ile that evening, a severe storm rose up and sank the vessel and all on board perished. An investigation into the incident revealed a series of scandals in the administration of the province, its attitude toward First Nations and corruption reaching up to the highest levels of the government. The consequences of this tragedy can be found in many areas of life in Ontario, even today.

In Paul’s presentation, he will discuss these matters and show how the incident of the Speedy affected the early history of Scugog and in particular, Port Perry’s Bigelow family and the man who surveyed Reach and Blackstock Townships, Samuel Wilmot. On display will be a copy of the map made by the surveyor for the case, a map that was thought to have disappeared with the Speedy. This intriguing map shows Lake Scugog before the dam was erected at Lindsay raising the level of the lake by seven feet. The talk will be held at our regular LSHS meeting at St. John’s Presbyterian Church on Wednesday December 10th.

Scugog and the Fenian Raids of 1866 - Paul Arculus

The Lake Scugog Historical Society's September tour of the Prince Albert cemetery was unfortunately cancelled. In preparing for the walk, I had decided to mention the Fenian Raids and Scugog's role in the affair and to pay our respects to some of the local lads who took part in the defense of our country in 1866.

In previous walks we always stopped at the grave of Thomas Chalmers Forman, known as Major Forman, a distinguished Scotsman who played a key role in early Scugog history. Major Forman, a grain merchant, lived on King Street in Prince Albert and built a barn in 1863 to be used as a drill shed for the local militia. He posted advertisements in the local papers to raise a local militia company. It was initially called the Reach Volunteer Infantry Company when it was formed in 1863. Forman took on the responsibility of teaching military tactics and maneuvers to the Prince Albert Infantry in his drill shed. When the Fenian Raids took place in 1866 and there was a call for arms, Forman's Company had been renamed the Prince Albert Infantry Company and it was well prepared.

I thought that it would be of interest to read out a list of the men who made their way to York to take part in the defense of our country against the Fenians. Port Perry resident, Gary Roncetti has made a life-long interest in compiling lists of those who have served Canada in all its battles from the 1812 War to the Korean War. His research into Canada's military history has been used by television and movie producers and he has published several valuable books on his research. Gary provided me with a list of the Prince Albert Infantry Company as it was at the time of the Fenian Raids of 1866.

Here is his list of the 28 men of the Company: John Blight, John Breen, Reuben Crandell (son of Reuben Crandell, the first white settler in Reach) Alfred Dennis, Johnston Devitt, Samson Devitt, William Devitt, Peter Fitchett (son of the founder of Fitchett's Corners, now Manchester), Louis Gerow, William Gibson, Alex Graham, Henry Graham, Thomas Graham, Joseph Holtby, William Jamieson, A. E. McCaw, Alex McConnel, James McConnel, Thomas Martin, William Nott, Thomas Patterson, George W. Pettit (Scugog Island), Joseph Raines, James Rodman, William J. Shunk (Scugog Island), James P. Taylor, William Warrian, William Wicklem, Thomas Wilson. The Company was led by Captain Joshua Wright, Lieutenant J.W. Allison, Lieutenant John Billings and Ensign Thomas Graham. Most of these men lie at rest in the cemetery.

"Captain Forman received instructions to report his company to Major Fairbanks at Oshawa. The Company assembled in the Town Hall at an early hour on Saturday morning. The order to "Fall In" was given between 6 and 7 o'clock. The men were addressed by Messrs. G. Currie, A. Hurd Sr., J. Baird and Rev. T. Sobs. Every person in the village and for miles around was present to cheer and encourage our noble boys on the path to glory and honour." So it was reported in the local newspaper, the Ontario Observer.

The company made its way to Oshawa. There were seven taverns on this route and it is not reported how many of these the men stopped at on the way, however it is reported "... a little beyond Columbus they came to a place where an old Cornishman had rolled out two barrels of cider to the side of the road and stood ready with his two daughters to dispense the drinks."

Once in Oshawa and in good spirits Captain Forman handed the leadership over to Captain Joshua Wright and assumed his role as Captain in the Oshawa Company. All boarded the train for York where the Prince Albert Company carried out several duties including guarding the jail at York where a number of Fenian prisoners were being held. They returned to Prince Albert on June 19 to accolades and praise. On the evening of Friday June 22, a supper was given in the Town Hall in honour of the volunteers. "Tables were laid for two hundred. The luxuries and substantial of the season were supplied by Messrs. Moggridge and Hiscocks."

Later Captain Forman was promoted to Major. It wasn't until 1890 that the Canadian Military Medal was made available to all those who had taken part in the Fenian Raids and were still alive.

Special Mention

The Lake Scugog Historical Society wishes to congratulate our Vice-President, Enci Dhanoosingh, for her recent award, "The June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism." Enci has been an active volunteer in the community for more than 20 years, and also a valuable member of this Society since 1998. Enci has a very full calendar, and leads a very busy and active life style and we are very pleased and proud that this recognition has been bestowed upon her. Congratulations again!

* * * * *

Also, special thank you to Mary-Lou Brock and Sue Grant, who made donations to the Lake Scugog Historical Society recently, in honour of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Claudette and Bill Brock. Our very best wishes, and thank you, to the Brocks, founding members of our Society.

* * * * *

SCUGOG SHORES MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES - MUSEUM NEWS

General Information:

Address for Heritage Centre: 1655 Reach Street, Port Perry, ON L0L 1P2

Address for Village: 16210 Island Road, Port Perry, ON L9L 1B4

Contact information: Shannon Kelly

museum@scugog.ca/ 905-985-8698 x 103

www.scugogshoresmuseum.com

Children's Old-Fashioned Christmas - Scugog Shores Museum Village

December 7, 2014; from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Step back in time and tour through the historic village, traditionally decorated for the holidays with evergreen boughs, bright ribbons and berries. Children will be engaged in activities throughout the village:

visit with Santa Claus, string popcorn and cranberries in the Lee House; bake and decorate cookies in the log cabin; create unique ornaments to hang on your tree; decorate traditional Victorian Christmas cards; visit with the blacksmith; explore the museum village on a holiday scavenger hunt. Hot chocolate, cider and Christmas cookies will be served in the schoolhouse throughout the day. Admission: Adults \$4, Students and Seniors \$3, Children 5-12 \$2, Children under 5 are free. We are accepting imperishable food donations for Operation Scugog.

"The Ultimate Hockey Experience" - Scugog Shores Heritage Centre & Archives

On display September 15 - December 19, 2014 - Available for public viewing for the first time, 'The Ultimate Hockey Experience' is every hockey fans dream! The exhibit features thousands of original photographs, artwork and memorabilia from the vast personal collection of Doug McLatchy, aka 'The Hockey Historian'. This is a unique opportunity to view the history of Canada's favourite sport all in one location. Visitors to the exhibit will have the opportunity to purchase replicas of many of the historical items on display.

"The Barn Raising Project" - Scugog Shores Heritage Centre & Archives

On display January 28 - March 29, 2015 - Don't miss this unique new exhibit presented by the Huronia branch of the Ontario Hooking Craft Guild in collaboration with the Simcoe County Museum. The forty hand-hooked rugs that comprise this traveling exhibit illustrate the beauty of our rural landscapes across Canada, and share the stories of how these buildings have had an impact on the artists. The Scugog Shores Heritage Centre, in partnership with the Port Perry Hookers, are pleased to be the only stop in Durham Region for The Barn Raising Project. Hand-hooked rugs from the Museum's own collection, as well as contemporary pieces from the members of the Port Perry Hookers will also be on display. Photographs by members of the North Durham Photography Association highlighting Scugog's historical barns will compliment the display.

**The Antique and Nostalgia Show and Sale
Port Perry Arena - February 7 & 8, 2015
10:00 to 4:30 Saturday, 10:00 to 4:00 Sunday**

This is our fourth 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 or time at the show.

Recap of Lake Scugog Historical Society Upcoming Events

Pine Grove Cemetary Walk, on Wednesday, October 1st, at 6:30 p.m.
www.lakescugoghistoricalsociety.com for updates

Open Meeting with Millie Morton, Wednesday, October 15th, at 7:30 p.m.

Open Meeting with Dave Hodson, Wednesday, November 19th, at 7:30 p.m.

Open Meeting with Paul Arculus, Wednesday, December 10th, at 7:30 p.m.

Please note that the Lake Scugog Historical Society will not be holding a Christmas Carol Service this year. With so many other Christmas events taking place at this busy time the Society has chosen to support those events. In past, our service was one of very few Christmas events in Port Perry, but in recent years we often face schedule conflicts with other events going on at the same time.

Antique Show at Scugog Arena, February 7 & 8, 2015
<http://www3.sympatico.ca/marilyn.pearce/antiqueshows.htm>

Watch for the next Newsletter in late-March/early-April, 2015

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, for your membership renewal for 2015. Please fill it in and send back, 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.lakescugoghistoricalsociety.com

Board of Directors:

Paul Arculus, *President* (905) 985-3658

Enci Dhanoosingh, *Vice President* (905) 985-2802

Bill Minors, *Secretary* (905) 982-1939

Daphne Naassana, *Treasurer* (905) 985-0936

Wendy Hatherley, *Editor* (905) 985-6188

Lucy Stubbs (905) 985-0787

Frank Young (905) 982-0482

Kathy Minors (905) 982-1939