



Newsletter

Lake Scugog Historical Society

Fall/Winter 2015

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

President's Message

Another fall season is about to begin for the Lake Scugog Historical Society. In this world of ever changing problems, it is good to know that there are some groups with their faithful supporters, who are managing to stay the course and in some small way, move society forward. Our LSHS and its supporters have enabled us again to provide a generous scholarship to a student from Port Perry High School to pursue some aspect of history at a post-secondary institution. Our funds once again have been considerably enhanced by the Annual Antique Fair and Show organized by Marilyn Pearce. We are happy to announce that Marilyn will once again be at the helm this coming February.

The funds will also enable us to finance yet another historical document, a guide to the Pine Grove Cemetery. This book will be available sometime in late October or early November. There is more about that elsewhere in this newsletter.

Unfortunately we have some extremely sad news to announce; the passing of Vilma Giannini, who was, for almost 15 years, our LSHS treasurer. She and her husband Ralph have been stalwarts in our activities over the years, here at the LSHS and at the Museum. Vilma's contribution to the Lake Scugog Historical Society will always be remembered and her cheery disposition will be sadly missed.

Again, I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

Cheers
Paul Arculus,
LSHS President

Guest Speakers

Thursday, October 15, 7:30 p.m.
Terry Boyle
Haunted Ontario

Thursday, November 19, 7:30 p.m.
Barbara Dickson
"Bomb Girls"

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

Terry Boyle, author of “Haunted Ontario, Encounters with Ghostly Shadows, Apparitions, and Spirits” joins us again this Halloween season to discuss local ghosts. This is the fourth book in the series, and Terry is the author of 17 books. Terry is the former host of the television program “Creepy Canada” and the radio broadcast “Discover Ontario.” Terry always draws a crowd, both at our meetings, and at the ghost walks he hosts throughout various Ontario towns and communities.

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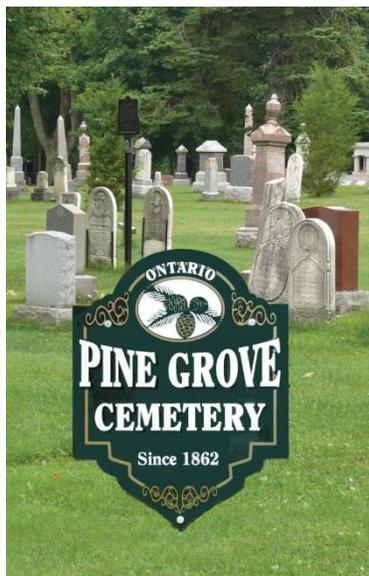
Barbara Dickson is a sought-after motivational public speaker, local historian, and writer of fiction and periodical pieces. Her most recent book “Bomb Girls” will be the topic of our November 19th meeting. “Bomb Girls” delivers a dramatic, personal, and detailed review of Canada’s largest fuse-filling munitions factory, situated in Scarborough, Ontario. First-hand accounts, technical records, photographic evidence, business documentation, and site maps all come together to offer a rare, complete account into the lives of over twenty-one thousand brave men and women who risked their lives daily while handling high explosives in a dedicated effort to help win the war. For more information: www.barbaradickson.ca

Pine Grove Cemetery Book

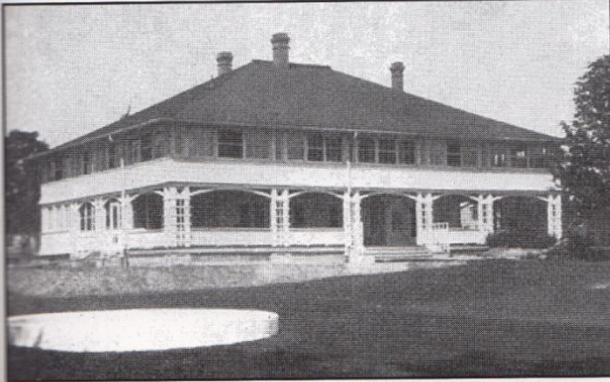
The long awaited book on Pine Grove Cemetery is finally ready for sale. This illustrated guide book of Port Perry’s major cemetery contains details on more than eighty memorials in the cemetery. Those who are remembered in Pine Grove have had an immense impact on society, not only locally but nationally and internationally.

The book is the work of local historian and President of the Lake Scugog Historical Society, Paul Arculus. It will be sold at meetings of the LSS and at *Books Galore and More* on Perry Street, in Port Perry. The cost is \$10.00 and all proceeds go to the Lake Scugog Historical Society.

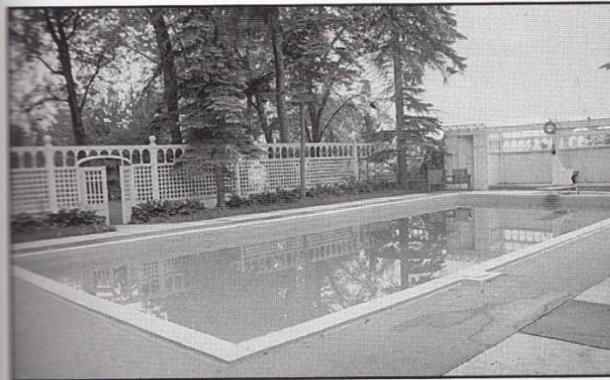
The official release of the book will be announced in the local press and will occur sometime in late October or early November.



Seven Mile Island Estate



The main residential building, circa 1920, is impressively set on a large manicured lawn. The 5,200 sq. ft. two storey house has four fireplaces, eight bedrooms, a den, large kitchen and livingroom with beamed ceilings.



Not far from the main residence is this 50'x24' swimming pool overlooking Lake Scugog. It is surrounded by a 7'8" lattice fence and at the far end of the beautiful pool are two cabana style change rooms.



The Teahouse, located in front of the reflecting pool near the lake.

One of the most luxurious residential estates in the area was located on a private island known as Seven Mile Island on Lake Scugog. The 91 acre estate is linked to Scugog Island by a 1650' paved causeway which extend through 65 acres of wildlife water sanctuary.

The property was developed by Alex R. Wilson and his wife Mary during the 1920s and 1930s.

There were five houses on the property which is landscaped with winding walkways through large rock gardens and arbours. A stone teahouse overlooking a huge reflecting pool is found in the middle of the woods and dozens of statues and fountains grace the property.

In recent years the property has become run down and much of it's grandure is in ruins.



This beautiful white lattice arbour leads from the main roadway to a large fountain and the 28 room main residence.



View of the manicured lawns at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A.R. Wilson of Seven Mile Island about 1930.

SPECIAL MENTION

Paul Arculus, our Lake Scugog Historical Society President, was named "Citizen of the Month" by the Port Perry Star, for the month of September, 2015. A well-deserved recognition; congratulations Paul!

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SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT VILMA

During the first week in August this year, Vilma Giannini passed away. Vilma had been the Treasurer of our Lake Scugog Historical Society for many years. She and her husband Ralph have been faithful, hard working members of the LSHS for many years. Shortly after their arrival here in Scugog in 1969 they became involved in community activities, serving as an example and inspiring others to get involved in our community and to take responsibility for the world we live in.

When I became involved in the executive of the Historical Society, Vilma had already been the treasurer for a long while and thankfully she continued to serve in that role for many years, helping me in my duties. Always with Ralph quietly at her side. About ten years ago she began to think that she could no longer do the job properly, but we persuaded her to remain as our treasurer for yet another five years.

Vilma's background as a daughter of a poor Italian immigrant family in Toronto, gave her an intense appreciation of life and all that it has to offer.

When the sad news was passed on to our Historical Society Executive, several members immediately responded. Wendy Hatherley, is a relative newcomer to the Historical Society and looks after our newsletter and publicity. She said: "Vilma always made me so welcome, she seemed to be always enjoying the activities and meeting people. I can only imagine what fun she was in better years."

Lucy Stubbs added, "What I remember most about Vilma was always being there to help cheerily at EVERY LSHS and Museum event. You could ALWAYS count on Vilma. You knew she would never let you down."

Frank and Joan Young said, "She and Ralph were always such great supporters of the Historical Society and the Museum. I will never forget Ralph manning the BBQ and Vilma helping there or being in charge of the admission booth."

Vilma received several awards for her community service over the years; one from the Historical Society, and the other, a lifetime award from the Province of Ontario Heritage Committee, and it is signed by the former Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario, the late Lincoln Alexander.

A large crowd attended Vilma's funeral on August 12 this year, an indication of the respect she had gained here in Scugog. She was laid to rest in the Greenbank Cemetery.

Paul Arculus

**The Antique and Nostalgia Show and Sale
Port Perry Arena - February 6 & 7, 2016
10:00 to 4:30 Saturday, 10:00 to 4:00 Sunday**

This is our fifth 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.

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

There will be three Paranormal Nights at the Museum Village, October 3, 10, and 17 from 7:00 p.m. to “late!”

Children’s Old Fashioned Christmas – Scugog Shores Museum Village

December 13th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (note: date change from previous mention)

There is an admission charge for this event.

“Arresting Images” – Heritage Centre Exhibit

Sept. 18th to December 18th; this exhibit is on loan from the Ontario Provincial Police Museum, and is a display of award-winning photographs (mug-shots) from the late 1800’s to 1908.

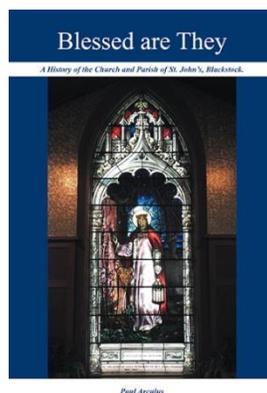
“Enslaved Africans in Upper Canada” – Heritage Centre Exhibit

February 2016; this exhibit will also include other marginalized peoples in early local history and the theme will be 19th century history “from the outside.”

March 12 to May 22; there will be an exhibit on travel and tourism in early Scugog, focusing on rail and steamships and what made Port Perry a great holiday town

“Blessed are They” – A new book on Scugog History

For nearly two decades, Paul Arculus and Peter Hvidsten have been researching and documenting Scugog history. Between them they have published more than a dozen books and have co-authored two. Paul has published six works on his own and has just released a seventh. His latest work celebrates the 175th anniversary of the parish of St. John’s Anglican Church in Blackstock. It is entitled, “Blessed are They.” While focusing on the history of the Church, the book also covers the history of Cartwright Township. As stated on the back cover of this work, “The hardy pioneers of all faiths in Cartwright Township have shared in the struggles of creating and sustaining their communities through turbulent times and dramatic changes. This book is the story of their struggles.” This one hundred and forty page work is illustrated and presents the reader with some early maps of the region. The book is now available at Books Galore and More in Port Perry and at St. John’s Church. It can also be ordered at any bookstore such as Amazone, Chapters and Indigo and is available on-line as an e-book through Google and Amazon. Paperback copies sell for \$15.00 and hard cover copies are \$25.00.



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Recap of Lake Scugog Historical Society Upcoming Events

www.lakescugoghistoricalsociety.com for updates

Open Meeting with Terry Boyle; Thursday, October 15th at 7:30 p.m.

Open Meeting with Barbara Dickson; Thursday, November 19th at 7:30 p.m.

Antique Show at Scugog Arena, February 6 & 7, 2016

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

Watch for the next Newsletter in late-March/early-April, 2016

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.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