



# Newsletter

Lake Scugog Historical Society

Spring/Summer 2016

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

## President's Message

Welcome to 2016!

First of all I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Marilyn Pearce who has organized the Antique Show and sale at the Community hall for the last few years. Under Marilyn's direction your Historical Society has been the sponsor of this popular event held each February. The profits from this event have enabled the Lake Scugog Historical Society to carry out a number of important tasks:

- 1) The establishment of the Lake Scugog Historical Society Scholarship, a \$500.00 award which is presented each year to a student from Port Perry High School who goes on to study history at a post secondary level.
- 2) The opportunity to pay for top quality speakers for our meetings.
- 3) The financing of historical research in our community. Our latest work was the publishing of a history and guidebook for the Pine Grove Cemetery.

Next February (2017) under Marilyn's guidance, we look forward to holding the Antique Show again, and will be looking for volunteers to help us organized and run the event.

Across our country various groups are already starting to think about next year, as we will be celebrating our 150th anniversary as a nation. Port Perry will have the added experience of celebrating the 225th anniversary of the birth of Peter Perry, our community's founder and namesake.

Your Lake Scugog Historical Society would like to be involved in an enjoyable celebration of these two events and we welcome any ideas that will help us to do so in style. We look forward to meeting you again at our gatherings throughout the year.

Cheers  
Paul Arculus, LSHS President

## Guest Speakers

**Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.**

John Boyko  
"Cold Fire: Kennedy's  
Northern Front"

**Wednesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.  
(following AGM at 6:30 p.m.)**

Terry Boyle  
"Discovering Ontario"

**Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m.**

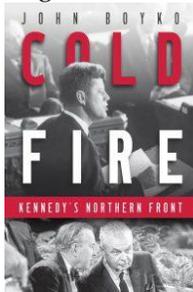
Paul Arculus  
Cemetery Walk  
Pine Grove Cemetery  
(Paul's Cemetery Booklet  
will be available for purchase)

*Please note that all open  
meetings will be held at  
St. John's Presbyterian Church  
(319 Queen St. @ Simcoe St.)  
Port Perry*

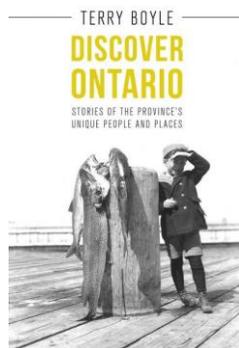
*Please join us in the downstairs  
Meeting room, using the rear  
door, from the parking lot.*

## Upcoming Guest Speakers

John Boyko's current book is entitled Cold Fire: Kennedy's Northern Front. It was published on February 2, 2016. John believes the book is challenging people's opinion of John F. Kennedy and of Canadian leaders John Diefenbaker and Lester Pearson, with its look at how the president sought to advance his agenda despite the efforts of Canadians to secure their interests. John has already signed a deal with a production company for the film rights to the book and looks forward to working with them to create a movie or television series.



Terry Boyle, always a popular speaker with our group, joins us May 11<sup>th</sup>, to discuss his new book Discovering Ontario, which will be published in April. Revisit an era of mobsters and rum-runners during the years of prohibition. Traverse the deadly waves of the Hudson Bay and visit the watery graves of shipwrecks scattered among the province's waterways and coastlines. Learn about Project Magnet, the Canadian government's top-secret mission to observe and study UFOs. Discover the Ontario connection to the mysterious Crystal Skull of Indiana Jones fame. Or take a day trip to explore the beauty of the natural world and the rich history of many of Ontario's communities.



## **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](mailto:museum@scugog.ca)/ 905-985-8698 x 103

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

### **Sunday Speakers Series - Scugog Shores Heritage Centre & Archives**

#### **Sundays at 1 pm**

April 17 - Hilary Dawson: A Black Family's Journey, Ontario African Canadian History

May 15 - Dr. Gregory Klages: The Many Deaths of Tom Thomson, Separating Fact From Fiction

### **The Archives of Ontario presents "Tourism in Ontario Through Time"**

#### **Scugog Shores Heritage Centre & Archives**

**March 12 to May 22, Tuesday to Sunday, 11 am to 4 pm**

Artifacts from the Museum's collection will also be on display.

## **Museum News (cont'd)**

### **48<sup>th</sup> annual Canoe the Nonquon - Saturday, June 4**

Join us for the longest running canoe and kayak race in Ontario. Sanctioned by OMCKRA, this 20km race follows the beautiful Nonquon River, finishing in Lake Scugog. Novice and professional canoeists and kayakers of all ages are welcome to compete in a variety of classes with medals awarded to the top three finishers in each. A prize of a \$100 VISA gift card will be given to the participant who raises the most pledges. Registration is Friday, June 3 from 6 – 9 pm and Saturday, June 4 from 7 - 9:30 am. Vessels must be in the water anytime between 8 – 10:30 am on Saturday, June 4 to participate in the race.

### **14<sup>th</sup> annual Dog Days of Scugog - Scugog Shores Museum Village Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17, 9 am to 4 pm**

Don't miss Durham Region's largest dog festival! Dog Days celebrates that unique bond between dogs and their humans. Highlights include Dog Lovers Days, Woofjocks by K9 Central, Scugog Disc Dog, doggie fashion shows, contests, parade of breeds and more. Visit with breeders and specialists on all things canine, and explore the many vendors selling unique dog products.

### **Driftwood Theatre Group - Scugog Shores Museum Village Sunday, August 14, 7:30 pm**

Driftwood's cast and crew returns to the Museum Village to present their award-winning outdoor "pay-what-you-can" theatre event. This year "The Taming of the Shrew" will be presented. Suggested admission is \$20/person. Join us starting at 6 pm for a BBQ hosted by Museum staff and volunteers.

### **Pioneer Day - Scugog Shores Museum Village Sunday, August 28, 11 am to 4 pm**

See the Museum Village come to life as it rings to the sounds of the blacksmith, woodwright, printing press, steam engines, and many other heritage demonstrators. Taste traditional treats and observe local craftspeople at work. FREE pony rides, children's crafts, games and activities. Regular admission applies.

### **"The Mummy's Curse" Murder Mystery Night - Scugog Shores Museum Village Friday, September 9, 7:30 pm**

Uncover the Mystery of "The Mummy's Curse". Explore the Museum Village, question the suspects, search for clues and solve the crime. Tickets sell out early for this popular event so get yours early to avoid disappointment. Admission is \$20/person.

### **Canadian Wildlife Photography of the Year 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Scugog Shores Heritage Centre & Archives September 15 to January 15, Tuesday to Sunday, 11 am to 4 pm**

This travelling exhibit presents the 30 winning photographs of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the 2010 Wildlife Photograph of the Year Contest run by Canadian Geographic. Canadian Wildlife Photography of the Year has been produced by the Canadian Museum of Nature in partnership with Canadian Geographic and the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada.



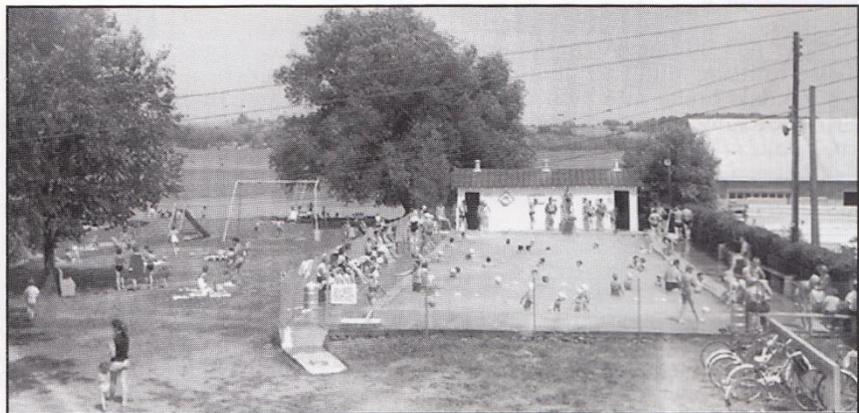
Above: Photo of some of the nine Birdseye Centre Park cabins as they looked from the lake during the 1950s.  
 Below: The entrance to Birdseye Centre Park, was at the north end of Water Street, beside the Michell's house and refreshment booth they operated at the park.



Right: Jimmy Frise, a local man, who found his fame drawing the Birdseye Centre cartoon for the Toronto Star.  
 Bottom right: A view of the busy swimming pool during a hot summer day about 1955.  
 Bottom left: Congenial host and hostess, Eddie and Hilda Michell, relaxing at their Birdseye Centre Park.



JIMMY FRISE



# Birdseye Center Cabin Park on Lake Scugog

Eddie and Hilda Michell moved to Port Perry during 1939 and shortly after arriving purchased a rough piece of property at the north end of Water St.

The Michells spent much time clearing and leveling the land, with plans to build a tourist park on the land overlooking Lake Scugog.

Work began on a 30'x80' swimming pool on the property in August 1939. The following summer the pool was opened and construction began on the first of nine efficiency cabins along the lakeshore.

In May 1940, following negotiation with the Toronto Star, Mr. Michell received exclusive permission to call the park, Birdseye Centre Cabin Park, after the popular cartoon series. The cartoon series was created by former local resident Jimmy Frise, along with his friend Greg Clarke, and was featured weekly in the Star.

Over the next 30 years, the park became a popular spot for tourists, many making long treks to stay in the beautiful park with picturesque cabins overlooking Lake Scugog.

After operating Birdseye Centre Cabin Parks for more than three decades, the park was sold to Scugog Township 1969. A few years later the cabins were removed and the land was returned to its present condition.

Although it's undergone some restoration work over the years, the outdoor pool built by the Michells in Birdseye Park during the fall of 1939 is still in use today. Sixty years after it was built, the pool is all that remains of this once popular destination for tourists throughout the 1940s, 50s and 60s.

Reprinted from "Out of the Ashes", by J. Peter Hvidsten, with permission

## Scugog author Paul Arculus pens overview of who's who in Prince Albert cemetery

### Brings stories of Pine Grove Cemetery inhabitants back to life

by Chris Hall, (reprinted from Port Perry Star, January 7, 2016)

SCUGOG -- The stories of those who have been laid to rest in one of Ontario's oldest cemeteries have been brought back to life in a new book penned by Scugog historian Paul Arculus.

A fundraiser for the Lake Scugog Historical Society, the book Pine Grove Cemetery provides snippets about 80 of the more interesting and prominent former citizens buried at the Prince Albert cemetery. The cemetery is the final resting place for about 8,000 people.

Mr. Arculus has been leading themed tours of the cemetery twice a year -- a 'fame-and-fortune' look around the sprawling grounds in the summer, followed by a 'mysterious deaths' journey in the fall -- on behalf of the historical society for about a decade and has been urged by many to write down his entertaining overview of those resting there.

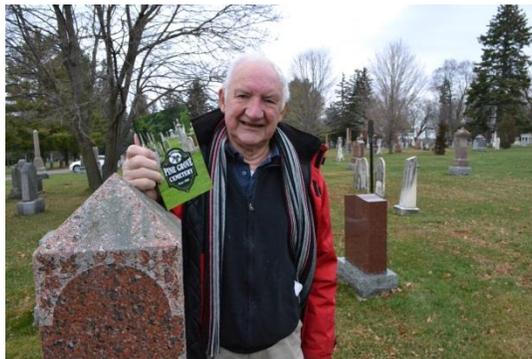
"That's the premise of the historical society, to keep this information available to people," said Mr. Arculus of the five-year writing project that was completed in late 2015. "It just adds to the documentation of the history of this community."

The first body was buried on the cemetery grounds in 1831 and Pine Grove Cemetery was formally created in 1862.

The 13-acre plot of land is the final home for a myriad of Scugog's most notable forefathers as well as those who have made contributions across Canada and around the globe. The graves of a former lieutenant-governor of Ontario, founder of the Chevrolet Motor Company, co-founder of CTV, a former National Hockey League goaltender and Hollywood star can all be found at Pine Grove.

"It's a most unusual cemetery because look at all the people remembered there, those who made a contribution to society. It's just such an incredible contribution from such a small community," said Mr. Arculus. "There's murder, there's mystery, there's scandals and romance and fame and fortune. The scope of people there is just amazing."

The book serves as a guide throughout the cemetery, pointing out the location of gravemarkers, and includes a map, photos and an index. It sells for \$10 at Books Galore and More in Port Perry (175 Perry St.), with proceeds earmarked for student scholarships and to cover the costs for speakers attending monthly meetings.



Watch for the next Newsletter in late-September/early-October, 2016

## Lake Scugog Historical Society

c/o Books Galore & More

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905-985-8645

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

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