



Newsletter

Lake Scugog Historical Society

Spring/Summer 2018

President's Message

Thanks to Marilyn Pearce and her organization of another highly successful Annual Antique Fair and Show in February; we are off and running for 2018. The revenues from this event enable us to continue all our programs with renewed confidence. Thanks Marilyn!

As we look forward to many memorable events this year, we are also encouraged to remember our past. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, "The War to End All Wars." This November there will be many commemorative events, however throughout the year there will be many reminders of the Armistice. A total of 56 young Scugog men lost their lives on the battlefields of Western Europe during the four years of fighting. We can only imagine the pain suffered by the many families in Scugog who lost their loved ones in the conflict. At the same time, a local boy, born and raised in Prince Albert had risen to the highest ranks of the Canadian Army: James Howden McBrien. Shortly after the cessation of the hostilities he was promoted to the rank of Chief of General Staff of the Overseas Military Forces of Canada. He was later knighted by King George V. Uxbridge born and raised, Samuel Sharpe commanded the 116th Battalion (Ontario County) and led them in action at the battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917 and at Passchendaele. Sharpe was so saddened by the loss of his men at these battles that he committed suicide at a hospital in Montreal in May 1918. There are many poignant memories associated with the history of this region of Ontario. This year we will be reminded of many of them.

As you will notice elsewhere in this newsletter we again have some excellent speakers coming to inform and entertain us this spring. I hope that you will all find the time to join us on these occasions.

Cheers
Paul Arculus, LSHS President

Guest Speakers

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

Larry Cotton
"Whiskey & Wickedness,
Forgotten Trades & Troubles"

Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.

Angie Littlefield
"Tom Thomson's Fine Kettle of
Friends"

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

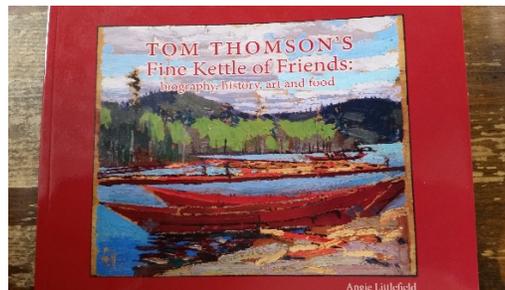
Please join us in the downstairs meeting room, using the rear door, from the parking lot.

Our Upcoming Meetings

Larry Cotton likes to do a low key anecdotal presentation; no notes - storytelling style. He is going to talk about the early settlement times in the lands adjacent to, and north of Lake Scugog, such as Mariposa Township, Brock, and Fenelon Falls. Part of the talk will relate tales of sea serpents; lost treasure; ghost towns such as Port Hoover; walking on the waters of Lake Scugog; problems relating to the timber trade and railway building eras and the battles between vigilantes and prostitution in Lindsay.



Angie Littlefield is the author of *“Tom Thomson’s Fine Kettle of Friends”* and will talk about Tom Thomson’s life through his friends and the meals he cooked and ate with them. She will also talk about his connection with the Scugog area.



Some of the LSHS member volunteers at the February Antique Show.

Some Canadian Anniversaries This Year

50 years ago: 1968

January 15: Nancy Greene won the gold medal in the Women's giant slalom at the Winter Olympics in Grenoble, France.

April 6: Pierre Elliott Trudeau, father of our present Prime Minister was elected as the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, succeeding Lester Pearson to become Prime Minister.

May 9: The 56 story T-D Centre opened in Toronto as the tallest building in Canada.

May 27: Remember the Montreal Expos baseball team? They began their existence in Montreal 50 years ago

August: The first of 10,000 refugees from Czechoslovakia arrived here in Canada. They escaped from the Russian invasion of their country that year.

September 3: the postal rate was raised to 12 cents for a first-class stamp.

October 28: The Olympic Games, held in Mexico City produced only one gold medal. It was won by the Equestrian Team of Jim Day and Jim Elder.

100 Years ago, 1918.

March 18: Daylight Saving Time was introduced

April 21: Canadian Pilot, Roy A. Brown, was credited with shooting down and killing the top German fighter pilot, the legendary Baron Manfred von Richtoven, often referred to as "The Red Baron." Brown died peacefully in Stouffville in March 1944 at the age of 50. The "Red Baron was credited with 80 "kills" whereas Brown had only 10 "kills." Brown's fellow Canadian flying ace Billy Bishop had 72 "kills."

May 24: The Canadian Elections Act gave the vote in federal elections to all women.

October 9: Canadian Forces captured Cambrai in France. This was prior to the Armistice on November 11. Over 628,000 Canadians served in the Armed Forces during the war. 425,000 were sent overseas. And of those, 60,661 were killed on the battlefields of Europe.

150 years ago, 1868

April 1, Thomas D'Arcy McGee, an MP and a Father of Confederation, was shot and killed while making his way home in Ottawa.



Peter Hvidsten and Paul Arculus, LSHS members and invaluable local historians.

Jimmy Frise

In many ways, one of the most unlikely residents of Scugog to become famous was James Lewellyn Frise, a farmboy from Scugog Island. But this unassuming young man went on to become one of Canada's most famous characters during the



Jimmy Frise is seen here relaxing in his small studio at the Toronto Star. At right, a Frise cartoon which ran under the heading Birdseye Centre.



early part of this century.

Jimmy Frise, as he was best known, became a household name with his "Birdseye Centre" cartoons in the Toronto Star Weekly during the 1920s and 30s. A feat he accomplished without one lesson of instruction in the world of art.

Frise was the artist and creator of the popular Birdseye Centre cartoons

Best friend Greg Clark pays tribute to Frise

His long-time friend and colleague Gregory Clark referred to Jimmy as a living cartoon.

"He was an original, unbendable, bemused, rapt, lovable guy in love with the gentleness and decency of life amid all the storm and rage. Doing what comes naturally was all he ever did, and it gave a whole generation of thirty years smiles and laughter and never a soul hurt in all that time".

Jimmy was born on a small farm on Scugog Island overlooking Lake Scugog and Port Perry in 1891, the only child of John and Hannah Frise. He grew up in the village of Seagrave and attended school in Port Perry.

His artistic talents became evident at an early age, as his schoolbooks were covered in sketches, many which were the early etching of "old Archie" and "Pigskin Pete", two characters from Birdseye Centre which became folklore across Canada.

In 1910 at the age of 19 years, Jimmy headed off to Toronto to search for a job that would lead him to his love of art.

But it wasn't until 1921 when he created his first half-page cartoon for the Star Weekly called "Life's Little Comedies." Within months the cartoon's name was changed to "Birdseye Centre", and Jimmy's career was launched, a career which spanned more than 25 years.

He was often asked the location of the town he was portraying in his cartoons, and he answered "any Canadian village

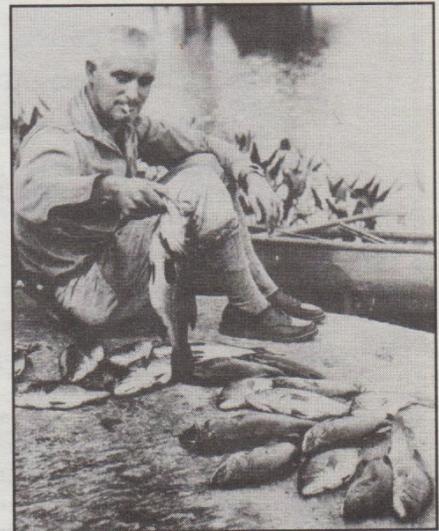
with a hotel, gasoline station, barber shop and a town pump." This despite many people from the Scugog area who felt some of the characters and situations were taken from locations around Port Perry.

When working in his studio, Frise was said to be seldom found alone. His office was a gathering place for characters who stood around talking and watching from morning until late at night.

Even at the top of his career Jimmy never forgot his roots back along the shores of Lake Scugog. He returned often to spend time with old friends and family and spoke to local groups about his career as a cartoonist.

He was a lover of the outdoors and spent a great deal of time fishing and hunting. He had an extraordinary love for dogs especially "Rusty" his water-fearing spaniel, who was featured many times in his cartoons.

Jimmy Frise died at his home in Toronto on June 13, 1948 at 57 years of age.



Jimmy Frise seen here during the 1940s with his canoe and a catch of fish after a day fishing on Lake Scugog.

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

Sunday Speaker Series

Scugog Shores Heritage Centre & Archives

Join us the 3rd Sunday of each month throughout the winter and spring for fascinating talks given by experts on history, archaeology, artifact conservation, arts and culture. All lectures start at 1 pm and include entrance to the current exhibit “Egypt: Gift of the Nile”, on loan from the Royal Ontario Museum. Admission is \$10/person.

March 25 – Bomb Girls with Barbara Dickson

‘Bomb Girls: Trading Aprons for Ammo’ is a comprehensive, historical record of Canada’s biggest WWII munitions plant which employed over 21,000 citizens, predominately women. The book offers a unique and intimate glimpse into the lives of these working women in a time when the concept of women working outside the home was a cultural anomaly. Barbara Dickson is a sought-after motivational public speaker, local historian and writer from Scarborough. Over the last 20 years she has won awards and become a best-selling author. Her book ‘Bomb Girls’ was recently made into a 30-minute video documentary.

April 22 – “Cuneiform, Hieroglyphs and Alphabets: The Dawn of Writing in the Ancient World” with Amy Barron

Many people think that the earliest writing used by man started in ancient Egypt. But their neighbours, the Mesopotamians may have the credit for creating the first written language. Learn how these two civilizations developed what was one of the most important early inventions, and how it later evolved into an alphabet more familiar to us today.

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Egypt, Gift of the Nile

Scugog Shores Heritage Centre & Archives

On display March 7 – May 18

On loan from the Royal Ontario Museum, the exhibit explores an ancient civilization that flourished for thousands of years in the Nile River Valley. The ancient Egyptians developed from a simple agricultural community into a sophisticated society. Open Tuesday – Sunday from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Regular exhibit admission rates apply.

Scugog Shores Museum Village Opens for Season

May 21 – August 31, open daily 10 am - 4 pm

Re-discover the 12 buildings of our historic pioneer village and the Ojibway Heritage Interpretive Lands. Guided tours are provided daily throughout the summer.

50th Annual Canoe the Nonquon

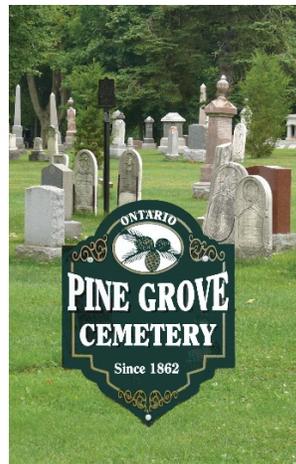
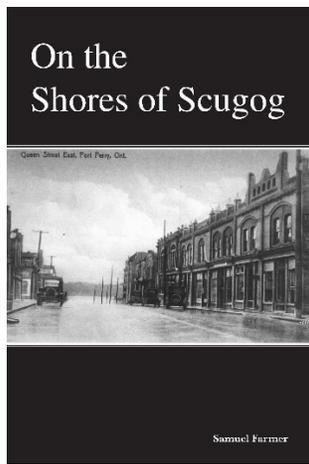
Saturday, June 2

Started by the Lake Scugog Historical Society in 1969 the race is one of the Museum’s largest annual fundraisers.



Lake Scugog Historical Society Books

The Historical Society has recently reprinted three of our previously printed local history books. These new editions are available at *Books Galore and More* on Perry Street, in Port Perry. The costs are \$30.00 for *Steamboats on Scugog*, and \$20.00 for *On the Shores of Scugog*, and \$10.00 for the *Pine Grove Cemetery Book*. All proceeds will go to the Historical Society.



Watch for the next Newsletter in late-September/early-October, 2018

Lake Scugog Historical Society

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

www.lakescugoghistoricalsociety.com

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