

A rustic wooden building with a green window frame and a large wooden wheel leaning against it. The wheel is made of light-colored wood with many spokes and a central hub. The building's walls are made of weathered grey wood. The window has a green frame and is divided into several panes. The overall scene is outdoors, with a wooden deck or platform in front of the building.

**LSHS**  
**NEWSLETTER**

**LAKE SCUGOG HISTORIC SOCIETY**  
**SUMMER - 2022**

# Lake Scugog Historical Society

DEDICATED TO THE HISTORY OF THE LAKE SCUGOG AREA - ESTABLISHED 1969



## President's Message

by  
Marilyn Pearce

Summer 2022

Welcome to summer and the exciting possibility of once again being able to attend events, museums, and fall fairs. Our summer newsletter is full of opportunities to learn more about our local history, revisit our local spaces and best of all to meet with friends old and new and share our pride in Scugog's historical past.

LSHS has a full summer of events planned kicking off with the return of the 37th Annual Garden Party on July 24th – you can read more about how “historic” this event was later in the newsletter. Following the very next week on Sunday July 31st we are partnering with the Caesarea Regatta weekend to host “A History of Caesarea” – a look back at Scugog's historic cottage community since 1836.

We start at 1 pm with a tour of Caesar's cemetery and the history of early pioneers followed by an Exhibit at the historical Beacon Marina at 2pm. If you have never visited this historical site you have missed a Scugog gem.

August events include the return of Pioneer Days to the Museum on August 21st and with its new name

Scugog Heritage Days, we hope to be able to focus not only on our 19th century past but also more recent history. Be sure and mark this one on your calendar and more details will follow on what exhibit we plan to feature as our “Pop-up for the Day.” Finally we conclude with our Annual Pine Grove Cemetery walk on Sept. 11th . This year Paul hopes to focus on the medical profession that are interred there – the Pioneer Docs” – our early health care providers.

As well, your Board is working with the Museum staff to feature exhibits of local interest and this summer be sure and visit “ The Merchants of Old Port Perry” stoneware and bottle collection which is now displayed at the Schoolhouse. As well, there is a great Indigenous beadwork display in the Emporium.

Our main aim as an historical society is to preserve for future generations the story of our Indigenous Past, our pioneer families and to create an interest in our local history through our museums, our events, our historical walks and now through technology as we make it even easier for you to re-visit the past from the comfort of home.

Hopefully by the end of the year we will have the Port Perry Star newspapers from 1933 – 1991 on-line for you to view and the possibility of artifacts from the Museum collection on-line in 2023.

So enjoy your summer and I hope to see many of you at our upcoming events. If you would like to volunteer for any of these please let us know.

Be a tourist in your local community there's lots of experiences close to home.

See you soon.  
Marilyn

Lake Scugog Historical Society

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021-2023

President: Marilyn Pearce  
Vice-President: Dan Stone  
Secretary: Bill Minors  
Treasurer: Janis Carter  
Membership: Karen Puckrin  
Director: Bev Brown  
Director: Peter Hvidsten  
Past President: Paul Arculus

You can find LSHS on Facebook, or at:  
[lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

or by mail at:

LSHS 175 Perry St. Port Perry, On. L9L 1B8

## NAME THE LSHS NEWSLETTER



It has been suggested that the Lake Scugog Historical Society newsletter should have a name. Some of the names already proposed include - The Bulletin; The Archive, etc.

Anyone with a suggestion, please send your ideas in for consideration, so it can be used in the next newsletter

Send your suggestions to:

[lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com)



**Jimmy James, Jim**

**FRISE**

*Canadian  
Cartoonist*

As you enter the grounds of the Scugog Shores Museum you will pass a provincial plaque dedicated by LSHS in 1971 to James Llewellyn Frise one of the most important Canadian cartoonist of the 1st half of the 20th century. Not many folks these days know why this small rural museum celebrates this self-taught artist but those who love history realize that his cartoons of the simple rural life in Ontario earned him international acclaim.

It is believed Jimmy was born just north of the Museum property the only child of John and Hannah Frise. His family were farmers and also lived in Seagrave and Myrtle. After his father died his mother lived out her remaining years in Port Perry. Jimmy went to school briefly at the Head School (Museum Admin office now) and in Seagrave. He left home for Toronto in 1910 to find and job but it was after returning wounded from WWI and at 19 years old that he finally found his career when he created a half-page cartoon for the Star Weekly called Birdseye Centre. Many felt his characters and situations were based on the village of Port Perry, Seagrave and Scugog Township. His cartoons and art were highly sought after by various companies including CCM, Pepsi, Puzzle makers, Supertest Gas, TTC, postcard makers and Borden's Milk to name a few.

In 2009, Jimmy was recognized for his significant contribution to the world of cartooning when he was inducted into The Giants of the North - Canadian Cartoonist Hall of Fame.

This gentle, Country Boy portrayed so well the relationship of rural and urban life as it existed in the past and still holds true today.

**His original art can be found at an upcoming Exhibit opening on July 24th at the Scugog Shores Museum.**

Please join us as we celebrate this whimsical look at life in small town Canada in the 1920's, 30's and 40's.





# Bill's Book Review



BILL MINORS

## WHISKEY & WICKEDNESS

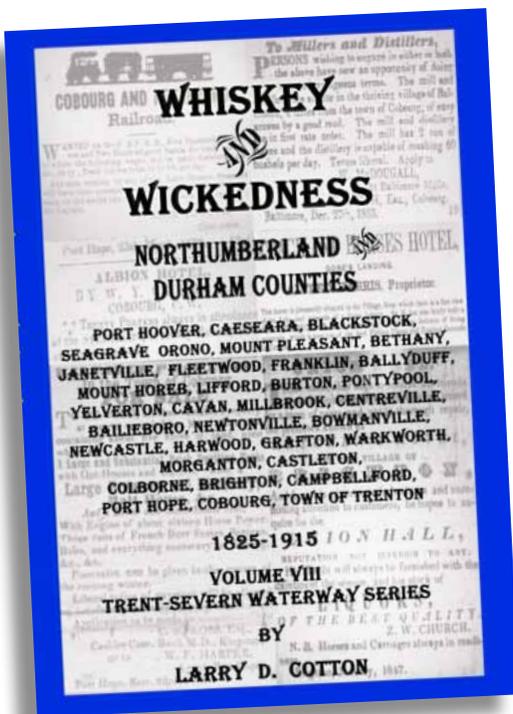
NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM COUNTIES

1825-1915

Volume VIII TRENT-SEVERN WATERWAY SERIES

By Larry D. Cotton

This is the latest in Larry Cotton's Trent-Severn Waterway Series. Just like today, local communities were not just farmers, clergymen and schoolteachers, there were some bad apples too. Larry's book tends to "dish the dirt" on small-town Ontario in the 19th and early 20th centuries.



This latest one is quite close to home. On seeing Durham I asked him why Port Perry was not included. He reminded me that back then we were part of Ontario County. This one covers many nearby townships including Caesarea, Blackstock, Courtice and many others. We find that for years a gang called "the Beagles" ran riot in Manvers Township. Finally a group of enraged citizens got hold of their leader and were in the act of holding what they used to call in the Old West a "Necktie Party". Only the arrival of a professional gentleman from Bethany dissuaded the mob from exacting their justice.

**Necktie parties?  
Sea Serpents?  
Exploding posts?**

Port Perry does make an appearance in the case of the Lake Scugog "Sea Serpent". Legend has it that three Port Perry men were out shooting at Beaver Creek Meadow, along the shores of Lake Scugog

in May 1881, when they heard a loud splashing of the water. Within a few minutes, to their horror, they were confronted by a sea-monster of gigantic proportions-about 20 feet long and weighing over 500 lbs.

One of the men fired 4 shots, which had no effect and the monster submerged into the water and disappeared. The editor of the local newspaper figured there was a "bottle" involved, but I guess we shall never know. Given that people around Loch Ness continue to make millions from a few dubious sightings of a monster, maybe we should be doing the same.

Blackstock also shows up, as in the case of the "Fence Post Feud". Did you know Blackstock was originally called Tooley's Corners, also Williamsburg? In 1870 a farmer named "Lazy Willy" owned land next to the hotel and tavern. It seems his fence posts kept mysteriously disappearing. He accused the hotel owner of stealing them to heat his premises, which was vehemently denied. So one night Willy sneaks out and places copious amounts of gunpowder in the rails. You may not be surprised to know that a few days later a huge explosion occurred in the hotel lobby destroying the parlour stove.

This is not the kind of book you read from cover-to-cover, but rather you dip into. Highly recommended and very entertaining if you like to read about the seamier side of life.

LAKE SCUGOG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# GARDEN PARTY

SUNDAY, JULY 24th

Time: 1:00

In reviewing past newsletters done by LSHS, looking for traditions that were significant in our Society's history, I came upon a binder called "Tribute Days and Victorian Teas". It was a documentation of Garden Parties that were held on the museum grounds every summer between 1998 and 2006. It spoke of a long tradition of celebrating the founding of our Museum as well a memorial tribute to those who had passed away. Formal invitations were sent out, guest lists saved, afternoon tea was served and memorial trees were planted.

In 2000, the Garden Party celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Museum being founded. In digging a little deeper into the history of the Garden party I found that it celebrated the unveiling of the Jimmy Frise Plaque in 1971, a Celebration of Scugog's Cultural heritage in 2002 and the re-opening of the Head Church in 2004. It always featured music from such notables as Bunty Webb, Gretel Cameron, Irwin Smith as well as organists, Eva Hunter and Betty Stone. A guided tour of the grounds reminded everyone of the importance the founders of the Society placed on preserving and protecting our history.

With all that in mind and given our Museum is now 52 years old, we have decided to bring back the Garden Party as a way to share the stories and artifacts of our past. This will be the 37th Anniversary of this gathering to celebrate our Museum and all it has to offer (the party was discontinued in 2006 and then Covid delayed large gatherings).

The LSHS executive has been working closely with the Township staff to formulate a new strategic plan for the Museum and Grounds with a focus not only on the tourist aspect of this phenomenal resource but also on "our home for our history in Scugog". This event will showcase what has been accomplished so far.

We hope you can join us on July 24th at 1 pm to celebrate our Museum, our Founders, our Volunteers and of course our local history. The day includes the traditional historical walk, music, 19th century costumes (why not dress up) and of course tea will be served at the Church. This year we celebrate renowned cartoonist Jimmy Frise and the Museums impressive collection of his works.



*Eva Hunter, Gretel Cameron,  
Bunty Webb, Irwin Smith*

Historical Walk of Musuem	1:00 p.m.
Official Frise Exhibit Opening	2:00 p.m.

# Lake Scugog Historical Society

## 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting

&

Awards Night

By Marilyn Pearce

On May 17th, the Lake Scugog Historical Society held their 52nd AGM at St. John's Presbyterian Church with a large in-person attendance after three long years of meetings by ZOOM. The night not only featured annual reports from the Executive Board to their members but also an entertaining speaker in well-known Brighton author Dan Buchanan speaking about "The Wreck of the H.M.S Speedy".

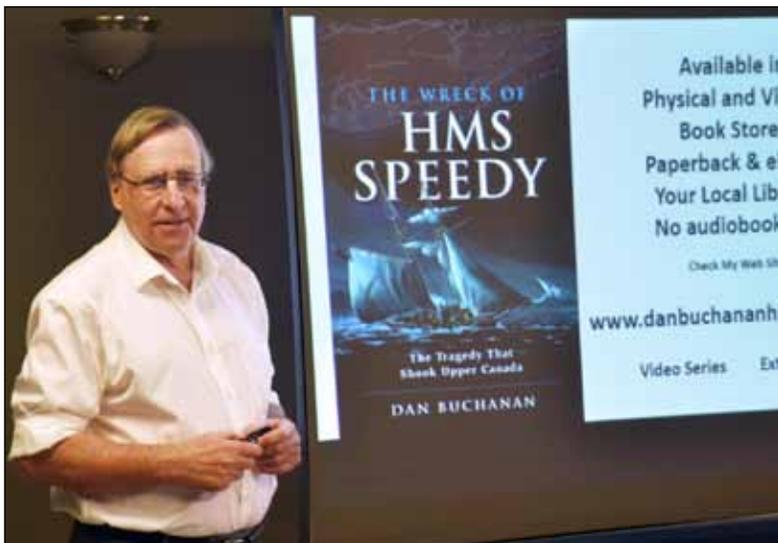
For those who have never heard this story and its Scugog connection it is worth reading his book. Dan showed amazing underwater footage of the artifacts of this ship that sank near Presquile Point with all aboard being lost. The story is about a young Mississauga Island First Nation man who was accused of murdering a trapper named John Sharpe in 1804 on Washburn Island and the subsequent trial that was to be held in Toronto but was moved to Brighton after determining the murder was committed in the home district of Newcastle.

Following the guest speaker two new LSHS Awards were announced. The first award is the new "Paul Arculus History Bursery" presented to a student of PPHS that is graduating and pursuing history or museum studies. As many of you know Paul is and continues to be the "Face of the Historical Society" but he stepped down as President last year at our

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*Claudette Brock, centre, was on hand to present the first "Bill & Claudette Brock Award" to Ron and Nancy Compton, for their outstanding support of the Lake Scugog Historical Society and their generous contribution of \$25,000 towards the Scugog Digital Newspaper project.*



*Dan Buchanan was the guest speaker at the LSHS annual general meeting, and spoke on "The Wreck of the H.M.S Speedy".*



*LSHS President Marilyn Pearce presented a cheque for \$1,000 to Scugog Shores Museum curator, Shannon Kelly and assistant curator Victoria Karakian to be used for restoration of an original cartoon by Jimmy Frise.*

# THE McCAW SISTERS

By Evan Monsma



EVAN MONSMA

The McCaw sisters weren't a normal group of sisters. There were eight of them. No boys were a part of this family. Eight girls for William Hugh and Emma Josephine (Bigelow) McCaw to raise during the girls' childhoods.

It started on January 9, 1878. William Hugh McCaw, a jeweler in Port Perry, son of James and Emily (Knight) McCaw, marries Emma Josephine Bigelow, the only daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Paxton) Bigelow. The first daughter was born on January 20, 1879.

Elizabeth Emily McCaw is the first-born daughter of William and Emma. She was born on January 20, 1879 in Port Perry. She was never married and never had any children. In her retirement years, she spent her time in St. Petersburg, Florida. She passed away in 1977 at the age of 98. She is a little over two years old when the next daughter arrives.

The second-born daughter of the McCaw's was Mabel Irene McCaw, born on March 28, 1881. She married Arthur Carnegie and had four children: Jack, Louise, William, and Arthur.

She passed away on October 31, 1971 at the age of 90. The next daughter was born a little over three years after the birth of Mabel Irene McCaw.

The third-born daughter of William and Emma was Cora Belle McCaw. She was born on May 27, 1884, a few months before the Port Perry Fire of 1884 on November 26. She went on to marry Frank Coone. They had three children together: Doris, Herbert, and Margaret. She passed away on February 27, 1967 at the age of 82.

The fourth daughter that was born was on January 2, 1886. Her name was Emma Josephine McCaw. There is a lot of confusion between her and her mother, having the same name. She married John McDonald. They didn't

have any children. They lived in Pinellas, Florida. Emma died on December 12, 1970 at the age of 84.

Florence Gertrude McCaw, the fifth McCaw sister, was born on August 28, 1887, not too long after Emma Josephine was born. She married Harry Naismith. The two had Clara Clark, Dougald, and Malcolm. She lived the longest out of all the sisters, passing away on May 8, 1989 at the age of 101. She almost made it to 102. She was almost three months off.

Marion Bigelow McCaw (my great great grandmother) was born on January 9, 1891 in Port Perry. She married David Carnegie, brother of Arthur Carnegie, who married Marion's older sister Mabel. Marion and David had seven children! Robert, Kathleen, Harry, Ruth, David Gordon, Donald, and Mary. Born all in the span of 15 years. Marion Bigelow McCaw passed away in St. Petersburg on December 23, 1977 at the age of 86.

Aileen Knight McCaw was the first-born twin out of the two. She was the 7th-born daughter to the McCaw's. She was born on June 5, 1892. She married Harold Emerson but they didn't have any children. She died on May 27, 1973,

coming close to the age of 81.

The second twin was the youngest out of all the sisters. Her name was Kathleen Paxton McCaw. She, just like her sister, was born on June 5, 1892. She married Morley Honey and just like Kathleen's twin sister, she didn't have any children. She passed away on November 20, 1959 at the age of 67.

The McCaw sisters sure were something. In fact, William and Emma had to move in with Emma's parents, Joseph and Elizabeth Bigelow, in their huge house, to take care of the girls. All of them, except for Kathleen, lived to be 80 or older. The McCaw sisters definitely were special to Port Perry.



The McCaw Sisters - Back left: Cora, Emma, Mabel, Florence, Elizabeth. Front left, Marion, Kathleen, Aileen



# SCUGOG SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Submitted by  
Leanne Ashbridge

On Thursday April 21, 2022, the Sports Hall of Fame celebrated 15 years and held the annual Induction Ceremony. The attendance was outstanding following a two year hiatus due to Covid lockdowns.

This year Keynote Speaker, Gary Edgar shared his story growing up on Scugog Island, participating in athletics in school, winning the Tom Longboat Regional award, teaching and coaching in Durham Region and contributing as a valued volunteer in his community.

The Hall of Fame recognized the following individuals as Inductees:

**BUILDER:** Kate Beirness for her outstanding media career as a sports broadcaster and her founding of the MARK program that empowers young female leaders.

**ATHLETES:** The Roberts Family- Ian Roberts, Kelly Plitz, Waylon Roberts for their devotion to the sport of equestrianism. Each of them has significant accomplishments in the sport having represented Canada in multiple international competitions including the Olympics.

**TEAM:** A team of teachers/coaches who inspired young athletes in the 70s and 80s during their tenures at RH Cornish Public School in Port Perry. This team included: Dave Brownson, Graham Hewitt, John Hinch, Jim Justynski, Reg Philip, Clive Roane, Ken Smart, Rob Smart and Darla Thomas(Sells).

**YOUTH EXCELLENCE:** Certificates were also presented to two Scugog youth who are showing great promise in their chosen sports: Alexandra McDougall in Cross Country Running and Justin Matthews in Golf.



*Gavin Cochrane accepts plaque on behalf of Blackstock Men's Hockey from Kirk Swain. Gavin was a former player in the league and long-time sponsor.*



*Port Perry MoJacks, left to right, Gavin Cochrane, Ryan Beattie, Trevor Lance, John Harman Jr., Mark Jobb, Murray Parliament, Joanne Fowler (Jackson) Dave Jackson and Ron Cosway.*

For the first time, this year, local sports organizations were asked to submit names of volunteers who have made significant contributions to their organizations.

**The following volunteers were recognized by the Sports Hall of Fame:**

- Jackie Barr-Scugog Women's Hockey League
- Ian Morrison-Durham Rowing Club
- Ann Powell-Port Perry Tennis Club
- Dawn Price-Cartwright Soccer
- Dave Weller-Port Perry Minor Softball Association

The following organizations celebrating anniversaries were added to the plaque donated by the Lake Scugog Historical Society:

- **50 YEARS** - Blackstock Men's Hockey League.
- **50 YEARS** - Port Perry Snowmobile Club.
- **50 YEARS** - Port Perry MoJacks.

Plans are underway for the 2023 Induction Ceremony to be held on Thursday April 20, 2023. Mark your calendar and join us to honour our past, inspire our future and celebrate those who contribute to sports in Scugog.

## Your Donation is important!

The Lake Scugog Historical Society relies on fundraising and donations to continue to operate as Historical Society, the Board is always looking at ways to make giving simple for our donors.

Over the past year we have been investigating various ways to ensure the security of on-line donations and are pleased to report that you can now donate through the **CanadaHelps Organization** - [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) - which is also a charity.

Simply visit their website and enter our name Lake Scugog Historical Society. CanadaHelps will issue you a tax receipt on-line. They then transfer the funds to us. What could be easier!!

Please help as we continue to try and stay sustainable through the last stages of the Pandemic.



*The Lake Scugog Historical Society's youngest member, Evan Monsma, attended the annual general meeting, and is seen here after with, from left Peter Hvidsten, President Marilyn Pearce and Past President Paul Arculus. Evan contributes stories on Scugog's history in the LSHS Newsletter.*

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AGM. The Board thought this a fitting tribute to recognize not only his work with us but also his prestigious career as a history teacher at PPHS.

The second award – **"The Bill & Claudette Brock Award"** –honours an outstanding contribution to the preservation of the heritage of Scugog Township. The Board had to choose from 12 nominees who made significant contributions & help to raise the awareness of our local heritage in 2021.

Claudette Brock one of the original founders of LSHS and the museum made the presentation to **"The Compton Family Foundation"** who have contributed \$25,000 to the digitization of Port Perry's newspapers. By the end of 2022 all the local newspapers up to 1995 will be digitized and available online, and completely searchable. This project culminates in years and years of our local history starting in 1857 now being available for research, for family history discussions and for those who simply want to reminisce about the "good old days".

The evening concluded with a cheque presentation of \$1,000 to the local museum to restore an original art work by renowned cartoonist Jimmie Frise – a Scugog boy. His original works of which our museum has many, will be on display in July of this year.

LSHS wants to thank all who took part in this memorable evening and we hope to see you this summer at our Garden Party on Sunday July 24th from 1-4 at the museum for our Annual Memorial tour of the grounds and the opening of the Jimmie Frise Exhibit.

# THE GOOD OLD DAYS



**Marion Boyd**

*Daughter of Port Perry Star  
owner Samuel Farmer*

## Childhood Memories of the 1920s

**By Marion (Farmer) Boyd - Published September 1957 - Port Perry Star**

*Our home was a quiet side street in Port Perry, a few minutes walk from the "swamp" through which the railway line ran. We had a good sized garden and an average home. It was a great day for us when Mr. Ed Griffen laid the hardwood floor. We children stood quietly at one side expecting disaster from the mouthful of nails from which he extracted one after another to nail down the floor,—and it was a beautiful floor.*

*One of the pleasant recollections of childhood days is going out barefoot after a rain and seeing the tiny toads that hopped over the wet sand. Another is the errand to the creamery for -a pail of fresh butter- milk. Mother seemed to know when there was a churning and we took our pail down to have it filled to the brim with delicious buttermilk. We enjoyed the walk after our daily milk supply and often arrived soon enough to see the cow being milked, or to see Mrs. Hooper working at her loom weaving the rag rugs which many town folk had made by her.*

### Sunday

Sunday when there was no Sunday School in the afternoon we walked with Dad down to Beachcroft to see the flowers or up to Borelia, sometimes as far as Prince Albert but frequently we stopped to admire someone's garden and chat a while, at least Dad chatted, while we listened.

One of the most frequent places to stop was at the home of Mr. William Cutts, the artist. These we enjoyed most, for here we were frequently included in the conversation with Mrs. Cutts and always there was something new to see.

I recall the Sunday School picnics on "The Cora", especially the year I considered myself much too big to be carried across the six feet of water from "the steamer" to the beach



*Little steamship Cora at the dock, Port Perry.*

where supper was to be served. I took a flying leap and landed in a foot or so of water with disastrous results, not only to my own clothing but to that of all the men who were wading in the water carrying other better-behaved children ashore.

### I Remember . . .

I remember several runaways, one in particular which came to a sudden halt with one horse on each side of the telephone post outside our door, another which Mr. Bickle our neighbour tried to stop, nearly getting him-self killed in the attempt.

I remember when the men put up the telephone cables and we children collected short pieces of shiny copper wire which made wonderful rings, bracelets and broaches.

I recall being permitted to sit on the steps of a store on the south east corner of Perry and Queen St. while we watched the firemen attempt to put out the terrible blaze in Carnegie's Hardware, and the huge clouds of black smoke that rose in the air.

We also watched the building of the skating rink on Paxton St. at Lilla. It was a marvel to us to see those tremendous archs being pulled into position.

I recall one year when an extra heavy snow fall necessitated the snow plow on the railway and everyone who could went down to the station to see it.

Another thing we all went to see was the airplane that came down in the Fairgrounds. The pilot had lost his way and asked directions to Toronto.

## Hydro Electric

It was one of the most thrilling evenings in our life when “grandpa” Rolph pressed the button that meant Hydro Power for Port Perry. I can see the old gentleman now and with what delight he made the light grow brighter as the new power surged through the lines.

One of our favourite places of call when we were permitted to go, “downtown” was a “Grandpa” Roph’s harness shop. How we delighted to watch him make a wax end and sew with two needles at once, and such beautiful even stitches.



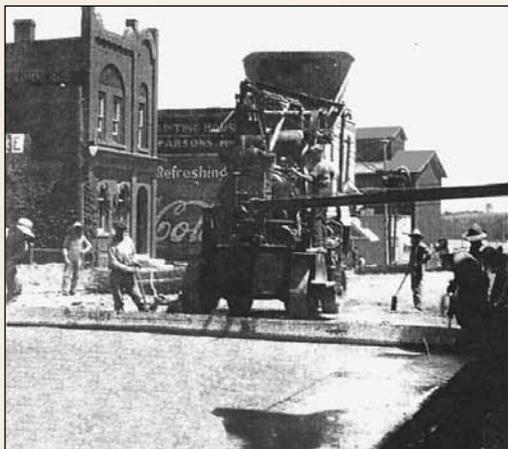
*Small school at the rear of the high school, 1948.*

## School

School was a happy place for us and none ever had a better teacher to start school days than Miss May Walker. The 1st grade was in a small building back of the bigger school and the class was divided so that the beginners had kindergarten work and those who had been there longer took reading and figure’s. As I remember we started with the printed alphabet but by the time we were ready for transfer to the big school we were expected to be able to read and write in script.

## Sidewalks

Another vivid memory concerns the building of the cement sidewalks. Mr. Jas. Waddell was in charge of the job when the sidewalks were laid on our street and I



*Paving Queen Street, 1924.*

can see the big yellow wood tank, horse drawn, which supplied the water for the mixing of the cement.

We watched from the sidelines until we knew all the process from the laying of the stringers to the final marking with a special roller, and when the men had gone home to dinner we apprehensively made a mark of our bare feet in the wet cement.

Adults could not resist the temptation to mark the cement, too, however they took the form of writing their names in front of their door.

## Half Barn

My father owned part of a big barn across the street from our home, the other half was owned by our neighbour, Mr. John Bradley. Dad decided to sell his part of the barn and the men came with a big cross cut saw, the biggest I have ever seen, and sawed the barn in two. It was jacked up and put on skids and pulled down the street with a couple of teams of horses, (I don’t know where it went). The electricians went along with the men and took down and replaced such wires as were in the way.

Speaking of Mr. Bradley brings to mind another incident of those childhood days. Miss Elsie Bradley was a school teacher at one of the country schools and her friend Grace Collacutt had a pony cart, a wheel affair with a fat dapple gray pony. How thrilled I was when I could accompany Miss Collacutt when she drove out to bring Miss Bradley home from School.

It was with mixed feelings that we had our music lessons. Will Miss Estelle Bull was the music teacher. We had a wheezy old organ on which we did our practising, but for lessons we went to Miss Bull’s boarding house, (Miss Stovin’s home), where there was a fine piano.

Miss Bull was not inclined to let any pupil forget when they hit a wrong note. Unfortunate children like myself usually finished the lesson with several sore knuckles and some poor nervous children had a hard time to finish any piece because too many sour notes would call forth equally sour wails from the teacher.

## The Farm

During the 1st World War my father and Dr. Berry tried to do their bit by trying some farming and after Sunday School would drive out to the farm where we could play while the ‘farmers’ worked at their bean crop. War was the only excuse for working on Sunday, but we loved those days on the farm. Of course the weather was always good when we went there. Sunday School was a must and only sickness kept us away.

When we were old enough there was a task that came our way about the end of February, and we did not like it at all. The sprouts had to be taken off the potatoes and the carrots and beets that had been stored in the cellar had to be looked over as well as the apples that were kept in the big barrel.

This task was usually done under the eye of Dad who worked along with us. As fresh vegetables were not sold in the stores, our meals were likely to be a bit monotonous by the time spring had arrived and we were certainly pleased to see the new vegetables in the garden.

## Merry-Go-Round

Some time around the 1920s a merry-go-round was set up across the road from the blacksmith shop on Perry St. We were thrilled with this wonderful entertainment, but there was very nearly a serious accident in connection with it.

One little girl ran across the road to the blacksmith shop to get more money from her father. Being so excited she forgot to watch for cars and ran right in front of one which knocked her down. I don't recall whether she had any broken bones, but for a short time the accident had a very sobering effect on the merry makers, who remembered, at least for the rest of that day, to look up and down before they crossed the street.

## Skating

On nice winter days "the swamp" became our skating rink. The boys of the neighbourhood kept a space clear of snow and sometimes, when they tired of hockey, we were allowed to skate there. Those skates were a bit different. They clamped onto the boots at the front and strapped around the ankles.

How we bundled up for these winter games. No snow suits or parkas in those days. We wore heavy sweaters, usually more than one over our regular clothes, with two pairs of woollen mitts and several pairs of woollen socks. The boys had knee breeches over which they pulled their stockings, the girls wore leggings.

Both boys and girls wore wool scarves or clouds around their necks and if the weather was bad, over their heads and mouths, too. Toques were the accepted head gear for winter weather, and two or three buckle overshoes, if we were not skating.

## Sleigh Riding

Sleigh riding was just as popular as skating and the nearby hills were quite safe as autos did not run in the winter and the cutters or bobsleighs always had bells.

There were just a few cars in those early days. Drs. Archer had one or two I know, but I remember best Dr. Mellow's. Perhaps because there was so much shining brass on it. It was a car like this that Mr. Monet owned.

They were at one time neighbours and when they moved to Toronto I was frequently a summertime visitor and those trips to Toronto when the cement highway was being built were real highlights of summer holidays.

One never made the trip all the way without a flat tire, and woe be the driver that did not carry the necessary equipment for changing the tire and also for patching the tube, as you were indeed lucky if you had no more than one puncture.

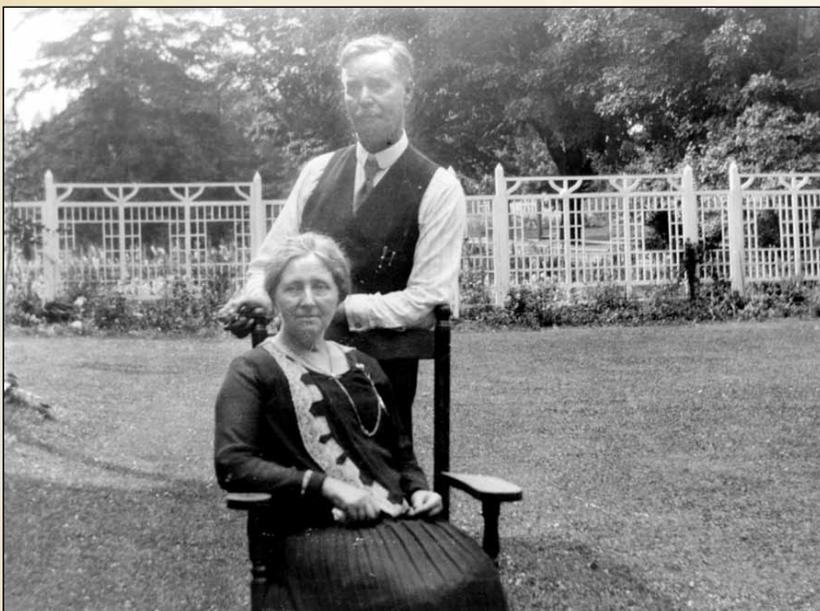
Steep hills were the bug-a-boo of these old time cars and I have heard that sometimes it was necessary to back up the hill if the gravity gas tank was nearly empty. If a horse and buggy were on the hill when you came to it you waited until he was over the top so that you would not have to pass him on the way up. If you were unfortunate enough to catch up to him on the steep grade, and he wouldn't pull over to let you pass, you would have to back down to the bottom and make a fresh run at it.

My only recollections of the 1st World War except for the "farming" was of the soldiers marching past and one who was "courting" our hired girl. They used to sit on the lawn swing and mother was forced to call us rather sharply at dusk, as we were naturally anxious to know what the great attraction was about that swing.

Well, all things change and children do grow up.

**by Marion Boyd**

*(Daughter of Samuel and Grace Farmer)*



*Marion's parents, Samuel and Grace Farmer are seen in the picture, in the beautiful garden at their home on the southwest corner of Queen and Ella St., Port Perry.*

*This story was published in a special section of the Port Perry Star in September 1957, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Port Perry Star being owned and published by Samuel Farmer and his family.*



# Scugog Shores Museum Village & Archives News



Submitted by Victoria Karakian, assistant curator, Scugog Shores Museum

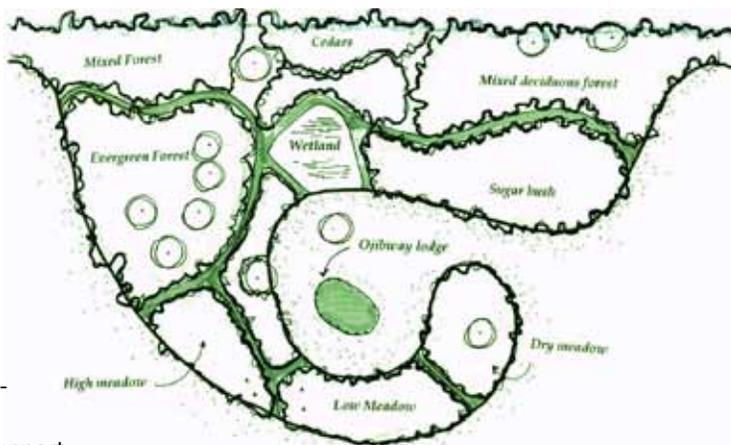
## OJIBWAY HERITAGE REVITALIZATION PROJECT

The Ojibway Heritage Interpretive Lands (OHIL) is a living exhibit including a birch bark wigwam surrounded by paths, landscaping, and gardens meant to interpret the natural and cultural history of the Scugog Watershed prior to European settlement. This exhibit was developed in 1998 as a partnership between the Scugog Shores Museum Village and the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation.

After 23+ years, the landscaping and gardens have been taken over by invasive species and many of the original plants no longer grow.

The Scugog Shores Museum Village is working on a three-year project to revitalize the Ojibway Heritage Interpretive Lands, better represent the natural history of Scugog, and support programming. This will include removing invasive species that have taken over, reintroducing native plant species, a dedicated medicine garden instead of potted medicine garden, creating a pollinator garden with native plants, and recovering the wigwam.

This project is in its early stages but is currently in partnership with the Durham Master Gardeners who will assist in planning, training, and developing a care plan. We are in discussion with Mitigomin Native Plant Nursery with an Indigenous horticulturalist; we hope to welcome them as a partner on the project as well! The Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation have also been invited to collaborate on the project.



### DIGITAL UPDATE

## SCUGOG DIGITAL NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

I'm sure many members of the LSHS have heard, we have successfully reached an agreement with Metroland Media Group Ltd., for digitizing the Port Perry Star newspapers.

It's been a long process, but we can now move forward on the Phase 3 of the Scugog Digital Newspaper Project, which is to digitize 53 reels of microfilm dated from June 1933 to December 1991.

Working with Our Digital World, we have been able to reduce the original estimated cost of \$25,312.00 by more than \$4,000. The estimated cost now is \$20,916.00. The price reduction comes by using locally held microfilm, instead of borrowing the files from the Library & Archives of Ontario.

This is an estimated quote, as the final cost will be determined by the total number of pages. The exact number of pages will be determined after 53 reels of microfilm has been digitized.

The LSHS directors have approved the digi-

tizing of Phase 3, and it will take between 3-6 months to complete and be uploaded on LSHS Digital Newspaper site.

In early July, the 53 reels of microfilm were delivered to MES Hybrid Document Systems in Markham for digitizing.

**FUNDING** - The directors of the Lake Scugog Historical Society have applied for funding from the Joel Aldred Foundation.

In explaining the LSHS digital project with the foundation's executive director, it was felt that the LSHS digital project certainly fits the criteria for grants, in particular since Mr. Aldred's long history and love for his Scugog community.

The maximum grant we can expect from the Aldred Foundation is \$5,000.00, but that will depend a lot on the number of funding requests. A decision on this grant would not be made until September 2022.

J. Peter Hvidsten

## LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY



By Pat  
Baldwin

# Why Do I See So Many Pines Growing In North Durham Region?



You can find pockets of white pine, red pine and scotch pine growing in evenly-spaced rows in many locations in Scugog and Uxbridge. Durham Regional Forest has many such trees. But, can this really be labeled as a forest? Why are they even here?

You can look to early pioneers for this state of affairs. When the area was settled, many new arrivals were impoverished people looking for free land if they agreed to clear it of trees for farming and put up a home on the site within a three year period. This helped the government of the day establish Canada as a British territory with a population to defend the land against American expansion.

Clearing the land was a huge task. They cut and burned as much as they could within the first season to get in a crop. Many fine hardwood trees were reduced to ashes and the large white pine trees sold off for British Navy masts. But, after these clearances, the land became depleted of fertility within a decade or less of farming. With declining fertility, came declining profits. Many pioneers who had experience with logging their own land, tried supplementing their income with winter time logging. It would appear that many farmers took up this method of economic survival.

This excessive removal of so much vegetation resulted in serious soil erosion. Top soil washed away filling streams with silt. Rivers began to silt up, fish populations declined or disappeared. Examples of this exist in north Durham Region. Excessive tree removal and use of fire to clear underlying vegetation created desert-like conditions. The farmers abandoned the land. The remaining sandy soil began to blow away. Roads in the Uxbridge areas were once cleared of blowing sand much like they are now cleared of blowing snow. The Oak Ridges Moraine was especially prone to this type of environmental devastation.

Early naturalists such as Catharine Parr Trail had begun to suggest that this deforestation was excessive. Below is an illustration from her Canadian classic book, *The Female Emigrant's Guide*, published in 1855, proposing that trees be left to line the roadways as in the right side of the diagram instead of cleared as in the left-hand side of the diagram.



This quote from our first Prime Minister, describes the situation as he saw it in Ottawa in 1871:

*"We are recklessly destroying the timber of Canada, and there is scarcely a possibility of replacing it... It occurs to me that the subject should be looked in the face and some efforts made for the preservation of our timber."*

And, eventually this call to action was taken up by the Canadian government. They started by investigating the emerging practice of forestry in Germany and Europe. The Ontario government hired a provincial forester to look at these issues and

forestry was introduced as a profession at the University of Toronto.

Forestry was developed as Europeans began to realize that their over harvesting of wood had resulted in negative effects on the environment. It was thought, at that time, that forests could be ecologically and economically sustainable if clearcutting and bare forest soils were avoided. Many valuable old forests in Germany have resulted from these practices. This philosophy is also why Algonquin Park, established in 1893, is still logged but has also been set aside to preserve important headwaters and protect wildlife and forests.

The 1908 Reforestation of Waste Lands in Southern Ontario by provincial forester, Edmund Zavitz, suggests that these lands be put under forest management. See Figure 1 for the full map from the original document. These lands included the Oak Ridges Moraine, where devastation was especially notable. It led to the planting of trees in the Durham Regional Forest. There was a general movement of volunteer tree planters and individuals who loved



nature who also planted in devastated areas or on properties that they had purchased. Look around the Uxbridge area, you will see numerous properties planted with rows of pine trees. Some planting started in the 1920s and I know that men returning from World War II also planted trees in the Durham area. Like Durham Regional Forest, these are not true forests, but plantations planted in depleted soils with mainly pine trees which are able to grow in such soil. With tree cover, the land began to heal, building up healthy forest soil otop of the blowing sand. White, red and scotch pine are common. Many of the early settlers missed their beloved scotch pine trees from home, so this species was popularly planted in Durham.

We've come a long way in learning about environmental protection. It is interesting that it was often individual property owners who helped in recovering the damaged land. I'm grateful to those early environmentalists who took it upon themselves to restore what had been injured.

## Remembering the "Hiawatha" Summer Resort



Recently, Marilyn Pearce received a letter with a post card, (above right) which shows the interior of the Hiawatha Summer Resort, Caesarea, with staff members preparing the dining room table. The postcard is estimated to have been taken circa 1910. There is very little information available about the Hiawatha, although one article in May 1912 reports that the resort's "popular proprietor Mr. (Thomas) Pengelly" had thoroughly re-fitted the building to make it more pleasant for summer guests. As can be seen in the photo (upper left) the Hiawatha resort hotel was a large, four storey, frame building with verandah's on two floors.

The exact location of the Hiawatha is not known, and if anyone has any information about the building, or its owners please contact me at: [jpeterhvidsten@gmail.com](mailto:jpeterhvidsten@gmail.com)

Lake Scugog Historical Society

## Schedule of Summer/Fall Events 2022

**Sunday, July 24**

37th Annual  
**Garden Party & Historical Walk**  
1:00 - 4:00 pm Scugog Shores Museum

**Sunday, July 31**

**The History of Caesarea**  
1:00 - 4:00 pm  
Caesar's Cemetery & Beacon Marina

**Sunday, Sept. 11**

1:00 - 4:00 pm  
**Pine Grove Cemetery Walk**  
"Our Pioneer Doc's"

**Sat. & Sunday, October 22, 23**

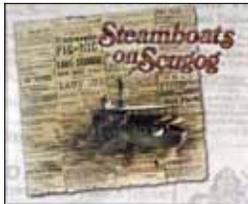
**24th Antique & Nostalgia Show**  
Annual Fundraiser - Scugog Community Centre  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm both days

**For More Information or to Volunteer**

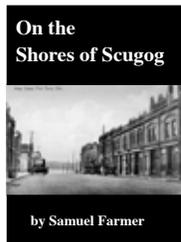
Visit: [www.lakescugoghistoricalsociety.com](http://www.lakescugoghistoricalsociety.com)

Email: [lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or Call: 905-985-9250

## LAKE SCUGOG HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS



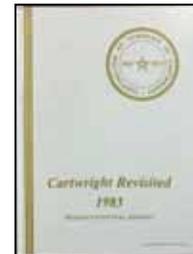
A history of steamboating on the central Kawartha Lakes - Cost: \$30



By Samuel Farmer. A history of Port Perry and Scugog. Cost: \$20



Stories about former citizens buried at the Prince Albert cemetery. Cost: \$10



Cartwright Revisited 1983 Sesquicentennial Edition. Cost: \$15

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