

L.S.H.S. ARCHIVIST

~ NEWSLETTER OF LAKE SCUGOG HISTORICAL SOCIETY ~

SUMMER
2025

Remembering
Jack & Allene





LAKE SCUGOG
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

~
DEDICATED TO THE
HISTORY OF THE LAKE
SCUGOG AREA

~
• ESTABLISHED 1969 •

Lake Scugog Historical Society

Board of Directors

2025-2027

President:.....Marilyn Pearce

Vice-President: ...Sarah Parry

Past President:Paul Arculus

Secretary:.....Bill Minors

Treasurer:.....Janis Carter

Director:.....Peter Hvidsten

Director:.....Bill Holtby

Director:.....Jesse Gillis

Director:Amanda Kiezebrink

Director:.....Justice Colwell

Director:.....Jack Gunter

Find LSHS on Facebook, or at:

lakescugoghistoricalsociety.com

or by mail at:

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



lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Message from the President

by Marilyn Pearce

As I sat down to write my summer message on a very hot June Day, I can't help but think of all the things that have happened over the past few months. But I also like to think ahead to the upcoming Canada Day celebration and all it means to be a Canadian.

As I read in a recent magazine they listed the defining traits of a Canadian and came up with the following: STRENGTH, DETERMINATION CAPABILITY AND CURIOSITY.

That led to me thinking as to how that applies to the early settlers and the history of Scugog Township. I realized fairly quickly that it absolutely is reflected in our community, in the history that the Society is working to preserve and protect and in the stories and speakers we present.

In this newsletter you will find a focus on these traits. From a story about the strength of the Home Children know as "The Barnardo's" – to the determination to finally add a clock to the tower of Town Hall 1873 – to the capability of organizations to donate their time and energy for the benefit of the community as Theatre on the Ridge is doing in their efforts to create a Cultural Centre at the 1855 Cartwright Town Hall – to the curiosity of knowing more about our local and Canadian history through your attendance at our speaker series, our cemetery walks, and our heritage days.



This summer LSHS has two students cataloguing not only the donations and gifts given to the Historical Society but also unique artifacts and documents from families and private collections. This project will allow us to create exhibits of families, events, and artifacts unique to the history of Scugog. It fuels our curiosity of what was made here, what was it like during not only the early years but also recent times.

The Board does what it does because of folks who appreciate the past sacrifices that were made to create such a vibrant community. We have a future doing that because of our members, supporters and donors and your support has allowed us to continue to grow as an organization and lead in our offerings of digital newspapers, Catalogit referencing of collections, and the growth of our on-line presence to those who wish to research families, and stories.

A new web-site with even more capabilities will be launched in the fall – it is still undergoing construction so we ask for your patience but we hope to make it easier to find information year-round and at any time day or night.

So I hope you enjoy your summer, buy Canadian and travel and learn even more about our Canadian history. These are things under our control in these uncertain times.

OUR "ELBOWS ARE UP" – WE ARE CANADIAN.

Hope to see you at our upcoming events.

O.N.O.

OUR NIGHT OUT

by Marilyn Pearce

The O.N.O "Our Night Out" group was organized in Cartwright Township in 1950 for married ladies. It was a way for many to have an evening of fun, share their trials and tribulations and support each other and their communities—an early version of Girls Night Out . In 1965 they changed the rules to admit single girls.

The first members were: Gwen Ballingall, Florence Collins, Doreen Palk, Aileen Snooks, Ethel Mackie, Marion Rohrer, Kathleen Dorrell, Evelyn Hamilton, Noreen Malcolm, and Gwenyth Thompson.

Recently I had an opportunity to meet with this group at the home of former president Catherine Corden. Although the group may be getting older you can still hear the lively conversation, the interest in their community and their commitment to making an afternoon together a special time.

The first years were hectic as they were called on so many times to help with catering, sponsoring and raising funds for various groups. They used sheets for tablecloths and brought silverware and dishes from their homes. They spared no effort to make occasions at the Recreation centre truly a perfect one. Wedding receptions were their speciality.

Their contribution to the community of Cartwright over their 75 years has included support for the Guides, Scouts, Cubs and Brownies;



35th ANNIVERSARY - Back left: Aileen VanCamp, Sharon Wilson, Sandra Hoskin, Baarb Byers, Ellen Russel, Tena VanRys??yk, Catherine Gordon, Andrea Weir, Nancy Bryans, Joan Thompson, Donna Kyte. Centre, left: Jean Mahaffy, Joan Graham, Dolly Lee, Norman VanCamp, Edith McLaughline, Ruby VanCamp, Jessie Gunter, Elaine Bailey. Front left: Sirley Turner, Florence Collins, Eileen McLaughlin, Dorothy Marlow, Noreen Malcolm, Gwenyth Thompson, Dorothy Venning, Gwen Ballingal.

commencement prizes since 1957; signs for the village of Blackstock; the CHS "At Home", dances, plus stage curtains, and cupboards and a polished cement floor for the Blackstock Recreation Centre in 1972.

In 1975 former members and friends gathered at the Recreation Centre to celebrate their 25th Anniversary. Twenty-two of the 25 presidents were present. The evening was filled with formal dresses, many memories and a renewal of friendships. Entertainment was provided by Billy Meek and his 81 year old accompanist Jack Ayre.

In 1980 they celebrated their 30th anniversary back in Blackstock at the Recreation Centre and for their 45th, they celebrated by creating a VHS tape of their festivities.

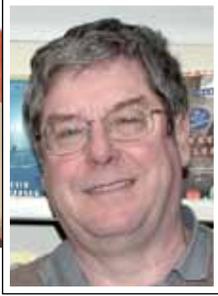
While visiting with them I asked if they still keep minutes of their meetings and was advised by their secretary that still continues.

On the occasion of my visit along with Carey Nicholson of Theatre on the Ridge they were inquiring about the future of the 1855 Cartwright Town Hall. Interested in the plans, supportive of the vision, and generally caring about projects that enriches their community.



Members of the Our Night Out club in 2025.

Continued on page 5



On The Shelf

A Book Review by Bill Minors

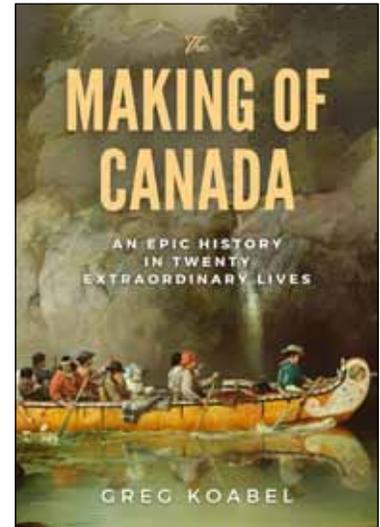
THE MAKING OF CANADA

AN EPIC HISTORY IN TWENTY EXTRAORDINARY LIVES – BY GREG KOABEL
SUTHERLAND HOUSE \$37.95 HARDCOVER 2025

THE MAKING OF CANADA is a bold reimagining of Canada’s past, presenting the nation’s evolution through the stories of twenty diverse and fascinating individuals who at critical moments in time shaped its identity.

Moving beyond the familiar names such as Champlain and Macdonald, historian Greg Koabel, creator of the popular Nations of Canada podcast, shines a spotlight on lesser-known figures such as William Weston, a risk taking merchant who gambled on Atlantic exploration, and Shingwaukose, the visionary Ojibwe chief who pioneered resource-sharing negotiations with Canada’s government.

This insightful and delightfully readable book dismantles the linear narrative of Canada’s history and reveals a more complex, diverse, and multi-faceted story, connecting Canada’s past with its present in surprising and thought-provoking ways.



UTICA Cemetery Walk & Talk

A Walking Tour of the Breadalbane Cemetery, on Sunday, June 22 attracted about 40 area residents despite the heat wave. Seen below, right, is Susanne Delore (Munro) providing historical stories to guests as they try to keep cool under the large pine trees on the site.



FOUR GENERATIONS of the Munro family who attended. Pictured left, front are: Melody-Anne Somerville, Betty Somerville, Dorothy Munro. Back left: Helen Munro Johnson, Rachel Somerville, Susanne Munro Delore.

Scugog Shores Museum officially opens to public

Close to 200 people attended the official opening of Scugog Shores Museum 55 years ago on Sunday, July 4, 1970.

The ceremony climaxed almost two years of tireless effort by the Lake Scugog Historical Society under the leadership of William Brock, the Society president.



Jack and Allene Kane were among those attending the opening, and the hard working couple were singled out for special praise for their untiring efforts to establish a museum for Scugog Township.

Mrs. Florence Nasmith cut the ribbon to officially open the museum. Among the guest were Mrs. Ina and Arnold Goose, (Mississaugas); M.P. Norman Cafik; Gordon Goode (Bd. of Ed.) and Grant Christie (former Ont. Cty. Warden) and Stewart Nesbitt, a long-time Island resident.

COVER PHOTO

This picture was recently discovered in a photo album of Robert Taylor, who recently passed away. Mr. Taylor is the father of Nancy Hvidsten. He took this picture in October 1992 when Volunteer Service Certificates were being presented to local residents. Bill Barr was recognized for his work with the Scugog Chamber of Commerce, and Allene and Jack Kane for their many years with the Scugog Shores Museum Board. Allene and Jack were instrumental in the formation of Scugog Shores Museum and Allene was its first curator.



Continued from page 3

There are now just 11 members – there were 35 when they started. President is Linda Kyte, Secretary is Judith Mountjoy and treasurer is Carol Mairs.

Cartwright had other female volunteer groups including 3 Women's Institutes, and a Ladies Orange Lodge Benevolent Society plus numerous groups affiliated with the various churches but this one formed in Blackstock to support not only the community but also each other is worth celebrating on this their 75th year.

Happy Anniversary O.N.O.



Please Note: Some events, dates and locations could change. Coming Events calendar will be updated in future newsletters.

**Note: All Speaker Series Meetings will be held in the Rotary Room - Scugog Memorial Library
Doors Open: 6:30 pm - Speaker at 7 p.m.**

- 1** August 17 - Historical Walking Tour North Nestleton Cemetery, and Exhibit at Church
- 2** Aug. 23 - History of Blackstock & Manvers - a joint exhibit at Blackstock Fair.
- 3** Aug. 24 - Heritage Day, Scugog Shores Museum
- 4** Sept. 9 - Speaker: Patrice Dutil: Sir John A Macdonald and the Apocalyptic Year 1885
- 5** Sept. 28 - Speaker Series: Barbara Dickson
The Craggs of Greenbank - 2:00 pm Greenbank Hall
- 6** Oct. 18 & 19 - 28th Annual Antique Show & Sale
Launch of Heritage Quilt Registry Book
- 7** November 18 - Speaker: Adam Shoalts;
Author & Adventurer at the Library: 6:30 pm.
- 8** December 9 - LSHS Xmas Social & Show & Tell
For more information and up-dates:
www.lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com

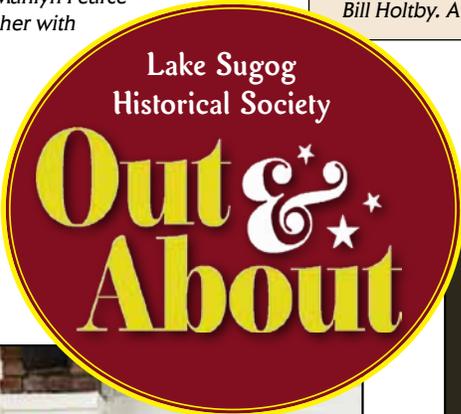
Print & Save for future reference.

SPEAKER SERIES



Carey Nicholson, Exec. Director of "Theatre on the Ridge" was the guest speaker on Tuesday, May 13th. Her topic was the restoration of the Cartwright 1855 Town Hall. About 40 people attended her presentation, which was well received. Following Carey's presentation, LSHS President Marilyn Pearce thanked Carey and presented her with a copy of Sketches of Scugog, written by Paul Arculus

**PAUL'S
90th
BIRTHDAY**



The LSHS past president and beloved historian greeted about 100 people who came out to help him celebrate this 90th Birthday. The event took place in the historic Museum Church on Scugog Island Sunday, June 8th. As can be seen, Paul was in fine form as he welcomed his family and friends.

Lake Scugog Historical Society

AGM MEETING

Tuesday, May 14, 2025



LSHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2025-2027

Left front, Janis Carter, treasurer; Marilyn Pearce, president and Sarah Parry, 1st vice-president. Back left: Directors - Peter Hvidsten, Jessie Gillis; Justice Colwell; Past President Paul Arculus; Directors - Jack Gunter, Bill Minors and Bill Holtby. Absent for photo, Amanda Kiezebrink.

SPEAKER SERIES



Dr. Amy Barron was the guest speaker at the Lake Scugog Historical Society "Speaker Series" meeting on June 10th, at the Scugog Memorial Public Library. Amy's talk was about her experiences in Archaeology and author Agatha Christie, who as well as a world renowned author, also loved the ancient world and assisted her archaeologist husband in digs.



Barnardo Boys

by
Janine Layzell,
Greenbank, Ont.



Robert Henry (Bob) was born to parents George Layzell and Henrietta Lee, in Silverton, England, on Jan. 26, 1915. Robert had four brothers and two sisters; Kathleen, George, John, Hilda, Frank and Jesse.

In 1918, their mother died from the Spanish Flu. Robert was age 3, the second youngest child. Robert's father, George, served in the army in World War 1 and had been gassed, therefore unable to care for the children. Frank and Robert, aged three and four, were put in Dr. Barnardo's Home for Children. The other children were put in different foster homes. The boys remained at Barnardo's for nine years, until 1927.

Bob told us that they were very strict there. They were made to scrub floors, were taught woodworking and other skills and were caned for bad behaviour. He told us how excited he was when they got to sing for the King at Westminster Abbey. We have received the picture that they took when Bob arrived at the Home, as they took pictures of all new arrivals.

TRAVEL TO CANADA

In 1927, at the ages of 12 and 13, Robert and Frank came to Canada. They had a choice of Australia or Canada. They chose Canada because they had seen a movie about the Canadian West with cowboys & Indians.

They arrived in Quebec City in October 1927, on the ship Montclare. They then travelled to Toronto to 538 Jarvis St, in the care of Mr. J. Hobday. This was the Barnardo's Canadian Headquarters from 1922 to 1948.

From there, Frank and Robert were sent to Uxbridge as farm labourers. Frank was made to sleep in the woodshed and was treated poorly. He ended up moving to another farm, where they were very good to him and became friends for life. Robert worked on Rob Gregg's farm and was treated well as part of the family. They were very good to him but he was a young boy, there to work.

Robert was able to attend Victoria Corners Public School until grade 8. The children were very mean to the Barnardo children, calling them Homeboys and teasing them.

During the 1930s, Frank and Robert worked in encampments during the winters, putting Highway # 60 through Algonquin Park. In the Spring, they would return to the farm.

In 1942, Robert married Mary Bidwell. They bought a farm on Concession 14 of Reach Township, near Victoria Corners. They had two children, Bob and Marion.

In 1939, Frank joined the Canadian armed forces and was in the European Campaign. He met his wife, Betty Fishwick, in England and married and had two children, Barbara and John.

Frank became an Analyst with Ontario Hydro, and was also a Mason. Betty didn't like Canada and moved back to England. Frank wrote a few articles in the Ups and Downs magazine and donated to the Barnardo Home. He died of cancer in 1984 at the age of 70.

This was very hard on Robert, as Frank was the only family he knew and Robert often said he would not have managed without Frank by his side. They had been able to visit each other on their time off from the farms. 'Two small boys alone in a big country' he would tell us. Robert could never talk about his childhood without crying and he did not like to talk about it. However, he was so in love with Mary and so grateful for his family.

Robert passed away at age 93 in 2008, and is buried in the Uxbridge Cemetery.

While farming, he later became a RNA and worked midnights at the Whitby Psychiatric Hospital.

He never spoke ill of the Barnardo Home. He felt that it gave him a chance in life. His son Bob has the trunk that he brought with him to Canada from the home.

Frank and Robert returned to England in 1937, for the winter, working their way on a cattle boat. They met their siblings and also met the youngest Jesse, that they had not even been aware of.



Trunk used by the Layzell's to bring their belongings to Canada.



By
Leanne
Ashbridge

THE LADY BY THE LAKE

As the lights have been removed from the north diamond at Palmer Park, I suspect, this is one of the actions towards implementing the Waterfront Action Plan Revitalization Project, I cannot help but have memories of all the action that diamond has seen since the first games were played there in 1962.

During my early memories, the Port Perry Yacht Club was beside the diamond, where the children's playground is now, and one of my fondest memories is the Chip Truck that would park on the south side of the very sloped driveway. Best chips in town, with all the malt vinegar settling to the bottom of the cone shaped paper cup.

I recently came across a document written by Wayne Venning. Included are some fun facts from his notes about this historical site.

This property was the town dump in the 1950s until 1960. During excavation volunteers found many remnants from the railway that originally crossed the site.

In 1961, community members urged the town council to allow the development of a softball diamond. As I understand the local folklore, kids were playing softball at the fairgrounds, which in those days was the "outskirts of town" and was isolated and removed. Parents wanted their children playing in a more populated area where there would be more "supervision". Council agreed to the request and Wayne records that "four cheap wooded poles were purchased and lights were installed. The left field fence made taller using chicken wire and "pig rings". The diamond was constructed by the hands and machines of many volunteers.

About 800 softball and hockey fans paid a \$1.00 admission to watch the local men's softball team take on the NHL All Stars at the official opening game in 1962. The NHL team included, now legends, Dave Keon, Bob Braun, Red Kelly and Frank Mahovlich.

The diamond has been referred to as the Lakefront diamond, Palmer diamond and when the new diamond and

tennis courts were constructed it became known as the North diamond.

In 1980, Port Perry Minor Softball hosted the first of many OASA Midget Boys Elimination tournaments during the first weekend in July. Thirty two teams played on 5 diamonds in Scugog and the Championship game was held on the North Diamond.

The field was upgraded in 1985 extending left field by 60 feet and adding new chain link fencing. This was a great addition and significantly reduced the number of home run balls landing in the lake.

Multiple Scugog teams have won Ontario Championships on this diamond. Two notable Hall of Fame teams, the 1968 Ballard Lumber Juveniles and Greenbank Gamblers Intermediates, both won their Provincial championships on the Lakefront diamond.

This diamond has hosted some of the best players and teams in the world including: Canadian National Women, Australian National Women, Canadian National Men, New Zealand National Men, Junior National team, World Champion Toronto Gators, Sioux Gateway 2000 and Team Ontario under 19.

In 1994, 2000 fans filled the bleachers that occupied closed off Water Street to watch the number one pitcher in the world, Darren Zack, from the Toronto Gators, take on the Sioux Gateway in a historic fastball game at the North diamond.

Other significant events from the North diamond include Eddy Feigner and The King and His Court who came to Port Perry twice to entertain fastball fans. Port Perry Minor Softball along with Men's Slo pitch League and the Port Perry Angels have used this dia-

mond every summer for games, tournaments and fundraising events. Vinnies Minis made their first appearance on the Lakefront diamond in 1970.

The Scugog Sports Hall of Fame recognized the North diamond as a significant venue to Scugog's sports history in 2013.

Wayne summarizes it well. "Imagine walking along Water Street on a sunny summer evening; the green grass is freshly cut, the diamond has been dragged smooth as silk, the white chalk lines are straight, and the bases are laid. The Lady on the Lake still looks majestic more than 50 years later."

I am going to be sad to see it go.

SPEAKER SERIES

Maureen Jennings was the guest speaker at the April 18th monthly meeting of the LSHS, held at the Scugog Memorial Library. Maureen is a crime novelist, whose books inspired the main character in the "Murdock Mysteries" TV series on CBC.



Above: Maureen during her talk about her books and the Murdock Mysteries series on CBC.

Right: Director Bill Minors presents a Sketches of Scugog book in appreciation of Maureen's talk.



Larry Emmerson was the recipient of the "Bill & Claudette Brock Award" at the LSHS general meeting on May 13th at Scugog Memorial Library. The award was chosen to acknowledge his exceptional gift of four clock faces, and installation for the Town Hall 1873 tower earlier this year. Larry was on holidays at the time of the event, so LSHS director Peter Hvidsten accepted the award on his behalf.

Just in Case You Wondered

By J. Peter Hvidsten

Recorded dates when the ice finally disappeared from Lake Scugog go back more than 150 years, to 1872, when the first "ice-out" date was recorded.

This spring, after a record was set for the earliest "ice out" last year – the ice slowly began to pull away from the shoreline in mid-March.

But it took until April 1, 2025 before the lake finally gave up its icy grip. This is the eighth time since 1872 that the ice has left Lake Scugog on April Fool's Day.



Earliest Date: March 5, 2024

I have often been asked: "how is the "ice out date decided"? This comes from the fact that ice on the eastern arm of Lake Scugog the ice often disappears days before the west side.

The first explanation determining the ice is "OUT" of the lake was published in Port Perry's *North Ontario Observer* during the early 1900s, which proclaimed:

1. "The ice is out when one could row across the lake to the Island and back".

A second explanation comes from an article published in the *Port Perry Star* on March 26, 1953.

2. "The ice is considered out when it can no longer be viewed by looking north from the end of the dock".

It is the 2nd method I have used continuously for the past 45 years, and has been the method used to record the event for more than 70 years.



Latest Date: April 29, 1965

IT'S ABOUT TIME



by
J. Peter
Hvidsten

It took more than 150 years, but Port Perry's historic town hall has finally been graced with a four-faced clock overlooking the town from its tower. A tower, that in October 1875, was described by the local newspaper editor as looking like "the bottom of a flour barrel".



Town Hall Clock Tower, November 2024.



TOWN HALL TOWER, circa 1900

ONE HUNDRED and fifty two years ago, in February 1872 at a meeting of the Port Perry council, a committee lead by Reeve Joseph Bigelow began to investigate the cost and location of a town hall for the village.

Months later council purchased a property on the southwest corner Queen and Lilla St. (now Simcoe St.) from local land baron Benjamin Crandell for \$1,000. The estimate to construct a town hall for the village was \$6,000.

Well known builder William Spence was chosen as the contractor, and work on the foundation got underway by early fall.

A year later, after many delays, the North Ontario Observer editor, James Baird, wrote: "Our large and handsome Town Hall building has now attained its height and will soon be ready for occupancy."

Council began using the hall in November 1873 and a month later Reeve Bigelow held a large public meeting in the hall which was still under construction.

Once again the Observer editor commented: "The cold naked brick of the lofty walls, the gaping joists and uncompleted state of everything within and about it - in the latter part of December, demand, in trumpet tongues - who is to blame for this?"

Despite its critics, work progressed and in April 1874 Reeve Bigelow announced that he had received an offer from a Montreal clock manufacturer to furnish the corporation with a clock for the hall when the tower was completed.

The company offered to supply a single, five-foot diameter clock at a

Continued on page 12

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON

LSHS Directors are excited to announce that the Lake Scugog Historical Society's new website is almost ready to launch! The updated site will feature improved navigation, easier access to research resources, event information, and a more modern look that reflects our vibrant community. Keep an eye on your inbox – we'll be sending out an email with the launch date and a direct link once it's live. We can't wait for you to explore it and if you have any ideas for additions to the site to make it your go-to location for local history we would love to hear about them.

Remember, every membership supports our mission to preserve, protect and share the history of Scugog Twp. and as our organization continues to grow you are an important part of our future success.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*Your Membership
is our Future!*



The Lake Scugog Historical Society proudly reports we now have 130 active members, up from 113 in March—thank you for your continued support! Our Board set a goal of 150 members for 2025 and we are almost there.

We're thrilled to welcome 13 new memberships since our last update, including 10 individuals, two families, and one new corporate member. We extend a warm welcome to all!

LSHS still has 10 memberships that have not renewed and as the numbers show that would put us within striking instance of our goal for 2025.. If you are unsure of your membership status please let us know at: lakescugoghistoricalociety@gmail.com



Lake Scugog Historical Society

Founded in 1969

c/o 175 Perry Street, Port Perry, Ontario L9L 1B8

President –Marilyn Pearce Secretary-Bill Minors Treasurer-Janis Carter

Membership

New Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

Individual: \$15.00 Family: \$25.00

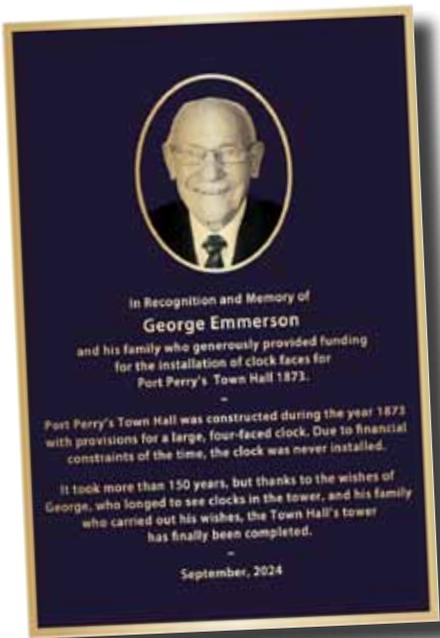
Life Membership: \$300.00 (tax receipt)

Corporate / Business / Organization: \$50.00

E-Transfer: lakescugoghistoricalociety@gmail.com or

*By cheque payable to Lake Scugog Historical Society
c/o Books Galore - 175 Perry Street,
Port Perry, Ont. L9L 1B8*

Continued from page 10



cost of \$350, with additional dials for about \$80 to \$100 each.

In September 1874, a Markham company offered to supply a bell for the town hall at a cost of \$120. No action was taken on either the bell or a clock at that time, although at a date unknown, a bell was finally purchased.

Almost a year past before the Observer editor published a scathing comment regarding the town hall tower. He said, "It is certainly no credit to this thriving town to have a bell tower on our splendid Town Hall, looking down like a great dummy through its leather spectacles on the passers by. One looks up for a clock and find the bottom of a flour barrel meeting his gaze. One thousand dollars will place a suitable four dial clock and bell in the tower."

More than a century had passed when the Township of Scugog, unexpectedly received a generous offer from Larry Emmerson to purchase and install four clocks for the tower, in memory of his father George Emmerson.

Larry explained, that every time he drove his father past the town hall, his father would look up and commented about the tower having no clocks. He could never understand why clocks weren't installed during the recent re-construction of the tower, Larry said.

George Emmerson was 101 years old when he passed away on Monday, October 23, 2023.

~

Larry's grandfather, Harold Emmerson purchased an existing insurance business in 1917 and changed the name to H.W. Emmerson Insurance. Following Harold's death in 1963 his son George became the new owner.

George, who was already working at the office when his father died, spent 33 years in the family business before retiring in 1976. Like a generation earlier, George's son Larry was the next Emmerson to operate the business. Larry operated the business until 2017 when on the 100th anniversary the business was sold.

Collaborating with the Scugog Heritage Committee, Larry worked on a design for the clock faces, and provided the funds to purchase four clocks. Installation of the four clocks took place in 2024.

In appreciation of Mr. Emmerson's gift to the Township of Scugog, with assistance of the Scugog Heritage Committee, an attractive brass plaque (above) was produced to commemorate the installation, in the memory of George Emmerson, who completed a job that started 150 years earlier.

On April 24, 2025, Larry and Ruth Emmerson were special guests for the dedication of the Town Hall bell tower clocks.

About two dozen guests including members of Scugog Council, Scugog Heritage Committee and the Town Hall directors gathered for the occasion.

Mayor Wilma Wotten thanked the Emmerson family for their generosity before unveiling the large bronze plaque, on the east wall of the building.



Mayor Wilma Wotten thanked Larry Emmerson and his family for their generous gift to the community, and presented a Certificate of Gratitude from the Township.



Larry Emmerson admired the bronze plaque on the wall of Town Hall 1873, which honoured his father and his generosity.



The Janetville Railway Station.

Changing The Shape Of Ontario

CARTWRIGHT & MANVERS A JOINT HISTORY

By Dianne Carnaghan

Townships were formed in Canada in the late 1700s using a grid system. Typically a township is 16 km on each side but given the lakes, streams, valleys and so forth allowances were made and many townships are irregularly shaped. They were divided into lots and concessions.

In most cases they were also the first level of government for that area. Over the years these two Townships were together and part of the United Counties of Northumberland & Durham County but in 1974 the two Townships were split with the formation of Regional government.

By the 1820s immigrants began to make their way to Ontario stopping first at Port Hope and Cobourg and then making their way north to Cavan Township to claim their land.

An example of this is the Ferguson family. Samuel and Sarah Ferguson came to Canada from Ireland in 1822 and settled in Cavan Township. In 1836 they moved west to Cartwright Township and settled and remained there.

There are still descendants of theirs throughout Cavan, Manvers and Cartwright townships to this day. A sense of community develops between rural townships. Residents know each other and develop a deep trust and willingness to help each other.

The village of Burton, which has completely faded into history, is an example of the closeness of the two townships. It was situated on the Manvers/

Cartwright boundary. You bought your groceries in Manvers Township and went to church in Cartwright Township. Roughly 45 -50 households from the Cartwright side of the boundary picked up their mail in Burton and probably as many or nearly as many Manvers citizens did so as well. The Orange Lodge was situated in Cartwright Township but members came from both townships.

Another example is the View Lake area. The Cartwright/Manvers boundary runs through the middle of View Lake and at one time the Janetville train station was located in View Lake on the Cartwright side.

Today townships share health facilities, schools, sport venues. Their cultural identities may be similar as well as their heritage identities leading to collaborations on activities and projects. In this day of high tech shared communication infrastructure makes working together much easier.

Tourism can also be shared. Lake Scugog has always connected Cartwright Township with Port Perry and also with Lindsay.

The annual regatta at Caesarea has drawn crowds for years from all over to compete and to enjoy a days entertainment.

This year the Historical Societies of lake Scugog and Manvers are presenting an agricultural exhibit at the Blackstock Fair on Aug. 23rd that highlights the fact that historic roots don't follow boundary lines.

The Orange Lodge was in Cartwright Township but its members came from both Manvers and Cartwright Twp.

Around the ARCHIVES



by
**Amanda
Gallagher**
Museum Curator



Summer 2025 – Scugog Shores Museum

You will see familiar faces at the museum this season - two staff members returned this summer from our previous season (including LSHS's own Thomas Parry!) and we welcomed two new students from Trent and Queens Universities. Every staff member brings unique knowledge and experiences that help us grow our programs and interpretations of the Museum!

Work continues in our Ojibwe Heritage Interpretive Lands (OHIL) this summer. We're reintroducing native plants to the site in the next month and are bringing back a pathway through the forested area. Staff are consulting with Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation to refresh the wigwam section of the site too – we're hoping to have it finished this season, to coincide with our travelling exhibit and fall programs.

Mijim: Traditional Foods of the Lake of the Woods Anishinaabeg is up for the public to view all summer long! We're hosting Mijim until December, supporting school tours and education group visits in our fall season. Once the Rodman Cabin officially re-opens in early summer, Mijim will move into this building to be closer with OHIL.

A new partnership program that SSMVA is exploring this year is with Theatre on the Ridge, who opened their summer season on June 12th. Museum

staff are providing fun and informative talks on the historical context of Theatre on the Ridge's plays: in June, we hosted 2 talks on atomic history (and how nuclear energy affects us here in Durham Region), and in July, we are hosting 2 more talks on World War 1 field medicine history! Tickets are available through Theatre on the Ridge's box office, and a portion comes back to support the museum.

Speaking of talks, we're expanding our outreach offerings. Staff now have a roster of speaking series material that can be used at outreach presentations throughout the year! If this interests you, please reach out to us!

~

And finally, enjoy other upcoming events at the museum this summer (and beyond); details and registration are on the museum's website:

- **History of Medicine Talk** –
July 10 and July 19 @ 2pm
- **Leathercraft Workshops** –
July 26 & 27, 11am-1pm
- **Art in the Village** (print making -workshop) –
August 16 & 17, 11am – 2pm
- **Scugog Heritage Day** –
August 24, 11am – 3pm
- **Museum After Dark** –
(with the Paranormal Seekers
September 27, 6pm -11pm



We hope to see you on site this season!

Tiger Moth crashes in Lake Scugog

Flying Cadet
rescued from
submerged
aircraft

By J. Peter Hvidsten



Many years ago I recall hearing about an airplane that crashed into Lake Scugog during the 1940s. At that time, the Port Perry Star newspapers had not been digitized, so finding the information made it very difficult to confirm the incident.

Time passed, and the report of the airplane crash was forgotten. That was until I was contacted recently inquiring if I knew anything about the incident.

Now, with digitized newspapers available, I began the search and it didn't take long to find the small article in the May 21, 1942 edition of the Port Perry Star. Following are the details about this incident which created quite a buzz of excitement in the town and along the lakefront:

Excitement gripped the quiet lakeside town of Port Perry on Sunday afternoon, May 17, 1942 when a training aircraft from the Oshawa Flight Instructional School took a sudden nose dive into Lake Scugog.

The crash occurred approximately three miles down the lake from Port Perry. While Oshawa Airport was quickly notified and a rescue boat dispatched, local assistance arrived even sooner. Mr. Max Heidt, visiting the nearby M. Collins farm, witnessed the crash and, along with Donald and Dave Collins, rowed out to the wreck.

They found the pilot, Flying Cadet A.G. McAuley, clinging to one of the aircraft's wings. Dazed but alive, he was pulled aboard and taken to shore, then transported to Port Perry for medical attention.

Remarkably, McAuley suffered only a cut near

his eye, despite the violent crash. It remains a mystery how he escaped from the submerged aircraft. In a twist of fate, Sunday marked his final training flight before advancing to the next phase of instruction.

The plane was later raised from the lake Monday night with the aid of a barge and towed back to Port Perry.

The aircraft involved was a Canadian-built Tiger Moth 82C, produced by de Havilland at their Downsview plant between 1938 and 1948. These bright yellow biplanes, familiar sights in Port Perry skies, were used extensively to train Royal Canadian Air Force cadets.

While seeing Tiger Moths over Lake Scugog was nothing unusual during wartime, the crash served as a sobering reminder of the dangers faced by the young men learning to fly in service of their country.

Photo courtesy Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum

MISSISSAUGAS OF SCUGOG ISLAND
FIRST NATION



Administration Building
22521 Island Road
Port Perry, ON L9L 1B6
905-985-3337

Thank You

BUSINESS & CORPORATE PARTNERS

*Sincere appreciation for your support of the
Lake Scugog Historical Society*



Durham Community Foundation
2-157 Harwood Avenue North
Box 250
Ajax, Ont., L1Z 0B6

BROCK'S

168 Queen Street
Port Perry, Ontario L9L 1B8
brocksinfo@yahoo.com

ADAWEGAMIG
22107 Island Road, Port Perry

Rotary Club of Port Perry

Ron & Nancy Compton
Foundation
Port Perry, Ontario

**THE STANDARD
newspaper**

84 Water St. - Port Perry - L9L 1J2
905-985-6985
www.thestandardnewspaper.ca/

Books Galore
A mix of new and used books

Bill Minors, Owner
175 Perry St.
Port Perry, On L9L 1B8
Call: 905-985-8645
booksgalore@rogers.com
www.booksgaloreportperry.com

DEBBIE TAYLOR
Sales Representative
Phone: 905-649-1047
cell: 905-240-8777
debbie@remax353@hotmail.com
www.DebbieTapes.com

Christy Stone-Curry
217 Queen Street, Port Perry
www.pianocafe.ca

Ginger Jackson
Community Relations Representative
Call: 416-668-2475
Res: 905-965-3678
ginger.jackson2@gmail.com

PROUD COMMUNITY PARTNER
296 Toronto Street South, URBIFRIDGE 905-492-0954
14800 Denison Street, Port Perry 905-982-1266

**100 MEN
SCUGOG**

For more information:
Please contact us at: info@100Men.ca

**FOCUS
on Scugog**

188 Mary Street
Port Perry, Ont. L9L 1A2
focus@focusonscugog.com

Scugog
MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

231 Water Street
Port Perry, Ontario L9L 1B8
(905) 985-7686

11 Vaneward Dr, Port Perry, Ont.
905-985-7391

**PORT PERRY OPTICAL
OPTICIANS**

305 Queen St, Port Perry, ON
905-985-9388

**APPLEWOOD
FARM WINERY**

2055 Saintfield Rd, Sunderland, ON
905-642-4720

P.O. Box 176, Port Perry, ON. L9L 1A3
905-925-1343

Your Donation is important!

You can always make donations through the Canada Helps web-site and you receive instant receipts:

www.canadahelps.org

or you can e-transfer to:

lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com:

or by cheque payable to:

Lake Scugog Historical Society. Send cheques c/o Books Galore, 175 Perry St., Port Perry, Ont. L9L 1B8.

Your contributions today help to preserve and protect Scugog's Heritage for future generations.



The directors of the Lake Scugog Historical Society thank the Province of Ontario for funding through the Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG).