



# Newsletter

**Lake Scugog Historical Society**

**Spring/Summer 2012**

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

## **President's Message**

Elsewhere in this newsletter there is an article on our noteworthy anniversary celebrations.

As I write this message, I am sitting in a comfortable chair overlooking the North Sea, in Norfolk, England. Here the British are also celebrating several significant events including the coming Olympic Games in London and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens. The event which is gaining the most attention is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

When my wife and I visit the UK we are always impressed with the high quality of British television programs. Over the past weeks on UK TV there has been a notable emphasis on the Jubilee of our Queen. These programs, although focusing on her, also pay considerable attention to her visits to Commonwealth countries including Canada. The entire Royal family has a particularly high regard for Canada and Canadians. It certainly makes us proud to be Canadian.

The Queen will be involved in numerous events throughout the year but the month of June will be the focus of the Jubilee celebrations and June 2nd to 5th has been designated as the Diamond Jubilee Weekend. Almost every city, town and village in Britain has planned festivities on that weekend. Here in Canada, her son, Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, will be visiting to represent the Queen.

For me, personally, these celebrations and those mentioned in the article all serve to underline the importance of our heritage. We hope that every person in Canada will take part in one or more celebrations this year. We certainly have so much to be grateful for and much to celebrate in 2012.

Cheers  
Paul Arculus  
President of the Lake Scugog Historical Society

## **Guest Speakers**

**Thursday, March 15, 7:30 p.m.**

**Ron Kurelo,  
Weapons & the War of 1812**

**Tuesday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Dorothy Duncan,  
Pioneer Foods**

**Tuesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m.  
John Warburton  
Families of York County  
In the War of 1812**

**Tuesday, June 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Gordon Forbes  
Confessions of a Spy**

*Please note that all meetings  
are held at Scogog Shores  
Heritage & Archives Centre  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Arena  
1655 Reach Street, Port Perry*

## 2012 ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW

After a hiatus of several years, the Historical Society was proud to sponsor the return of the February Port Perry Antique and Nostalgia Show and Sale at the Community Centre. That the return, was also welcomed by both the public and the antique dealer community was proven by the fact that every vendor booth was sold out, and the line-up of customers waiting to come inside, on the morning of February 4<sup>th</sup>, was overwhelming.

All told, over the two days, over 1,000 people came to see what was on offer. The cloakroom was temporarily converted to a snack bar, manned by Society volunteers, and they did a brisk business. It turns out you cannot have enough Empire Biscuits in Port Perry!

Special thanks go to Marilyn Pearce who was the principle coordinator. Also to Board Members Daphne Naassana and Wendy Hatherley who helped to make this a successful undertaking. In fact, so successful that we plan to do it again next year!

Bill Minors  
Secretary



Jeff Brown & Bill Minors,  
doing a bit of everything



Frank Young, manning the door



Daphne Naassana,  
running the Café



A little bit of the Caviar & Cobweb Booth,  
Port Perry antique dealer

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## **Heritage & Museum News:**

### Exhibit Schedule:

March 11 – May 18: “The Doctor Will See You Now” Artifacts from Port Perry Hospital & Archives of Ontario

Sept. 6 – Oct. 21: “Mementos of the HeART” with the Scugog Council of the Arts

Oct. 28, 2012 – Feb. 18, 2013: “Scugog’s Military Past” Our involvement with the military over the past 150 years

### Event Schedule:

June 2: 44th Annual “Canoe the Nonquon”

July 14/15: Dog Days of Scugog

August 12: Pioneer Day

August 18: Driftwood Theatre: “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”

September 7: Murder Mystery

December 2: Children’s Old-Fashioned Christmas

### Programs:

#### Spring Lecture Series:

March 25: “Preserving Your Past” Artifact Preservation – Susan Charbonneau, Carr McLean Ltd.

April 15: “Durant’s Right Hand Man” – Paul Arculus

May 6: “Understanding Antique Furniture” – Nancy Chalut

For more information about any of these events: [www.scugogshoresmuseum.com](http://www.scugogshoresmuseum.com)

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## **2012 A Year to Celebrate**

This New Year, 2012, marks an anniversary year for many historic events all across our country and here in Scugog.

### **The War of 1812**

The event which will receive considerable attention this year is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812.

On June 18, 1812, the United States congress, led by President James Madison, declared war on Great Britain. Britain had been in a desperate war with Napoleon since 1803. Although Britain began to gain the upper hand after the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, her finances and her troops were stretched to the limit. As a result, President Madison thought that he would take advantage of Britain’s weakened position and get rid of the British from the whole of North America. Jefferson, in his usual overconfident manner declared “The acquisition of Canada... will be a mere matter of marching.”

Obviously he had overlooked the fact that thousands of citizens loyal to Britain had fled from the United States during and after the War of Independence and had settled in British North America. Their settlements were concentrated in the Niagara Peninsula, the areas around Kingston and Montreal, and in Nova Scotia. Strangely these were the areas which the Americans made their attacks, completely overlooking the settlers’ intense loyalty to Britain and their despising of anything associated with the new republic of the United States of America. After all, they had seen their land and possessions in the Thirteen Colonies stolen from them by a corrupt system of government and its officials immediately after the American Revolution.

Shortly after the 1812 war was declared, 2500 U.S. troops crossed the border from Detroit and occupied Sandwich, now Windsor. Two weeks later they were chased back across the Detroit River by Chief Tecumseth and less than 600 First Nation warriors from Upper Canada. British Major-General Isaac Brock and Chief Tecumseth then forced the surrender of Detroit on August 16.

In September some 6,300 U.S. troops crossed into Upper Canada's Niagara frontier. On October 13, the Battle of Queenston Heights took place, in which Brock, again with help from the First Nations, drove the Americans back across the border capturing 900 U.S. soldiers. Unfortunately Brock lost his life in the battle and a monument to General Brock now rises above the battlefield at Queenston.

The war raged on for two more years as the Americans made several unsuccessful attempts to take a variety of towns along the border all the way from Nova Scotia to Upper Canada. Many naval battles took place on Lakes Ontario, Erie and Champlain.

The April 1813, Zebulon Pike led a force of 1,700 U.S. soldiers and captured York (now Toronto). The defenders blew up the ammunition dump at Fort York killing 38 Americans and wounding 222. In retaliation, the Americans looted and burned a number of buildings. The Americans also set fire to the town of Niagara before retreating back to the United States.

In August 1814, in retaliation for the U.S attack on York, 4,000 British troops sailed into Chesapeake Bay and attacked Washington, and set fire to that city, burning Congress and other government buildings including the White House.

The War came to an end in 1814 with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent.

To celebrate the 1812 War, several events are planned in Toronto, Kingston and numerous locations in the Niagara Peninsula this year.

What is now the Municipality of Scugog was surveyed in 1815-16 and the land divided up and given to soldiers who had fought in the War of 1812 and to Loyalists who had fought against the Americans in the War of Independence. Samuel Dulmage was an Irishman who had lived in New York but fought against the Revolution and fled to Canada. He was given the 200 acre parcel of land which is now Port Perry and his wife Agnes was given a 200 acre parcel north of present day Reach Street.

### **The 1837 Rebellion**

A second event which will be celebrated across the province is William Lyon Mackenzie's infamous Rebellion of 1837 as it celebrates its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

This event has closer ties to Scugog than the 1812 War, as Peter Perry, founder of Port Perry, had been a political ally of Mackenzie until Mackenzie started to talk about militant rebellion.

Both Perry and Mackenzie had led the Reform movement of the 1820s and 1830s. When both had been defeated in the 1836 election, Mackenzie began to plan an uprising. Contrary to Mackenzie, Perry advocated reform through British Parliamentary and constitutional methods. Mackenzie and Perry then parted company.

Mackenzie's supporters threatened to overthrow the government in a Rebellion. To gather support Mackenzie and his supporters travelled the province organizing rallies in support of their action. Joseph Gould, the founder of Uxbridge, and a Mackenzie supporter, travelled to Borelia (now western Port Perry) where he gave a rousing presentation at Crandell's tavern, located a few meters east of the present day Beer Store.

The most famous incident in the Rebellion was the skirmish at Montgomery's tavern, on Yonge Street, in December 1837. Several hundred poorly equipped and completely disorganized rebels were routed by a few well organized Loyalists. Mackenzie fled to the United States. Several of his followers were arrested including Joseph Gould. Gould was released on "good behaviour for three years."

Two of Mackenzie's cohorts, Lount and Matthews, both from the Pickering area, were not so lucky; they were tried and found guilty and duly executed in York (now Toronto). Several of Mackenzie's supporters who were found guilty of treason were sent to Van Dieman's land (Tasmania).

**The Titanic Disaster**

On April 14 and 15 there will be a number of remembrance ceremonies for one of the most disastrous shipping accidents in history: the sinking of the Titanic.

The Titanic struck an iceberg and sank 700 miles from Halifax. Only 711 people survived from a total of 2,224 passengers and crew. 330 corpses were retrieved. 119 were buried at sea, 59 were returned to their relatives and the 150 remaining victims were buried in three cemeteries in Halifax. Several locations in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia have significant exhibits and memorials to the disaster and will be commemorating the event in April.

**The 1862 Gold Rush**

150 years ago, 1862, the Gold Rush began in the Cariboo region of B.C. Bill Barker discovered gold on Williams Creek and the town of Barkerville sprang up almost immediately. A few weeks later, work began on building the Cariboo Highway to bring prospectors and their supplies into the region. The highway was completed three years later.

This first major Canadian Gold Rush was superseded in 1896 with the Klondike Gold Rush in the Yukon Territory. In this incident George Washington Carmack, along with his First Nation brothers-in-law Skookum Jim and Tagish Charley, discovered gold on a creek in the Klondike. Once the word got out, thousands of prospectors made their way to the Alaska Panhandle and then undertook the treacherous journey across the White and Chilkoot passes into Canada's Klondike.

**The Port Perry Post Office**

One of the most important anniversary events for Scugog this year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Post Office, on Queen Street, here in Port Perry. This took place in July 1912 when a ceremony was held during which the cornerstone was officially laid.

The building was completed and officially opened for business in January 1914. The first Post Office in the region was opened in Prince Albert in 1850. Port Perry' first post office was opened in 1852 in Joseph Bigelow's store located where Tweed and Hickory is now located. Bigelow was Port Perry's first Post-master and remained in his position for 17 years. In the 1870s a new Post Office was built. This was a two-storey brick building situated on land where the Grenadier, the original War Memorial Library, now stands.

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## Recap of the LSHS Agenda for Spring 2012

All meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Scugog Shores Heritage & Archives Centre at the Community Recreation Centre, (second floor), 1655 Reach Street, Port Perry.

***Thursday, March 15:*** Ron Kurelo: **Weapons and the War of 1812.**

Ron will discuss the weapons used in the war of 1812 and will have several for us to look at. He is a recognized expert on weaponry and has consulted on this topic for movies and TV productions. Ron is a Veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP.

***Tuesday, April 17:*** Dorothy Duncan: **Pioneer Foods and Cooking.**

Dorothy is an internationally recognized authority on Canadian foods, and particularly on heritage and pioneer foods. She has written a number of books on the history of Canadian food. Dorothy is also a former curator of the Black Creek Pioneer Village.

***Tuesday, May 15:*** John Warburton: **The Families of York County in the War of 1812.**

John is a retired teacher who has given talks on early Ontario history to many groups. He has served on the executive of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada and was an interpreter at the Black Creek Pioneer Village.

***Tuesday, June 12:*** Gordon Forbes: **Confessions of a Spy**

Gordon is a retired Air Force Colonel and has served as Canada's military attaché in several countries including Spain, Italy, and Greece. Gordon will give a talk on his covert experiences as a representative of Canada.

Watch for the next Newsletter in September, 2012.

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