



Newsletter

Lake Scugog Historical Society

Spring/Summer 2013

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

President's Message

After an incredibly eventful 2012, it is now time to look forward to the events of 2013. Before I do so, I would like to take this opportunity to give a heartfelt thanks to all those who helped out at this year's highly successful Antique and Nostalgia Show in February. Our particular thanks go out to Marilyn Pearce who set up and organized the show. The profits from the show enable us to pay for speakers and to finance projects of an historical interest for the community.

Here at the Lake Scugog Historical Society we have a full program of events, which we hope will satisfy and entertain our whole membership, and beyond. We start off our meetings in April with the inimitable Nancy Macleod, who last year entertained us with her hilarious and factual "Victorian Medicine Show." This year she will be entertaining us with her "Victorian Fashion Show," during which she will dress several volunteers in the audience in complete Victorian attire. She will of course be adding her fun and wit to the presentation. For our May meeting we will be welcoming Grant Karcich, who has just released a fascinating book entitled The Scugog Carrying Place. Grant will talk about his research and findings on this fascinating study of the original First Nations pathway from Lake Ontario to Lake Scugog and beyond, how it originated and how it has evolved over the years and the settlements that sprang up along its route.

In June, our own Dave Hatherley, who is a member of, and the official photographer for, the Canadian National Skydiving team, will be showing us some of his videos of his jumps and his time with the Canadian team.

During the summer we will be visiting the Greenbank Cemetery where Larry Doble will take us on a tour of the cemetery and talk about the people who lie there. I will be joining Larry by adding some comments from my own research. In September we will be returning to the Pine Grove Cemetery in Prince Albert for another walk around that inspiring resting place. As a result of some research, I will be adding a few new characters to the walk.

We have an interesting and stimulating series of talks and walks ahead of us this year. I sincerely hope that you can all join us on one or more of the presentations.

Cheers
Paul Arculus
President of the Lake Scugog Historical Society

Guest Speakers

Wednesday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.
Nancy MacLeod,
Victorian Costume Show

Wednesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m.
Grant Karcich,
"The Scugog Carrying Place"
The First Nations pathway from
Lake Ontario to Lake Scugog

Wednesday, June 12, 7:30 p.m.
Dave Hatherley
History of Parachuting
(movie night)

After a year of meeting at the Museum Archives, we are moving back to St. John's Presbyterian Church, at 319 Queen Street, Port Perry, (corner of Queen and Simcoe).

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

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Lake Scugog Historical Society President Paul Arculus, who at a recent ceremony was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal, for his efforts to document the history of our community.

2013 ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW

February 2nd and 3rd saw the return of the Antique Fair which was held once again at the Scugog Community Centre. Just like last year, Mother Nature co-operated with sunny weather. Just like last year over 1,200 people came to see the many vendors and an incredible variety of antique items. The refreshment counter did a booming business and as always the Empire Biscuits had a very short shelf-life.

Special thanks to Marilyn Pearce, for all the work she does in organizing the vendors and promoting the event, and also, to all those Historical Society members who volunteered their time to make this event so successful.

We hope to see you next year when the Antique Fair will be held February 1st and 2nd 2014.

Bill Minors
Secretary



A small sampling of photos, both of the members and wares at the Antique and Nostalgia Show!
Photos courtesy of Kathy Minors

WEBSITE

Did you know that we have a new website?

Check: www.lakescugohistoricalsociety.com

You will find upcoming events and other items of interest.

Canada's Child Immigrants

In the past three hundred years approximately four million people have migrated to Canada from the United Kingdom. Indeed, other than the original First Nation inhabitants and a handful of descendants of families who fled from the horrors of the American Revolution, all of the early settlers in Scugog Township came from England, Scotland or Ireland.

But Scugog was settled comparatively late in our Nation's history. When the War of 1812 exploded in North America, our Township had not even been mapped; and, when the events of 1837 Rebellion were taking place, what is now Port Perry, was uninhabited. In what is present day Scugog, the largest settlement was Prince Albert with a population of less than two-dozen people!

What is not well known is that between the time of Confederation (1867) and 1939 over 100,000 orphaned or abandoned children were sent to Canada from the Britain and that these children are the ancestors of more than 11 percent of Canada's population today!

By the 1860s, the major cities of Britain; London, Glasgow, Liverpool, and Birmingham had, within a few years, become teeming industrial centers that attracted a huge population in search of work. A number of factors caused this to happen, not the least of these being the effects of the Industrial Revolution on the daily life of the entire population. Farms had suddenly become mechanized, throwing masses of laborers out of work. The growth of factories in the new and rapidly expanding cities attracted the masses in search of work.

The cities were not equipped to handle the population explosion. There was little housing and no sanitation. The natural result was an incredible outbreak of communicable diseases such as cholera, smallpox and tuberculosis. Suddenly these cities were overwhelmed with widows and orphans, most living on the streets and being forced into crime to exist.

The events depicted in such works as Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* paint a vivid and real picture of the age. Fortunately, a number of humanitarians emerged at that period and began to provide some relief to the problems. One of the most recognizable of these was Doctor John Bernardo. In 1866, while in training, he was sent to Stepney, in East London to help in handling the cholera epidemic. Here he was exposed to the desperate conditions of the poor and particularly the plight of the abandoned and orphaned children. He rented two cottages where he held classes, mothers' meetings and sewing classes. He soon expanded his facilities to provide a refuge for orphaned boys. Overwhelmed by the demand he expanded his facilities and embraced the policy of "No destitute child is ever refused admittance." The children that he took into his care became known as the "Home Children."

In addition to providing food and lodging for the boys, he looked for employment for them. He even established an enterprise distributing business flyers and advertisements and organized a brigade of boys to deliver firewood to London homes. He solicited financial support from a number of Evangelical philanthropists such as banker Robert Barclay.

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Canada's Child Immigrants (cont'd)

In 1873 Dr. John Bernardo married Syrie Elmslie, a likeminded humanitarian lady who ran a school for orphaned boys. Bernardo, with his wife's encouragement, decided that one solution to the problem of orphans and abandoned children was to search for homes for the children in his care. In 1882 he sent 51 boys to Canada to be adopted by farmers or at least to live on farms. To expand this concept he bought a 10,000-acre farm in Russell, Manitoba, to train boys in agriculture. The boys lived and worked at the farm for a year and were then placed with farmers. In 1890, the Canadian government was offering 160 acres of land to men over 18 years of age. Bernardo tied his training in with this scheme and gave assistance to the young men in order to buy seed and implements.

Bernardo was not the only philanthropist sending orphaned children to Canada and he was certainly not the first. Maria Rye, who had established homes for orphans and abandoned children, mainly girls from East London, began to send girls to Canada in 1869 where they were trained as domestic servants.

The stories of these children are complex and dramatic. Some experienced horrible cruelty and neglect in their new homes. Some, deprived of their friends, unable to cope with the harsh conditions, took their own lives. However, most survived, established new families and forged new lives for themselves here in Canada.

In 1925 the Canadian Government created legislation to prevent unaccompanied children under the age of 14 to enter Canada. However Bernardo continued to send older children to Canada until 1939. By this time, more than 100,000 orphaned or abandoned children had been settled in Canada and over 30,000 of those had come from Dr. Bernardo's Homes.

The farm at Russell was closed in 1907 and broken into smaller farms and sold. Although the farm no longer exists, a plaque to five lads who died there marks the site more than 220 miles north of Winnipeg.

For those interested in exploring this topic in more detail, some books of interest:

Bernardo by Gilliam Wagner.

Thomas John Bernardo, His Life, Homes and Orphanages, by Dennis Barnier-Smith

Bernardo's Children by Janet Sacks

New Lives for Old by Roger Kershaw and Janet Sacks.

Also detailed, archival information on children who were in Bernardo's care; www.barnardoos.org.uk.

HERITAGE & MUSEUM NEWS

2013 Spring/Summer Events, Exhibits and Programs

For more information, go to our website at www.scugogshoresmuseum.com
or call Shannon at 905-985-8698 x 103

Scugog Shores Heritage Centre & Archives

1655 Reach Street (2nd floor, inside the Scugog Arena)
until May 19: open Tuesday – Sunday, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
May 20 – September 2: open Tuesday – Friday, 11:00 am – 4 pm

March 3 – May 26

Exhibit: Arts of China, over 40 artifacts on display from the Royal Ontario Museum's world renowned Far Eastern collection.

April 7, 1 pm

Lecture Series: Preserving Paper Artifacts, with Basia Baklinski from the Conservation Clinic

April 25, 7 pm

Volunteer Appreciation Evening

May 5, 1 pm

Lecture Series: The Arts of China, with Jane Pang, principal of the Clearview School of Arts and Culture

May 19, 1 pm

Lecture Series: Traveling the Ancient Land, with Jonathan van Bilsen, local photographer, author and world traveler

July 2 – August 31

Exhibit: The Business of Fur, highlighting the history of Canada's fur trade, exhibit on loan from Mystus Exhibits.

Scugog Shores Museum Village

16210 Island Road
May 20 – September 2: Open daily for guided tours 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

June 1

45th annual Canoe the Nonquon

July 20-21, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

11th annual Dog Days of Scugog

August 11, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Pioneer Day

August 18, 7:30 pm

Driftwood Theatre Production of Homer's Odyssey

September 6, 7:30 pm

Murder Mystery Evening

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We have a number of members who have not yet renewed their annual membership; please fill in your forms, or drop into Books Galore and More, on Perry Street and renew there. You can also renew with Wendy, at the next meeting. Ask for your membership card from Wendy when you renew as well, if you haven't received it yet!

RECAP OF THE LSHS AGENDA FOR SPRING 2013

Wednesday, April 17th, at 7:30 p.m. at the St. John's Presbyterian Church Meeting Room,
We welcome Nancy MacLeod back, this time giving us her Victorian Costume Show

Wednesday, May 15th, at 7:30 p.m. at the St. John's Presbyterian Church Meeting Room,
Grant Karcich joins us to discuss his book "The Scugog Carrying Place" The First Nation's pathway from Lake Ontario to Lake Scugog

Wednesday, June 12th, at 7:30 p.m. at the St. John's Presbyterian Church Meeting Room,
Dave Hatherley gives us a brief history of Parachuting, followed by a skydiving movie night, with film from the recent World Parachuting Championships in Dubai

Wednesday, July 17th, at 7:00 p.m. Greenbank Cemetary Walk
Watch for more detail on the website www.lakescugoghistoricalsociety.com or information available at Books Galore & More, Perry Street, Port Perry

Wednesday, September 18th, at 7:00 p.m. Prince Albert Cemetary Walk
Watch for more detail on the website www.lakescugoghistoricalsociety.com or information available at Books Galore & More, Perry Street, Port Perry

Date to be advised, in October - there will be a Ghosts and Ghastly Death's Walk

Watch for the next Newsletter in September/October, 2013.

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