



Newsletter

Lake Scugog Historical Society

Fall/Winter 2018

President's Message

I want to express a deep sense of gratitude to all who have been involved in our recent highly successful spring and summer events: our meetings, our Cochrane Street walk and our Greenbank 150th re-enactment.

The Cochrane Street Historical walk was one of the most successful walking tours we have ever held, with over 100 in attendance. Our thanks to Lucy and Mike Black who provided a delightful setting for our "after walk" refreshments at their home on Cochrane Street.

Although the numbers were slightly fewer at the re-enactment of the opening of St. Agnes, 150 years ago in Greenbank, the event was extremely well received and all who attended left with a smile on their face. This event was organized by the industrious Larry Doble.

For the fall, our secretary Bill Minors has lined up some fascinating meetings that we hope you will all attend. Bill is also our representative and coordinator for the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice here in Scugog. This promises to be a momentous series of events. The key dates for the various activities for this anniversary are November 3 to November 10 although other activities will be taking place around those dates.

In addition, the groundwork is already underway for our annual Antique Show and Sale, organized, as usual, by Marilyn Pearce for the first weekend in February, 2019.

Behind every single one of these events you will find our tireless coffee and refreshments crew led by Thelma Creighton. Thanks Thelma.

History and heritage, it seems, are receiving a renewed enthusiasm in our community. All of this is due in no small part to the hard work of our Historical Society and you, the members. Your membership gives support and encouragement for our activities.

Thank you.
Paul Arculus, President

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, October 24, 7:30 p.m.

Show and Tell Meeting
WWI and Port Perry

Wednesday, November 14, 7:30 p.m.

Recipe for Victory
Meals During Wartime

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

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

*Refreshments are served at the end
of our meetings.*

Upcoming Guest Speakers

October 24th Meeting: Show and Tell Meeting

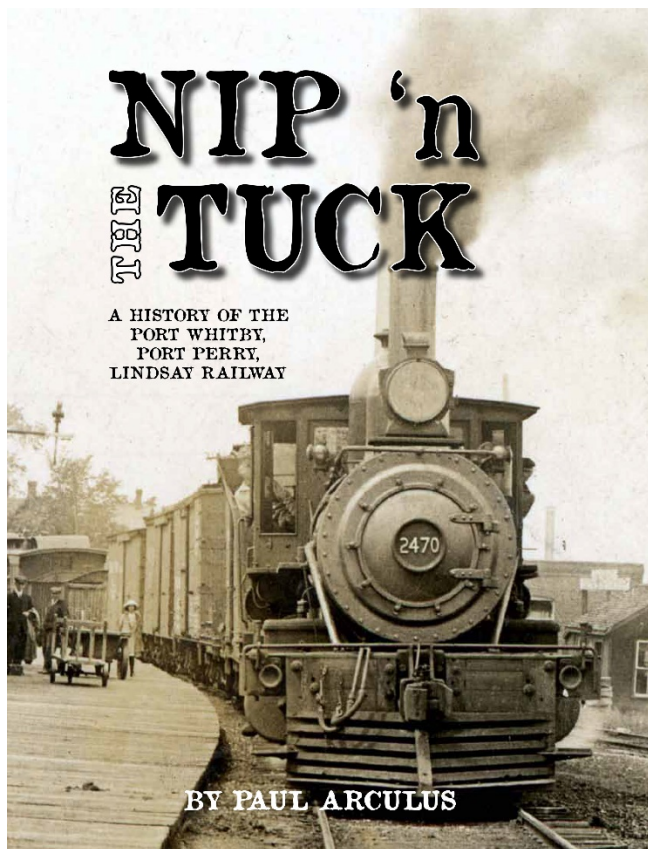
Lake Scugog Historical Society's popular "Show and Tell" returns to Port Perry on Wednesday October 24. Artifacts from Canada's past, with an emphasis on local antiquities, will be on display and the stories of their past will be narrated by their owners. Dan Stone and Gary Roncetti will show and talk about a number of military items from our past. Bill Minors, of Books Galore, has a number of historical literary artifacts which he will explain to the audience. He will also be bringing a number of Masonic artifacts.

November 14th Meeting: Meals During Wartime

In conjunction with the Anniversary Celebrations for the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice to end World War 1, the Historical Society is proud to host Bridget Wranich and Elizabeth Baird, editors of the newly published book Recipe For Victory. We will learn about cooking during the Great War, both at home and in the trenches. What soldiers ate in and behind the trenches, the war time efforts on the home front, the role of alcohol, the importance of food packages from home, and the problems of surplus. It should be a fascinating evening.

The Nip and Tuck

At some time in the not-too-distant future Paul Arculus' latest book, a history of the Nip and Tuck railway, will be released. The book is undergoing final editing and organization prior to its arrival at the printer.



(cont'd)

The Nip and Tuck (cont'd)

The nickname “Nip and Tuck,” as the railway became affectionately known, was given by the local residents and those who used the train. They considered it “Nip and Tuck” as to whether or not the train would succeed in climbing the steep grade when running northward from Whitby into the Oak Ridges moraine and on to Port Perry. This phenomenon was particularly noticeable when the locomotive pulled its maximum compliment of three loaded passenger cars and an equal number of freight cars.

Initial railway proposals called for a railway to start at Whitby and travel north to Lake Huron. These ambitious plans were quickly abandoned and the proposal for a more practical route was realized. This line began its life as the Port Whitby and Port Perry Railway (PW&PPR). Its first train ran in 1871. Three years later the company obtained the grandiose rights to extend the railway all the way to the Pacific! This plan was modestly named the Whitby and Port Perry Extension Railway (W&PPER). The reality of the immensity of such a project and the economics involved eventually prevailed. The promoters’ ambitions were quashed, and the line was merely extended northward to Lindsay. It was then renamed the Whitby, Port Perry and Lindsay Railway (WPP&LR). In 1882 the company merged with the Midland Railway to assume the name of the Midland Railway of Canada. The Midland, became part of the Grand Trunk Railway (GTR) in 1893, which, in turn became part of the Canadian National Railway (CNR) in 1923.

The fraud, corruption and incompetence involved in its planning and construction, resulted in a line that was badly constructed and built too late to take advantage of an earlier economic potential. As a result, it became economically unsustainable. The last official train ran as part of the CNR, carrying passengers from Port Perry to Whitby and back in 1939. Shortly afterwards the tracks were torn up so that the metal could be used in the war effort. Unfortunately, the account of the “Nip and Tuck” is a largely forgotten one. The communities of Whitby, Port Perry and Lindsay have lost most of their identifiable railway features and the stops along the way have become overgrown with the modernization of those communities, clearly losing all contact with the railroad's history. Since that last official train ran on the remaining section of the line from Whitby to Port Perry in 1939, there are a few people alive today who can recount details of the railway in accurate detail. But their recollections are of a railway already in its death throes at the end of its inexorable decline, a railway that had reached its vague and unstable peak half a century earlier.

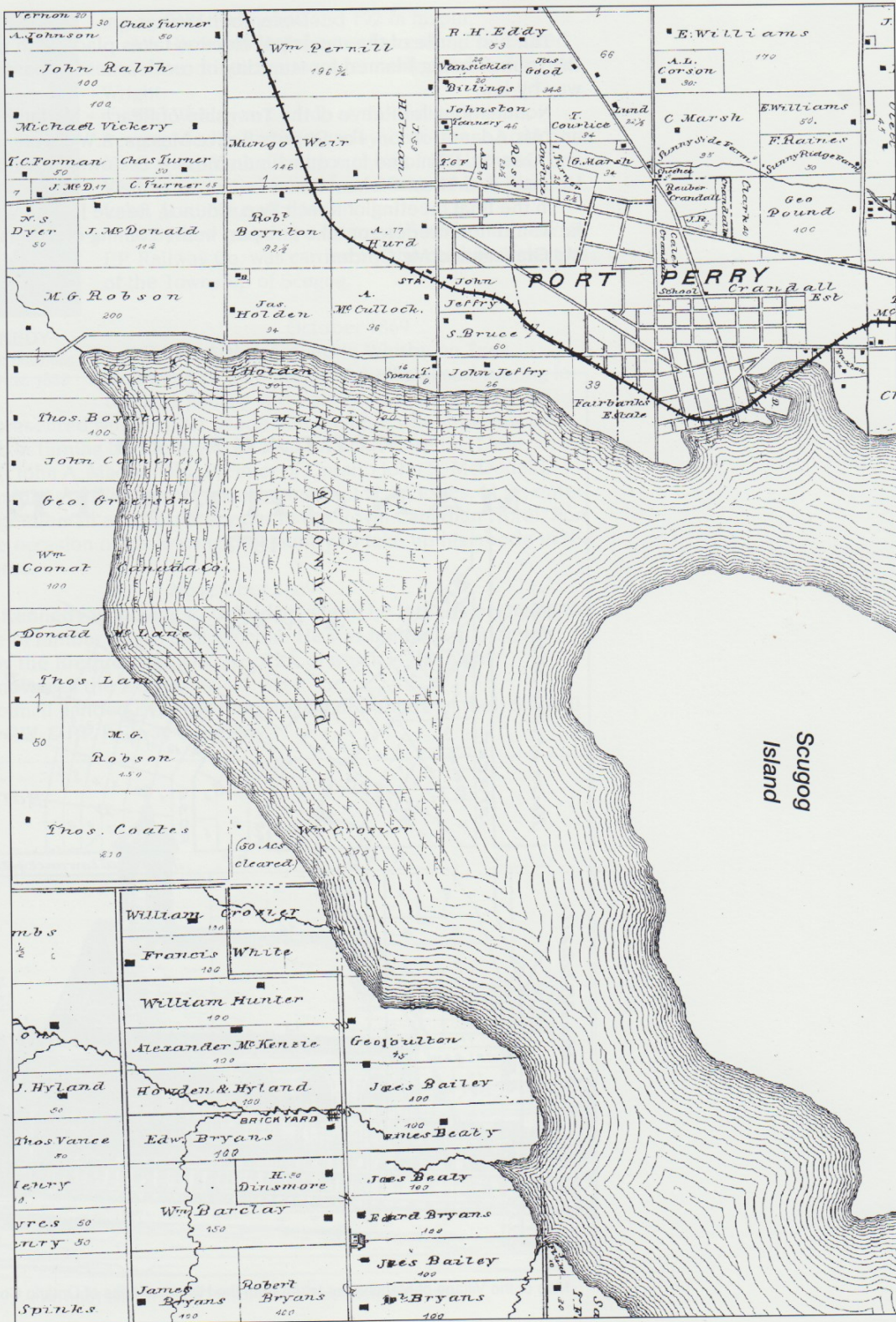
The “Nip and Tuck” holds a notable place in the history of the communities that it served: Whitby, Brooklin, Myrtle, High Point, Manchester, Prince Albert and Port Perry. Later: Seagrave, Sonya, Manilla, Cresswood and Lindsay. The railway shaped the growth of these communities and provided a livelihood for many of their inhabitants and it either propelled them to success or failure. The eventual failure of the railway and the causes of that failure continued to have influence on the communities that survived. It can teach us many lessons as our generation moves forward and explores new systems of transportation and communication.

There were numerous railroads built in Canada in the second half of the nineteenth century with relatively undramatic histories. The history of the “Nip and Tuck” does indeed have many stereotypical characteristics of those dozens of small lines, yet it differs from others in that its story is a complex blend of bribery, corruption, intrigue and tragedy, and involves all the pathos, drama and excitement of well-written fiction and even includes a shootout and an unsolved murder!

The 200 page book entitled, ***The Nip and Tuck*** gives a detailed account of the railway’s promoters and developers and its incredible journey, through grandiose and sometimes overly ambitious and unrealistic objectives to an eventually quiet and relatively humble existence before it faded into obscurity. We are hoping that the book will be available for Christmas 2018; however, this is not a promise etched in stone and may have to be extended to early spring 2019. We’ll keep you posted!

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Map of Port Perry and the marshlands at the south end of Lake Scugog in 1877. Much of the land at the south of the lake was under water, as show on this map. For years there was dispute over the ownership of the water above the land, with the courts finally ruling that both the water and land was private property.



Reproduced from Scugog The Early Years, by Peter Hvidsten, with permission.

The Antique & Nostalgia Show and Sale
Port Perry Arena, February 2 & 3, 2019
10:00 to 4:00

This is our eighth year sponsoring this event, and we again ask for volunteers to bake and to assist with different duties the two days of the show. Please call Wendy Hatherley at 905-985-6188 or Daphne Naassana at 905-985-0936 if you can help with any baking for the show.

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/marilyn.pearce/antiqueshow.htm>

Scugog Shores Museum and Archives – Museum News

All events take place at the Scugog Shores Museum Village, 16210 Island Road. For more info call 905-985-8698 x 103 or email museum@scugog.ca

Jennifer the Medium, Thursday, October 12: Scugog Shores Museum is delighted to welcome Port Perry local, Jennifer the Medium on October 12th! Jennifer will lead two one-hour group readings in the museum's Head Church. Refreshments in the church's tea room will follow each session. Jennifer is an internationally renowned Medium, who has been connecting with spirits since the age of three. Her many talents include readings, teaching, and inspirational speaking. Her mission in life is to help others know that their loved ones, guides and angels are with them, loving them, healing them and assisting them. Session 1 @ 6:00 - 7:00pm. Session 2 @ 7:15 - 8:15pm. Tickets are \$25 per person and must be purchased in advance by calling 905-985-8698 ext. 103 or by visiting the front reception desk at the Scugog arena.

Spooky BOO-museum event, Sunday, October 21, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm: Fun spooky event at the Museum Village for children of all ages includes hands-on activities, crafts and a costume contest. Regular admission applies.

Sunday Speaker Series – The Memory Project, Sunday, October 28, 1:00 – 3:00 pm: The Memory Project invites veterans and Canadian Forces members to share their military experience with fellow Canadians. This talk will focus on women in the military. Admission is \$5/person.

Paint Nite, Thursday, November 15: Join us as we raise glasses and funds for the Museum! To date, Paint Nite has helped raise over \$3.5 million for those in need with lively creative events that feel more fun than philanthropic. Feel good about giving as our local artist guides you and your friends through two hours of painting, drinking, and laughing 'til your cheeks hurt. The best part? You don't have to be an artist to have an amazing time. Our chosen painting is called "Barn Door Blossoms" and is sure to bring a smile to your face. Please visit <https://www.paintnite.com/events/barn-door-blossoms-at-scugog-shores-museum-10100912> to purchase tickets in advance.

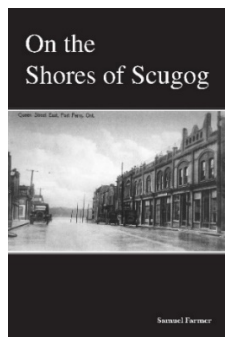
Sunday Speaker Series – Backing to the Future, Sunday, November 25, 1:00 – 3:00 pm: Join Dan Miles, a local Port Perry resident as he discusses his business Backing to the Future. As a self-proclaimed movie lover, Dan and his team painstakingly restore and preserve posters of all kinds for clients around the world. Admission is \$5/person.

Children's Old Fashioned Christmas, Sunday, December 9: The Scugog Shores Museum will be holding their Children's Old-Fashioned Christmas on Sunday, December 9 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Step back in time and tour through the historic village, traditionally decorated for the holidays with evergreen boughs, bright ribbons and berries. Children will be engaged in activities throughout

the village: Visit with Santa Claus and his elf in the Pioneer Church from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Bake and decorate cookies in the Log Cabin. Create unique ornaments to hang on your tree. Decorate traditional Victorian Christmas cards. Visit with the blacksmith and print shop. Explore the Museum Village on a holiday scavenger hunt. Hot chocolate and apple cider will be served in throughout the day. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and \$2.50 for seniors. Children 12 & under are \$2, or FREE with a non-perishable food donation for Operation Scugog. For more information please call 905-985-8698 x 103, email museum@scugog.ca

Lake Scugog Historical Society Books

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



Watch for the next Newsletter in late-March/early-April, 2019

Lake Scugog Historical Society
c/o Books Galore & More
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