

Lake Scugog Historical Society

Dedicated to the history of the Lake Scugog area. Established 1969

Spring/Summer 2019
50th Anniversary Edition



OUR PROUD HISTORY

The Lake Scugog Historical Society has been an active participant in the community since 1969. The Society, comprised entirely of volunteers, has worked quietly in partnership with the Township for fifty years! Initially led by the late William Brock, the Society's first major undertaking was a comprehensive project involving foresight and strategic planning. This leadership resulted in the establishment of the Scugog Shores Museum.

In 1970 Head Memorial Church was closed by the United Church of Canada and the title was passed to Scugog Township Council. A Museum Board was formed comprised of representatives from Reach, Scugog, Port Perry and the Lake Scugog Historical Society. A fifty-year lease was given to the Museum Board. The Ontario County School Board then agreed to the use of the Scugog Island School as a summer museum. In July 1970, Opening Ceremonies for the Scugog Shores Historical Museum took place, including a church service followed by a basket-making demonstration.

The ground-plan for the museum was guided, in part, by B. Napier

Simpson, a well-known Toronto architect and acknowledged expert in public restoration projects. The mandate for the museum included:

- The preservation of artefacts and information relevant to the community;
- The sharing of collections with a view to contributing to life in the community;
- The use of the facility as a vehicle for the teaching of history;
- The development of a craft centre to facilitate leisure recreational facilities;
- The designation of the museum as a tourist attraction and benefit for local businesses catering to tourism;
- To add value to the cultural tone of the community.

The Lake Scugog Historical Society has actively supported the work of Peter Hvidsten and Paul Arculus, our local historians, who have worked tirelessly for many years to document local history and make Scugog's stories come alive! Paul's newest book, **Nip 'N Tuck**, documents the early railway in the area.

Our next major project involves celebrating five of Scugog's pioneer families. Stay tuned for details!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING, ON TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019 AT ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 319 QUEEN STREET, PORT PERRY, AT 7:30 PM.

THIS WILL BE OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOLLOWED BY A VERY SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION.

OUR SPEAKER FOR THE EVENING IS PAUL ARCULUS (AKA MR. PORT PERRY) WHO WILL BE SPEAKING ABOUT HIS LATEST BOOK ON THE NIP 'N TUCK RAILWAY.





LEGACY INCLUDES

- ✓ Founding Lake Scugog Historical Society, 1969
- ✓ Founding Scugog Shores Museum, 1969
- ✓ Establishing Canoe the Nonquon, 1969
- ✓ Leadership in saving the Post Office, 1972
- ✓ Leadership in saving the Town Hall, 1974

IN MEMORIAM

William Brock

Peacefully at home on Thursday, February 28, 2019 in Port Perry at the age of 87. Beloved husband of Claudette for 55 years. Devoted father of Marina (Ross), Michael (Colleen), Peter (Melissa) and Juliana (Jamie) and proud “Grand papa” to Taylor, Jesse, Lindsay, Zoe, Ethan, Simon, Cameron, Payton, Brandon, Marin and Hannah. Bill was predeceased by his parents Arthur Brock and Marguerite Brock (Jackson).

Bill was born and raised in Port Perry along with his sister Georgia. He attended Port Perry High School then went on to earn his B.Com. at Victoria College at the University of Toronto and an Arts degree in languages from Queen’s University. He met the love of his life, Claudette, at Toronto Teacher’s College. Bill was an avid traveler and explored Europe before settling down to marriage and a career in teaching, first at Sharbot Lake, then overseas at the Canadian Air Force

Base at Marville, France, then in Ancaster and finally at Port Perry High School for 21 years in the French, Latin, Business and Library departments.

Bill was passionate about history and that passion led him to establish the Lake Scugog Historical Society. Together with like-minded enthusiasts, they created the Scugog Shores Museum. In order to raise funds to support the Museum, Bill and Claudette founded “Canoe the Nonquon” – the longest running canoe race in Ontario. Not stopping there, Bill and fellow volunteers continued with their civic pride and crusaded to save the historic Post Office on Queen St and the Town Hall 1867 from demolition.

In semi-retirement, Bill joined his wife Claudette as the 4th generation of the family clothing and footwear business, Brock’s on Queen St, restoring the building façade and establishing the business as a Port Perry landmark. He enjoyed many



Rarely does one individual have such a significant and lasting impact upon a community!

diverse interests including gardening, canoeing, cottaging with the extended family on Lake Scugog, wintering in Fort Myers Beach, playing board games, motorbiking, and learning Ancient Greek. Bill lived his life with intelligence, humour and an insatiable thirst for knowledge and new experiences. He will be dearly missed.



LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Paul Arculus

It is with great sadness that we have witnessed the passing of our Historical Society's founder, Bill Brock. Bill passed away on February 28 and the Memorial service was held on March 5.

The obituary for Bill is elsewhere in this newsletter. However, I must add that Bill's contribution to the heritage of our community is without precedence in the modern era. Here is a brief list of Bill's contributions, remembering that he was encouraged and assisted by his wife Claudette:

1969: 1. Founding the Lake Scugog Historical Society; 2. Creating the Canoe the Nonquon canoe race; 3. Establishing the Scugog Shores Museum.

1972: Preventing the demolition of our Post Office and encouraging the Federal Government to preserve and restore the exterior of the building.

1974: Preventing the demolition of our Town Hall 1873 at the corner of Queen and Simcoe Streets. Bill led the creation of a committee to restore the building and to turn it into an entertainment centre.

1970- 1980: Bill searched through the Ontario Archives for photographs and other artifacts in order to establish the Scugog Archives.

It is fitting that we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary at our May meeting and will take the opportunity at that time to remember Bill.

Just as I was finishing this article, I received the sad news that Barry Stubbs, husband of Lucy Stubbs has passed away. Lucy has recently retired from our executive. She has been a tireless worker on our behalf and was a leader in many events including production of our newsletter and the creation of our memorable Historic Tour of Scugog Rally and the resulting "Tour of the Scugog Countryside" booklets. Our sincere condolences to Lucy.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new members to our executive, They are: Former mayor of Scugog, Marilyn Pearce, retired High School principal and author, Lucy Black and her husband retired teacher and artist Dr. Michael Black. Marilyn has been an active member and supporter of our Historical Society for many years and has headed up the Antique show and Fair, our fundraising event each year. Lucy and Michael have supported our activities for some time, and now Lucy is heading up our Newsletter and moving it forward into the electronic age. This will be our first electronic version. Michael is helping Lucy with editing and proofreading. With the addition of Marilyn, Lucy and Michael, our Historical Society is already experiencing an invigorating renewal. Welcome on Board.

Cheers,

Paul Arculus



UPCOMING MEETING:

Tuesday, May 21st
7:30 pm
St. John's Presbyterian Church
319 Queen St., Port Perry

Annual General Meeting

Paul Arculus will be speaking about the Port Perry Railway and his book, *Nip n Tuck*.

We will also be amending our Constitution. We will be adding a Corporate Membership category, and setting fees for all membership categories. All members of the LSHS are entitled to vote. ☺



Membership News Spring 2019

Thank you to all our members who renewed their memberships for 2019 – we appreciate your support. As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary this year, your LSHS Board is implementing a few changes to our membership process in an effort to reach out to a wider audience. Your membership fees help fund our newsletter and the Speaker Series.

With this in mind and recognizing postage and printing costs are increasing every year, we are encouraging members to switch to **email delivery** of your newsletter and notices of events. Let us know if that is an option for you BUT if not we will still mail or hand deliver your copy.

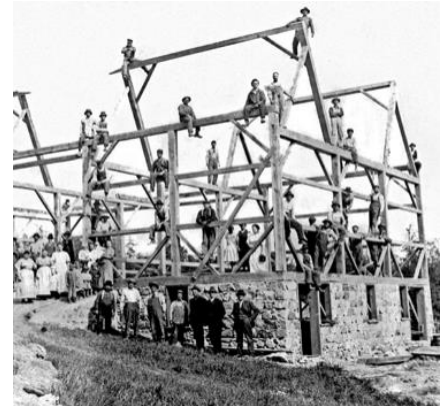
As well, 2019 will be the last year we will issue membership cards, as we are switching over to a numbered roster system. For example, Life Member Paul Arculus (our President) will

be LSHS #2 – our founders Bill (now deceased) & Claudette Brock are LSHS #1 . The roster will be available at all our events.

Finally, we are hoping to introduce on-line membership renewals, payments and donations in 2019 - stay tuned for more information in our next newsletter.

As we plan for the next 50 years and the sustainability of LSHS, we hope to see our membership numbers improve to the levels of our early years. With your help and enthusiasm, LSHS can continue to preserve, protect and tell the stories of early Scugog Township.

Marilyn Pearce – LSHS #15
Membership Director



Annual Fees for Members:

Single Membership (one vote): \$10 for calendar year.

Family Membership (2 votes): \$20 for calendar year

New: Corporate Membership (one vote): \$25 per calendar Year

Corporate Members/Sponsors will be recognized on the LSHS web-site and in our newsletter.

I agree to receive my newsletter and notice of events through email delivery: Yes___ NO___

I would like to support the work of the Lake Scugog Historical Society with an optional donation of \$_____

Please make cheque payable to Lake Scugog Historical Society and mail to: **Daphne Naassana, LSHS Treasurer,**
c/o 175 Perry St., Port Perry, On. L9L 1B8





☞ Why Local Histories Matter ☞

Lucy E.M. Black

I am not a historian. I am, however, someone who appreciates the importance of histories, and believes that a conscious effort to preserve and express an understanding of all of the voices and traditions that make us who we are, in a particular place and time, is critical to the development of a social conscience.

I have used the term *histories* – plural. I do so because the *other* side of the fragmentation and division that is taking place during our own cultural moment is the positive recognition that there are many stories and many perspectives that must be recognized and brought together, if we are to understand ourselves and where we have been. Some of these accounts do not agree with each other. However, I believe that we need to have the awkward and difficult conversations that such competing claims present. These conversations should be with each other and with our children.

We cannot engage in these conversations if we do not have an awareness of our histories. Our understanding of the past informs the policies, legislation, attitudes and societal morals that dictate all aspects of our lives. And whether or not we consider some aspects of these stories to be entirely fulsome and positive, we cannot fully know who we wish to become without recognizing them. In our ever-changing, fast-paced world, our histories are what help us to focus our values and sense of identity. From them, we gain a greater understanding of the connections between the past and present. We learn that many human experiences are universal. We come to understand how the many stories that have created us, as part of this community, continue to shape and impact our current political realities.

Local histories, in particular, contain the details and stories of life gone by and demonstrate how the circumstances of a particular time and place have made an impact on the lives of ordinary people. By valuing our heritage, we may come to a deeper appreciation of such things as a desire for justice, an appreciation of our freedoms, a deep respect for innovation and a celebration of traditions. Our histories allow us to see where we come from *in context*. Finally, having knowledge of such histories allows us, as a community, to move forward in an informed way. *The Lake Scugog Historical Society* encourages us to continue those conversations. ☞



Museum Season Open: May 20 – August 30, open daily 10 am - 4 pm

Explore the eleven buildings of our historic pioneer village and the Ojibway Heritage Interpretive Lands. Guided tours are provided daily throughout the summer.

Freemasonry: A History Hidden in Plain Sight, July 2nd – August 25th

This exhibit created by the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre promotes the knowledge, appreciation and understanding of Masonic history and the influence of Freemasonry has on our society today. The story is told through six display cases containing storyboards and artifacts, regalia and other objects as well as a portrait gallery containing famous Masons from around the world. Artifacts from the Scugog Shores Museums' collection will also be featured.

51st Annual Canoe the Nonquon, Saturday, June 1st

Celebrate the 51st year of the longest running canoe and kayak race in Ontario. Sanctioned by OMCKRA, this 20 km race winds along the beautiful Nonquon River before finishing in Lake Scugog. Recreational and competitive paddlers of all ages may compete in a variety of classes with medals awarded to the top three finishers in each. A prize will be awarded to the participant who raises the most pledges. Registration is Friday, May 31 from 6 – 9 pm and Saturday, June 1 from 7 - 10 am. All participants must enter the water between 8 – 10:30 am on Saturday, June 1 to participate in the race.

17th Annual Dog Days of Scugog, Saturday, July 20 and Sunday, July 21, 9 am - 4 pm

Don't miss Durham Region's largest dog festival! Dog Days celebrates that unique bond between dogs and their humans. Highlights include WoofJocks Canine All-Stars, DogLoversDay Lure Course, Scugog Disc Dog, doggie fashion shows, contests, parade of breeds and more. Visit with breeders and specialists on all things canine, and explore the many vendors selling unique dog products.

Driftwood Theatre Bard's Bus Tour, Sunday, August 11, 7 pm

The award winning Driftwood Theatre returns to the village to present their outdoor 'pay-what-you-can' theatre event. Driftwood Theatre is Ontario's leading outdoor summer touring theatre company. The company strives to break down barriers to experiencing and participating in theatre art, by bringing theatre and engagement opportunities to audiences in Ontario who may not have access to professional performance. They have performed for over 100,000 people in venues across the province since 1995.

Pioneer Day, Sunday, August 25, 11 am - 4 pm

See the Museum Village come to life as it rings to the sounds of the blacksmith, woodwright, printing press, steam engines and many other heritage demonstrators. This year we will include a classic car show. Taste traditional treats and observe local craftspeople at work. Regular admission applies.

Murder Mystery Evening, Friday, September 6, 7:30 – 10:30 pm

This is an interactive night of intrigue! You are the detective. Explore the Museum Village, question the suspects, search for clues and solve the crime. Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased in advance. Tickets sell out every year so get yours early to avoid disappointment. Doors open at 7:00 pm. The event starts at 7:30 pm.



ANNUAL ANTIQUE & NOSTALGIA SHOW

by Marilyn Pearce, Show Convenor

And a great show was enjoyed by all!!

This was our 22nd year and 8th as show hosts and one of our busiest yet. Over 1000 attendees made for very busy tables for most of the day. Positive comments from dealers as well as visitors were well received, and of course our LSHS café enjoyed brisk sales of everyone's favourite sweets -- Ida Bond's Empire Cookies.

No question the favourable weather helped and folks attended from all over Durham Region as well as Peterborough, Toronto, Markham and even from Tillsonburg. But like all successful ventures it was all the helpers who made the two days run smoothly. Many thanks to Wendy &

Dave Hatherley, Dale Rowe, Bill & Kathy Minors, Paul & Isabel Arculus and their granddaughter, Daphne Naasana, Gayle Kahn, Ric Pearce, Ethan Lockhart (PPHS volunteer), Ed Wilkinson, Frank & Joan Young, Lucy & Michael Black, and Amy Baron. Finally last but not least thanks to our local magazine and newspapers for their coverage especially MaryAnn at **Focus on Scugog** – your support is invaluable.

This event is the LSHS major fundraiser for the year and I am pleased to report we raised more than \$4000 this year which is used to fund our Annual programs such as the Speaker Series and our PPHS bursary. I hope you can all join us again next year on Feb.1/2, 2020.



☞ Kopel's of Port Perry ☞



☞ Frank Schafer of Ajax ☞





Honouring Our Pioneer Families

In honour of our 50th Anniversary, we have chosen five Scugog families whose ancestors were early settlers here and made lasting contributions to the community. A celebration will be held in the Fall and the public will be invited to view artifacts and meet the descendants of these families. Legacy booklets are being prepared for the families and these will also be made available to the public.



Our plan is to continue to highlight the stories of our early settlers during the next several years. Please speak to us if you have ideas about

other families to be included or if you have pioneer artifacts you would like to display during our celebration.

Have you seen the Port Perry/Scugog Heritage Gallery?

It is online at:

<http://www.scugogheritage.com/history/index.htm>

and is filled with great pictures and stories!



Did You Know?

These protective goggles were issued during WWI. They are housed in the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.



Did You Know?

The original LSHS newsletter was named by Bonnie Gerrow in 1990 and was called "Scugog Historical Head Lines".





Bill Minors and Daphne Naassana wishing Wendy Hatherley well as she embarks on her new adventures!

Board of Directors

President:	Paul Arculus
Vice-President & Book Sales:	Ed Wilkinson
Membership:	Marilyn Pearce
Secretary:	Bill Minors
Treasurer:	Daphne Naassana
Newsletter:	Michael & Lucy Black
Website:	Kathy Minors
At-Large:	Frank Young

Joining the Lake Scugog Historical Society

Membership is open to anyone who loves local history. Dues for 2019 are \$10 per person or \$20 per family. Members receive notice of our upcoming events by email, and free admission to our meetings. Free-will offerings are collected at our meetings for non-members.



PLEASE CONTACT US!

We want to hear from you!



We always welcome new members and new ideas.



We can be found and contacted on Facebook under: Lake Scugog Historical Society



Our Website is:

<http://lakescugoghistoricalsociety.com/>

The site contains information about our upcoming meetings and projects.