



LAKE SCUGOG

HISTORICAL

SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021

Welcome to Fall

Lake Scugog Historical Society

DEDICATED TO THE HISTORY OF THE LAKE SCUGOG AREA - ESTABLISHED 1969



President's Message

by
Marilyn Pearce

Fall, my favorite time of the year as the seasons change and as well our Historical Society is seeing many changes. Our long-time President, Paul Arculus has retired and passed the torch to a new executive and as the new President I realize how big those shoes are that I will now try to fill. We thank Paul for all he has done for so many years in leading this organization and ensuring the history of the area is well-recorded. Paul is staying on the Executive Committee as Past President and an active contributor to our walks and talks.

As we begin what most of us hope is our post Covid time I would like to thank all who have supported us through their memberships and donations. Also to the Executive Board, as we have recruited new members to help us carry on the legacy of the Society that has been around for over 50 years. Welcome to our new membership secretary Karen Puckrin who has many ideas on how we can stay better connected with you our members – watch for her upcoming Members Up-dates. As well, we have a new Treasurer, Janis Carter and a new assistant for advertising and promotion of our events – Bev Brown. They join our returning Board Members Bill Minors-Secretary, Dan Stone – VP, and Peter Hvidsten –Special Projects (Digitization). I am excited to work with this group of dedicated volunteers and look forward to their involvement.

We plan to carefully re-open our programs including our Speaker Series and our Annual Antique Show fundraiser in Feb. I hope we can once again meet all our friends and neighbours in person. COVID protocols will be respected at all events. It was great to see so many of you at Port Perry's 150th celebration in Oct. as well as those who ventured out to the Museum for our Director's Day and Tree Dedication in Sept. As well, I am

really excited to announce the Board recently approved Phase Two of the "Newspaper Digitization Project" but more about that in this newsletter.

We are charting a new course now – post Paul - but will try and continue the legacy of our founders in protecting and preserving the history of the Lake Scugog area of our Township.

Through every season – Change, Change, Change – hope you will continue to support us as we enter this Post Pandemic era!

If you wish to contact me with any ideas or suggestions our email is lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com and my phone number is 905-985-9250

See you soon!!
Marilyn Pearce
President LSHS

Lake Scugog Historical Society

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021-2022

President: Marilyn Pearce
Vice-President: Dan Stone
Secretary: Bill Minors
Treasurer: Janis Carter
Membership: Karen Puckrin
Director: Bev Brown
Director: Peter Hvidsten
Past President: Paul Arculus

You can find LSHS on Facebook, or at:

lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com

or by mail at:

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

Out & About

TREE RE-DEDICATION & DIRECTOR'S DAY

Scugog Shores Museum
September 26, 2021

Back in the early years of our Historical Society, a Director's Day & Memorial Tree Planting and historical walk of the Museum grounds was an Annual event.

Over the years, many trees, benches and plaques were dedicated on the museum grounds to our volunteers and members of the Society. Years pass and memories fade but this aspect of our Society's past should always be recognized for their perseverance and dedication to founding our Museum as a home for our history.

In September, with the assistance of Scugog Shores Museum we re-dedicated a new maple tree dedicated to Barbara Phair, 1st president of the Historical Society. Barbara's sister Mary Jean Till shared her scrapbook of memories of Barb & Wilmot Phair and their dedication to the museum. We also re-dedicated a tree to Marguerite Brock (Volunteer) – mother of Museum/LSHS founder Bill Brock. This tree and plaque overlook the Head cemetery and to Rhonda Fraser (volunteer) a plaque in front of her rosebush at the Lee House.

Now that the COVID-19 regulations have been relaxed and we can once again enjoy outdoor events your executive board has been out and about.



Mary Jean Till with daughter Janice, right, and LSHS Past President Paul Arculus. – 2021.



In a moving and dignified ceremony held at Scugog Shores Museum on Sunday, May 18th 1986, friends and relatives paid tribute to the late Lillian Smith and Barbara Phair, both of whom were longtime and devoted volunteers at the museum. Attending the ceremony were, from left, Jean Nodwell, who read the tribute to Lillian; Roy Walker Smith, Wilmot Phair and Claudette Brock, who read the tribute to Barbara.

Port Perry Star, May 21, 1986



Notice of original Tree Ceremony in 1986

CELEBRATING PORT PERRY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

On October 3rd, 2021 new LSHS Board members Karen Puckrin & Janis Carter (dressed as Mrs. Bongard of Prince Albert) set up an information table about our Society in front of the Piano Café.

Many of Scugog's former residents stopped by for a visit including Dr. Daniel Palmer (aka Dr. Paul Puckrin), Mr. & Mrs. Bigelow (aka Bev Brown &

Dale St. John), and Cora McCaw (aka Alyssa Smith) who shared with us the history behind the paintings she did of her parents that now hang in the Municipal Office. Mr. Charles (aka Guy Latreille) who was the owner of the Charles Hotel at the corner of Queen & Water St. also said hello - historical fact - Guy still owns the building.

We were especially pleased to see

Queen Victoria out and about as well – she made particular notice to the well-preserved architecture of the street as it is a testament to her longevity.

A great day was had by all and our thanks go out to the organizers of the event and to our hosts at this location – Dan & Christy Stone.

Submitted by
Janis Carter



Bev Brown and Dale St John dressed up as Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bigelow.



Guy Latreille (Henry Charles); Janis Carer (Eliza Bongard) and Dr. Paul Puckrin (Dr. Daniel David Palmer).



Queen Victoria and Alyssa Smith as Cora McCaw.

LSHS PUBLICATIONS



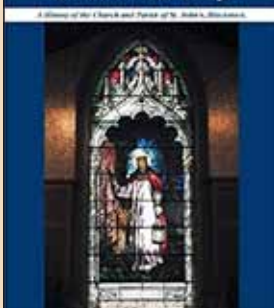
On the Shores of Scugog



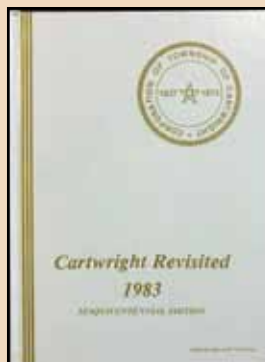
by Samuel Farmer

A reprint of the definitive book by Samuel Farmer on the history of Scugog. First printed in 1913 and revised in 1934 & 1968. Cost: \$20

Blessed are They



A History of the Church and Parish of St. John's Blackstock. Cost: \$20



Cartwright Revisited 1983 Sesquicentennial Edition. Cost: \$15



Snippets about 80 of interesting and prominent former citizens buried at the Prince Albert cemetery. Cost: \$10

ALL BOOKS AVAILABLE AT BOOKS GALORE,
175 Queen Street, Port Perry, Ontario

Bill's Book Review



BILL MINORS

THE WRECK OF HMS SPEEDY

The Tragedy That Shook Upper Canada

BY DAN BUCHANAN

PUBLISHED BY MILNER & ASSOCIATES 2020

"A birchbark canoe eased onto Lake Scugog's sandy beach with a slight crunch from the underlying gravel." So begins Dan Buchanan's story of the loss of HMS Speedy in 1804. So from the beginning we know there is a local element to this story. It starts with the Farewell brothers returning to their trading post on Scugog Island. To their horror they find that their colleague John Sharp had been brutally murdered. Suspicion immediately falls upon a member of the Mississaugas called Ogetonicut. It transpired that the previous winter another Mississauga named Whistling Duck, Ogetonicut's brother had been killed by a white settler, Samuel Cozens. No action had been taken as it had been considered self defence. However Ogetonicut had vowed retribution.

Ogetonicut is subsequently arrested and taken to York for trial. The author gives us an interesting look into the town of York, which of course is now Toronto. At that time it had barely a population of 400. It was still very much run as an outpost of the British Empire by well connected Englishmen. As Ogetonicut will probably hang, the authorities are aware that this could cause problems with the Indigenous people. As we are only 8 years away from the War of 1812, relations with our southern neighbours are tense, and the military authorities are well aware that they might need the help of the Indigenous people. Subsequent events showed that to be true.

Much of this story rests on an arcane legal point. The law required that a murder trial must be held in the courthouse of the district in which the murder took place. York was in the Home District, but no-one knew whether the murder site was there or in nearby Newcastle District. The border basically ran north of Oshawa, but the survey had not yet reached that far north. Surveyor John Stegmann is then tasked with informing

the authorities on which side of the border the crime took place. He determined that the murder site was just over the border in Newcastle District. The authorities probably heaved a sigh of relief as this nasty business would take place on someone else's territory.



Here we meet HMS Speedy one of His Majesty's Armed Vessels and Lt Paxton, her captain. HMS Speedy was a modest gunboat built on the cheap to serve on Lake Ontario. At this point in her career HMS Speedy was 6 years old and due to be replaced. The ship had been built of green uncured timber, which was nearing the end of its lifespan. The sails and rigging were also in poor shape and in need of repair.

However, Paxton was tasked with transporting the whole "trial" to Newcastle. Judge, lawyers, prisoner even the statutes. Paxton was not too pleased as the Speedy was primarily a cargo vessel and there was barely room for the 20 passengers and their luggage. It was also the last voyage of the year before winter set in and October weather on the lake could be treacherous. He could not refuse as he could be subject to a Court Martial. On October 7, they set sail. Barely out of the York harbour they ran aground on a shifting sandbar. Not a good omen. They then ran into a Nor'Easter storm as they approached Presqu'île.

No-one knows what happened to HMS Speedy, but they never arrived in Newcastle. All were lost.

Part Two of the book chronicles the efforts of Ed Burtt, a Marine Explorer and diver. In 1989 while diving off Presqu'île he came across various artifacts on the lake floor. Although the fate of the Speedy has never been officially determined, Ed Burtt considers it 99.9% certain that he found the wreck of HMS Speedy.

I highly recommend this book not only for the story of HMS Speedy but for a glimpse of life in Upper Canada at the time. Interesting side-note. In the Acknowledgements the author thanks our own Paul Arculus who located Stegmann's 1804 survey which was in the Ontario Legislative Building rather than the Archives.

Reviewed by Bill Minors

PIONEER FAMILIES

THE ALDREDS

(Family name was also spelled "Alldred")



Joel Aldred, sr., brought all of his possessions to Scugog Island on a raft in the mid-1800s

ACCORDING TO F. G. WEIR in his book "Scugog and its Environs" Joel Alldred came to spy out the land on the Island in 1844 and the next year he came with his family to settle on Conc 10. He was granted Lot 4 but cleared Lot 5 by mistake. On page 21, Mr. Weir goes on to describe Mr. Alldred getting across the lake and to his property. "He brought his luggage to the Island by means of a raft, landing at a place then known as Smith's Landing, but now Prentice's Landing. Mr. William Rodman ... moved his stuff from the landing to the place where he had chosen to settle, with a yoke of oxen. Mr. Weir then goes on to describe how that move might have been accomplished.

The Abstract Parcels Index actually shows Joel Alldred purchased his property at Conc 10 Lot 5, S ½ in 1855 from the Canada Company, so it is difficult to say that he cleared a different lot than he was allocated. Canada Company did not have the rights to Conc 10 Lot 4.

Joel Alldred was born in England, probably Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire. His half sister Ann stated in the 1901 Census that she came to Canada in 1834, so presumably Joel and his wife came around the same time or slightly earlier. Passenger lists do not list him on the same ship as his mother and some siblings, so he may have been in Canada earlier.

Joel was the third of four sons of William Alldred 1780-1820 and Hannah Woolley 1784-1872: John Flinders 1802-1888; William 1807-1898; Joel 1812-1892; and Henry 1815-1898. When Joel was seven years old, his father passed away and his mother was then married to William Vincent, born 1782. There



Submitted
by
Janis Carter

were three half siblings from this union; Caroline 1821-1891, Frederick 1824-1891 and Ann 1827-1915.

Joel Alldred and Elizabeth Holmes were married in England, before emigrating.

Apparently, they went to Huntley Twp, Carlton Co, where most of their children were born.

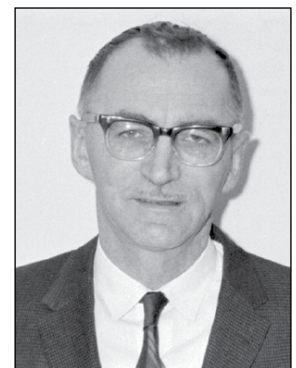
Having relocated to Scugog Island in about 1845, they proceeded to erect a log cabin on their property. By 1852, at the time of the first Canadian census, several other members of their family have settled here as well. Whether they all came at the same time, or whether they followed Joel has not been determined.

Next door to Joel, sharing a log cabin, were Frederick Vincent, Joel's half brother; William and Hannah Vincent, his mother and step-father; and his half sister Ann with her husband William Sweetman and their two children.

William Vincent had apparently served under General Brock in the War of 1812 and was wounded at the River Rouse, near the Detroit River. After the war, he was supposed to have settled in Durham County for a while before coming to Scugog.

In the same 1851 census, Rachel Sweetman and her 8 sons are listed right after the Joel Alldred family. They listed two families living in a shanty. In 1845-46 Rachel Sweetman had buried her husband Michael Sweetman in Clarke Township, where they had lived for a number of years, and relocated to Scugog with her family, daughter Ann and nine sons James, John, William, Nicholas, Michael, Patrick, Edward, Charles and Daniel. They became another important and long-term family of Scugog Island.

Abstract Deed books indicate that Conc 9 Lot 4 was patented to the Canada Company in 1841. In 1854 Frederick Vincent and William Sweetman each purchased parts of that lot. In



VICTOR ALDRED

1861, Frederick is listed as having a wife, Jessie, age 22, born in Canada West. By 1864, Frederick had sold his part of the lot to William Mackie and in 1866 William sold his to William Sexton. However, they are still listed in the Scugog tax rolls and census records until about 1870-71.

Abstract Deed books show that Conc 10 Lot 5 was patented to the Canada Company in 1841. In 1854, Joel Alldred purchased part. In 1855, James and John Sweetman purchased parts. This property of Joel Alldred's stayed in the Alldred family until the passing of Victor Alldred in 1997. It was then purchased by Willy Casteel and presumably is still owned by him (2021).

In addition to Joel's two half siblings coming to Scugog Island, by 1871, his brother Henry had also settled on the Island, very near Frederick Vincent, although he is not recorded as having any property.

Joel's oldest brother John, stayed in England, his brother William settled in Clarke or Manvers Township and his half sister Caroline and her husband Benjamin Fligg settled in Gray Co.

Before the 1881 Census took place, brothers Henry and Frederick, sister Ann and her husband William Sweetman and four of the Sweetman brothers had moved to Gosfield Township, Essex Co, Ontario and started their own dynasty of well-known families.

The Woolley names also appears in later census records, both in Scugog and in Gosfield, Essex Co. However, both of those families came to Canada much later and extensive British Isles research would have to be done, to determine if they were connected or not.

The Scugog John Woolley arrived in Canada in 1898 with 3 siblings as Barnardo (Home) children. Their father was James Wooley from Herefordshire, England. Their mother had passed away when they were quite young. They all ended up settling near Toronto and possibly the three siblings all went to the Woodbridge area, while John came to Reach.

The Gosfield, Essex Co John Woolley came to Canada in 1881, possibly from Ireland.

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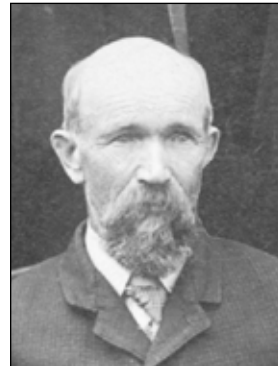
Joel Alldred and Elizabeth Holmes had a family of eight children; six sons John, Henry, Joel, Thomas, William, Philip, and two daughters Fanny and Sarah Elizabeth.

1. John: 1833-1914, married Mary Minor. Their son Charles moved to Reach Township and raised his family there.
2. Henry: born about 1838, married (1) Sarah Jane Minor, born 1838, (2) Agnes Hall. Sometime between 1871 and 1881, Henry moved his family to Victoria County, near Fenelon Falls and they seem to have become well ensconced there.
3. Joel: born about 1841, married in 1864 to Matilda Gilroy. Between 1871 and 1881, Joel moved his family to Sommerville Township, Victoria County.
4. Thomas: born about 1842 in Clarke Township, passed away at age 40, having remained single and living with his parents. Buried in Scoville Cemetery.

5. William: 1845-1922, married Elizabeth Howard of Columbus, Ontario and stayed on the family farm to raise his family. William and Elizabeth had six sons and four daughters as follows: George Henry, Nelson, Jonathan, Joel, Ira, Elizabeth Alberta, Malvina Jane, Maude E, Norman Percy, Lydia.

6. Of the daughters, two went to Saskatchewan and one to Toronto, although three are buried in Pine Grove Cemetery in Prince Albert.

The Alldred family has an oral tradition that William was the first white infant to be brought as a settler to Scugog Island. That is difficult to prove, as there were settlers on the Island as much as ten years before the Alldreds.



WILLIAM ALLDRED

Taken from the North Ontario Observer, 1919, in an article about Seven Mile Island '*...Mr Wm Alldred of Scugog, who, without doubt is the best posted man in that prosperous and progressive Island as regards to its settlement, improvement and progress; he having been the first white boy to see the light of day on Scugog, when an infant in arms, in 1847, he was rowed*

across the lake from the seventh concession of Reach and has up to the present time been a constant resident – baring about two years absence to Toronto.' William was the Reeve of Scugog Island in 1903-04. They are buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert.

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Their children:

1. George Henry: born about 1868, married in 1893 in Blackstock, Ontario to Bertha Hurlburt. By the 1911 census he had moved his family to Little Britain, Victoria County.
2. Nelson: 1871-1952, married to Florence May Hadley 1877-1950. They had 2 sons
3. Jonathan: 1874-1966, married in 1917 to Lucille Sweeting Sintzel 1880-1959. She was the daughter of the owners of Seven Mile Island. They remained on Scugog Island, on the original homestead, as did his family. One son Victor married Marjorie Milner of Scugog. He farmed, worked at General Motors and was the Reeve of Scugog Island from 1964-68. There were no children. Vic's brother Alan eventually came back to live on the Island until he passed away. He also had no children. Victor passed away in 1997 and after approximately 150 years, the original Alldred homestead farm passed out of the Alldred family.
4. Joel: 1878-1961, married in 1924 to Edna Catherine Gregg 1884-1966, daughter of John Gregg and Elizabeth Shier. They lived in Toronto, but returned to Scugog Island, before finally settling in Brooklin.
5. Ira: 1881-1958, married in 1917, in Toronto to Elizabeth May Gregg 1887-1968, daughter of John Gregg and Elizabeth Shier. They moved to Toronto, where the children were born, and

then moved to Stouffville. He returned to Scugog and raised his family on Concession Road 10 further East from the original homestead (actually Conc 9 Lot 8 and 9). Those families then raised their own families there. Ira owned the James Goodall Mill on the Port Perry lakefront, next door to Lake Scugog Lumber. In Oct. 1951, the mill was destroyed by fire. Ira's family were twin sons, Cameron and Douglas Aldred, who, after the mill burned, were out of work and had to go to work at General Motors. Cam lived in a one-storey bungalow, built by his father, Ira.



NORMAN P. ALDRED

Brother Doug lived across the road. One of Cam's daughters and his youngest son, Jim still live on part of the farm. Jim has one son who currently lives in the Lindsay area. Therefore, there is currently one person with the name Aldred still living on Scugog Island.

6. Elizabeth Alberta: 1883-1977, married William Kerr Ramsey 1883-1941, of Saskatchewan
7. Malvina Jane (Vina): 1885-1979, married in 1921 in Toronto to James Elmer Morish 1885-1942.
8. Maude E: 1888-1961, married in 1930 in Toronto to John Francis J Powers 1895-1956
9. Norman Percy: 1890-1974, married in 1919 in Toronto to Gertrude Lucille Prentice 1895-1975. They lived in Toronto and spent some time in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. At least one of his children was born in Minnesota. This is the father of Scugog Island's well-known politician and entertainer Joel W Aldred. Joel purchased land at Conc 11 Lot and was living on the Island as early as 1956. He spent many years between Toronto and Scugog Island, finally retiring to Scugog. He had no children.

10. Lydia: 1893-1922, married to Bertram Lloyd Hooley of Blackstock. They lived in QuAppelle, Saskatchewan and had no children.

11. Philip: 1848-1931, married in 1879 to Phoebe McHoull 1854-1882, daughter of Hugh McHoull and Phoebe Gerrow of Scugog Island. She died eight days after giving birth to their daughter Gertrude Zueleme. He then married Margaret Ann Muirhead. He raised his family on Scugog Island and stayed there until after 1911.

12. Sarah Elizabeth: born about 1851, married in 1871 to John Lansing, also of Scugog Island and they settled in Cartwright Twp.

I was unable to find any information about Fanny

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As well as Conc 10 Lot 5, where Joel first established his family and Conc 9 Lots 8 and 9 where the last Aldred's reside, there are many Aldred names scattered throughout the land records of Scugog Island.

Many descendants, moved off the family farm but stayed close, at least for a while. Jonathan Allred even ended up on Conc 10 Lot 4 at one time. This is the land eventual designated for Joel Allred which he mistakenly never occupied. It seems that William Aldred was the most prolific in regards to owning Island properties, but other names that appear are Nelson, Jonathan, Ira, Philp and later generations, as well.



JONATHAN ALDRED

There are still many Allred, Aldred and even Aldread descendants living in the Port Perry area and Durham Region.

It is not known exactly when the second "L" was dropped from the name and not all the families did drop it.

Your Donation is important!

As we must rely on fundraising and donations to continue to operate as Historical Society, the Board is always looking at ways to make giving simple for our donors.

Over the past year we have been investigating various ways to ensure the security of on-line donations and are pleased to report that you can now donate through the CanadaHelps



Organization - www.canadahelps.org. (by the way they are a charity too).

Simply visit their website and enter our name Lake Scugog Historical Society. CanadaHelps will issue you a tax receipt on-line. They then transfer the funds to us. What could be easier!!

Please help as we continue to try and stay sustainable through a Pandemic.

DONATE TODAY!



Scugog's Rinks

Submitted by Leanne Ashbridge

SKATING, hockey and curling have been enjoyed for generations. For many the rink is a central meeting place in the fall and winter months and has become pivotal to winter sports in Scugog.

The Olympia Skating Rink was the first known covered rink and it was located on the northeast corner of Lilla (now Simcoe St) and McDonald St. This rink was used for skating, hockey and curling.

When the Olympia Rink closed in 1913 the rink located behind the present day post office on Mary St that had been used by curlers since the late 1800s became the Central Skating Rink.



Arena on south-east side of Simcoe and Paxton St., circa 1925.

By 1919, it was determined that Port Perry needed a bigger indoor skating rink and the Port Perry Skating Rink was officially opened January 2, 1922. This rink was designed with a large skating/hockey surface with seating for 400 and included two curling slabs on either side. It was located on Lilla St (now Simcoe St) just south of Paxton Street near where the Kinsmen Hall, home of



Blackstock Arena, far back, Armouries and grandstand, 1965.



Port Perry Memorial Gardens arena, on Water Street, while it was still under construction in 1950.

Big Brothers Big Sisters, sits today. This rink was condemned and torn down sometime between 1946 and 1947.

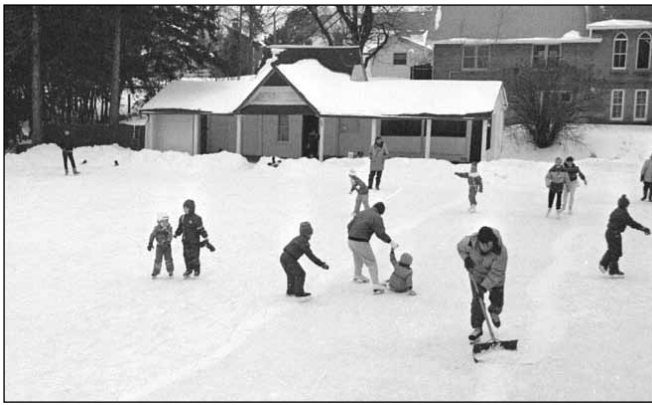
The existing Blackstock Arena on Church Street opened in 1941 and has been used for curling, figure skating, recreational skating and hockey for many years. The rink has been closed since the 2020 season.

The Port Perry Memorial Gardens located on Water Street behind the CIBC where the municipal parking lot is now was opened on January 12, 1951. The first home of the Port Perry Flamingos who played home games on Sunday evenings. Saturdays were reserved for house league hockey and public skating. Figure skaters used the ice on weeknights along with hockey team practices and all-star games. The rink was used by curlers on Friday nights until the new curling rink on Bay St was opened in October 1958.

In January 1977, the "new" Scugog Memorial Arena opened with a single ice pad on Reach Rd. The Memorial Gardens on Water Street was torn down in



Scugog's new arena under construction in 1976.



Skating on the old Bowling Green during the winter of 1987.



The open air "Ice Palace" on the lake was popular in 1991.

the summer of 1980 and a second ice pad was added to Scugog Memorial Arena in 2003.

Of course, Lake Scugog as well as many ponds in the surrounding rural areas have also been used for outdoor skating and pick up hockey. The lake has been used as practice ice for competitive figure skaters, organized pond hockey tournaments and by residents and visitors for recreational skating.

In 1987, an outdoor rink was created at the lawn bowling green located on Queen St across from the grocery store (now Reflection Park).

In the mid-90s, the Port Perry Kinsmen created a skating rink on Lake Scugog in front of Kinsmen Beach (where the children's play area is now). The skating rink was lined with Christmas trees donated by residents and even had lights for nighttime skating.

In more recent years, John Mackie, owner of the Port Perry Marina, has voluntarily cleaned sections of the ice in front of the marina and the pier for all to enjoy.

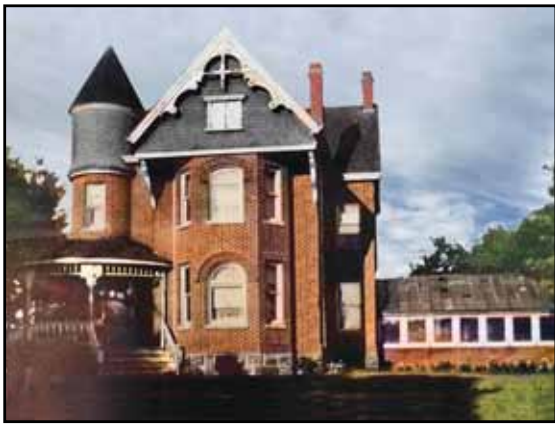


Ice Skating at the Port Perry High school rink in the 1950s.

As fall turns to winter the Scugog Memorial Arena is open and ready to be filled with the sounds of the blades cutting the ice for figure skaters, hockey players and those of us who just enjoy the rhythm of skating around in circles.



Skating on Lake Scugog has been an annual event for many years.



DID YOU KNOW?

Just over 90 years ago, on November 4, 1930, this beautiful Port Perry home was destroyed by fire. It was located near the intersection of Water St. and Hwy. 7A, along the southern shoreline of Lake Scugog, the approximate location of Dairy Queen today.

Fire departments from Port Perry and Brooklin raced to the scene to save the house, but lack of water made the job impossible, and it was completely razed in a few short hours. The spacious home featured an impressive turret, atrium, wrap around verandah and a green house.

The home was owned by Joshua and Frances Curts, who had it built in 1890 and they lived there right up until the time of the fire. Joshua Curts was a respected local businessman and served as Reeve for three terms during the 1880s and 1890s.



SCUGOG DIGITAL NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

Lake Scugog Historical Society

DIGITAL UPDATE



Two years ago the Lake Scugog Historical Society undertook an important project – the digitization of Port Perry’s newspapers. Since that time, despite running into many obstacles, including Covid-19, the First Phase of the Scugog Digital Project has been completed.

More than 4,000 issues of Port Perry area newspapers, dating from 1857 to 1933 are now online and available for viewing and researching from almost anywhere in the world.

Response to the availability of the newspaper have been very positive, as can be seen by the following information:

Month	Users	Sessions	% USA	%CDN	% ENG
July	432	746	49.77	45.83	2.78
August	147	300	55.78	36.73	5.44
Sept.	122	282	65.57	27.8	3.28

Due to the volume of newspapers to be digitized, the Scugog Digital Project has been divided into four phases.

PHASE ONE: - Completed - 1857 to 1933

PHASE TWO: - Digitize 13 issues of the “Port Perry Standard” and “Ontario Observer” from the 1800s, as well as the entire collection of the “Scugog Citizen” (1991-1996).

PHASE THREE: - Digitize the *Port Perry Star* newspapers from 1933 to 1970.

PHASE FOUR: - Digitize the remaining years of the “Port Perry Star” (1971-2000).

The directors are pleased to announce that Phase Two is now underway. Funds for this phase of the project, estimated at \$5,800, will come from the generous grants and donations the project has received from the community over the past year.

The newspapers of Phase Two, are currently being digitized, and our representative at OurDigital World expects the work to be completed by the end of November or early December. The aim of ODW is to give the LSHS an early Christmas present, with the files going online before Christmas, or New Years at the latest.

While this portion of the digital project is being processed, the directors are working on securing an agreement with TorStar / Metroland Media Group to digitize the remainder of the newspapers.

We are hopeful that by early next year, an agreement for digitizing will be completed, allowing the LSHS to continue with Phases Three and Four of the project.

<https://vitacollections.ca/lshs-news/search>



The Sawmills

In the Summer LSHS newsletter, I wrote an article about the Historic Grist & Flour Mills that were once found in Scugog Township. The second part of the research I am doing on local mills will highlight some of the significant sawmills that existed in the area.

Lake Scugog owes its very existence to a mill as over 400 acres were granted to the Purdy's of Lindsay to erect suitable mills to service their area and so they built a dam across the Scugog River to provide power for the mill at Lindsay and the result was a flooded area behind the dam which became the lake we know today.

The early settlers in Scugog Township depended on mills for their basic needs of food and shelter. The earliest sawmill in Scugog appears to be the Ianson Mill in Greenbank which was located on Conc. 10. and built in 1835. The Beare Grist Mill of 1840 also had a sawmill attached to its operation. Most of the other historic mills in Scugog were built after 1850.

Scugog because of its being heavily forested had over 25 sawmills spread across the various areas and most were water-powered. Water power would give way to steam power, followed by gasoline internal combustion engines and finally electric power. Remnants of the various water power mills can still be found usually by a small stream that was dammed to create a mill pond so that the flow could generate power.



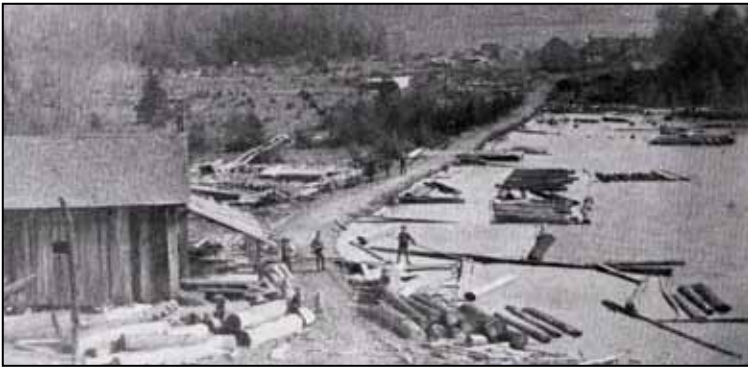
Sawmill located at Seagrave, date unknown.

Reach Township

It appears there were at least 7 sawmills in the Reach area with various owners over time.

They included: Ianson Mill (1835-Greenbank), Ianson Mill (Utica), Beare Mill (Greenbank-1840). A.B. Campbell Mill (1876- Utica), Alexander Stephens Mill (1884-Utica) , Cragg Mill (Utica-west of Coves Park), Daniel Way Mill which was run by George Currie and called the Currie Saw & Shingle Mill (1895-Utica) and may have also been the James Myers Shingle mill at one time, and the Jos. Stone Sawmill (Seagrave). There may have been an additional mill near the Blue Mountain area but I have not confirmed its existence yet.

When the Tornado of 1850 hit the Greenbank area



Sawmill located at Cadmus, circa 1900.

with tragic human results, it also blew the roof off the lanson sawmill and the cattle grazing nearby were blown or driven into the mill pond.

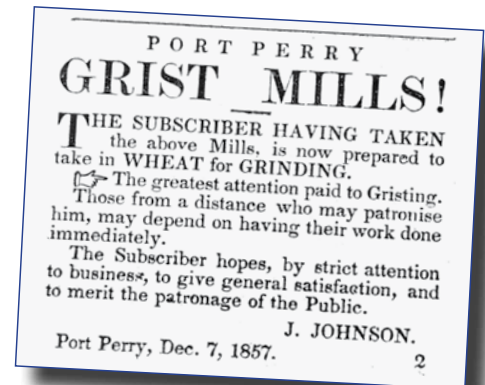
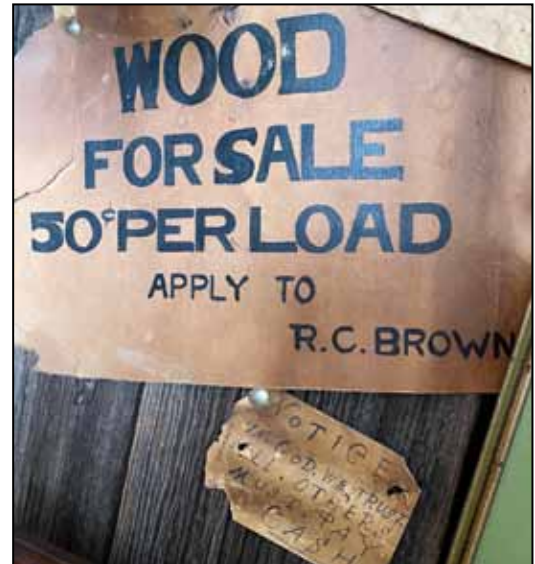
Cartwright Township

This area saw more than a dozen mills develop along the streams and rivers running north from the Oak Ridges Moraine. It has been noted in numerous histories of the area that the first mill here was built in 1851 but James Lawson on Conc. 6 Lot 19 was listed as a sawyer in 1842 milling 50,000 sq ft. of lumber per year. Along with the abundance of trees that needed clearing for agriculture and farming as well as logs for housing and barns, this aspect of the economic history of Cartwright was significant. In Doreen Van Camp's Cartwright history, she notes 12 significant mills – Ball Bros. Mill (St. Christopher's Beach), Richard Beckett Mill (1861- N/E corner Lot 2-Conc.6) Fallis Saw & Shingle Mill (1860's-Cadmus sold to Brown in 1890), Hooper Place Mill (Egypt), Ferguson Mill (1851-Landfall Farm NW corner), Fluke's Mill (1880's-Wright property), Lawson Mill (1842), Chapman's Mill (discontinued in 1939) , W.A. Loucks Mill (1861-Lot 18-Conc.5), Geo. McLaughlin Planing & Shingle Mill (south of Cartwright Park-Caesarea) , John Neeley Mill (1851), Watson's Lumber & Shingle Mill (1900-1919-Caesarea-behind Frayer house).

Interesting to note that the lumber from the Ferguson Mill was used to build the Presbyterian Church in Blackstock. I also noted reference to other mills referred to in various publications: Smiths Woods Mill (Bob Strong was the last owner) east side of Old Scugog Road just north of Byer's Road, Bailey's Mill was a sawmill east of Blackstock on Edgerton Road run by Art Bailey & Wes Pearce. For a time this location also known as the Vanderhuel farm and now owned by Maggie Van Camp and finally the Burton Mill in the lost village of Burton – a lumber & shingle mill it can be found on an old map of Manvers Township and is mentioned in the Rolling Hills book and although it is on the Manvers side of the road it was quite likely sawing lumber for both of these Townships.



Richardson Planing Mill, Port Perry, 1880s.



Port Perry Saw Mills

The remains of the many sawmills in Port Perry can be found every time a project is built on our waterfront. Most of what we think is dirt under our feet is actually sawdust and rail bed as this was Port Perry's first industrial park.

The first sawmill on the waterfront was built by Samuel Hill of Whitby in 1846 and contained only one saw. The next year in 1847 Way & Paxton built their saw mill and it later became the Paxton Saw mill who then sold to William Sexton in the early 1850's and it operated until 1877 when it was sold for a tannery. It was located south of today's waterfront pier which was known as Sexton's Wharf at the time.



Paxton steam sawmill along Lake Scugog lakefront about 1880.

There were many other mills along the waterfront John Cameron & Port Perry Land Co. built a sawmill/grist mill where the GTR railway station was in Palmer Park and it was run by the Paxtons and burnt down in 1856. In 1856, a young William Trounce arrived from Cornwall England and Trounce's Union Mills were founded -it was both a saw and grist mill. Thomas Paxton & Co. were also back in business with a steam saw mill by 1858.

In 1853 there was a mill built by Stephen Doty at the west end of the Scugog Bridge (causeway) and it was later bought by Joseph Bigelow. In the early 1870's, W.J Trounce partnered with Bigelow and it became Bigelow & Trounce saw mill. This mill produced the lumber for the fences along the Nip 'N Tuck line from Whitby to Port Perry. Trounce bought out Bigelow in 1887 and this mill closed a year later.

Richardson's Planing mill was also located in the waterfront area in the 1860's and was driven by a 25 horse-power engine.

As well, Abner Hurd built a sawmill in the Borelia area in 1831 (west of the beer store) and in the Tornado of 1850 it was "blown to pieces" (Shores of Scugog) however that might have been a good ending to this mill as it was hampered by insufficient water as the small creek only ran fast during the spring run-off.

By the late 1880's the pine forests around Lake Scugog were becoming exhausted of good timber and most of those industries that had filled the waterfront area were declining but one large grain elevator with its 18 bins built by George Currie in 1874 remained. It ceased operation as a grain mill in 1979 and began its most recent history being re-purposed for many stores and also widely used in the filming done in downtown area.

Old mills are a symbol of early industrial enterprise in Ontario. The early mills led to the growth of many other local industries such as the Paxton, Tate Co. & Port Perry Foundry to name a few. As well, these mills supplied most of the lumber from which many of our early buildings were built.

My hope is that these articles will encourage our readers to help LSHS preserve & protect this special history which led to the development of our community as we know it. Trees, water, ingenuity & entrepreneurship – still very significant community values today.

STEAM SAW MILL,
AT
PORT PERRY

WE the undersigned have just started our Steam Saw Mill at Port Perry, and prepared to execute all orders in our line on the

SHORTEST NOTICE.

We have procured a first rate SIDING MILL for the manufacture of

SIDING, FLOORING, AND FENCING,
Being a uniform thickness at each end, and no sub-shot on the Boards. Seasoned Flooring always on hand, also a large quantity of

SQUARE TIMBER,
From 8 to 12 inches square, and all lengths up to 60 feet. Terms liberal.

THOMAS PAXTON & Co.
Port Perry, May 25th, 1858. 24-1f

JOSEPH BIGELOW,
MANUFACTURER AND DEALER
In Sawed Lumber, Sawed Shingles, Flour Barrel Heading and Flour Barrel Staves.
A LARGE STOCK ON HANDS AT ALL TIMES!
Also Proprietor of Port Perry Sash and Door Factory.
Face planing, Matching, Scroll Sawing, Turning, Moulding,
etc., etc., done on the shortest notice
Port Perry August, 10th, 1866. 1-7

Scugog Shores Museum Village & Archives News

Submitted by Victoria Karakian, assistant curator, Scugog Shores Museum

It has been a busy season back in action at the museum! We have welcomed hundreds of guests back to the Museum Village over the past few months and are pleased to be running our yearly events once again.

Pioneer Day on August 22nd saw the Village come to life once again and a Tree Dedication Ceremony on September 26th hosted by the Lake Scugog Historical Society are a few highlights of the season! The season will close out with the Children's Old Fashioned Christmas event on December 5th; sharing Victorian holiday traditions and the magic of the Village dressed for Christmas.



2021 has also been a busy year for curatorial improvements throughout the Village. An audio tour has been produced and published to Spotify, available for download and streaming at home or at the Village. We hope to continue making improvements to the audio tour to improve accessibility. New exhibit signs have been designed for the Ojibway Heritage Interpretive Lands and are in the process of installation. Be sure to have a look next time you visit the Museum. You can also visit our web-site for regular up-dates at www.scugog.ca/museum.

In the Summer of 2022, look forward to a photography exhibit in partnership with The Passing Show Photography Club to be displayed in the Village Emporium. The Passing Show works to document the past through artistic photography and has worked with other heritage organizations such as the Whitchurch—Stouffville Museum. This exhibit will feature photographs of heritage architecture and objects combined with photos from the Archives and artifacts.

A few donations have made their way to the Museum and Archives this season, highlights being a collection of Yearbooks from Port Perry Highschool and the return of Memorial Stones originally from the Head Cemetery!

The Museum is in the process of transforming the Schoolhouse basement into a research area for guests and staff, follow us on social media for updates as they occur. We look forward to a great 2022 season and hope to see many members of the LSHS visit the Village and say hello.



**PIONEER DAYS
2021**



LAKE SCUGOG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Lake Scugog Historical Society (LSHS) members and board members energetically welcomed our first in-person community event since Covid 19 pandemic lockdown!

And what a significant historical event it was. We celebrated the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Town of Port Perry. The event included appearances by notable time travelers from our history. Some as portrayed by Historical Society members!

Most importantly our new President, Marilyn Pearce and other Board members used the opportunity of the well-attended event to raise the Society's profile for newcomers.

Thanks to the generous folks at the Piano Café, Marilyn, along with Janis Carter, Treasurer and myself staffed a table on Queen Street to welcome new and old members to the Society. As life slowly returns to normal post-pandemic, those who stopped to visit our table commented that it was exciting to celebrate with neighbours and friends the history of Scugog township, and Port Perry's beautiful architecture again.

New residents and tourists alike expressed interest in learning about the Society. All had appreciation for the opportunity to be part of a community event free of lock-down after 20 months. It was a successful outing for the Society in that we signed up new LSHS members and veteran LSHS members also engaged the opportunity to renew their membership for 2022.

The Society has committed to expand the membership roll in 2022. All new Historical Society members for 2022 will receive a copy of Samuel Farmer's book "On the Shores of Scugog". This book is the first published about the history of Reach Township, Port Perry, Lake Scugog and surrounding areas. The book, published in 1913, "relates the dramatic history of the early settlement in Port Perry, Ontario in the early to mid-nineteenth century".

The good news about our membership initiative is that there are more options than ever for members to pay dues and others to become members of the Lake Scugog Historical Society:

1. Mail in your payment to Janis Carter, LSHS Treasurer c/o 175 Perry Street, Port Perry, ON L9L 1B8.
2. Drop off an envelope with payment details, to *Books Galore* at 175 Perry St. in downtown Port Perry; or
3. Send an E-Transfer to lakescugoghistoricalociety@gmail.com.

Fees for 2022 are: \$15.00 per individual; \$25.00 for a family membership and business members join for \$50.00.

We look forward to welcoming you to our speaker events throughout the year, the Antique and Nostalgia Show in February 2022 and other LSHS activities in the New Year!

Karen Puckrin
Membership Secretary



The Legend Of John Ross Roach



Evan Monsma

By Evan Monsma

John Ross Roach was a terrific person and he was a great goaltender in the NHL. Since hockey season is starting back up, I thought I should write about a hockey player, native to Port Perry.

John Ross Roach was born on June 23, 1900, in Port Perry. He was the son of John and Priscilla (Ruddy) Roach. There is not much known about his childhood or his personal life.

When he was in high school, he attended the nearby Port Perry High School. At the age of 21, in the winter of 1921, he signed with the Toronto St. Pats of the PCHA. Only standing at 5'5", and weighing 130 pounds, Roach began his hockey career.

He played with the St. Pats through his rookie season and they won a Stanley Cup that year. Roach continued to play for the St. Pats until he signed with the Toronto Maple Leafs. At the beginning of the 1928-29 NHL season, Roach was traded to the New York Rangers, where he continued to put up great numbers

In late October of 1932, Roach was traded again to the Detroit Red Wings. He retired from the NHL at the end of the 1934-35 season. During his three-year stint in Detroit, he made an All-Star appearance and he was really close to winning a Vezina Trophy, awarded to the best goaltender of the year, but Roach was beat out by Hall of Famer, Clint "Tiny" Thompson.

John Ross Roach retired after playing 14 seasons in the NHL. During those 14 years, he gained a few nicknames, such as, Little Napoleon, The House-cleaner, The Port Perry Woodpecker, and my personal favourite, The Port Perry Cucumber. During his life, Roach married Gertrude Stover. John Ross Roach sadly passed away on July 9, 1973, at the age of 73, and he is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert.

Overall, John Ross Roach is a Port Perry legend who a lot of people forget. He has gone down as one of the best goaltenders from the 1920's and 30's. He is also one of few NHL players to come out of Port Perry so we should recognize what John Ross Roach did.

