

LAKE SCUGOG

HISTORICAL

SOCIETY

VILLAGE PRINT SHOP

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2022

Lake Scugog Historical Society

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



President's Message

by
Marilyn Pearce



Welcome to the LSHS Spring newsletter and I hope everyone has stayed safe and well during this historic Pandemic. We are cautiously hopeful that LSHS will be able to offer a full program of events to our members and donors over the next 12 months. The Executive Board is back meeting on a regular basis and what a relief to meet in person after months of Zoom calls and emails. But as everyone suggests there will be a "New Normal" to our future plans and soon you will be receiving a membership survey to determine if we are on the right path with upcoming activities or whether you have other ideas on how we can best serve you.

We continue to up-date our web-site where you can find all our newsletters from the past as well as our gallery of events and our contact information. Our digitization of Scugog's newspapers continues as we now have the former Scugog Citizen on-line. Our thanks to Peter Hvidsten and our donors for their perseverance in making these historical documents available to everyone from the comfort of their

home. We are encouraging our Museum to make their archives and artifact collection digital as well so folks can visit and research their extensive collection.

As we enjoy the new beginnings that spring offers, the planning is underway for our 2022 Annual General Meeting on May 17th where we will announce a new Award to be presented each year to a resident of Scugog who has shown an outstanding commitment in preserving our local history. More to follow in my next monthly members up-date on how you can nominate someone who you feel is worthy of this recognition. Also at our AGM, Brighton author Dan Buchanan will be speaking on his newest book "The Wreck of the HMS Speedy" and its Scugog connections.

Even though Covid tried to slow us down, our Executive Board has been working to find new ways to connect with the public while not forgetting about our traditional programs of historical walks, speaker series, book signings and special events. This summer, we plan to bring back the LSHS Garden Party on the Museum grounds on July 24th. This will be a very special day to celebrate our history with the founding of the museum and all it has to offer - please save the date.

As your President, I am thoroughly enjoy working with this energetic Executive Board to further the aims of the LSHS that were passed down from our original founders in 1969. If you have an idea or suggestion please share it with us as we continue to stimulate interest in our local history.

See you soon - I hope.

Lake Scugog Historical Society BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021-2022

President: Marilyn Pearce
Vice-President: Dan Stone
Secretary: Bill Minors
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You can find LSHS on Facebook, or at:
lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com
or by mail at:

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

COVER PHOTO - The Village Print Shop at Scugog Shores Museum, Scugog Island. Photo courtesy of Compton Cable TV., 1991.

Bill's Book Review

Bomb Girls

TRADING APRONS FOR AMMO

BY BARBARA DICKSON
DUNDURN PUBLISHING 2015
\$26.99



BILL MINORS

If you want the story of “the woman behind the man behind the gun” you cannot go far wrong with Barbara Dickson’s BOMB GIRLS. When Canada entered World War 2 in 1939 we committed not only our

Military resources but our industrial capacity. As the war progressed Canada was able to provide

vast amounts of tanks, weapons, aircraft, shipping and above all, ammunition. In December 1940, the Government contracted with a mining company, General Engineering Company, or GEECO, who had previously been building military depots, to build a munitions plant in Scarborough. Scarborough in 1940 was not the urban metropolis it is today, but rather an area of rolling farmland on the outskirts of Toronto. It was probably ideal as it was close enough to draw upon Toronto’s working population, but as it was not a densely populated which would be harmed if something (ahem) should go wrong.

By June 1941, thanks to 2,600 construction workers, the plant was in operation. Much thought was given to the safety of the plant. Isolating operations involved in filling a munition within one building minimized widespread damage should an explosion occur. The plant was split into two sections; “Clean” and “dirty”. Workers on the clean side wore special clothing and shoes that would minimize static electricity, and they followed stringent anti-spark rules in meticulously clean workshops. It

should be noted that although there were some minor explosions and injuries not one life was lost to accidents.

In fact this was the only munitions plant in the world which could make such a claim. Sadly there was one fatality when a worker was killed in a bus crash outside the plant.

GEECO would fill over a million ammunition units per month throughout the war. At the height of its production there were over 5300 employees, of which 3400 were women. Production ran around the clock six days a week, except for Sunday (this was Toronto after all). There were designated spots where employees could board the company bus which would take them to work.

I imagine there were worse places to work, there was a 2,000 seat cafeteria, open around the clock, serving 3,000 meals a day. There was a doctor and nurses permanently on call. There was an active social calendar where employees could take part in softball, tennis, hockey, even horseback riding.

Needless to say, once the war ended there was no need for the plant, it was shut down and everyone had to look for work.

The Government even ordered the plant owners to destroy most of the documentation. There is little left of the plant, but if you travel along The Golden Mile in Scarborough, you are roughly where it was situated.

If you want to read about the civilian (mostly women’s) contribution to World War 2, this book is highly recommended.



PIONEER FAMILIES



THE STINSONS *of Cartwright Township*



By Linda Stinson
Spring 2022

On a trip to Port Perry last fall, I learned that the farm my father, Orval Stinson, grew up on was up for sale. I had long wanted to visit the place and knew I might not have another chance. Don Green has lived on the farm at 3250 Bradburn Road since my grandparents, Richard (Dick) and Rosetta (Rosie) Stinson sold it to the Greens in 1951.

Don told me that as a young lad, living across the road, he used to love visiting Dick and Rosie. He didn't know Orval that well as he wasn't around at the time. Similarly, Orval's sisters Marion and Lola had married (Don MacKinnon and Morley Bruce respectively) and were no longer on the farm. He remembered Roy the best, and particularly that he was worshipped by Don and his pals because Roy was still single at the age of 30!

He did remember Orval and Alan Carter joining the army, and thought that it was likely through Alan's group of friends that Orval met his wife Patricia Pearce of Newcastle. Pat had been in the same nursing class as Marion Redmond Carter and Jean Metcalfe Jeffrey, whose husband John was also a good friend of Orval's. After his service, Orval decided to become an electrician. He and Pat relocated to Chesley where he established his own business.

Don's stories gave me a more complete picture of my grandfather, who died when I was 4. Don's love of family history was evident, and I was motivated to record the story of the Stinson family in Cartwright. There is not much written in the local history books about the Stinsons.

Richard Stinson's grandfather Thomas Francis Stinson was born in County Cavan, Ireland and immigrated to St. Catharines in 1840 at age 4, with his parents and sisters. His father Samuel was murdered in 1846 and the family was split up. Young Thomas (aged 10) was sent to Cavan township to live with relatives.

Tom married to Mary McClelland in 1855 and they lived for a while in Cartwright and Cavan before settling in Manvers. Their sons, Samuel and John moved to Peterborough and Grey County respectively. Sons Robert



Dick and Rosie Stinson



(Mary Fowler) and Thomas Henry (Sarah Fowler) stayed nearby, Robert farming in Manvers and Thomas Henry (Tommy) in Cartwright. The youngest son, William, I've been unable to trace.

Tommy and Sarah (Sadie) moved to Cartwright in 1899. Their children, Gordon, Frank, Richard and Ethel attended schools at Lifford, Devitts, Egypt and finally Purple Hill. Tommy and Sadie eventually purchased the farm at Lot 9, Concession 3 or 3250 Bradburn from Larry Werry.

Son Gordon and Margaret (Fitze) farmed first just south of Blackstock then near Cadmus. Their sons Gerald and Lewis married sisters Nora and Lydia Ginn. Gerald and Nora settled in the Oshawa area, Lewis and Lydia farmed near Cadmus.

Frank married Annie Nixon (from Orono), who had taught Frank's younger siblings at Purple Hill. Frank farmed before retiring to Blackstock in 1936.

Dick and Rosie (nee Wright) purchased a farm at the very west end of Concession 3 (Blackburn Rd), a dead end. As the family grew, more space was needed and when Thomas, retired to Blackstock in 1929, they rented their Ranch farm to Dick's sister and her husband, Lorne Griffin, and bought his parents farm. The children attended school in Blackstock along with lots of cousins from their mother's side.

When they sold the property to Jack Green in 1951, they also sold the Ranch farm. According to Don Green, Dick and his cousin Edmund Fowler, a carpenter, dismantled the original Ranch house and used the lumber to build two homes on Jackman Road in Bowmanville, one for Dick and Rosie, the other for Edmund and wife Verna.

The property at 3250 Bradburn Road has been with the Stinson and the Green families for more than 100 years. May the next owners continue to treasure it!



BLACKSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOL, SS#2, CARTWRIGHT TOWNSHIP, 1929

Front row, from left: Ross Bailey, Ralph Larmer, John Werry, Roger Dorrell, Orval Stinson, Ray Graham, Ronald Trewin, Roy Werry, Harold Crawford, Bob Jackson. Middle row, from left, Helen Van Camp, Gwenyth Marlow, Mabel Van Camp, Marion Stinson, Kathleen Taylor, Lorna Trewin, Aileen Werry, Pearl Wright, Earl Jackson, Roy Stinson. Back row, from left: Frank Wright, Elmer Archer, Frank Woodard, Vincent Archer, Anson Taylor, Les Beacock, Lulu Wright, Eva Graham, Hazel Wright, Jean Wright, Mildred Archer, Kathleen Phoenix, teacher.



BLACKSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOL, SS#2, CARTWRIGHT TOWNSHIP, JUNE 1937

Grade 8 Students of Blackstock Public School - Front, Roy Stinson. Back row, from left, Kathleen Dorrell, Anna Thomson, Gwenyth Marlow, Marion Hill and Helen Van Camp..

SCUGOG DIGITAL NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

Lake Scugog Historical Society

DIGITAL UPDATE

By J. Peter Hvidsten

PHASE TWO

Since my last report in January, we have been able to fully complete Phase 2 of the Scugog Digital Project. You may recall we realized after the Scugog Citizen was made available on the Scugog Digital Newspaper Collection, there were about a dozen copies missing, including the first issue of the newspaper.

Thankfully, the microfiche copies of the newspaper, held by the Scugog Memorial Public Library, were still in possession of the missing copies. Those issues have now been digitized and were uploaded onto the site in mid- February.

This completed Phase 2 of the project.

PHASE THREE

Work on Phase 3, has been slow, but thankfully we are now able to work towards an agreement with Metroland Media so that we may digitize the remaining issues of the Port Perry Star to the year 2000.

The Lake Scugog Historical Society have retained the law firm of Berskin & Parr, who specialize in "Public Domain" and "Intellectual Property."

The selection of Berskin & Parr came about after learning one of their lawyers, Denver Bandstra was a native of Scugog Township. Denver arranged with a senior colleague to engage in our project to finalize an agreement Metroland.

A "Retainer Agreement" has been signed and the work is now underway to create a revised Agreement which can be sent back to Metroland for consideration. We have emphasized to Berskin & Parr that we have a maximum \$2,000 budget.

We expect an agreement with Metroland will take some negotiating, but hopefully, before the end of 2022, Phase 3 - which includes years 1933-1970 will be completed and added to the site before the end of 2022.

Check out the Scugog Digital Newspapers at
<https://vitacollections.ca/lshs-news/search>

REMEMBERING

Samuel A. Cawker



By Evan Monsma

Samuel Cawker, or S.A. Cawker is someone who I feel doesn't get as much credit as he deserves. Just recently, I have done some research on Mr. Cawker and I knew I had to write about him.

Samuel Arthur Cawker was born on October 18, 1905. He was the son of Samuel and Leona (Boynton) Cawker. Cawker attended many different schools in Port Perry before going to college and becoming a teacher.

His first job was teaching in a one-room school near Caesarea. He took a pause from teaching for a few years to get into the hardware business with his brothers in Toronto.

Mr. Cawker moved back to Port Perry to teach at the Port Perry elementary school. He retired in 1968 as a vice principal. In 1989, a new elementary school in Port Perry opened. The school was called S.A. Cawker Public School, named after Mr. Cawker. It just so happens that this is the school that I attend currently.

In life, Mr. Cawker ended up marrying Mabel Armstrong. He passed away on November 2, 1992, at the age of 88. Only three years after S.A. Cawker Public School opened.

In conclusion, Samuel A. Cawker was a great teacher and a great citizen of Port Perry. He was understanding and looked at everything with an excellent point of view. On November 2, 1992, Port Perry lost a great man.

LAKE SCUGOG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

UPCOMING Events

* Confirmed events highlighted in red.

May 17, 2022

* **Annual General Meeting**
Speaker Dan Buchanan

June 2022
Historical Walk

July 24, 2022

* **LSHS Garden Party**
at the Museum 1-4pm
Members & Special Guests

August 2022
Heritage Day at the Museum
Opening of the Jimmy Frise
Art Exhibit

September 2022
Historical Walk
(Culture Days)

October 18, 2022
Speaker Series

October 22 & 23
* **24th Annual Antique
Show & Sale**

November 8
Speaker Series



LAKE SCUGOG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 17, 2022 - 7 P.M.

Guest Speaker: Dan Buchanan, author

Annual General Meeting prior to speaker



In 1804, the killing on Washburn Island, Lake Scugog of trader John Sharp led to the subsequent loss on Lake Ontario of the HMS Speedy bearing the accused member of the Mississauga First Nation & Trial Officials. Join well known author & historian Dan Buchanan as he discusses his newest book with new found research around the loss of the Speedy.

ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

319 QUEEN ST., PORT PERRY

www.lakescugoghistoricalsociety.com

Lake Scugog Historical Society OUR PUBLICATIONS



A history of steamboating on the south central Kawartha Lakes.
Cost: \$30

**On the
Shores of Scugog**

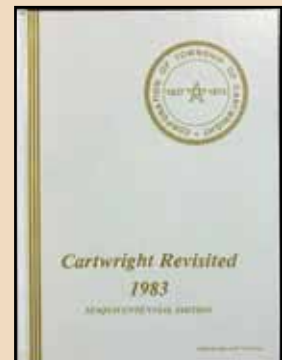


by Samuel Farmer

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



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



Cartwright Revisited 1983
Sesquicentennial Edition.
Cost: \$15

SCOVILLE CEMETERY



A little known and well-hidden pioneer cemetery.

By Janis Carter,
February 2022



SCUGOG ISLAND was settled quite a lot later than the surrounding townships in the area, primarily due to its rather isolated situation. Even so, there are two pioneer cemeteries, both located towards the southern end of the Island.

One is the “Head Memorial Cemetery”, located on the grounds of the Scugog Shores Museum. It was established in about 1870 as a burying ground for the Head Methodist Church by Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada. Although it became a Methodist Cemetery in early 1870, there had already been earlier burials taking place there.

The other pioneer cemetery is the “Scovill Cemetery”, located a couple of miles north of the Head Cemetery, on the west side of the Island Road, with access through a cornfield.

Stephan Scoville (sometimes spelled Scovill or Scovell) and his extended family were some of the earliest settlers on Scugog Island. His granddaughter, Helen Pickle is reputed to be the first white child born on the Island, in 1833. Mr Scoville settled at Concession 7 Lot 23, with his land being not being registered until 1846.

He donated one half acre of his farm to become a public cemetery. Registered in 1864, the land was transferred from himself and a grandson-in-law, Richard Davey, for a price of five dollars, to trustees Samuel Wakeford, Samuel McKinley and James Smallman, for the purpose of a public burying ground..

It is quite likely that there had been burials taking place here well before that time, as one of his sons-in-law, Thomas Pickle had drowned in Lake Scugog about 1836. However, there is no monument for him, so it is just supposition that this is his burial place.

Very few stones still exist and they are starting to fall into disrepair. The cemetery has a lovely view out over Lake Scugog and the grounds themselves are surrounded by growth of trees, brush and grapevines which in some places are encroaching on the burial sites. There are also a lot of groundhog holes among the gravesites

The cemetery stones have been transcribed. The stone with the oldest



Headstone for James and his wife, Emily Sweetman at Scoville Cemetery

burial date is dated 1847; Catherine Cole, died June 1847, wife of Henry Cole. Other researchers have said that Catherine Cole was originally buried further up the Island near Lakeside Beach, and that her body was moved and re-interred in this cemetery, after it became a public cemetery.

Aside from Catherine’s stone, the oldest burial dates on existing stones are for 1858. One for the young sons of Samuel and Harriet Wakeford; William age 3 and George age 6. How sad to lose two young children at the same time. The other stone from 1858 is for Mable May Noon.

The latest death date on existing stones is for Alma E Emerton, 1891-1974, wife of Charles Emerton 1891-1944.

There is an existing plot map, drawn in 1936 by J. L. Sweetman, and a list of known burials, probably compiled about the same time. Between these two sources and the existing monuments, this is a multitude of early Scugog Island settlers’ names, some of the families still residing on the Island today.

Some of these names are: Scovell, Aldred, Cole, Colton, Collins, Foster, Finley, Sweetman, Gerrow, Hadley, McDermott, McKinley, Plum, Reader, Thorn, Wannamaker, Davey, Vincent and Wakeford and many others.

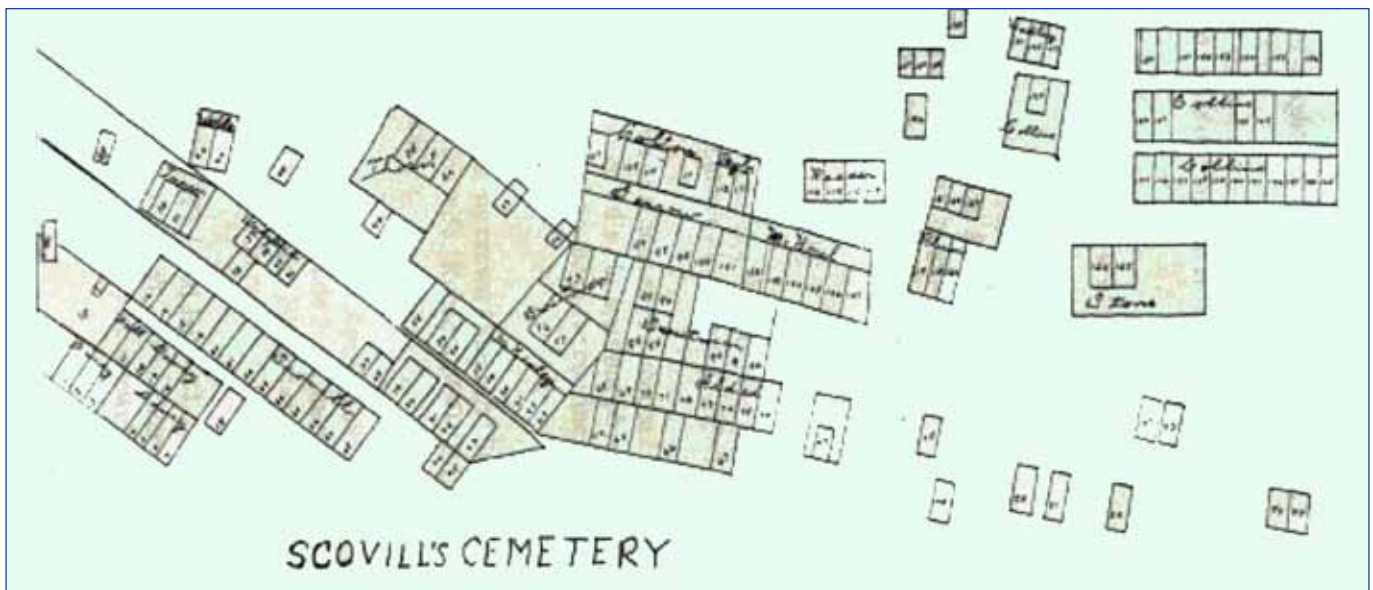
There are a few existing markers that have distinctive emblems on them. The marker of a Scovell son, has the emblem of a weeping willow, meaning ‘resurrection of the soul’. There is a broken stone with the top containing a thistle design, flanked by a rose on each side. The stone is broken above any names, but the rose emblem is generally used on a female’s marker and the thistle is quite often used for someone originally from Scotland. A Thorn monument has a left hand with the index finger pointing up and surrounded by a banner. The hand positioned this way generally means ‘hope of Heaven’.

There is also a Ryan stone that has had the lettering hand carved.

A complete transcription of the cemetery can be purchased at: Scugog Township – Ontario Ancestors (ogs.on.ca) for a cost of \$3.00.



Headstone for James and his wife, Emily (Finley) Sweetman at Scoville Cemetery.



Plot map of the Scoville Cemetery on Scugog Island.

The Legend Of "BIG" JIM JOHNSON

JAMES "JIM" JOHNSON was born on September 20, 1860 on Scugog Island, one of three children raised by his father John and mother Susan (Jonson) Johnson. In 1865, his father was elected Chief of the Scugog Mississauga Reservation on the Island.

When James grew into manhood he was described as being very tall, muscular, and had a quiet and genial manner. For most of his adult life, he earned a living basket weaving, hunting, fishing and providing expert guide services to clients from all over southern Ontario.

On April 16, 1913 the *Toronto Telegram* reported, "Hundreds of sportsmen from Toronto knew 'Jim' as the greatest Indian guide of the whole Iroquois Valley. For years he has guided hunters and fishermen all over the dozens of lakes a rivers around southern Ontario. He knew the Scugog, Balsam, Rice and Sturgeon lakes and he also knew where the best fish were in the summer and where the best ducks were in the fall.

From his home on the Scugog Island reservation he would paddle to Port Perry to pick up his customers, or paddle north on the Scugog River to Lindsay to take a large number in a row boat or motor launch, for miles to the sporting grounds of the wonderful district.

Jim was an immense big man, a giant among men. He was described as being six feet five inches tall, and was built in proportion. He was strong as a horse and exceedingly popular with all whom he came in contact.

Jim knew no fear and no matter how rough the water on Lake Scugog, nor whether it was a big boat or his fast canoe he could always bring his parties back dry and fast. He never lost a soul nor did he ever have a serious upset. He

was a master canoeist."

One American businessman, who had made annual fishing trips to Lake Scugog for years, said, "He was a prince. You could trust him with anything. As chief guide he was a wonder with the paddle and an oarsman which could not be beaten for strength and skill. If we struck a storm "Jim" would just work a little harder. His knowledge of the haunts of fish and game was little short of marvelous."

On Good Friday in 1913, Jim had walked seven miles across Lake Scugog to Port Perry to pick up supplies, and while returning to the reservation, he got his feet wet and contracted pneumonia a few days later.

Jim died on Wednesday, April 3, 1913 at his Island home at 53 years of age. He was such a large man, a special made-to-order casket had to be brought from Toronto. A funeral service was held in the Indian Church on Scugog Island on April 5th and he was interred in the Indian Cemetery.

By J. Peter Hvidsten

From "60 Easy to Read Scugog Stories"



Illustration only. This is not a picture of Jim Johnson.

LAKE SCUGOG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP

REPORT



By Membership Chair: Karen Puckrin

“To stimulate interest in local history among district residents by holding meetings and events of historical interest. It should not be forgotten that today’s events are tomorrow’s historical events.”

The above quotation is from Lake Scugog Historical Society’s (LSHS) Constitution. It is the Society’s first aim.

LSHS has a desire and mandate to promote membership in our organization and to be inclusive of all who have an interest in Scugog’s history. The population of the area has grown since the Society’s inception. Board members noticed that newer residents demonstrate a genuine interest in, and curiosity about our history as evidenced by our presence at the “Port Perry 150” celebration last fall and Paul Arculus’ book launch event in December.

We have exciting news!

The Board has endorsed a survey of current and former LSHS supporters to assess their thoughts about membership. The aim of the anonymous survey is to:

- Learn current members’ knowledge of and participation in LSHS events,
- Identify how to reconnect with former members,
- Develop a plan to attract new members.

Topics the survey covers include:

- The benefits of membership.
- Activities and events.
- New events for members.
- Communication with members: methods, frequency, content, and quality.

The survey will be sent out via email in mid-April. The results will be presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday May 17, 2022.

To ensure inclusion in the survey, please renew your 2022 membership soon.

To simplify renewal, there is a membership form on the website. The form is the quick and convenient way to maintain your membership. Here is the link to the form:

<https://lakescugoghistoricalsociety.com/membership-form/>

You can still mail in your payment to

Janis Carter,
LSHS Treasurer
c/o 175 Perry Street,
Port Perry, ON L9L 1B8.

Or drop off an envelope with payment details, to Books Galore at 175 Perry St. in downtown Port Perry. Keep an eye on your email inbox for the survey. The Board looks forward to hearing from you!



if TREES could TALK

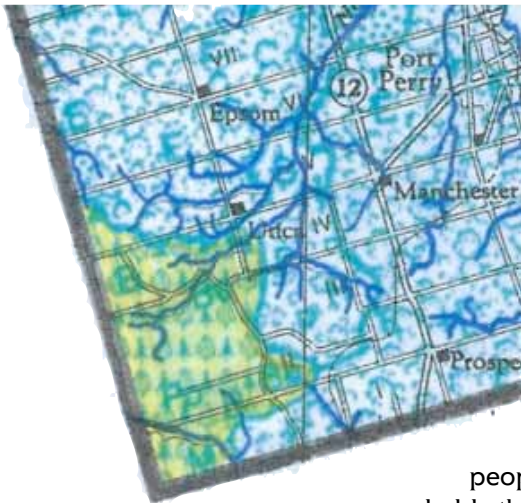
Trees Might Not Talk, but Forests Can Tell Stories

By Pat Baldwin
Spring 2022



I WAS SNOOPING around the Lindsay library searching for land use history in the township of Scugog. I was doing research when returning the University of Toronto, Faculty of Forestry. You can't imagine my surprise at finding a map which depicted the forests here at the time of European settlement. Early surveyors kept records of tree types, streams and other notable features on this new land being settled by Britain. The forest in a section of south western Scugog was composed of pine and oak. Now, that is a unique feature. Such a forest is created when corn fields and settlements are developed by first native people. It was their habit to first clear the area by burning.

About 10 to 20 years later, they abandoned the site when the soils become depleted. Once farming ends, pine can grow in depleted soils and commonly produce an even aged forest with pine in abundance. Oak bark also is fire resistant and can often survive the burning. So, when I saw a pine-oak forest such as the one on this map (see yellow highlighted area), the forest was telling me that land had an agricultural history.



Partial reproduction of the *Heritage Studies on the Rideau-Quite-Trent-Severn Waterway, Study Map, No. 2*

In investigating further, I wasn't surprised to learn that Uxbridge was home to archeological sites occupied by people who were the ancestors of the Huron Wendat. In fact, there are numerous sites in Durham which document their occupation. I just hadn't realized that they had made their home in the Scugog area, too. But here it was on a map. The most eastern edge of their settlement was mostly west of Ashburn Road and south of Reach Street but the map area ends at Lakeridge Road. Settlement to the west of Lakeridge Road can only be confirmed by archeological sites.

The Ancestral Wendat, were known to clear areas as large as a thousand acres in size to build villages and agricultural spaces. But about 1450 war appears to have caused the sudden exodus of these people from Uxbridge and to relocate to the Midland/Barrie area. It was probably the Haudenosaunee, also known as the Iroquois, who came up from south of Lake Ontario and then used the land for hunting and fishing. The forest was left to grow from about 1450. The pine seeded the area, the oaks continued to grow.

When the French arrived in the mid 1600's, they reported that beavers and other fur bearing animals were scarce in Durham. Presumably, the Haudenosaunee had been busy trapping and trading here but their farms were south of Lake Ontario. The Haudenosaunee population began to dwindle due to newly introduced European diseases, and trouble began brewing between the newcomers, the French and

the English; Chippewa and Mississauga natives moved into the area. The Williams Treaty between the natives and Europeans would not be signed until 1929. The Wendat presence was unknown or unacknowledged. By the 1800's, Britain began sending settlers and United Empire Loyalists to Canada. They were given promises of free land if the petitioner cleared it of trees and built a log home on the property. Many people took up the offer.

Clearing of the land of forest cover began in earnest with agriculture once again being practiced in the north Durham area. Thus, the forests that were cleared in the 1400's and earlier by the aboriginals, were now being cleared again in the 1800's by the European settlers. This time, the clearances were done with metal axes and saws. Fires were sometimes used as well. A shortage of cash in the early colonies also meant that farmers could not easily purchase seed, farm tools and equipment. It was sometimes possible to use potash in lieu of cash.

Hardwood trees were plentiful, and thus became valued as a source of potash for use in the home country. This required the hardwood to be burned and the ashes soaked in water and reduced in an iron pot. It was shipped overseas in huge barrels, 560 lbs in weight, for \$80 to \$120 a hogshead (a measure of a large cask, equal to 238.7 liters). The town of Ashburn was named for its considerable number of asheries that existed in the area and were in fact, its main manufacturing product.

But farming wasn't the only threat to the local forests. The white pine was valuable to the British government for ship masts.

Napoleon had blocked access to large trees for this purpose in Europe in a move to thwart the British Navy. Mast Road in Scugog is named for the numerous white pine trees removed for masts in the area. What is very interesting is that the picture in Figure 1 of a nearby saw mill, west of Lakeridge, shows a forest that looks very much like a one composed of even-aged white pine trees, as on the right, with a few standing deciduous trees on the left. Could they have been oaks? Could this have been part of the Ancestral settlement? I'd say yes, these pines could have begun growing after the Ancestral Wendat dispersed in 1450 and been allowed to grow for close to four centuries, 1450 to about 1850. The John Weir Mill was active until about 1890 when he died. Pine trees are known to live this long. They would have produced some very fine trees for British Navy masts. It's no surprise that Mast Road in Scugog Township is located very near this mill site.

It's too bad those trees were so valuable to the British Navy. Between farmers, saw mills, a navy and asheries, there are only forest maps to tell the story.

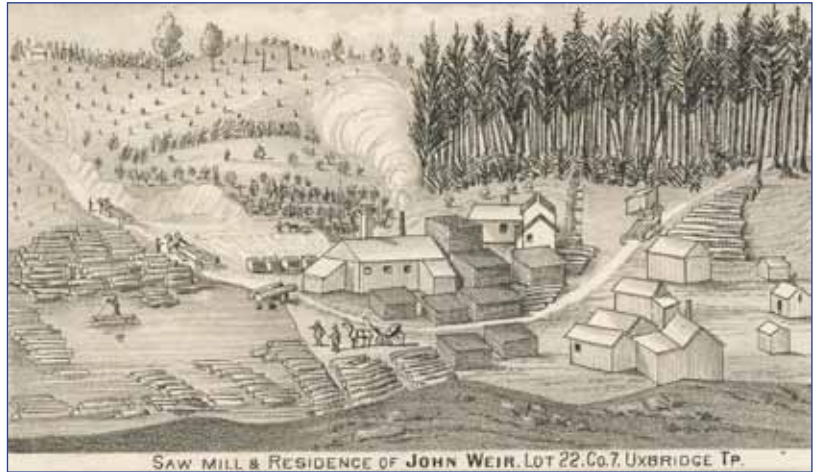


Photo from the illustrated Atlas of Ontario County, 1877.

Mast Road named for white pine trees removed for use as ship masts.



Mast Rd. is located just south of the village of Utica, where it winds its way back to Hwy. 7A, just before Lakeridge Rd.

Photo from Google Earth.



Scugog Shores Museum Village & Archives News



Submitted by Victoria Karakian, assistant curator, Scugog Shores Museum

Happy New Year from the Scugog Shores Museum Village and Archives!

With the coming of the New Year, work has progressed on the Schoolhouse renovation. This will include a research space for use by appointment, minor aesthetic updates to non-exhibit areas, and an improved collection space. So far, updated LED lights have been placed into the upcoming research room to illuminate your discoveries. We look forward to welcoming guests and researchers back to the museum this season to experience the updated space. Until then, here is a look inside the museum.

Have you ever wondered what happens to an item that is donated? The Museum accepts donations based on our Collection Policy and current museum best practices. The donation must demonstrate the history or pre-history of the Scugog area, usually this means it was owned or used by someone who lived in Scugog. The Museum also considers the condition of the artifact, if the artifact is already represented in the collection, and our ability to care for it long term.



A wonderful 2021 donation was a set of Port Perry High School yearbooks, owned by a resident that worked as a long-time teacher at the school. This donation includes many great pictures of students and teachers over the years, was not currently in the collection, and was in excellent condition. This donation captures Port Perry history and showed its progression over the years. Once a donation is accepted, it is given

a unique accession number, photographed, and digitally catalogued to reference for research, exhibits, and more.

Those wishing to propose a donation to the museum are encouraged to email museum@scugog.ca with images of the item(s) and a brief provenance of the item(s) including the name of past owner(s), where they lived, how it was used, and any other relevant information. Inquiries can also be made by phone contacting 905-985-8698 ext. 103.



Recent Acquisitions at the Museum



Recent acquisitions by the Scugog Shore Museum include the wooden sled and skates which belonged to Roy Robertson and were donated by his family. The skates were used for the last time in February 1951 at the Carnival held for the opening on the Port Perry Memorial Gardens Arena on Water St.

The sled was a Christmas present Roy received as a boy when he lived on the family farm on Shirley Road.

The Port Perry High School yearbook is part of the Museum Collection of High School yearbooks from 1952-1999 (missing just 2 from those years 1959 and 1966).

Thank You

Business and Corporate Members

Sincere appreciation for the support of the following Business Members



168 Queen St.
Port Perry, Ont. L9L 1B8
brocksinfo@yahoo.ca



Christy Stone-Curry
217 Queen St.
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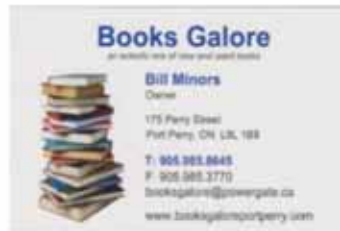
Peter Hydsten C. Ltd
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180 Mary St.
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188 Mary Street
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focus@focusonscugog.com



36 Furrow Dr.
Whitby, On. L1R 1Y6
info@flemingheritagerestoration.ca



Your Donation is important!

As the Lakes Scugog Historical Society 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. (which is 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 the last stages of the Pandemic.

IN MEMORY OF MARY JEAN TILL

Last September at a re-dedication ceremony of a memorial tree for former LSHS president Barb Phair (Dobson), I had a chance to meet and speak with long-time Greenbank resident Mary Jean Till and her daughter Janice. Mary Jean brought along many family scrapbooks of her sister's time spent volunteering at the museum but also articles about the Till family of Greenbank as well as reminding me of the Dobson family which are among our earliest pioneer families in Reach Township having arrived here in 1845.

Their original stone house at 815 Scugog Line 9 built in 1849 is one of the earliest stone houses in Scugog. Several members of the Dobson family held political office in Scugog in the late 1800s and early 1990s with Howard Dobson being the last when he served as a Reeve in 1952 and 1953.

Mary Jean lived within five miles of Greenbank her entire life being born on the Dobson generational family farm at 855 Scugog Line 9 and then moved straight north to 855 Cragg Rd. when she married Glen Till in 1958. Retirement brought her last move to the heart of Greenbank when they built on Glen's parent's property.

Mary Jean had such a positive attitude and enthusiastic spirit that was evident on that cool, windy day last fall. She recounted stories of her sister and how both Barb and her brother-in-law Wilmot Phair enjoyed their time volunteering at the Museum. Mary Jean took great pride as well in acting as the Greenbank News correspondent for over 15 years in local newspapers. Over the past number of years as I became more involved in the Historical Society I knew I could always call Mary Jean and be welcomed to ask questions on her recollections of Greenbank history.

This great "community" lady was involved in so many different things it is hard to list them all – mother, sister, grandmother, great grandmother, high school sport athlete, school teacher, farm wife, gardener, Sunday School teacher, Church Choir, UCW, canvasser for various charities, and community volunteer and supporter.

Greenbank and Scugog have lost a great lady who brought so much joy and love to her community.

Her family quoted in her obituary an excerpt from Mary Jean's journal "The support of a great family, friends, church and community has enriched my life" – we would like to add that she enriched our lives as well in Scugog Township.



Mary Jean Till
1935 - 2022

