

L.S.H.S. ARCHIVIST

~ NEWSLETTER OF LAKE SCUGOG HISTORICAL SOCIETY ~



FALL
2025



Inside the
Greenbank
Hall



LAKE SCUGOG
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

~
DEDICATED TO THE
HISTORY OF THE LAKE
SCUGOG AREA

~
• ESTABLISHED 1969 •

Lake Scugog Historical Society Board of Directors

2025-2027

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Find LSHS on Facebook, or at:

lakescugoghistoricalsociety.com

or by mail at:

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



lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Message from the President

by Marilyn Pearce

As I read through our latest newsletter I can't help but reflect on the past few months and express thanks to all the folks who have attended our events, all the new history that is finding its way to our archives, all the volunteers who helped us present Scugog's history to the community and all the new partners we have made along the way.

During the summer we employed two young historians who began the cataloguing of the donations we received over the past few years. They accessioned with reference numbers & scans over 600 items which are now stored not only physically but also virtually. At the Xmas Social this year we hope to take you on a virtual tour of the " Best" of the archives.

Special thanks have to go to Rob Mairs for his help with the Nestleton Cemetery walk, to Manvers Historical Society for their help at the Blackstock fair, to director Jesse Gillis on convening his first Antique Show, and to Larry Doble and the Greenbank Hall for hosting our last two events – Ontario Culture Days and the North Durham Heritage Brochure Launch and last but not least our volunteer Board of Directors for showing up to help with all the behind-the- scenes organization that is required.

But most of all we want to thank our members, donors and new contributors who have made all this hard work worthwhile as we have now over 160 members – that's over a 30% increase in just one year. With new memberships also comes new information such as the family histories of the George Hall family, the Bowles/Edginton family, and the Trewin family. Also this week we just received an original charcoal/pencil sketch of a Frise cartoon (22"x30") that came from a family in Orangeville and was found in some old papers they were sorting through.

As our membership grows, our collections grow, and our calls for information grow and now the Board must plan for the future sustainability of the organization. To that end we need more volunteer help from you our membership. This month the new " Archival" committee will have their first meeting at the Library to help with the organization, scanning and accessioning of the donations we are receiving.

Work has begun on the Scugog Island Church archives. We are also looking for researchers as we focus on the next project " Registry of the British Home Children of Scugog" - an immigration project between 1869 and 1948 that placed orphaned or impoverished children in the nearest British colony that being Canada.

In September, to recognize British Home Child day our Facebook page garnered over 50,000 views as we shared the story of Samuel Farmer a" Home Child".

History and heritage are important to this community and we are being received at every event with enthusiasm to know more about our collective past. Thank you to everyone for your support in 2025 and hope to see you at our upcoming events.

New ideas are always welcome.



IN MEMORIAM



1947

2025

Lloyd Trewin

Lloyd passed away on Oct. 6, 2025 and Blackstock lost not only a lifetime resident but also one of their chief historians. He graduated from Cartwright High School and received his BA and Bachelor of Education at York University.

Lloyd and his brother Earle owned and operated Trewin Farm Equipment for over 50 years. Lloyd generously shared his historical artifacts and archival documents & photos with the LSHS. He was always there to help with our Blackstock exhibits.

Thank you Lloyd. We will miss you but others can still find your historical records with the Lake Scugog Historical Society: The "*Lloyd Trewin Collection*" lives on.



1942

2025

Bruce Aikens

Our sympathy to the family of former LSHS member and volunteer Bruce Aikens.

For many years Bruce served as the Chairman of the Scugog Shores Museum Village Board of Directors. Bruce also chaired the Canoe the Nonquon fundraiser during his time on the Board. His business expertise enabled the museum to carry out great programs and events under his leadership. All those who had the privilege to work with Bruce can attest to his devotion to researching local history and his insight on restoring the early buildings on site. A great volunteer.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2025



Tentative Schedule

Please Note: Some events, dates and locations could change. Coming Events calendar will be updated in future newsletters.

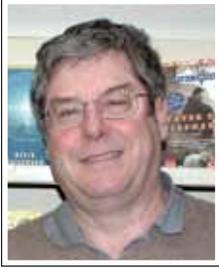
**Note: All Speaker Series Meetings will be held in the Rotary Room - Scugog Memorial Library
Doors Open: 6:30 pm - Speaker at 7 p.m.**

- 1 November 18 - Speaker: Adam Shoalts;**
Library Rotary Room - Doors open 6:30
Speaker begins at 7:00 p.m.
- 2 November 19 - LSHS Archivist Meeting**
Library Meeting Room - 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- 3 December 6 - Santa Claus Parade**
5:00 pm. Downtown Port Perry
- 4 December 9 - LSHS Xmas Social & Show & Tell**
Piano Cafe - 7-9 p.m. Refreshments & Cash Bar
- 5 December 10 - LSHS Archivist Committee Meeting**
Library Meeting Room - 1 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

2026 Calendar of Events

- 1 January 13 - LSHS Executive Board Meeting**
Library Meeting Room 6:30 pm
- 2 Feb. 7 & 8 - 28th Port Perry Winter Antique & Nostalgia Show & Sale**
Scugog Community Centre 10am-4pm
- 3 April 14 - Speaker Series Returns:**
Library Rotary Room: 6:30 pm
Speaker: Uxbridge author Dr. Vi Tu Banh
Topic: "Elephants & Dragons"
- 4 May 12 - 56th Annual General Meeting LSHS**

Print & Save for future reference.



MINORS REVIEW

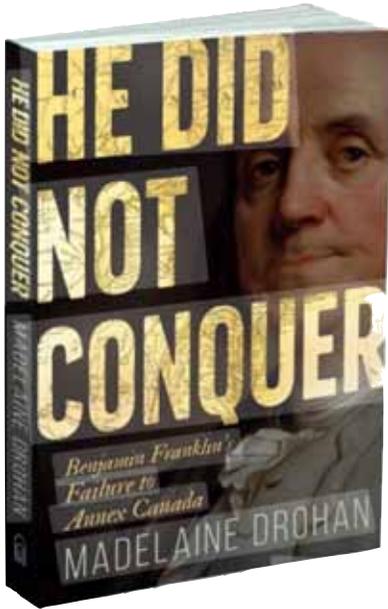
A Book Review by Bill Minors

HE DID NOT CONQUER:

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S FAILURE TO ANNEX CANADA

By Madelaine Drohan

Dundurn Press - \$27.99



In these days of "Elbows Up" diplomacy and certain politicians from the South openly suggesting that Canada should be absorbed as the 51st state, this book is timely. Our southern neighbour has long cast covetous eyes North of the border. Of course in 1812 they came marching North and we know how that turned out. Although we know Benjamin Franklin as one of the great patriots of the United States War of Independence and some stuff he did with lightning bolts he hatched one plan after another to persuade Canada to join the United States.

He was in Montreal in 1776 to try to turn around the faltering occupation by American forces. As lead negotiator at the 1782 peace negotiations with Britain in Paris, he held the fate of Canada in his hands. Ill health and other American priorities then forced him to abandon his decades-long campaign to possess Canada.

To quote Jean Chretien at the back of the book "Drohan has written a very timely book. Canadians said Non, Merci to Benjamin Franklin in 1776. And we continue saying it-loud and clear-to those who threaten our independence 250 years later!"



William Morris Society of Canada Heritage Tour

On October 4th the Lake Scugog Historical Society hosted over 35 members of the William Morris Society of Canada (Toronto Chapter) for a downtown architectural tour of the Port Perry Heritage Conservation District led by member Peter Wokral.

The tour ended at the Scugog Arts Gallery to view a beautiful William Morris inspired quilt and wall hanging. William Morris was an English artist, designer and writer associated with the British Arts & Craft movement in the Victorian era.

Blackstock 158th Fair



The Lake Scugog Historical and Manvers Township Historical Societies booth attracted a large number of people during the Blackstock Fair held on Saturday, August 23rd.



Director Jack Gunter discusses historic old maps of Cartwright Township with visitors to the Lake Scugog Historical Society booth.

out&about

North Durham Heritage meets in Greenbank Hall

The North Durham Heritage is a marketing and promotions group made of the historical societies of Beaverton, Cannington, Scugog, Sunderland and Uxbridge along with the Uxbridge Genealogical Society to promote the events, sites and resources available in the area. In late August they launched their first tour brochure with financial assistance of Central Counties and Durham Tourism. Watch for brochure #2 in 2026 "Our Railway Roots".



The historical 1870 Greenbank Centennial Hall, originally the Church of St. Agnes, was the site for a joint meeting of area Historical Societies.

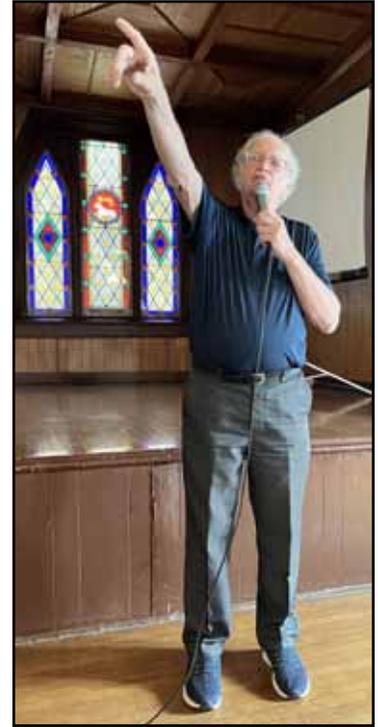
SPEAKER SERIES



Barbara Dickson was the guest speaker for the LSHS Speaker Series on Sept. 28th, and spoke about the history of the Cragg family in Greenbank.



Hazel Boumans (Cragg), left with Trevor and Susan (Cragg) Johnstone at the Greenbank Speaker Series, reminisce about their family connections to the village.



"Mr. Greenbank", Larry Doble, provided a tour of the historical Greenbank Hall and pointed out many of its unique features.



The Lake Scugog Historical Society held two Speaker Series events in September, which attracted large attendance from members and the public. Larry Emmerson, left, was presented the Bill & Claudette Brock Award by president Marilyn Pearce, for his generous donation of four clocks for the Town Hall 1873 clock tower in honour of his father George Emmerson.



LSHS director Bill thanks Patrice Dutil following his talk about Sir John A. Macdonald at the Speaker Series held at the library on September 9, 2025.



Some of the visitors are seen here looking over some of the many historical documents, pictures and maps on display in the Greenbank Community Hall.



by JANIS CARTER

Around the ARCHIVES

The Churches of Scugog Island

In the 19th century, churches were established across Scugog Township, including Scugog Island, serving as key sites for worship and community gatherings. Over time, six churches were built on Scugog Island, each representing different Christian denominations active in the area.

The first, known as The Head Church or Museum Church, was constructed in 1860 as a Methodist Episcopal church. It remained in use until 1956. In 1868, a Christian Church was built on the main road, south of the present-day intersection of Chandler Road and Island Road. That same year, a Bible Christian Church was also established on the island.

In 1869, two additional churches were built: a Wesleyan Methodist Church, and an Indigenous Church located near what is now the Mississaugas Cemetery. Later, in 1880, the Foot Church, another



The Scugog Island United Church, 2023.



Head Church on Scugog Island.

Methodist Episcopal church, was constructed. Each of these churches contributed to the spiritual and social fabric of Scugog Island during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

As time passed, most of these congregations closed or merged due to changes in population and attendance. The final remaining place of worship, Scugog Island United Church, continued to operate into the 21st century. It was commonly referred to as "The little church with a big heart." The church held its last service and officially closed in June 2025, marking the end of an era for organized church services on Scugog Island.

Before its closure, efforts were made to docu-

ment the church's features and memorials, including its stained glass windows, plaques, and dedications. These records preserve information about individuals and families who contributed to the church over many decades.

The stained-glass windows and memorials included the following inscriptions:

South side of the sanctuary:

In loving memory of Yvonne Appleton; donated by family and friends, 1988.

North side of the sanctuary:

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Frederick F. Crozier, born 1880 – died 1951, and of Olive M.

Crozier, his wife, born 1884 – died 1955; presented by their family in 1960.

North wall – Cross and plaque:

Donated by Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Smith and family / Prospect U.C. / Manchester U.C. / Scugog Island U.C.

Memorial plaque:

In memoriam Lorne Graham, Oct. 12, 1881 – Nov. 3, 1963 / Sandy Darby, Nov. 23, 1943 – Aug. 14, 2008.

Certificate of appreciation:

Presented to the Scugog Island United Church Women from Scugog Community Care.

These details represent some of the last recorded elements of Scugog Island United Church and serve as a record of the people who supported and maintained the congregation throughout its history.

The documentation of these artifacts contributes to the preservation of Scugog Island's religious and community heritage as church buildings across the township continue to close.



By
Lauren
Walker

THE ARTIST WITHIN

For those of you whom I've not had the pleasure to meet, my name is Lauren Walker and I am a local artist and a new member of the Lake Scugog Historical Society.

I've called this town home for 23 years. I refer to myself as "The Artist Within" because my creative journey started five years ago. At the time, I was really struggling through some personal issues and found it hard to cope. Although I had dabbled with art on and off in my younger years, it was during the hardest part of my life that I truly found The Artist Within. The Town Hall 1873 Theatre was home to my first Solo show and the Kent Farndale Gallery was home to my second. I couldn't have asked for a better way to start!

The Art of History

Living and working in Port Perry has taught me one thing, our history shapes and molds who we are. Our town places a high value on history and you can see it when you walk down Queen Street. Ahead of my first solo show, I walked down the street and realized I knew nothing about this town. We spend so much time looking down, I started looking up and realized the history surrounding me.

I decided to dedicate my very first show to Port Perry. My show was called, "Old and New: Buildings of Port Perry." This piece is called, "50 Years of the Old Mill" and marks the very first piece I completed for this series. It currently hangs in the home of a local resident.

I completed several more pieces in this manner so as to showcase where we've come from and where

we are. I decided to reach out to local historian Peter Hvidsten who was very helpful with reference photos.

History Surrounds Us:

So why history and why architecture? If you're unfamiliar with my work, I actually prefer painting in monochrome. I love the sense of nostalgia with black and white photos. I love the challenge of uniquely designed buildings which boggle my mind. If you look at the buildings downtown, look up. Ask yourself, "how did they do that?" From roof lines and intricate brick work, its astounding what was created without technology.



This piece is called "Port Perry Railway 1912"

Buildings are like faces and each come with its unique features and characteristics. I love the fact that what was built long ago, still stands. History is all around us at every turn and it shapes who we are now as a community. I want to help preserve a bit of who we are on canvas. It seems the further back I look, the more interesting things I learn.

What's next?

I am currently the Artist in Residence at the Parkwood Estate in Oshawa. Talk about being surrounded by history! I am hoping to expand my monochrome series and dive in to the history of the property.

Find me on instagram @theartistwithin

Facebook www.facebook.com/artistwithin86



PORT PERRY 27th ANNUAL



More than 1,000 people attended the Lake Scugog Historical Society Antique Show on October 18,19. The show featured 25 vendors and dealers from across Ontario over the two day event held at the Scugog Community Centre in Port Perry.



Antique dealers were kept busy all day Saturday and Sunday.

Historical Society volunteers at the Antique Show



Director Justice Colwell



Director Jesse Gillis & Larry Doble



Volunteers Leanne Ashbridge, left and Gabrielle Bray

Historic newspapers find a new home at Scugog Shores Museum and Archives

Scugog Shores Museum were gifted more than 120 bound copies of Port Perry’s newspapers on October 8, 2025. The issues date from 1857 until 2002 when copies stopped being bound.

The newspapers have been preserved since 1907 by Samuel Farmer, the Farmer family, Per and J. Peter Hvidsten, all former owners of the Port Perry Star. Copies of oldest newspapers, dated from the 1800s, come from a variety of sources.

To accommodate the large collection, which includes *The Observer*; *North Ontario Observer* and *Port Perry Standard*, as well as the *Port Perry Star*, the museum has installed shelving to keep them safe and dry. This shift of location for storage now provides long-term protection for these valuable local newspapers.



Some of the more than 60 craft paper bound newspapers.



By
Leanne
Ashbridge

The Legion is more than Remembrance Day



The Port Perry ladies team ended the 1972 season by winning the Lakeshore Championship for Juvenile teams. In front row from left: Mary Skinner, Kim Neill, Shelley Olsen, Sandy Cochrane, Susan Bond, Carol Wilton, Marlene Smith. Back row: Lynda Heayn, Gerry Scanlon, Cathy Brown, Ann Sinclair, Judy Wray, Lynn Cook, Wendy Partner. Absent when picture was taken, Darlene Watts.



Back left: Jim Burnett, coach; Glen Starkey, Dale Hallett, Ron Phinney, Brian McNab, Steve Brain, Roger Moase and Joe Fowler. Front left: Jody Williams, Glen Sweetman, Dave Gray, Ken Irvine, Bill Davidson, Dave Brown, Ron Short.

November is a month of remembrance. It is a time when we honour our veterans for their service and sacrifice. We see the work of the Royal Canadian Legion with the presence of veteran banners on our streets, marching in the Remembrance Day parades and presiding over the many ceremonies throughout our country.

Our Port Perry Branch 419 is no exception to the involvement of the Royal Canadian Legion in their service to veterans and their families. Did you know, the mandate of the Legion goes beyond support to veterans and promoting Remembrance? Legion branches are a key component to the strength of our communities. Our Port Perry branch has been a significant supporter of youth programs and sports in the township of Scugog.

Some examples of the Legion's support of sports in Scugog include:

The Legion sponsored the first Port Perry Minor Softball Squirt team that competed in the OASA in 1963 and continued to sponsor squirt softball teams until 2003. When a ball diamond was needed for minor softball, the Legion delivered, erecting a ball diamond on their property on Bay St. This diamond continues to be used by Port Perry Minor Softball teams at no cost to the Association.

When the soccer fields were being reconfigured in the early 2000s and the Scugog Soccer Association needed field space for their youngest players, the Legion pro-

vided the southwest part of their property off Balsam St. to accommodate that need.

Port Perry Branch 419 was the sole sponsor of the Port Perry Pee Wee All Star hockey (rep) team for more than 40 years.

If you attended the Port Perry Minor Hockey year end banquet from 1960s to early 2000s you attended it at the Legion hall and the food was catered by the Legion Auxiliary.

The Scugog Sports Hall of Fame has recognized the following teams sponsored by Port Perry Legion Branch 419:

- 1965 Port Perry Legion Squirt Ontario Softball Champions (inducted 2008)
- Senior Men Ontario Legion Zone Curling Champions skipped by Garnet Warriner (inducted 2019)
- 1973 Port Perry Juvenile Ladies Softball team, sponsored by the Legion Auxiliary; inducted as the first team in Scugog to win a Provincial Woman's Softball Championship (inducted 2024)

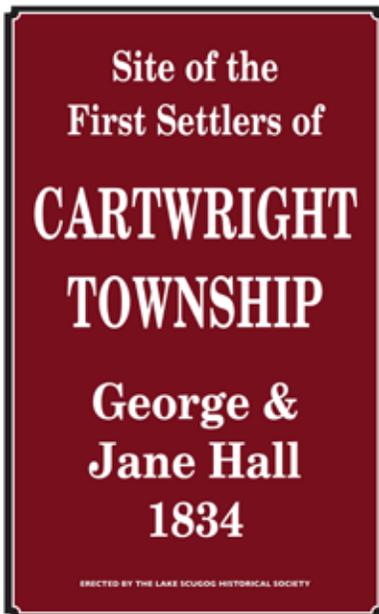
The Scugog Sports Hall of Fame is interested in creating an archive of the teams sponsored by Port Perry Legion Branch 419. If you have any photos or artifacts related to teams sponsored by the Legion and would like to donate or loan to the Hall of Fame please contact me at liashbridge@gmail.com

SCUGOG'S PIONEER FAMILIES



by
MARILYN
PEARCE

George and Jane Hall



The first permanent settlers in Cartwright Township were George and Jane Hall who originally settled in Cobourg Ontario in 1831 but came to Cartwright in 1834. Recently LSHS received a call from the great, great grandson of George Hall inquiring as to whether our Society would like his family information for our archives and so our journey begins.

What do we know about the Hall family?

Doreen Van Camp in her book *Cartwright Re-visited* written in 1983 shared what was known at that time. George was born in County Armagh, Ireland and married an Irish girl, Jane Hamel and they had 4 sons and 5 daughters all born in Ontario. George and Jane are both buried at Union Cemetery in Cadmus. Their sons were: Francis G., James, William H., and David and the daughters were Eliza, Matilda Jane, Margaret, Eleanor, and Letty. George was a farmer who lived on Edgerton Rd. and his first crop was potatoes but also apples and plums.

In 1837 Cartwright Council was officially organized at the home of Alex Muirhead and George was appointed the first tax collector for the area. In 1839 he changed jobs and was appointed the overseer of the highways in Cartwright.

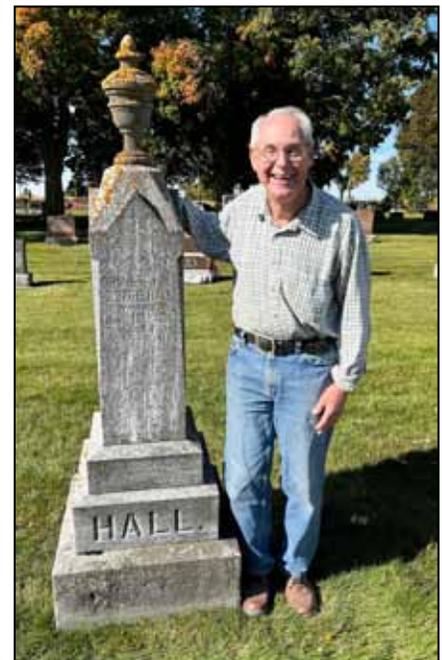
In 1934 a Centennial Plaque was erected in Blackstock just east of the Cenotaph to honour the Pioneer families of Cartwright and some of the surviving children of George and Jane attended including James Hall of Lindsay. The great,

great grandson that contacted us in September is George Edward Hall but his dad nicknamed him "Paddy" after a friend who died in WWII.

Paddy and I recently spent time touring the roads and sites of Cartwright as he shared his passed-down family stories. His great grandparents were James and Susannah Hall who lived in Victoria County and his grandparents were George William Hall and wife Etta who also lived in Lindsay. Paddy's parents were George Edward Hall and wife-Lola and this George was the president of the University of Western Ontario from 1947-1967 the youngest president of Western University and prior to that a professor at the University of Toronto's Banting Institute of Medical Research during WWII.

Our research into this family's history took another fortunate turn in early October when another great, great grandson, Robert Francis Hall contacted us to say he had many of the original Hall documents are in his possession and he would like to share them with our Society. Robert was a descendant of the James & Susannah Hall lineage and it was sheer coincidence that he contacted us as he and Paddy had not connected in many years. Robert now lives in Invermere B.C. and the cousins have re-connected.

So our journey "deep diving" into the Hall family history continues with two excellent family members helping us. Stay tuned for what we uncover over the next few years as we move to celebrating the anniversary of the founding of Cartwright by this pioneer family.



George "Paddy" Hall, at the site of the Hall's family marker in the Blackstock cemetery.

Remembering Our Veterans



This poem is written by Brian McLatchie, a Port Perry resident who has lived in Scugog for more than 50 years. The poem is based on a true story of Brian's uncle – John Alexander Edward Hughes, who gave his life in the Great War.

my Mother's Brother
left university
over a century ago
the moment
he turned eighteen

he left to defend his
belief in freedom
to join his fellow Canadians
in the Great War

leaving behind
his parents and
six siblings

but also a lady friend
his first crush
that pretty girl
in his class

both working to be doctors
preparing themselves to help
others

now he went to join
so many other Canadians
helping to defend our beliefs

eventually over to the
front in France
where the shells
bombs
and gas lived

uncle John did his share
methinks

the Military Medal
during the Arras Scarpe
battle
and the subsequent Bar
after his death in Cambrai

he lasted only months
just a teenager

never to see
his family again

and never to feel
the beauty of love
with that first lady friend

all those young men
like John
who participated

deserve
our thanks and our tears

John Alexander Edward
Hughes
there you lie in France
the Bucquoy Road Cemetery
in Ficheux

I have visited you there
on two occasions
uncle John

you are special
as were all
those who were "over
there"

I am thinking of you today
John
on this 11th of November

thank you
Private Hughes
service number
527000



Cenotaphs & Plaques

Recently the Township of Scugog undertook repairs to the walkways around the Blackstock cenotaph.

The cenotaph was erected in 1920 and General Sir Sam Hughes was invited to unveil the monument on Nov.11th. Over 74 residents and former residents from Cartwright took part in WWI. Nine were killed in action.

In 1919 the staff and Pupils of PPHS also erected a plaque that recognizes the ex-pupils who were lost in WWI. It is still displayed proudly at the school.



HERITAGE QUILTS

Book Launch



OVER THE PAST YEAR the LSHS has been working with our other North Durham historical societies to register and catalogue local heritage quilts found not only in museums but also in private collections. As historians we are always looking at different ways to record our local history. The quilts found in this new book unlock stories from our past of community involvement, economic times, historic events and shared histories.

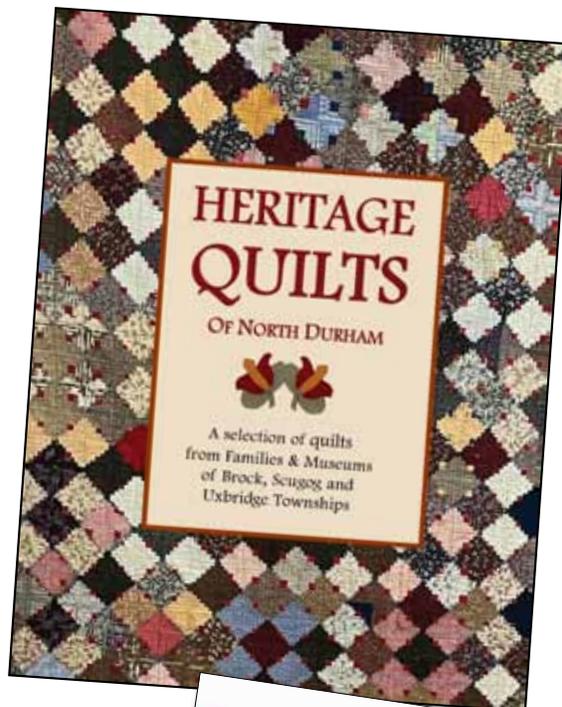
As we undertook this journey we came to understand how our early ancestors not only found a creative way to repurpose textiles but also a loving connection to simpler times using all the resources they could find. Quilting bees were important social functions combining both work and pleasure – a tradition that continues today.

The new book features 100 quilts with colour photos and short histories of how the quilt was made and how it came to the museum or home where it now rests. This permanent register ranges from the early 1800's up to a Valour Quilt of 2021. It features many different early quilt designs as well as Signature quilts, Fundraising quilts and Patriotic quilts and events in Canada's history.

But we are not finished! A register of this primarily female craft passed down through the ages has led to many more discoveries since we launched. At some point in the future the book will be downloaded to the "Research Page" of the LSHS web-site which will allow us to continue to catalogue the local quilts and their stories. Let us know if you have a quilt that you would like added to the registry.

A huge thank you goes out to our Museum friends in Cannington, Beaverton, Sunderland and Uxbridge as well as all the local folks who let us photograph their family heirlooms and tell their story. The book is available at Books Galore and on the LSHS web-site (\$25.00) we can even deliver locally. What a great Christmas gift for the quilter and former quilters in your life.

Every quilt tells a story and we hope you enjoy our newest publication.





by Paul Arculus

SCUGOG'S RCMP CONNECTION



Scugog has long been proud of its links to the RCMP. Most people are well aware that one of the most notable commissioners of the RCMP was Sir James Howden McBrien who was born in Prince Albert in 1878 and graduated from Port Perry High School in 1896. He worked as a bank clerk in Port Perry before joining the Northwest Mounted Police.

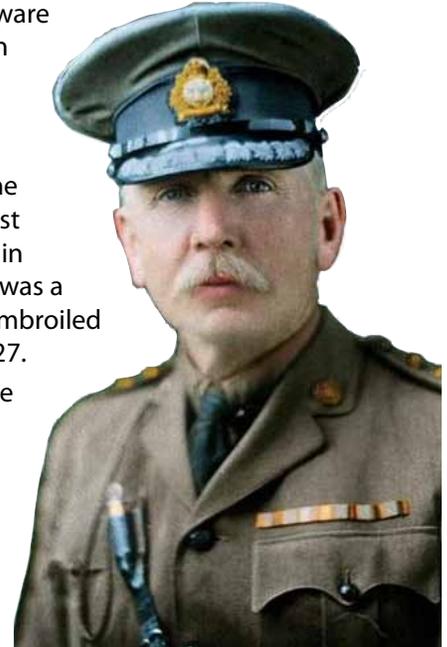
James became a member of the South African Constabulary and served in the Boer War in South Africa returning to Canada in 1906 as an officer. During the first World War, McBrien was promoted to the rank of major and returned to Canada in 1920 to accept the role Chief of General Staff of the Canadian armed forces and was a leader in the creation of the Department of National Defence. After becoming embroiled in a policy disagreement with Prime Minister Mackenzie King, he resigned in 1927.

Arthur Meighen defeated Mackenzie King and invited McBrien to become the head of the RCMP in 1930. He enthusiastically accepted the appointment, modernizing the force by introducing mechanized vehicles and airplanes and creating a division of the force which became the Canadian Coast Guard. As a result of his dedication to the RCMP he was knighted in 1935.

Sir James Howden McBrien frequently returned to the family home in Prince Albert and on one occasion, May 1935, he piloted a seaplane and landed on Lake Scugog to take part in a ceremony to officially open Port Perry's Memorial Library. Accompanying him in the ceremony was his old friend from Port Perry High School days, Dr. H.A. Bruce, who had become the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Ontario.

Sir James H. McBrien was the only commissioner of the RCMP to die in office. After a huge funeral in Toronto in March 1938, he was transported to Ottawa to be buried. A mountain in the Northwest Territories was named after him; Mount Sir James McBrien, the third highest peak in the Mackenzie Mountains.

Not well known is that a predecessor of McBrien also has a connection to our community. The commissioner of the RCMP from 1900 to 1923 was Aylesworth Bowen Perry. Yes, Aylesworth Perry was directly related to Peter Perry, our town's namesake. Aylesworth Bowen Perry's grandfather was Daniel Perry, Peter Perry's brother. Aylesworth was named after another relative: Peter and Daniel had a sister Hannah who married Bowen Aylesworth in 1778.



Aylesworth Bowen Perry

The Perry and Aylesworth families were Loyalists who had settled near Napanee. Both Peter and Aylesworth were born here; Peter in 1792 and Aylesworth in 1860.

At the age of 16, Aylesworth was accepted as a member of the first class at the Royal Military College in Kingston and graduated at the top of his class in 1880. He was appointed as an inspector in the North West Mounted Police in 1882, earning his appointment as Commissioner in 1900.

Under his leadership the NWMP became the Royal North West Mounted Police and in 1919 he brought the Dominion Police Force into its jurisdiction and the name was changed to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1920. He was also responsible for creating the iconic uniform with the Stetson hat.

Although Aylesworth retired in 1923, he lived for another 33 years and passed away in 1956 at the age of 96. Aylesworth Bowen Perry is the longest serving Commissioner of the force to date.

Scugog can take pride in having these connections to Canada's internationally admired Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



James H. McBrien

Note: The name "McBrien" was often spelled "MacBrien"



by Sarah Parry

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Your Membership is our Future!

Membership Renewal Time

Fall is the perfect time to renew your Lake Scugog Historical Society membership and continue supporting the preservation and celebration of our community's rich history! This year, we're proud to have 161 active members, including 45 NEW MEMBERS who joined us in 2025! We would like to welcome all returning and new members to the Lake Scugog Historical Society. Your membership helps fund local heritage projects, guest speakers, publications, and educational programs that keep Scugog's stories alive for generations to come.

As a member, you'll enjoy:

- Exclusive updates on local history discoveries and events
- Opportunities to reserve seats at gatherings and our Speaker Series
- Discounts on select LSHS publications
- The satisfaction of knowing you're helping preserve Scugog's unique heritage

- Have questions about your membership?
- Not sure if you need to renew?

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You can also find more details about membership types, benefits, and renewal options on our website: <https://lakescugoghistoricalsociety.com/about/become-a-member/>

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Membership Form

LAKE SCUGOG HISTORICAL SOCIETY EST. 1969

c/o 175 Perry Street, Port Perry, Ontario L9L 1B8
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Your contributions today help to preserve and protect Scugog's Heritage for future generations.