

LAKE SCUGOG

# HISTORICAL

SOCIETY



# NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020



# Lake Scugog Historical Society

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

Fall 2020 Edition

## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



As I write this message, Nicola Sturgeon, the First Minister of Scotland, has just announced that pub closures and curfews are to be put in place in certain areas of Scotland. This is in an effort to bring the resurgence of the spread of Covid19. We may yet see a similar set of rules here in Ontario.

This world-wide pandemic is a phenomenon that none of us has experienced before and it is far from over. We are still months away from a vaccine, and many months away from the vaccine being made available to everyone. We have no idea how long beyond that time that it will take to get enough people vaccinated to make it safe for us all to return to our usual activities.

This is the reality that we have to face here in Scugog

This means, sadly, that Marilyn has had to cancel our Annual Antique Show held in February. Following the same theme, we are still many months away from being able to hold our regular Historical Society meetings.

However, we know that scientists around the world are working overtime in an effort to defeat this virus, and we know that they WILL succeed. It is up to us to play our part by following their safety suggestions and to find ways of coping with the "new normal."

This is not an easy task, but one place we can find solace is in the hardiness of our pioneer ancestors

who found an inner strength to face disasters far beyond what we are facing today.

They survived and, through their determination and perseverance, they left us a community to be proud of and grateful for.

***Stay Safe and Take Care.***

Paul Arculus,  
President, Lake Scugog Historical Society.

## Scugog on Screen

Looking for some Scugog history on your TV or computer? You can find some Scugog history on You-Tube. Go to the You-Tube search icon and type in any of the following items;



### **"130th Anniversary of 1884 Port Perry Fire."**

This 10 minute film gives an explanation of the 1884 and its affects on our community.

### **"D.D. Palmer, Canadian Roots, Memorial Park."**

The true story of Daniel David Palmer, the founder of Chiropractic, a 3 minute summary.

### **Durham Branch OGS. Paul Arculus, Speaker."**

This is an hour long recording of Paul's speech to the Ontario Genealogical Society in 2016.

The speech is all about the Pine Grove Cemetery in Prince Albert.



# CANADIAN HEROES

## George Robert Howsam was one of Port Perry's true heros of two World Wars

Since Remembrance Day is coming, I thought that I should write this article about a person who was in both world wars. This article is about my great, great uncle. His name is George Roberts Howsam.

Howsam was born on January 29, 1895 in Port Perry, Ontario. He was the son of George Roberts Howsam (yes, they do have the same name) and Ida (Cutting) Howsam.

He joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force on March 23, 1916. He served with the 116th Battalion, CEF and the 182nd Battalion, CEF.

In 1917, he moved to the Royal Flying Corps while he was still in Canada. In Autumn, he joined the 70 Squadron as a Sopwith Camel pilot.

His first win was sending down an Albatros two-seater in Darren, Belgium on December 28, 1917. He finished January of 1918 with eight wins and they kept on coming.

Howsam was awarded a Military Cross on March 4, 1918. He was a lieutenant throughout WWI.

Later, in June of 1918, Howsam married Lillian Isobel Somerville. They had one child, Peter Somerville Howsam, who was born on October 10, 1924.

Howsam did not return to Canada from war until 1921.

In WWII, Howsam served as Air Commodore and then promoted to Air Vice Marshall in 1942. He retired in 1945.

George Roberts was such a cool guy being a lieutenant in WWI and Air Vice Marshall in WWII.

He peacefully passed away on April 16, 1988 in Victoria, British Columbia at the age of 93.

By Evan Monsma







# McCaw girls most sought after young ladies in town

by Paul Arculus

*Originally published in Port Perry Star, November 1997*

Joseph Bigelow and his wife Margaret Paxton had only one daughter, Emma Josephine. William H. McCaw was a jeweller who had his store in the Bigelow property at 183 Queen Street where the Panorama store is now located.

In what was Port Perry's biggest wedding of 1878 Emma Bigelow married William McCaw. The wedding took place in the magnificent home that the Bigelows had built the previous year on Cochrane Street in Port Perry. The house was large enough to accommodate the hundred or so guests.

Emma and William had eight stunningly beautiful daughters. Bigelow and his wife were finding that the house was too big for them alone so they invited their daughter and her husband to live with them and to share in the time and effort needed to keep the immense house in order.



**William and Emma McCaw's eight daughters at their home in the Bigelow residence on Cochrane Street, Port Perry.**

At sometime in the 1880's the McCaws moved into the Bigelow house on Cochrane Street and raised their eight daughters there.

Eligible bachelors from miles around came to Port Perry to try to gain an opportunity to meet with a McCaw girls. They were the most sought-after young ladies in town, grand-daughters of the wealthy Joseph Bigelow and daughters of the highly successful jeweller, W. H. McCaw. These factors evoked the prospects of a comfortable dowry. Although the Bigelows and McCaws would provide for the girls, it had to be realized that there were eight girls among whom that dowry was to be divided. For the more realistic among the suitors, beauty alone would be the lure.

On Sundays, eligible young men would be seen strutting in their Sunday best, peacock-like along Cochrane Street in the hopes of attracting the attention of a McCaw girl. But the most acceptable way of meeting a McCaw girl was to attend the Baptist Church at the north-east corner of Queen and Rosa Streets. Attendance rose astronomically while the McCaw girls were in their prime.

Many a young man having passed the hurdles of meeting and courting would then have the daunting challenge of sitting in the Cochrane Street



**William and Emma McCaw.**

*Continued on next page*



front parlour with W. H. McCaw, asking for the hand of one of his daughters in marriage. He would then have to review his future prospects with the conscientious father, not a task for the faint hearted or untalented. Two sons of James Carnegie, Arthur and David, each courted and eventually married a McCaw girl.

Elizabeth was the first born of the McCaw girls. She never married and lived to be 99 years old. Mabel was the second oldest. She married Art Carnegie. The third daughter, Cora, was an extremely talented artist and married Frank Coone. Emma was next in line and married John MacDonald. Florence, who married Frank Naismith, lived to be 102 years old.

Dave Carnegie married Marion McCaw, the sixth daughter. Aileen and Kathleen were twins and were the last of the McCaw girls. Aileen married Harold Emmerson, father of George Emmerson, and Kathleen married Morley Honey.



W. H. McCaw is seen here with a lawnmower at their palatial home on Cochrane Street.

## History at your fingertip

Scugog Shores Museum archives is perhaps the most valuable and important source for historical information for Scugog, but it is limited in that research at the archives can only be done during working hours. And now, in this era of Covid-19, the archives, like many institutions, has become difficult to access.

But there is an alternative to our amazing museum archive for historical information, which does not have any restrictions.

After retiring from the Port Perry Star in 2001, I switched my hats as a publisher of newspapers, to that of a fledgling historian. By this time I had already researched and published a number of historical sections for the newspaper, and completed one book, ***Out Of The Ashes***, so my passion for history had been well nurtured.

Next, I set out to accumulate as much local Scugog history as possible, with the thought of making it available **free of charge** to everyone, any hour of the day, simply by sitting down at a computer and beginning a search.

After hiring a 17 year old high school "whiz kid" in 2005, to create a website, a few weeks were spent determining what information would be of most interest to the community. After compiling dozens of topics, he took the information, designed a website, and began inserting the topics onto the site which we called the ***Scugog Heritage Gallery***.

Today, almost 20 years later the site has been expanded to included many hundreds of pieces of information, pictures, post cards, maps, books, etc., pertaining to Scugog's history. There are 38 publications which can be downloaded for easy reading; post card pictures from every small community in Scugog Township, and dozens of stories accessible by a simple click of your mouse.

Some of the most recent additions to the site include a number of books: ***Faces on Scugog*** volumes one and two, provides profiles of hundreds of community leaders from the mid-1800s to the present; ***A Tangle of Tales*** features over 1,000 stories taken from the pages of newspapers, dating from 1849 to 1899; ***Rewind Scugog***, a series of books featuring 20th Century decades from 1900 to 2000; ***Boom Towns*** tells of the rise and fall of all of Scugog's small communities and includes village maps, advertisement and profiles from the late 1800s. Plus, many more topics on specific historical buildings.

So if you are looking for local history, all you need to do is turn on your computer and insert ***scugogheritage.com*** into your browser, and watch as Scugog's history unfolds before you.

In this age of pandemic isolation - what better way is there to while away the hours?

By J. Peter Hvidsten





# PETER JONES

## and the Mississaugas of Scugog

Augustus Jones was born in 1757 and trained as a surveyor in New York City. The entire Jones family were loyal to the British system of law and order and had an intense loathing for the American Revolution and all that it represented. As a result of these positions, at the end of the conflict they were forced to flee north to Canada eventually settling in Saltfleet Township near Hamilton. Ironically the property on which they settled would later become directly involved in another war with the Americans: the land that they owned and farmed became site of the Battle of Stoney Creek during the 1812 War.

Augustus continued his surveying career in Upper Canada becoming a Crown Surveyor in 1787.

*The outstanding surveyor of the 1790s, indeed of the early history of Upper Canada, was Augustus Jones. Sometimes working alone, sometimes with others ... he laid out over a quarter of the 101 townships (not counting Amherst Island) listed as wholly or partially surveyed by the end of 1799. These included a number of townships on the Niagara Peninsula and in the central part of the province, including York, Scarborough and Pickering, from the head of Lake Ontario to what became St. Thomas. He also explored the source of the Thames, ... and in the Six Nation Reserve on the Grand River.*

*(John Ladell, They left Theor Mark. Surveyors and their role in the Settlement of Ontario, Dundurn Press, 1993. Page 105)*

He received one of his most significant assignments from Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe in 1795:



Photograph of Peter Jones taken in Edinburgh during one of his speaking tours of Britain.

to survey and create a road from York to Lake Simcoe. He completed the task in three months and named the 33-mile long road Yonge Street. Augustus was assigned the task of marking all the township base lines (eastern and western township limits), from the Trent to the Humber in 1791. At the time of his first survey, there was only one person of European descent living in the whole of Whitby Township, a fur trader named Rousseau. Augustus continued his surveying, proceeding westward to Pickering Township, all the way to the mouth of the Humber. He returned to carry out a complete survey of Whitby township in 1795.

Augustus Jones married twice, his first wife being the daughter of a Mississauga chief with whom he had several children including his second son Peter Jones, born

in 1802. He later married the daughter of a Mohawk (Iroquois) chief. Peter was raised by his mother among the Mississaugas on the Credit River, although his father maintained interest in his welfare.

Due to the prolonged periods of his father's absence, Peter grew up learning little English. When Augustus retired, he took Peter and his brother John, still in their early teens, to live with him and his second wife on their farm on a 1200-acre parcel given to him by his personal friend, the Mohawk chief, Joseph Brant.

As compensation for their loyalty during the American Revolution and their losses in the conflict, in 1784 the Loyalist Iroquois, 1600 refugees of the Six Nations led by Brant, were ceded land six miles wide on either side of the Grand River. This land extended from the mouth of the Grand River to its source. The property given by Brant to Augustus lay close to the Grand River along Dundas Street which Jones had surveyed.

Augustus enrolled his children in a school run by an Anglican, an Irishman named George Hughes. Peter quickly learned the language and by working on his father's farm, also learned modern farming techniques.

*Because the Ojibwa lived close to nature they did not envisage any great chasm separating them from the rest of creation. Everything around them was alive and had power. Humans had to stay on good terms with all objects for they had the supernatural power to punish anyone who wasted them. The Mississauga elders for instance avoided cutting down living trees to save them from pain....*

*(Peter Jones, History of the Ojibway Indians. Reprinted Freeport, New York, 1970. Page 104)*

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS - FALL 2020

# LSHS faces hard decisions ahead due to dwindling memberships

It has been a tough year for Lake Scugog Historical Society to stay connected with our members. This is our third newsletter which we email to most members (a few still receive by mail). As well, we continue to post on-going historical items of interest on our Facebook site.

Our usual membership drive which coincides with the AGM in May was cancelled and therefore we have only seen 13 renewals & 7 new members this year. We also have 20 Life Members which brings our current total at this time to 40 members which is down substantially from 2019 when we had 69 members.

With these dwindling membership numbers we are facing a time when we may have to consider how long we can continue to operate. Your membership fees would normally help pay our operating expenses which we are trying to keep to a minimum right now but we still have to pay our insurance, our membership with the Ontario Historical Society, our accounting services for Income Tax filing and bank charges – a total of over \$1,400!!!

Please consider renewing your membership for the remainder of this year and all of next year!! You can either mail us your form or drop off at Books Galore in Port Perry and now there is an E-Transfer option at lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

We hope we can count on your support and that we will see the resumption of our normal activities – our walks, our talks, our Antique show & tells by the Spring of 2021.

RENEW now if you are former members or JOIN NOW if you enjoy receiving our newsletters and historical postings.

Marilyn Pearce  
Membership Secretary

*We need  
your support*



## Lake Scugog Historical Society

c/o 175 Perry Street, Port Perry, Ontario L9L 1B8  
President – Paul Arculus \* Secretary-Bill Minors \* Treasurer-Marilyn Pearce

### Membership

New ☐ ☐ Renewal ☐ ☐

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Single - \$10.00 ☐ ☐ Family - \$20.00 ☐ ☐

Corporate/Business/Organization \$25.00 ☐ ☐

### Volunteer Opportunities

LSHS Board ☐ Committees ☐ Events/Walks ☐

*Please make cheque payable to Lake Scugog Historical Society and  
mail to:*

Marilyn Pearce, LSHS Treasurer  
c/o 175 Perry Street  
Port Perry, ON  
L9L 1B8



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Augustus and his Mohawk wife were devoted Methodists and raised their children in Christian traditions. At the age of sixteen, his father... got him baptized by the Rev. Ralph Leeming, an English Episcopal minister, at the Mohawk Church, on the Grand River near Brantford.

(Peter Jones, *History of the Ojebway Indians*. Page 5.)

While at school Peter took a deep interest in matters of personal faith and became intrigued with accounts of the life of John Wesley, (1702-1791) the founder of Methodism.

To his satisfaction the Mohawk Christians had appeared to have bridged the division between Christianity and their old Indian faith, drawing out the similarities between the two religions. Among the Six Nations [Iroquois] even some of the non-Christians confessed that essentially the two religions were "the same as they both lead us to reverence and obey the Creator and to live like brethren with our fellow creatures." (Donald Smith, *Sacred Feathers*, University of Toronto Press, 1987, page 5)

In the summer of 1823 Peter and his sister Polly attended a five-day Methodist camp meeting near what is now Ancaster. The presiding elder at the camp was the Rev. William Case who would later play an important role in Peter's missionary life at Lake Scugog. On the third day of the meeting, his sister Polly had a life-changing religious experience. The following day, Peter had a similar incident.

That very instant my burden was removed, joy unspeakable filled my heart, and I could say "Abba, Father." The love of God being now shed abroad in my heart, I loved Him intensely and praised Him in the midst of the people. Everything now appeared in a new light, and all the works of God seemed

to unite with me in uttering the praises of the Lord. The people, the trees of the woods, the gentle winds, the warbling notes of the birds and the approaching sun, all declared the power and goodness of the Great Spirit. (Donald Smith, *Sacred Feathers*, page 60.)

Upon returning to Grand River Peter began his calling to become a missionary among his people. As well as teaching about Christianity, he taught them to read and write in Ojibwa and



Front and back of the medal presented to Peter Jones after his visit to King William in 1832.

English and to learn about the farming techniques that he had learned from his father. He saw education and the ability to read and write as part of the pathway to living alongside the white man and to understanding his ways. On Sundays, Peter Jones preached and helped in the Sunday School. In the evenings he spent time translating the New Testament into Ojibwa. He was the first person to put the Ojibwa language into a written form.

## Scugog Mission

In 1826 and 1827, Reverend Scott, a Baptist missionary, had visited the Mississaugas on Lake Scugog and built a shed at the waterfront of Lake Scugog where Port Perry now stands. Here he carried out his mission of preaching to the Mississaugas and teaching them how to read and write, establishing the first school and first house of worship the area. In April 1828, Peter Jones visited

Lake Scugog (he called it Lake Schoogog) and, recorded in his diary:

Thursday 24, This morning I met with the Rev. Mr. Scott, a Baptist minister, and an agent for the New England Church Missionary Society. He informed me he had commenced a school at Schoogog Lake, and was employing Mr. Hurd as a teacher. ... Remained the day and night with this gentleman as we intended traveling together the next morning. ...

Saturday 26, arrived at Mr. Hurds, about a mile and a half from Schoogog Lake where the Indians were encamped. After taking some refreshment we went to their camp. The Indians appeared very glad to see me, and after a hearty shake of the hand the horn was sounded to give notice of a meeting. We then preceded to the Indian Chapel and commenced the worship of God by singing and prayer. ... The congregation, in number about 100, were much affected. ... I then called on Brother C. Goose (an Indian), to exhort, which he did very much to the purpose. ...

The Schoogog and Mud Lake Indians are nearly all here where they intend planting the ensuing summer. The school is at present closed on account of the illness of the teacher Mr. Aaron Hurd.

Sunday 27th at 1:00 o'clock I preached to the white people in widow Dayton's barn. The people bestowed good attention.

(Peter Jones, *Life and Journals of Kah-Ke-Wa-Quo-N-By*, Forgotten Books, London 2018, page 133)

The first European settler in Reach Township was Rueben Crandell. He and his family made their way into the township in 1821. "Mr. Hurd" referred to in the journal, is Abner Hurd who, with his family, became the second family to settle in Reach Township in 1824. Later that year they were joined by the Dayton family and the small settlement

Continued on next page.





Portrait of Peter Jones wearing the special medal commissioned to commemorate his 1836 visit with King William of England (Victoria's father).

Continued from previous page.

became known as Dayton's Corners, or simply, Reach. It is difficult to determine whether or not one of the buildings erected by these early missionaries was the one referred to in Purdy's account of his travels in 1827:

*Next day we drove fifteen miles to Lake Scugog, and the following night people and horses were sheltered in the same building – that is if the place deserved the name building. Earth formed the floor, there were great open spaces between the logs of which the walls were built, and we could count the stars overhead by looking u through the breaks in the roof. Luckily there was no rain that night. Next day men, women, and horses were once more close companions, all being herded together on a flat-bottomed boat for the voyage over Lage Scugog. Scugog then no more deserved the name lake than the shelter of the night deserved the name of house. It was a mass of marsh and grass, the only clear water being that in the channel followed by the scow. Camp was pitched on Washburn Island, and the next day we reached our destination at the point where Lindsay is now located.*

(William Smith, *Pioneers of Old Ontario*, N. G. Morang, Toronto, 1923. Page 227)

Over the next twenty years Peter Jones returned to Lake Scugog frequently, working with the Rev. William Case. As a result of the work of the missionaries who spent time at the lake, a legend arose that the Mississaugas whom they had taught were better educated than most of the European pioneer settlers who were just beginning to arrive in the area.

Early in 1829, Peter and his helpers, including his brother John, built a chapel in Cavan Township. Later that year they built another chapel at Newmarket.

*Peter Jones became involved in the First Nations struggle to obtain compensation for the land which the white invaders occupied without their permission. That story will be featured in a later newsletter.*

By Paul Arculus

## Scugog Digital Project update

As most members of the Lake Scugog Historical Society may recall, it was just over one year ago that the Society agreed to digitize Port Perry's newspapers 1857 to 1930.

Work on the Scugog Digital Project began in November 2017, but the project has run into many obstacles along the way to accomplishing this important project. While successful in gaining funding through private and other sources, gaining permission to use the files has been less successful.

As of this bulletin, the project has been stalled now for more than 10 months while we await the transfer of microfilm to Our Digital World for digitizing. We received approval from the Archives of Ontario for the loan of the 1857-1930 "original" microfilm files, but since then have been stalled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

My latest contact on October 19th with Jess Posgate, who is our project coordinator, indicates she is still waiting to hear from her contact at the Archives of Ontario regarding shipment of the files to her company. Her last message from AO was in June, when they told her staff was all working remotely until further notice. It is my understanding staff have yet to return to the Archives of Ontario.

I wish I had better news! It was my hope that our digital files would be online by now, but like everyone else, we have to wait until this pandemic subsides.

Sincerely  
J. Peter Hvidsten





# Scugog's Sporting History

Gold medals, Stanley Cups, championships, and Olympic medals all represent what's best about sports. For athletes, it's achieving that difficult goal after all the sacrifice and dedication that success requires. And for the rest of us, it's the glorious unity and pride we feel as fans.

Nothing quite brings us together like watching our sporting heroes succeed. And as we all know, Scugog Township shares in that collective pride thanks to the terrific sporting achievements from people who've called our town home.

In 2007, the Scugog Sports Wall of Fame celebrated its inaugural class believing that more needed to be done to honour and recognize Scugog's extraordinary athletic achievements, and on Oct. 25, 2007, our induction class was the definition of worthy champions.



John Ross Roach

We inducted "Little Napoleon," John Ross Roach, a Port Perry-born, 14-year veteran NHL goalie and two-time Stanley Cup Champion in 2007. We inducted talented NHL scorer Fred Whitcroft, who competed in the Stanley Cup finals four times, and was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1962.

We inducted Susan Gribben, a Port Perry High School alumna whose prowess in Judo won her the U.S. Women's Open Championship, a gold medal at the British Open and a plethora of trophies and medals.

In 2007 we inducted "Mr. Softball," Vin Walker, as a builder who was integral to coaching and organizing minor softball through his work with associations like the Port Perry Minor Softball Association and the Ontario Amateur Softball Association and inductee to the Softball Canada Hall of Fame in 1997.

We inducted accomplished athlete Gary Edgar, winner of the prestigious Tom Longboat Award in 1957 for his achievements in basketball, fastball, track and field



Vin Walker



Anna Forder & Richard Stevens

and hockey, and who also coached championship soccer, volleyball and track and field teams.

In 2007 we inducted the figure skating team of Anna Forder and Richard Stevens, who were Olympians, and the 1969 Canadian Pairs Champions.

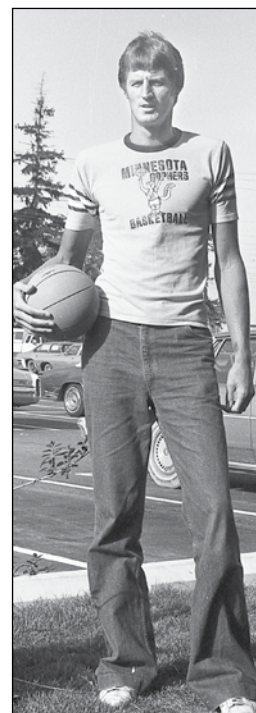
And we celebrated the first team in Scugog history to capture an OHA Championship, the 1965-66 Tripp Bulldozers.

You can share in the continuing pride we have in our local athletes by supporting the Scugog Sports Hall of Fame. We always welcome input to help us populate a continuing list of nominees, new sporting artifacts to include in our collection, and new or returning volunteers to join us in honouring and preserving our local sporting heritage.

To contact the Scugog Sports Hall of Fame, or nominate an athlete or builder worthy of induction, visit [Scugog.ca/SportsHallofFame](http://Scugog.ca/SportsHallofFame), call 905-985-8698 or email [recreation@scugog.ca](mailto:recreation@scugog.ca).

While I don't know when we'll return from our pandemic restrictions, I do know that we'll come back strong and in the continuing tradition of performing an induction ceremony that honours and celebrates our local sporting heroes.

*Submitted respectfully,  
Ryan Rogers,  
Chair of the Scugog Sports Hall of Fame*



Jim Zoet, inducted 2008.



## 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](http://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!**



## Lake Scugog Historical Society needs volunteers for the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Lake Scugog Historical Society is urgently looking for members to serve on our Executive Board.

Under the LSHS constitution, we are required to have a Board of 9 members and with recent resignations we are presently operating with just 5.

To be a Board member you simply need to be a paid up member of the Society and have an interest in helping with our events and activities. The Board meets 3 or 4 times per year as well as assists at our annual Antique Show fundraiser. We also advocate for the preservation and protection of our heritage in Scugog Township.

Our history includes the founding of Scugog Shore Museum, the preservation of the Post Office & the Town Hall 1873, advocating for the creation of the Heritage District in downtown Port Perry, the printing of numerous historical books, the placement of historical plaques for Jimmy Frise and more recently Dr. Herbert Bruce and last but not least the founding of the Scugog Shore Heritage Centre & Archives at the Scugog Arena.

If you would like to become involved please let us know – our future may depend upon it!!!

Contact: [arculusp@sympatico.ca](mailto:arculusp@sympatico.ca)





# CAMP 30



## CANADA'S ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF HIGH-RANKING GERMAN PRISONERS CANADA'S ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF HIGH-RANKING GERMAN PRISONERS

**AT THE OUTBREAK** of the Second World War, the British had a problem. Where to house the growing numbers of newly captured prisoners-of-war that were at risk of escaping from POW camps in England and making their way back to Germany to return to battle. Their answer was to reach out to Canada who, over the course of the war, built 40 POW camps. Of particular importance were the high-ranking German officers, and for them a special location was found which would be known as Camp 30.

**FOR CAMP 30**, the Department of National Defence commandeered the Boys Training School in Bowmanville. This school had opened in 1925, after a local businessman, John H. H. Jury, had been inspired by a lecture on youth reform and donated land to build a school for the "mental, moral, physical and vocational training" of young boys who were considered in jeopardy. This school had spacious grounds, fenceless fields, attractive dormitories, wholesome meals, a pool and sports fields, and a

supportive staff. They stressed training rather than punishment.

**A PERFECT SET UP** to turn into a prisoner-of-war camp, if a somewhat unusual one. The boys' school was designed to hold 300 boys, but now work began for it to hold 800 German soldiers. Barracks were constructed, along with a perimeter fence and guard towers. The town of Bowmanville covered their signs to keep secret their location to the new train load of enemy soldiers as they arrived.

**IN HINDSIGHT**, this may have been an unnecessary subterfuge because Camp 30 ran quite differently from most other POW camps. First, the Germans were left to govern themselves. They served under their own officers who lived in the school's hospital and included top ranking German Generals. The Canadian troops, mostly too old or young to fight overseas, simply patrolled the fences outside the camp.

**AND THE GERMAN OFFICERS** were allowed to take advantage of all that their new home had to offer. They used the pool and sports fields, grew vegetables, took university courses, went skiing in winter and to the beaches in summer. And yes, they were allowed out of camp to do so! A system was in place called "Ehrenwort" which meant the "word of honour" that a prisoner gave when leaving camp that he was not trying to escape and would return. The Ehrenwort system was also used to borrow tools for building stage play sets or a small log cabin they constructed. In the four years of

the camps operation, no one broke their word to use these as opportunities for escape attempts.

**WHICH IS NOT**, of course, to say that they didn't try to escape. Over the next four years there were many attempts, the most complicated of which involved digging a long tunnel to a stand of trees outside the wire. To hide the soil they were digging up the POWs stored it in the attic of their barracks. This tunnel is famous for being the longest dug by any prisoners on either side during the war. Sadly, for them, shortly before it was completed the ceiling collapsed from the weight of all that earth and their plan was foiled.

**THE BOWMANVILLE BOYS** Training School was only a POW camp from 1941-1945 but this fascinating period in its history is one of the reasons that it has been designated as a National Historic Site and should be saved.

By Dr. Amy Barron

Left & below:

German Officers at Camp 30, located near Bowmanville.

Opposite page:

Sketch of Camp 30, by one of the prisoners.







## *Book Review*

# THE KLU KLUX KLAN IN CANADA

A CENTURY OF PROMOTING RACISM  
AND HATE IN THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM

BY ALLAN BARTLEY

Published by  
Formac Publishing

While we are all no doubt familiar with the image of men covered in white robes burning crosses in the Deep South of the U.S., we should not be smug enough to imagine that "that sort of thing" did not occur north of the border. Author Allan Bartley, who teaches at Carleton University, recounts the untold story of the secretive, white supremacist terror organization in Canada.

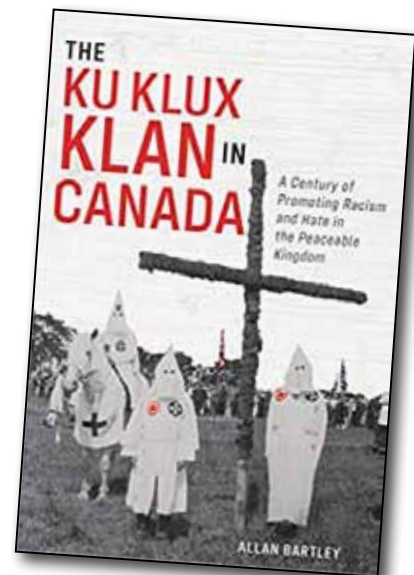
The first Klan flourished in the Southern U.S. in the late 1860's during Reconstruction, then died out by the early 1870's due to legal suppression. The second Klan started small in Georgia in 1915. It grew after 1920 and flourished nationwide in the early and mid-1920's. Rooted in local Protestant communities, it sought to maintain white supremacy, often took a Pro-Prohibition stance, and it opposed Catholics and Jews, while also stressing its opposition to the alleged power of the Pope and the Catholic Church.

I had always known that D.W. Griffiths movie "The Birth Of A Nation" was controversial in its favorable depiction of the Klan. What I did not realize was just how much it was instrumental in promoting membership in the Klan. At the New York opening of the movie

ushers were dressed as Confederate soldiers, usherettes as southern belles. Actors decked out in white robes and hoods stood silent guard on horseback outside the theatre. In the years immediately after "The Birth Of A Nation" was shown in Atlanta, the revived Klu Klux Klan burned down five black churches in the state of Georgia alone.

North of the border, the arrival of the movie provoked resistance and action from Canada's Black communities scattered across the country. They lobbied the Premier of Ontario and complained about the negative portrayal of Black people, but to no avail. The greatest fear of white legislators was not Black immigration from the Caribbean or Africa, but from the United States. Conservative Member of Parliament William Thoburn from the eastern Ontario riding of Lanark North warned of the influx of Black Americans. He said in Parliament (and I quote) "Would it not be preferable to preserve for the Sons of Canada the land they propose to give to N-----s"

The Klan saw Canada as ripe for Klan expansion, they were particularly successful in Ontario and Saskatchewan, where coincidentally there was the largest concentration of Orange Lodges. Klan recruiting drives were often held in Orange Lodge halls. 1926 might be considered the zenith of the Klan



in Canada. On the Victoria Day weekend in Barrie a crowd estimated at 2,000 watched as a ritual "fiery cross" was burned on a hillside. The Klan estimated that over 130,000 people attended Klan rallies that summer. "The Klan was a legacy passed down from the ancient Protestant Scotch clans" intoned one speaker.

Although the Klan did not resort to lynching and overt violence in Canada, there are many examples of intimidation. In one case a young white woman was basically abducted and returned to her Mother because she was dating a black man.

If you want to read of the remarkable rise and fall of the Klan in Canada, I would highly recommend this book.

Reviewed by  
Bill Minors





# Scugog's Historical Organizations

The Lake Scugog Historical Society is dedicated to the history of the Lake Scugog area and was established in 1969 and was issued their Letters Patent in 1974 to:

- To own , operate and maintain a museum as a repository for First Nation, Pioneer and Early Settler relics, artifacts and items relevant to the portrayal of our development through history
- To encourage research into the history of the area and its surrounding territories
- To promote public interest in the history of the said area
- To promote the study, practice and knowledge of any phase of historical and archaeological research with the said area.
- Under the Charitable Gifts Act: To collect moneys by way of donations, fees or otherwise, to accept gifts, legacies and bequests and to hold, invest, expend or deal with the same in the furtherance of these objectives.

There were seven original directors of this Charter document: Lucille Gray, Wilmot Phair, Helen Redman, Allene Kane, Allan Bertrand, Joyce Kelly, Bruce Mountjoy, William Brock and Robert Kenny.

Since that time the importance of protecting and preserving our local history has never waned but is now delivered by more organizations each with a specific mandate. Cultural heritage resources can take many different forms – museum, archive and library collections; buildings, monuments, cemeteries, streetscapes; stories, research, folktales, documents and traditional arts, crafts and skills.

## Our Built Heritage

The Scugog Municipal Heritage Committee aids in the protection and preservation of Scugog's heritage buildings and sites under the Ontario Heritage Act. They primarily act as a resource to residents in conserving structures – our Built Heritage and to staff in reviewing development applications. They review and comment on changes in the Heritage Conservation

District, they offer advice to property owners about external changes on the Heritage Register and they establish criteria for evaluation of properties of architectural, historic or cultural value.

## Our Home for History

Scugog Shores Museum Village and Archives is the primary repository for our collections of artifacts and archives and educating the public through education, research and visitation to the buildings and grounds as they might have looked in the late 1800's.

Our museum has 11 restored buildings, Ojibway Heritage Interpretive Lands and Heritage flower, herb and vegetable gardens.

The Historical Archives for the Township are soon to be re-located to this location. Presently the Village is closed for the season but staff and volunteers are able to do limited research by request. Volunteer Sandy Denby has been the main contact for entries to the archival Data Base (Past Perfect) over the past

number of years and as a result there are over 3912 items documented and 2580 photos in the photo database – quite an accomplishment!! Many other items have been accessioned to the collection but are not yet in the database.

## Our Story Tellers

The Lake Scugog Historical Society while recognizing, supporting and assisting all groups as part of our original charter has assumed a role primarily of identifying, and preserving our stories and our documents in order to enrich our lives, inspire us, and guide us in ensuring a lasting legacy for future generations.

We do that through our Speaker Series, our guided walks, our publications, our upcoming Digitization Project and our promotion of local stories and contributors through our newsletters.

Citizens recognize heritage as a valuable cultural, social and economic resource and in Scugog we are well-served by the organizations who recognize that importance.

Submitted by Marilyn Pearce



*Allene and Jack Kane at the official opening of the Scugog Shores Museum on July 5, 1970.*

# FOUND: Prince Albert Railway Station

Sincere thanks to Denise Jeffrey for sharing a photograph which features the first known image of the Prince Albert railway station. The long sought after picture, seen below, comes from a Murphy family photo taken in 1921, (right), which shows the the Prince Albert railway station in the background.

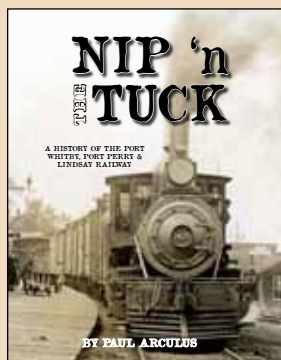
The enlarged photo (below) is a little blurry, but it reveals an never-seen image of the Prince Albert railway station. It was located half a mile east of the village intersection, on the south side of the road.



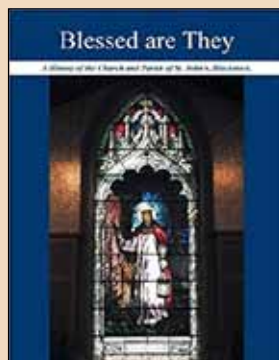
The above photo of the Murphy family, was taken on their farm property, located just west of Simcoe St. on the south side of King Street, about one kilometre east of Prince Albert village. The railway station is visible in the background.

Left to right Lillian Murphy, Margaret Murphy, H.R. Murphy, Ross Murphy and James Ross and baby Doris Murphy.

## Lake Scugog Historical Society OUR PUBLICATIONS



A fascinating history of the Whitby, Port Perry and Lindsay railway with incredible images!  
Cost: \$35



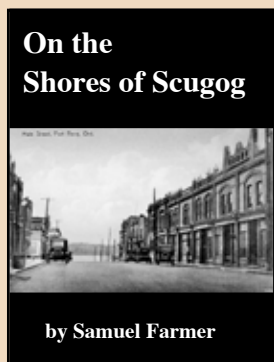
A History of the Church and Parish of St. John's Blackstock.  
Cost: \$20



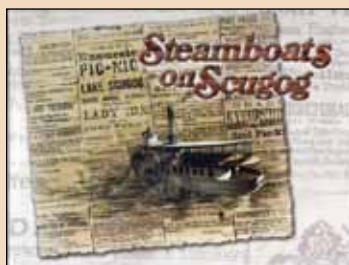
Snippets about 80 of interesting and prominent former citizens buried at the Prince Albert cemetery.  
Cost: \$10



Cartwright Revisited 1983 Sesquicentennial Edition.  
Cost: \$15



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



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

### LAKE SCUGOG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dedicated to the history of Lake Scugog and Area  
Established 1969