

Innisfil Notes



Innisfil Historical Society

P.O. Box 7176, Innisfil, ON L9S 1A9

www.innisfilhistorical.ca

Meeting Place: Knock School Heritage Site
#7756 10 Sideroad at 9th Line, Innisfil



Photo credit: John De Visser

Next Meeting
October 15th, 2011 – 2 p.m.

THE AGENDA:

LAKE SIMCOE

And illustrated talk by Andrew Hind, in collaboration with Maria Da Silva.

Andrew is a freelance writer in local papers, including **FOOTPRINTS Simcoe Lifestyle**. Andrew and Maria have also collaborated on other history books.

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**October Highlights:**

*THANKSGIVING October 10<sup>th</sup>*

The early Canadian settlers gave thanks for good harvest by decorating their churches with fruits and vegetables; celebrating with dinners of venison, waterfowl and beaver tails. This tradition came first to Nova Scotia with travelers from New England, and during the American Revolution Loyalists who fled into Canada spread the tradition to the rest of the country. Since 1879, Thanksgiving has been an official holiday.

*HALLOWEEN October 31<sup>st</sup>*

In the 1840s, Irish settlers brought their Halloween customs to North America.

They wore masks and costumes to frighten the spirits; they bobbed for apples, and told ghost stories. Only in Ireland, however, is Halloween a national holiday.

*-and here early mentions of November Happenings:*

*INNISFIL STUDIO TOUR*

*Nov.5 & 6*

There are 17 artists inviting you to this tour, all within Innisfil from Big Bay Point Road to Highway 89; from County Road 27 to Lake Simcoe! Brochures are available in all our stores.

*-and our own –*

*BANQUET*

*November 19<sup>th</sup>, St. James Church in Stroud*

There will again be a slide show of all our happenings and outings, presented by Jean Warrington, as well as prizes, and that fine roast beef dinner! Tickets will be sold at our October meeting.

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It was October 15th, 1954 when Hurricane Hazel struck southern Ontario at rush hour. At that time, few of us paid attention to tropical storms. There was little warning about Hazel, one of the worst storms in Canada.

In our September meeting, Dr. Carter gave us a slide-show with explanations how architecture improved school houses from the early 1800's to approximately 1928, in Ontario, including Mindemoya and Gore Bay on Manitoulin Island. Seeing a class-photo in front of these schools, with boys in suits and girls dressed in their pinafores with ribbons in their hair, was a delight to see! The whole presentation was of great interest to all.

The following is taken from:
SCHOOL'S OUT,
by Anne M. Logan

-a contract that laid down certain rules for a female teacher:

1) To be at home between the hours of 8p.m. and 6 a.m. unless she is in attendance at a school function.

2) Not to leave town at any time without the permission of the chairman of the board.

3) Not to smoke cigarettes.

4) Not to drink beer, wine or whiskey.

5) Not to ride in a carriage or automobile with any man except her brother or father.

6) Not to dress in bright colours.

7) Not to wear dresses more than two inches above the ankles.

8) To keep the schoolroom clean; to sweep the classroom floor at least once daily; to scrub the classroom floor once a week with hot water and soap; to clean the blackboards at least once daily; start the fire at 7a.m. so that the room will be warm at 8 a.m. when the children arrive; to carry out the ashes once daily.

The salary in 1899 for a woman teacher was \$250.-; and a man received \$344.-. Herewith the explanation for the difference:

"A lady teacher's connection with the profession is but temporary, and liable to be closed at any moment by her own act of marriage. And, besides, there are differences in the nervous constitution and physical strength of the sexes."

The BETHESDA SCHOOL REUNION on September 17th must have been a popular event - school reunions usually are.

Gladys and Audrey Miller, former teachers at Bethesda missed our last meeting for

it. But they brought back a poem written for this reunion by Christina Peters, and the complete history of this school by Don Roulston:

A log school was built in 1855 on the N.E. corner of the Hindle property, where the 4th Conc. Rd. and Highway #400 intersects. The property and the community was named after James & Hannah Hindle who arrived in Innisfil Township from Lancashire County in England around 1830.

In 1868, a frame school building was constructed on the N.W. corner of the same property, together with Methodist Church nearby. The name of the community was changed to 'Bethesda', a Hebrew Biblical name, which early pioneers used to express: "God is in this place". This school was bricked in 1911; but was lost to fire in 1916. By 1918, pupils had a new school. In 1963, Bethesda was one of five schools to be sold by public auction.

CHRISTINA'S POEM

Practicing on the Christmas stage which did squeek
White performers waited in basement for their cue, took a peek
Who here boarded the teacher at home?

One can be sure of the good behaviour path you didn't roam

Coming unannounced at least twice a year

Checking teachers notes, daily plans, and students as well

Complimenting all, casting everyone under a spell

School for some was often missed

For farm work or as a snow storm would persist.

Jelly pads and teasing all go along

With bonds that were built and remain strong.

Back in our Bethesda day, we never could dream

Of the ipod, computers, etc on today's scene.

"Bethesda", brought us together today as "our school"

Meeting, greeting, see YOU, reminiscing, too

Has been so 'COOL'!

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TEAM WARNICA: Bill, Jan, Pam & Kyle collected \$1,875.- in sponsorships for this year's TERRY FOX RUN on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Congratulations!

Bill is also very knowledgeable of the history of Innisfil, and has written " ST.JAMES UNITED CHURCH CEMETERY-1842and onward".

*VETERANS OF INNISFIL  
BOOK PROJECT*

The Innisfil Historical Society has begun a book-writing project in which we plan to document the stories of Innisfil men and women who, over the years, served in Canada's Armed Forces. It is our intention to begin with Veterans of WWII and then to broaden our scope to include WWI and other earlier wars, and, possibly, later wars and peace-keeping missions as well.

In order to create an eye-catching yet readable end result, Innisfil Historical is seeking donations to cover the costs of printing, copying pictures, and publishing, as well as other on-going expenses associated with our project.

A Donor page will be included for donations from individuals, businesses or corporations, and service organizations. If you wish to make a donation, please make cheques payable to the Innisfil Historical Society.

*All donors will be issued a charitable donation receipt.*

The following names have as yet not been traced as to location or offspring:

Please study this list and call Donna at 705-436-2578 if you can identify or share any details as to their whereabouts after the war, or who might be contacted.

Manto, Herman C.  
Marling, G.A G€ordon  
Marling, T.A.  
McArthur, J.A. Jack  
McDonald, S.B.  
McKay, Aulay  
McRoberts, J. John  
Micks, P.A. Philip  
Moffatt, K.Ken  
Montgomery, K.  
Moore,Byard  
Moret, E.  
Morris, George Neil  
Morrison, R.W.Robert (Bob)  
Muir, G.F.Gordon Frederick  
Muir, H.E. Howard  
Mullen, J.J. John  
Mutch, Bill  
O'Hara, F.  
Patterson,J.A. John Albert  
Petryshyn, A.  
Prentice, D.B.Bruce  
Pringle, G.R.  
Ridler, Frank Wallace  
Royce, J. Jack? William?  
Scythes, Aubrey  
Storey, W.L. William  
Sweeny, G.M. Gordon  
Sylvester, W.M. Wallace  
Townsend, Bruce  
Webb, A.Allan  
Webb, E.Emerson  
Webb, G.George  
Webb, G. Gordon  
Wickham, R.S.  
Woods, John  
Wright, Wilson Berna

**GREETINGS  
FROM THE PRESIDENT  
ANDREW COWAN**

As I write this, Fall is just around the corner. We have not seen any hummingbirds at our feeder for a week now. After the hot dry weather in July, requiring numerous waterings with the garden hose, our tomatoes have come through with excellent yield, as evidenced by numerous pickings we are getting.

Several events taking place on September 17<sup>th</sup>, may have contributed to some of our members missing an excellent presentation by John Carter on schools and early education in Ontario. In addition to his slide pictures of many schools, (some from not too far away), he also talked about Ryerson's and Hodgins' contribution to education. Ryerson is recognized for his report, based on extensive study of the European and US model of education, that resulted in the first of three School Acts which would revolutionize education in Canada. He established, in 1852, a normal school in Toronto for the training of teachers; and instituted two days annually for professional development. He promoted libraries and arts in schools, and 'learning

by doing'. This is the groundwork for the school system as we know it today.

Tickets are now available for our November banquet and can be picked up at the October meeting or by contacting Mervin Wice at 705-436-2578. Price is \$15.

Plan to attend our October meeting, when the topic is **SECRETS of LAKE SIMCOE**. This is a recently published book by Andrew Hind and Maria Da Silva, and will provide some interesting historical information on this inland lake that has played a significant part in the settlement of the local area.  
A.C.

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*About Us:*

Our newsletter is published ten times a year, with information on our upcoming meetings and written items of historical interest.

We have published several books on Innisfil's history, i.e. Skunks and Scholars, The Grange at Knock, The Ice Industry, Farms of Innisfil, and others, which you may purchase by calling Hank Abspoel at 705-436-3476.

Share a seat in your car, and bring along a friend. We will be delighted to welcome new members.

