



Winter  
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FREE

# The Scugog Historical Observer

 TOWNSHIP OF  
Scugog  
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## Scugog celebrates festive season



Santa Claus will be at the door waiting for kids on Dec. 7 when he makes a special appearance at the Scugog Shores Museum's annual children's Christmas event.

It's a magical time of year at the Scugog Shores Museum as staff are busy making preparations for the annual 'Children's Old-Fashioned Christmas'.

The village is being decked out in cedar boughs, red ribbons and berries so that visitors can step back in time, tour through the historic village and get a sense of what Christmas was like for Scugog's early pioneers.

The event will be held on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Children will be engaged in activities throughout the village, where they can string popcorn and cranberries in the Lee House, bake and decorate gingerbread cookies in the log cabin and create unique ornaments and Victorian Christmas cards.

Most importantly, children won't want to miss Santa Claus who will be visiting the village from noon until 3 p.m.

The blacksmith will also be tinkering away in the blacksmith shop and light refreshments will be served throughout the day.

Admission to the event is free, but non-perishable food donations for Operation Scugog will be accepted.

Last year, more than 200 local children took advantage of the free event at the Scugog museum.

They contributed dozens of canned goods and toys to the local food bank, resulting in a truckload of goodies delivered to the Alma Street charity.

The museum is located at 16210 Island Rd. in Port Perry.

For more information about the 'Children's Old-Fashioned Christmas' and the museum's other special events, call 905-985-8698, ext. 107, or visit [www.scugogshoresmuseum.com](http://www.scugogshoresmuseum.com).

To see photos from last season's event, visit the museum's Facebook page.

## Preserving Scugog's past for the future

*Second annual  
'Heritage Scugog Night'  
held Nov. 19*

The Heritage Scugog Committee presented its first-ever 'Heritage Scugog Awards' at the second annual 'Scugog Heritage Night' that took place Nov. 19 in the municipal council chambers.

These awards were given out to acknowledge, recognize and reward the

hard work that goes on in Scugog to preserve and promote our heritage. The winners were:

\* **DAN STONE:** Presented with the 'Architectural Conservation and Craftsmanship Award' for his excellence in the preservation or adaptive reuse of a building 40 years or older. Mr. Stone was honoured with this award for his hard work on preserving a heritage building that is a significant piece of Port Perry's

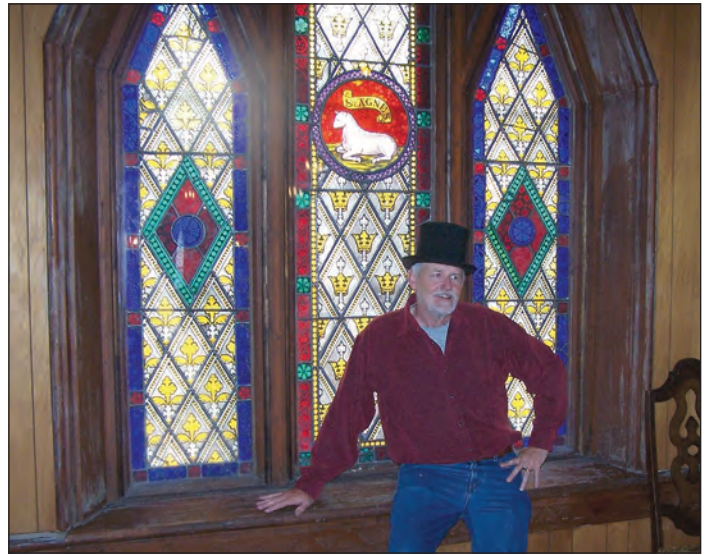
history.

\* **LAKE SCUGOG HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Presented with the 'Publication and Research Award' for a work of non-fiction about Scugog's archeological, built, cultural and/or natural heritage. The historical society received this recognition for its creation of a driving tour booklet called 'Scugog Experience'.

Please see *Heritage*



## SCUGOG SWINGS ITS 'DOORS OPEN'



The Township of Scugog once again participated in the popular 'Doors Open' event on Oct. 4. Ten of Scugog's historically and culturally significant sites welcomed visitors throughout the day, attracting large crowds. Above left, people flocked to the former Parrish Residence, located on Queen Street by Town Hall 1873. Right, Heritage Scugog Committee member Dan Stone was a volunteer at the Greenbank Hall and spent some time checking out the building's attractions, such as the stained-glass window.

## Scugog gears up for Santa Claus Parade

A collection of Scugog's history will be on display at this year's Santa Claus Parade when the annual procession winds its way through Port Perry's downtown core, beginning at 5 p.m.

Keeping with the theme of this year's parade, 'An Old Time Christmas', the Township of Scugog's float will feature a variety of items from the community's past, borrowed from the Scugog Shores Museum.

Museum staff tasked with decorating the float are keeping their ideas quiet, but hint that the large crowds expected to line Port Perry's streets on Nov. 29 will see a beautifully outfitted wagon-style float covered with twinkling lights and a few artifacts from the museum's collection.

Organized by the Scugog Chamber of Commerce, the annual procession will once again roll out of the Port Perry Fairgrounds, where it's expected more than two dozen floats will head east along Reach Street.

From there, the parade will head south on Simcoe Street and then turn east again on Queen Street, marching through the Port Perry downtown core and ending at Water Street.



Local historian Paul Arculus, in top hat, provided a tour of Prince Albert on Oct. 17.

## Prince Albert school marks 50 years

Poodle skirts, bell-bottom pants and platform shoes were back in style in mid-October when staff and students at Prince Albert Public School wore vintage clothing to mark the 50th anniversary of the Old Simcoe Road school.

The celebrations were held over the weekend of Oct. 17-18 and one of the highlights included a walking tour of Prince Albert presented by local historian and author Paul Arculus, which attracted

a large crowd of students and community members.

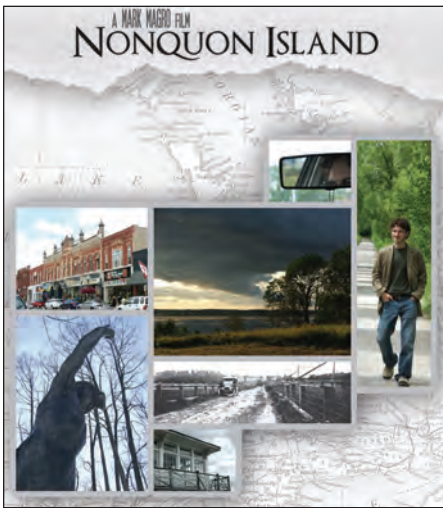
The tour made its way from the school through the community's streets with stops along the way to point out homes that served as hotels and stores in the once-bustling grain-buying centre. A special stop was made at the Prince Albert Community Hall, which was the local elementary school for nearly 100 years before the one on Old Simcoe Road was built in 1958.

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## What's in store in Scugog:

- Nov. 21:** The 'Candlelight Walk and Tree Lighting Extravaganza', Queen Street, Port Perry, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 27 to Dec. 6:** 'Holiday Music Special', Town Hall 1873
- Nov. 29:** Santa Claus Parade, Port Perry, 5 p.m.
- Dec. 7:** 'Children's Old Fashioned Christmas', Scugog Shores Museum, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Dec. 14:** 'Olde-Fashioned Christmas Carol Service', St. John's Presbyterian Church, Port Perry, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 4:** Kent Farndale Gallery opening: Michael Black, Scugog Memorial Public Library
- Jan. 4:** 'Mayor's New Year's Levee', Scugog Community Centre, 1655 Reach St., Port Perry, 1:30 p.m.
- Jan. 31 to Feb. 1:** Antique show, Scugog Community Centre, 1655 Reach St., Port Perry
- Feb. 4:** Kent Farndale Gallery opening: Lynda Cunningham, Scugog Memorial Public Library
- Feb. 16:** 'Family Fun Day', Scugog Arena
- Feb. 19 to 28:** 'Peter Pan', Town Hall 1873





The efforts Husayn Alifahim and Saba Ayesha Syed undertook on their home, at 401 McDonald St., above, landed the pair the Heritage Scugog Committee's 'Heritage Integration Award'. Left, 'Nonquon Island', a film by Mark Magro, was honoured with the 'Media Award'. The documentary tells the story of Scugog's famed 'Seven Mile Island'. This is the first year for the 'Heritage Scugog Awards'.

## Heritage, culture of Scugog marked at annual celebration

### Front front page

\* **MARK MAGRO:** Presented with the 'Media Award', given for a work of non-fiction about Scugog's archeological, built, cultural and/or natural heritage. Mr. Magro received the award for his documentary film on Seven Mile Island, called 'Nonquon Island'.

\* **THE PORT PERRY FAIR BOARD:** Recipient of the 'Agricultural Heritage Award', which acknowledges an individual or group that has worked to preserve and promote Scugog's agricultural heritage. The Port Perry Fair, organized by the fair board, recently celebrated its 150th anniversary.

\* **HUSAYN ALIFAHIM and SABA AYESHA SYED:** Presented

with the 'Heritage Integration Award', which recognizes a sensitive addition to a heritage building or modern infill building that is complementary to the heritage character of a specific area. The 2008 award was presented to Husayn Alifahim and Saba Ayesha Syed for their renovation work at 401 McDonald St. in Port Perry.

\* **BAAGWATING COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION:** Recipient of the 'Mayor's Community Heritage Award', which is presented to a volunteer-based organization that promotes or protects heritage within Scugog. The Baagwating Community Association was recognized for their financial support of numerous initiatives that increase awareness of First Nations and local heritage.

## Scugog honours sports history

Welcomed into the sports wall of fame at the Oct. 23 ceremony were long-time sports journalist John B. McClelland, figure-skater David Porter, daredevil motorcyclist Bill Davidson, former NBA player Jim Zoet, and the 1965 Port Perry Legion Squirts, who captured a provincial title that year.

Also honoured that night were five sporting groups that have deep roots in the community and who have played an important role in Scugog's sporting heritage.

### Port Perry Lawn Bowling Club

In 2008, the Port Perry Lawn Bowling Club held its centennial celebration, marking 100 years since George Gerrow served as the first president of the local club beginning in July 1908. The club's history reaches back to a small parcel of land on Queen Street, now known as 'Reflection Park', where the first set of greens were established in 1909. The club remained in Port Perry's downtown core until 1986, when in August of that year it moved to its present location, a two-acre site on Old Simcoe Road.

### Caesarea Regatta

Summer is a special time in the cottage community of Caesarea and the summer of 2008 was extra significant as the waterside hamlet marked the 80th anniversary of the Caesarea Regatta. Since its inaugural year in 1928, the Caesarea Regatta has been a defining feature of town life.

### Port Perry Curling Club

The Port Perry Curling Club, located at 483 Bay St., marked an important milestone in 2008 after officially opening its doors fifty years ago. The curling club got its start in 1954 on Water Street but a new facility was later built on Bay Street for \$52,000, on lands donated by milk farmer Bob Kenny and opened in 1958.

### Port Perry Figure Skating Club

In the fall of 1958, a few eager people from Scugog organized and started the Port Perry Figure Skating Club. The club's popularity soon became apparent when the membership nearly doubled. The club went on to produce a number of champions over the past 50 years and has since changed its name to the Port Perry Skating Club in acknowledgment of their expansion and evaluation of instructional skating programs.

### Canoe the Nonquon

Canoe the Nonquon was created by the Lake Scugog Historical Society in 1969 as an annual event to raise money for the then newly-formed Scugog Shores Museum. Since its inception 40 years ago, the race run on the first Saturday in June has raised more than \$200,000 for the museum and to this day it remains one of the museum's biggest fundraisers. It attracts participants of all ages and skill levels from across Southern Ontario and is the largest and oldest canoe race of its type in the province.



# Scugog museum closes another busy year

The Scugog Shores Museum is set to close the book on another busy year at the Scugog Island historical site.

The 2008 event season started early this spring with a film festival to help promote the 40th anniversary of 'Canoe the Nonquon'. The film festival was held on May 10 at Town Hall 1873 and a total of six documentaries featuring canoes were shown, including the premiere presentation of Mark Magro's film 'Nonquon Island'.

On June 7, the 40th annual 'Canoe the Nonquon' fundraiser was held and event organizers couldn't have asked for better weather as it was hot and sunny. Water levels were high this spring and participants really enjoyed the river portion of the race. Eighty canoes and kayaks took part in this year's race and \$4,000 was raised for the Scugog museum.

The 'Scugog Shores Classic Car Drive-in and Fleamarket' was held a week later, on June 14. The event shined the spotlight on vehicles from the 1920s through the 1970s.

The show attracted dozens of classic vehicle owners from across Durham Region and beyond.

Over the weekend of July 19 and 20, the museum went to the dogs for its 6th annual 'Dog Days of Scugog'. Dogs and their owners came from far and wide to take in agility demonstrations, shop in the vendors' market and to check out the 'Dock Dog' and 'Disc Dog' competitions. New at this year's event was 'Jack Russell Racing', which was a wonderful addition to an already jam-packed schedule. Over 1,200 people attended this event over the two days and more than \$6,000 was raised for the museum.

The weather once again co-operated as the rain held off for the 'Murder Mystery' evening, which was held on Sept. 12. This year's evening was titled 'Gods of our Lives'. Eighty assistant detectives helped discover who was behind the mysterious murder of Zeus.

The 19th annual 'Pioneer Fall Fair' was

held on Sept. 21 and the Military Re-enactors Society of Canada wowed crowds with three performances throughout the day. The public could also tour through their camp and get a glimpse of what life was like for the Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada, during the War of 1812. The museum village was buzzing with activity that cool fall day as participants sampled apple cider, checked out steam engines and vendors, and took in a museum village walking tour. The tour was provided by local historian Paul Arculus and the chairman of the Heritage Scugog Committee, Peter Wokral.

The museum would like to thank the many volunteers that came and helped out this event season. Museum staff are already busy planning next year's exciting line-up. Check the museum's web site ([www.scugogshoresmuseum.com](http://www.scugogshoresmuseum.com)) in the new year for next season's event dates. To see more photos from this season's events, please visit the museum's Facebook page.



Clockwise from above left, Dog Days of Scugog, the Car Show and Flea Market, Canoe The Nonquon and Pioneer Fall Fair.

