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# The past came alive for a few days

Hopefully, residents took some time to remember their past last weekend.

There were plenty of opportunities to do so, with the Simcoe County Museum hosting its weekly Summer Sunday activities, and the Georgian Bay Steam Show displaying hundreds of pieces of antique farm equipment. Even Barrie's Kempenfest had a link to previous generations, with an antique market and artisans displaying unique and often ancient crafting techniques.

Even Monday's Civic Holiday is an attempt to celebrate and honour Canada's rich history. According to the online research database Wikipedia, the first Monday in August is celebrated using many different names across Canada. Albertans call the holiday Heritage Day, while several names dot the Ontarian references, from Simcoe Day in Toronto to Founders' Day in Brantford.

Most names used for the holiday try to link modern Canadians with their past, giving them a brief understanding of the important historical personalities that effected their municipalities, regions, provinces and country.

This holiday would take place, regardless of the its various namesakes. But that doesn't make naming of the holiday trivial, if Canadians take



## Comment

by Chris Simon

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the time to look into their history.

While listening to a Toronto-based radio station Monday, I heard a host tell listeners that "only Canadians have a holiday dedicated to a lake."

The host was obviously referring to Lake Simcoe, although I found his explanation of the holiday name troubling and weak.

History has implications on society and individuals every day. As a society, we attempt to build upon the achievements of others, to better living standards, understand the natural world and prevent tyranny. Individuals use history to gain wealth and social standing, and develop theories to help society progress.

Without Isaac Newton's early work on gravity, Albert Einstein would have had a significantly more difficult time developing his Theory of Relativity. Without the philosophy of John Locke, Voltaire, Thomas Paine and others,

modern democracy may never have taken shape. Charles Darwin's evolutionary theories have shaped scientific research since the mid-19th century, and Canadian health care might look radically different without the accomplishments of Frederick Banting and Tommy Douglas.

On a more personal level, Henry Ford's use of the assembly line has shaped the production of most items, from cars to candy. Understanding history also prevents society from repeating mistakes, from despotism to poor personal hygiene.

The Civic Holiday is about much more than a day off work, or the simple honouring of important Canadians. It's about recognizing the contributions the country has made to the world, and understanding the impact of prior decisions and accomplishments. It's easier than ever to gain an understanding of that impact, through an online search or trip to a library or local museum.

There are still a few weekends left in the summer season, plenty of time to learn a little bit about the past. Whether it's an understanding of leading historical figures, or the evolution of an everyday household product, it never hurts to know where society has been.

Perhaps that research will help you decide where society is going next.

# Shedding some light on Innisfil minor hockey

## Letters From Our Readers

I would like to shed some light on minor hockey in our Town of Innisfil. For a small town, we have three minor hockey associations, all having different programs and also different calibre of players.

Innisfil Minor Hockey runs the Rep. Hockey Division, known as the

Winterhawks. Also, they run a Local League Division, which is new for them this year. IMHA is affiliated with the OMHA — the Ontario Minor Hockey Association. The IMHA play their home games from the Stroud Arena and the new Innisfil Recreation Complex.

The other hockey association who is also part of the OMHA is the Lefroy Minor Hockey Association, affectionately known as the

Icebreakers. They are a local league centre only, and play all of their home games in the hamlet of Lefroy. Both associations have divisions from IP program to Major Midget (four years old to 17).

Both organizations have been around for more than 25 years and have built a good reputation for having great rep and local league hockey.

There is also a new kid in town, a hockey association

called Young Crusaders, which is part of the Near North Hockey League. From what I understand, this is a house and house select league, and they will be playing at all arenas in Innisfil.

This league is connected with the Canadian Hockey Parents Association.

The only reason that I am writing this is to inform anyone new in the area, who wants their child to play hockey, to please do their

homework. Check the websites, Google the associations, call someone on the executive board of Lefroy, Innisfil or Young, and make inquiries.

You want your child to have the best experience he or she can have, so please ask questions. One great thing about our town is that there is no shortage of local hockey.

Scott Durham,  
Vice president of Lefroy  
Minor Hockey

# Geranium took the time to meet with neighbours

## Letters From Our Readers

On behalf of the group of fence-line neighbours at the south end of Geranium president Earl Rumm's marina at Big Bay Point, I would like to thank him,

represented by Mario Giampietri, for meeting with us.

Due to our proximity to the proposed Big Bay Point Resort, we will be affected more than anyone else in the community. I expressed this to Rumm and he acted immediately, setting up a number of meetings with

(Giampietri), who has been more than happy to listen to our input on how to blend the properties on both sides of the fence-line.

Rumm has kept our group informed as to where and what Geranium is doing in regards to the new resort through a number of meetings over the last year

and a half, and have made positive changes to accommodate our concerns. These include lowering the height of buildings that will be directly adjacent to us, meeting with the landscape architect and sending the excavating contractor to clean-up ice jams behind our properties bordering the

fence. On numerous occasions, I have talked with a number of Geranium's divisional vice presidents and have received positive responses.

Thanks for listening to our concerns and keeping us informed.

Joe Sciberras,  
Innisfil

# Cigarettes cost Canadian taxpayer plenty of cash

## Letters From Our Readers

I'm writing in response to Dawn Mucci-Gooch's letter that appeared in a recent edition of The Scope. In particular, she mentions that (cigarettes are) all about the bucks and taxes they make off smoking, and that the government doesn't care about protecting our children.

They might not care

about our children (that's our job as parents) but it does cost Canada millions of dollars to care for smokers when they get sick because of their habit, so I don't care a fig that cigarettes are taxed so highly or that they make it inconvenient to buy them by hiding them or asking for ID, even if you look 100 years old.

What's ridiculous is that smokers continue to smoke knowing full well that it kills.

Besides, the tax on

cigarettes is only a tiny percentage of what it actually costs to take care of smokers when they get lung cancer, not to mention a myriad of other sicknesses and problems that come from smoking.

My non-smoking tax dollars go in part to help care for 50 per cent of smokers, according to Statistics Canada. These people eventually get lung cancer and die a slow and painful death in a hospital bed. Smokers have no right

to get angry about all the restrictions placed on them. I get angry when I think about all those years of waitressing in smoke filled restaurants and I can only hope that I don't pay a price for that with my health. I know others have.

It's ridiculous how immature some Innisfil residents are behaving in the stores, freaking out on helpless cashiers who never made up the law of banning tobacco from view, or are forced to ask for ID. Shame

on those residents. At least have the good sense to keep in mind that no one is forcing you to smoke and that complete strangers have no choice but to inhale your stinking and dangerous habit while they pass you. Smoking is a choice, breathing isn't. Everyone now knows that smoking is not healthy, so get over it and quit. Like a t-shirt I once read says, "smoking is suicide for cowards".

Deborah Placidi,  
Innisfil