



Request to Present to Mayor Lehman and Barrie City Council

Subject: Proposed Legacy Projects – War 1812/1814

Date: Monday June 4 2012

Presenters: Joanna McEwen and Paul Marshall, ad hoc committee
of Oro-Medonte History Association.

Please see attached presentation for details.



Paul Marshall

To: Mayor Jeff Lehman, City of Barrie.
Subject: Proposed Legacy Projects-War 1812/1814.

**Area: THE OLD HISTORIC PENETANGUISHENE ROAD
or COUNTY ROAD 93**

Rational: This area is thinking about the war of 1812/14 and planning celebrations for the next 2 years; these will bring to the forefront its impact at the time and its long term legacy for all Simcoe County. The proposals which follow, seek to suggest long term legacy initiatives which will highlight this renewed awareness. Legacy projects are **permanent** and serve to point out on a daily basis, aspects of our local history. We envisage a number of ways to physically mark the culture (no longer extant) which has nurtured Simcoe County for 200 years. They are neither showy nor expensive. We take for granted that the landscape and the physical marks of our past culture will always be here and always recalled by someone. The evidence is quite the contrary.

Historical background.

1791- John Graves Simcoe becomes Lieutenant Governor of newly formed Upper Canada.

(Upper Canada - Ontario - is only 221 years old.) Both the names Simcoe County and Lake Simcoe are attributable to him as is Kempenfelt bay.

1793- Simcoe encourages purchase of land from First Nations to ensure that the harbour at Penetanguishene will be secure.

1799- Yonge Street, leading to Lake Simcoe, had been opened 32 miles ... now considered shorter and safer than the trade route through Detroit and Niagara. It soon came to Holland Landing and then to Barrie.

c.1800 - request for land grants ... 2000 acres on kempenfelt bay and a similar amount in Penetang. Harassment of Canadian fur traders continues.

1808- Sir Francis Gore, now Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, orders a soil survey for 2 roads... one starting from Kempenfelt Bay.. Thomas Ridout, surveyor general ordered that a road be laid out, flanked by lots on both sides. The actual survey was done by Samuel Wilmot in 1811. At the same time he surveyed a village of 1 acre lots, to be known as Kempenfelt.

1812. Wilmot registers his survey, (originally conceived as an extension of Yonge street) including settlement lots on each side of the road, concession lines and Townships.

c. 1814. Dr. William " Tiger" Dunlop undertakes to cut the Penetang road through... tough

task.

1819. First settlers begin to move up the Penetang Road from Kempenfelt and Barrie. The Proposals: We propose to work in concert with an extended community on a number of initiatives which will seek to address certain legacies of the 1812/14 War.

PROPOSAL # 1

Mark the two historic village plots- Kempenfelt Village (the first registered plan in Simcoe County) and a similar plot in Penetang at either end of the Penetang Rd. This marking should be well conceived, permanent.

See sample from Distillery District Toronto. We see it as possibly integrated with present street signs.

PROPOSAL # 2

An interpretive sign in the area, the same format as the Rail Trail signs.(SEE SAMPLE) .. shared cost with the Township of Oro Medonte. ... This would feature the Penetang Road, Plan One, Tiger Dunlop.... the early settlement.

PROPOSAL # 3

Mark the Penetang road as HISTORIC PENETANGUISHENE ROAD (1812) from Barrie through to Highways 11/400.

PROPOSAL # 4

Link the present rail trail to North East Barrie via a public access route through Old Kempenfelt Village, on Colborne St.

It might be noted that a number of early street names in Barrie are directly related to the days of Lord Simcoe's tenure and the subsequent war of 1812. Dunlop, Colborne, Berczy, Mulcaster, Collier, Worsley- Bayfield, Owen, Barrie, Poyntz and so on.

Preliminary Steps.

- * Extensive research on the area and its historical significance has been done.
- * A license application for the marine survey of the Landing Point and a volunteer certified archeological diver prepared to do a investigative dive.
- * steps for the parking location/ sign location at Colborne St./ Ridge Road
- * Archival early surveys of Plan One available.
- * Meetings with stakeholders a. Township of Oro- Medonte Council and Parks and Recreation.

City of Barrie Cultural Dept. Quammie Williams.

- * preliminary road trip with Oro-Medonte Road Superintendent; checking sign locations and feasibility.

The ultimate aim of these 4 proposals is to raise consciousness about local history and make sure it is duly marked.

Respectfully submitted on April 12, 2012, by

Paul Marshall and Joanna McEwen.