



## Grey County's Les MacKinnon Recognized with Provincial Heritage Award

OHS Carnochan Award presented June 20, 2015  
Aga Khan Ismaili Centre, North York, Ontario

*For Immediate Release*

In 1967, The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) established an awards program to recognize individuals, organizations, corporations and authors who have contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of Ontario's heritage.

Dr. Ian Radforth, Chair of the Honours and Awards Committee of the OHS, is pleased to announce that the 2014 Carnochan Award, which recognizes an individual who has contributed many years of service to the heritage community, was awarded to the late **Les MacKinnon** of Grey County.

Les MacKinnon volunteered his time and skills for the public benefit and interest. He was a passionate advocate for civil rights, social justice and equality for all peoples. He believed that everyone's history is important and dedicated his life to researching, documenting and speaking about local history, including, the forgotten and discarded history of early African-Canadian settlers in Grey County.

Mr. Mackinnon also understood that real change comes from below and that is why he was dedicated to empowering grassroots, not-for-profit historical organizations. He was a founding member of many OHS-affiliated societies including: Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee, Heritage Pathways, The Owen Sound Emancipation Festival, SilverShoe Historical Society and its Bicentennial Roots of Freedom Project, The Friends of South Grey Museum, and The Community Waterfront Heritage Centre.

With Les' passing, Ontario has lost an invaluable heritage champion and scholar. In recognition for his lifetime of work, the Honours and Awards Committee of The Ontario Historical Society is honoured to present the 2014 Carnochan Award to the late Les MacKinnon.

Founded in 1888, the Ontario Historical Society is a non-profit corporation and registered charity dedicated to the preservation and celebration of Ontario's history for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. To learn more about the OHS's Honours and Awards Program, or to submit a nomination, please visit [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/awards](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/awards) or contact the Society's offices by telephone or e-mail.

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