



Cemetery Preservation Advocate Don Weaver Honoured with Provincial Award

OHS Cemetery Preservation Award presented June 10, 2017
York University Senate Chambers, Toronto, 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.

The Cemetery Preservation Award recognizes an individual or not-for-profit heritage organization for having demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the preservation and protection of cemeteries in Ontario.. The OHS is pleased to announce that **Don Weaver** is the recipient of the 2016 Cemetery Preservation Award.



Don Weaver (left) accepts the 2016 Cemetery Preservation Award from Chair of the OHS Honours and Awards Committee Ian Radforth.

Don Weaver has done outstanding work preserving cemeteries in Ontario. He has helped to locate missing graves and to restore cemeteries in many places, particularly in Haldimand County. Recently, for instance, he has used his talent for locating graves to find burials of early nineteenth-century workers on the Rideau Canal and of Black settlers from the Underground Railroad era near Canfield, Ontario.

The "On the Grand" Historical Association nominated Don Weaver for his extensive work on the preservation of the Indiana Cemetery at Ruthven Park National Historic Site. Beginning in 2005, Don Weaver was part of a small team that cleared the area of overgrown shrubs and trees, painstakingly probed the ground for buried grave stones, documented them, and carefully restored and re-laid them, a project that took many months. The cemetery was rededicated and blessed in June 2007 at a well-attended ceremony that included many grateful descendants of families buried there. For several years, until his health prevented it, Don Weaver lovingly maintained the site on a nearly daily basis. The Indiana Cemetery is now a recognized part of the region's cultural heritage and one of the reasons that Ruthven Park was named a national historic site. The Honours and Award Committee is pleased to present the Cemetery Preservation Award to Don Weaver.

The award was presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society at the York University Senate Chambers in Toronto, Ontario.

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 <https://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/index.php/categories> or contact the Society's offices by telephone or e-mail.

-The Ontario Historical Society-

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