



## Accessibility Advocate John Rae Honoured with Provincial Award

### 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.

Presented on rare occasions, the Cruikshank Gold Medal is awarded to those who have performed with distinction on behalf of the OHS. This year, the OHS is proud to award the 2015 Cruikshank Medal to **John Rae**.



*Unable to attend the Awards Ceremony, John recorded a video message to express his appreciation and share a few of his recommendations for increasing accessibility and inclusion across Ontario.*

John Rae has devoted his career and life to advocating for disability rights in Canada. He worked for the Ontario Public Service for twenty-four years, involved in various commissions and councils to improve accessibility in Ontario. He has also held leading positions at a number of human and disability rights organizations.

John first became involved with the OHS in 2004 as a consultant on issues of accessibility and inclusiveness. Most notably, he played a crucial role in the development of the OHS Accessibility Toolkit, which provides resources to help heritage organizations and institutions integrate accessibility and inclusiveness into their programming and site design.

In addition to consultations, John has also acted as a representative of the OHS at workshop presentations, and he contributes an annual column to the Society's newsletter devoted to improving accessibility in the heritage sector.

Over the past twelve years, John has become an integral part of the OHS through his various roles as member, volunteer, and donor. He is enthusiastic, hardworking, and very deserving of the OHS Cruikshank Gold Medal.

The award was presented at the annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society at the Ontario Legislative Assembly 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.

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-The Ontario Historical Society-

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