



## First Nations Programming at Regional Museum Recognized with Provincial Heritage Award

OHS Museum Award of Excellence 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 Museum Award of Excellence, which recognizes non-profit public museum showing excellence in community involvement and programming, was awarded to the **Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre (BMC&CC)** in Southampton, Ontario.



The Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre was nominated for their First Nations cultural demonstrations program by volunteers and participants and endorsed by Saugeen Ojibway First Nation.

A number of First Nations elders and youth have been active in providing live interpretation and demonstrations. This partnership has provided an excellent opportunity for various First Nations communities to share their cultural traditions and talents with visitors to the museum.

BMC&CC Director, Museum & Cultural Services, Cathy McGirr, was on hand in Toronto at the Aga Khan Ismaili Centre on June 20, 2015, to accept the award.

“While interpretative programming is not a new concept for museums, first person engagement can be a powerful experience. It was through this concept that the desire to involve our visitors in a truly cultural experience that the First Nations Cultural Demonstrations Program began four years ago,” said McGirr.

In the three years since the program's inception, the BMC&CC has offered a variety of activities, including the areas of Native beading, dream catcher construction, leather work, regalia, jingle dancing, drumming and singing.

Financial support for the program is provided by BMC&CC partner, Bruce Power.

Founded in 1888, The Ontario Historical Society is a non-profit corporation and registered charity dedicated to increasing an appreciation of Ontario's history and preserving its heritage for people of all

ages and cultural backgrounds. To learn more about the OHS's Honours and Awards, 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.

**Photo caption:** Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre Director Cathy McGirr (pictured centre) was on hand to receive the OHS's 2014 Museum Award of Excellence at the Aga Khan Ismaili Centre in Toronto.

-30-

**The Ontario Historical Society**

34 Parkview Ave. Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2  
416.226.9011 [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)  
Contact: Andrea Izzo, [izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

**Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre**

33 Victoria St. North, Southampton, ON  
519.797.2080 [www.brucemuseum.ca](http://www.brucemuseum.ca)  
Contact: Cathy McGirr, Director of Museum & Cultural Services [cmcgirr@brucecounty.on.ca](mailto:cmcgirr@brucecounty.on.ca)