



# Tecumseh Heritage Committee Recognized with Provincial Award

OHS B. Napier Simpson Jr. Award presented June 11, 2016  
Ontario Legislative Assembly, 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 B. Napier Simpson Jr. Award of Merit recognizes a municipal heritage committee in Ontario for special contributions to heritage conservation in its municipality in the recent past. The recipient of the 2015 B. Napier Simpson Jr. Award is the **Town of Tecumseh Heritage Committee**.



*Chair of the OHS Honours and Awards Committee Ian Radforth (far left) and Ontario History Editor Tory Tronrud (far right) present the 2015 B. Napier Simpson Jr. Award to Councillors Andrew Dowie and Rita Ossington from the Town of Tecumseh.*

In partnership with the Lakeshore Black Heritage Committee, the Town of Tecumseh Heritage Committee worked towards the municipal heritage designation and provincial recognition of the Historic Banwell Road Black Community Settlement Cemetery. This cemetery, also known as the Smith Cemetery, honours the African Canadian pioneers and Freedom Fighters who settled in the area.

The Town of Tecumseh Heritage Committee contributed to this important heritage work by researching the burial site (previously listed as abandoned), locating the owners and organizing the clean-up and maintenance of the site, and searching archives for descendants of the burials, ensuring access to the site (and its protection), organizing the plaque unveiling ceremony, and making financial payment of the required fee.

The OHS is pleased to present the Napier Simpson Award to the Town of Tecumseh Heritage Committee.

The award was presented at the Annual General 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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