



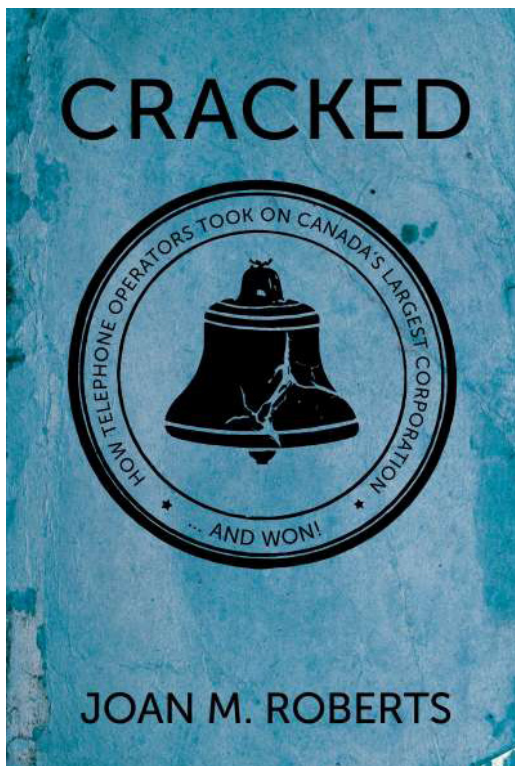
Author of Women's Labour History Recognized with Provincial Award

OHS Alison Prentice 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 Alison Prentice Award recognizes the best book on women's history in Ontario, published in the past three years. The OHS is pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2015 Alison Prentice Award is **Joan M. Roberts** for *Cracked: How Telephone Operators took on Canada's Largest Corporation ... and Won!* published by Dundurn Press.



Cracked tells the fascinating story of the union drive of the 1970s by women telephone operators at Bell Canada who fought against many obstacles to achieve an independent voice in collective bargaining. Roberts was herself a telephone operator at Bell and an activist in both the struggle for a union and the related strike that gained women workers significant improvements in their pay and working conditions.

Making excellent use of oral history, Roberts enables readers to hear the voices of the women who were there at the time and appreciate the range of challenges they faced. The book is a significant contribution to Ontario labour studies and to the history of women in Ontario.

Joan M. Roberts was a union organizer for the phone operators at Bell. She currently lives in Toronto and runs a training and consulting practice.

The award was presented at the Annual General 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.

-The Ontario Historical Society-

Contact: Daniel Dishaw - ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca - 416.226.9011

 @ONTARIOHISTORY  /ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY  ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY.CA