



Ontario Environmental History Article Honoured with Provincial Award

OHS Riddell Award presented June 11, 2016
Ontario Legislative Assembly, Toronto, Ontario

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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 Riddell Award honours the best article on Ontario's history published in the Award year. The OHS is pleased to announce that the winners of the 2015 Riddell Award are **Owen Temby and Ryan O'Connor** for "Property, Technology and Environmental Policy: The Politics of Acid Rain in Ontario, 1978-1985," published in *The Journal of Policy History*.



Owen Temby (centre) and Ryan O'Connor (right) accept the 2015 Riddell Award from Chair of the OHS Honours and Awards Committee Ian Radforth.

In this impressively researched and clearly argued article, Temby and O'Connor analyze the Ontario campaign of the late 1970s and early 1980s to reduce acid rain.

The authors show how an effective coalition of property owners and businesses in Ontario's cottage country, assisted by Toronto newspapers, raised public awareness about acid rain damage to the environment and pressed big industry and the provincial government to address the matter. Analytically sharp, the article shows how the campaign made significant headway only after the coalition of activists identified low-cost technological solutions that appealed to the corporate polluters. The revisionist argument, which is well situated in the wider historiography of North American air pollution governance, adds significantly to our understanding of Ontario environmental history.

Owen Temby teaches political science at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, and previously worked as a postdoctoral fellow at both McGill University and Carleton University. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Carleton University in 2012. Ryan O'Connor is a historical consultant and writer, specializing in the history of environmental activism in Canada and the United States, the Sixties, oral history, the history of recycling, and Canadian politics. O'Connor completed his Ph.D. in Canadian History at the University of Western Ontario.

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-

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