



Museum Windsor Honoured with Provincial Heritage Award for Site Development

OHS Russell K. Cooper Award presented June 10, 2017
York University Senate Chambers, 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 Russell K. Cooper Award is presented to a living history museum, or a museum that delivers heritage-based programming, showing excellence in programming, ingenious problem solving, or site development. The OHS is pleased to present the 2016 Russell K. Cooper Award to **Museum Windsor** in recognition of its significant Museum Expansion Project.



Chair of the OHS Museums Committee Kris Ives (left) and Chair of the OHS Honours and Awards Committee Ian Radforth present the 2016 Russell K. Cooper Award to Madelyn Della Valle, Curator, Museum Windsor.

Museum Windsor's almost six-million-dollar expansion project showed innovation and creative problem solving utilizing budget-friendly, historically appropriate measures to utilize two closely-located sites and to meet the needs of its expanding collection and diverse local community. Highlights of the successful expansion project include: a now combined museum and art gallery space; a new bilingual, permanent community history exhibition; a First Nations / Original Peoples gallery with views of the Detroit River; a large Detroit River themed concourse which features images and artifacts selected through collaboration with public input; two large temporary galleries and a large programming room; a hands-on interactive space for children; additional collections storage.

Museum staff worked diligently to ensure community engagement was a key part of this museum expansion project. Academics from the University of Windsor, local historians, members of First Nations, Black history experts and other community members provided suggestions, vetted text, and actively contributed in a variety of ways. The use of innovative exhibit design promotes other local history attractions and sites through the region using a hub and spoke concept, with the new, expanded space acting as that regional hub for the human and natural history of the Windsor-Essex Region.

The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to present the Russell K. Cooper Award to Museum Windsor. The award was presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society at the York University Senate Chambers 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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