



## Great Lakes Storm of 1913 Community Heritage Group Recognized with Award

OHS Dorothy Duncan Award presented June 14, 2014  
O'Connor House, 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 2013 Dorothy Duncan Award, which recognizes a non-profit organization nominated by a municipal or First Nations council for outstanding service to its region, was awarded to the Great Lakes Storm of 1913 Remembrance Committee.

The Great Lakes Storm of 1913 was a maritime disaster that caused widespread damage, sank a dozen ships with all hands lost, and claimed the lives of over 260 souls.

The citizen-formed Committee had the goal of commemorating the historic event and its impact on southwestern Ontario; through the commitment of hard-working volunteers it produced a truly inspiring programme that can serve as a model for historical societies.



Throughout 2013, the Committee planned, designed, and launched a host of activities and events, including: the creation of a musical CD with original music, two art shows, two sold out plays, a marine-industries job fair, a lecture series that visited dozens of museums and historical societies, a museum exhibition, and a popular website and Facebook page.

In addition, the Committee installed a permanent memorial cairn and monument and had two new books written and published on the disaster. Their activities culminated in an anniversary weekend filled with commemorative events that involved over 65 descendants of mariners who perished at sea during the storm.

All told, the Committee officially partnered with sixteen museums and historical societies across southwestern Ontario, their activities involved over 25,000 participants, and the project generated an over half million dollar investment in the regional economy.

The award was presented at the annual meeting of The Ontario Historical Society at the historic O'Connor House in North York.

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:** Pictured in front of the Great Lakes Storm of 1913 memorial are members of the GLS1913 Remembrance Committee. *Photo Sandra Billson*

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**Great Lakes Storm of 1913 Remembrance Committee**  
[www.1913storm.ca](http://www.1913storm.ca)