



## Owen Sound Journalist and History Advocate Recognized with Heritage Award

OHS President's Award presented June 28, 2014  
Owen Sound Marine and Rail Museum

*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 President's Award, which recognizes a corporation, business, or executive that has contributed to heritage conservation in the recent past, was awarded to Denis Langlois of Owen Sound.



In the summer of 2012, following a Grey County council meeting in Owen Sound, Sun Times newspaper reporter Denis Langlois discovered plans to demolish a historic culvert in rural Chatsworth and replace it with a prefabricated straight bridge.

After visiting the site, Langlois discovered that the culvert was, in fact, a unique 140-year-old arched former railway bridge tucked behind some overgrown bushes. Mr. Langlois immediately set to work informing the public that this historic asset was soon to be lost, and published an article the very next day.

Several articles followed, triggering a public campaign to save the bridge; in the end, council voted to reverse the call for demolition and instead approved an over \$600,000 restoration project.

In November 2013, the bridge was officially re-opened for public use.

Denis' courageous journalism and civic activism demonstrates his passion for the conservation of Ontario's local history and its heritage assets.

The award was presented by the OHS at a community event to re-open the Owen Sound Marine and Rail Museum. It re-opened thanks to a campaign by the Community Waterfront Heritage Centre, a volunteer organization that incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in October 2013.

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 (attached):** Pictured on June 30, 2014 (left) is Denis Langlois and Rob Leverty, OHS executive director outside of the recently re-opened Marine and Rail Museum in Owen Sound.  
*Photo Scott Dunn/QMI/Owen Sound*

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**The Ontario Historical Society**

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