



New Research and Scholarship on Northern Ontario Francophone History Recognized with Heritage Award

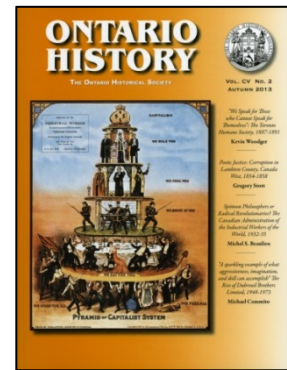
OHS Riddell Award presented June 14, 2014
O'Connor House, North York, Ontario

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 Riddell Award, which recognizes the best article on Ontario's history published last year was awarded to Michael Commito for his study "A sparkling example of what aggressiveness, imagination, and skill can accomplish,' The Rise of Dubreuil Brothers Limited, 1948-1973" ([Ontario History](#), Autumn 2013).

Commito tells a story of entrepreneurship in northern Ontario, focusing on the family lumber business known as Dubreuil Brothers.



After a devastating forest fire ripped through the Mississagi River Valley in 1948, the Ontario government gave a break to small lumber operators in order to speed the salvage of remaining timber. Dubreuil Brothers, a struggling firm that had recently migrated from Quebec, seized the opportunity and never looked back. From this beginning, Napoléon Dubreuil and his three brothers built an innovative business in the successful forest village of Dubreuilville, Ontario.



Commito's article, which is meticulously researched and well written, effectively situates this history in the context of francophone entrepreneurship in the period before the Quiet Revolution and the history of the northern Ontario forest industry.

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

Commito is a PhD candidate in the Department of History at McMaster University and is studying the history of the relationship between humans and black bears in Ontario. He resides in Sudbury with his partner, Chantal, and when he is not writing, Mike is usually trying to get a glimpse of a black bear from a safe vantage point.

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 or contact the Society's offices by telephone or e-mail.

Photo caption: Pictured on June 14, 2014 (centre) is Michael Commito, flanked by Editor of Ontario History Thorold Tronrud (left) and OHS directors Ian Radforth. *Photo Andrea Izzo, OHS*

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