

The Ontario Historical Society

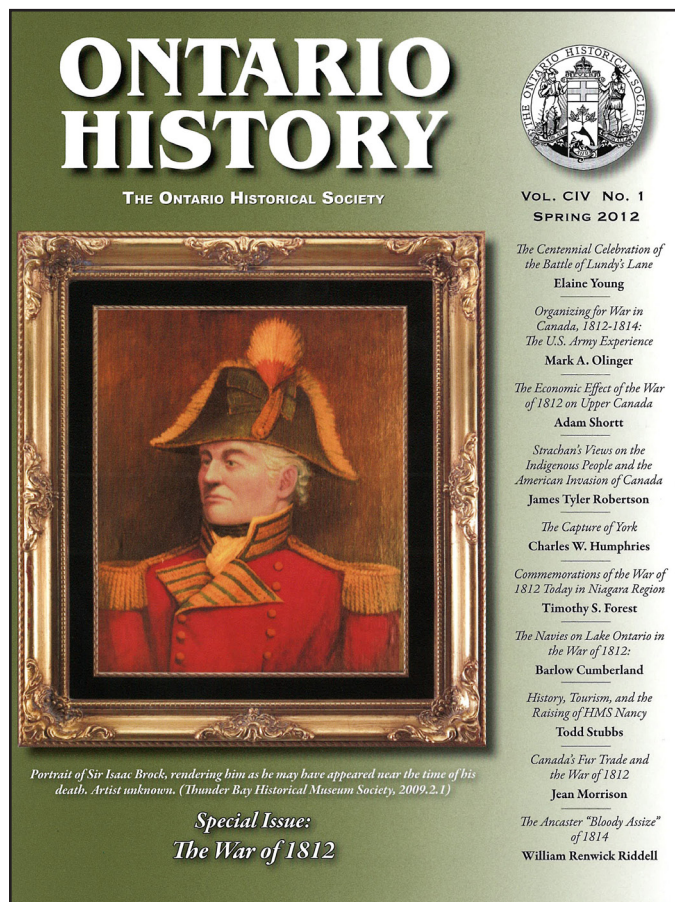


2011 Annual Report

The Ontario Historical Society

Annual Report 2011

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Last year, under the editorship of Dr. Thorold Tronrud, the Society's scholarly journal *Ontario History* prepared a special double issue on the War of 1812 in celebration of that conflict's bicentennial anniversary. Published in Spring 2012 (Vol. CIV, No. 1), the issue presents fresh new research and scholarship from both emerging and established scholars of the time period. Since the inception of the journal in 1899, there have been over 70 articles published on the topic, four of which have been selected and reprinted in this issue. To read more about the journal's efforts in 2011, please see page 10 of this report. For more information on the Society's educational programmes in 2011, please see page 6.



In 1992, The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) successfully led a campaign to save from demolition the historic John McKenzie House, which was built in 1913 by a Willowdale pioneer and farmer. The OHS signed a 25-year lease with the City of Toronto and is responsible for all restoration and maintenance of the building and the adjacent stable, coach house and milk house – all designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Today, it serves as the OHS's provincial headquarters, and, in 2011, the house was a crucial part of the Society's programmes and events (see pg 8). In addition, significant repairs and maintenance were completed this past year, ensuring better preservation for current and future generations.

2011 Annual Report of The Ontario Historical Society



Board of Directors

2011-2012

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The Ontario Historical Society, established in 1888, is a non-profit educational corporation and registered charity; a non-government group bringing together people of all ages, all walks of life and all cultural backgrounds interested in preserving some aspect of Ontario's history.

President's Report

Dr. B.E.S. (Brad) Rudachyk, President

The past year has been one of solid, on-going achievement for The Ontario Historical Society. Long-standing programmes and initiatives continue to flourish, while new ventures have been launched to support our members and all Ontarians interested in the history and heritage of our province.

I am pleased to report that your Society is financially sound, debt-free, and continues to operate with a small surplus. OHS's Board and staff are very mindful of the need to carefully shepherd the Society's financial resources. Thanks are due to Treasurer Naresh Khosla and Accountant Sheila Berzitis for their expertise and insight.

This past year saw OHS incorporating a record 14 not-for-profit organizations. This is a continuing trend of successful growth. Since 2007, the Society has incorporated 47 historical organizations. Clearly, in these challenging times, the importance of history and heritage is highlighted by the on-going organization of individuals in communities right across the province. Your Society remains committed to providing supporting consultations and services despite a generally static revenue base.

The OHS's path-breaking insurance programme continued its growth in 2011 with 39 applications approved. There was a time when it was almost impossible or prohibitively expensive for not-for-profit organizations to obtain such coverage; but at the end of March 2012, well over 100 historical organiza-



Photo Andrea Izzo

OHS President Brad Rudachyk exchanged words with the Hon. Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport at the Ontario Heritage Trust's announcement of the opening of Parliament Interpretive Centre in Toronto, June 23, 2011.

tions have obtained Directors and Officers Liability, General Liability, or Contents and Property Insurance.

Your Society continues to work vigilantly and diligently in the area of cemetery preservation and defence, with the goal that all cemeteries in Ontario be equally protected under the law. An important milestone was reached this past year with the presentation of a binder compiled by OHS, in partnership with the Ontario Genealogical Society, listing over 1,500 unregistered cemeteries in the province and presented to the Hon. John Gerretsen, then Minister of Consumer Services.

A key element in OHS's commitment to support its members and affiliated societies, as well as the general public, was the successful launch of The Ontario Heritage Directory Online. This free-to-use database lists over 1,600 historical organizations, heritage sites, museums, archives, First Nations



Photo Andrea Izzo

In 2011, Dr. Tom McIlwraith (right) stepped down after over five years of volunteerism as Book Review Editor for *Ontario History*. Replacing him is Dr. Ron Stagg (left). Thank you Tom and Ron!

Councils, and Municipal Heritage Committees in Ontario. I invite you to check out this tremendous resource at ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/directory.

From the newest to the oldest takes us to our highly respected peer-reviewed journal *Ontario History*, so ably edited by Dr. Tory Tronrud, along with new Book Review Editor Dr. Ron Stagg. This past year saw the publication of its 103rd volume, featuring nine new articles and 20 book reviews. The journal is one of the flagships of OHS and it continues to inspire, inform, educate, and entertain at the highest level of professionalism. The history of Ontario would be very much the poorer were there no *Ontario History*.

Over the past few years, your Society has endeavoured to reach out to the youth of our province. In 2011, a Youth Corner was incorporated as a regular feature in the *OHS Bulletin*, and a special youth membership category was established. The OHS also continued its involvement and support of the Ontario Regional Heritage Fairs, providing ribbons, certificates, and book awards at 18 regional fairs. As well, our online Reading and Remembrance programme continued its phenomenal growth, reaching over 100,000 students last year. These successful youth initiatives would not have been possible without the dedicated volunteerism of Angie Littlefield, Mary Cook, and OHS Second Vice President Joe Stafford.



Photo Rob Leverty

In March 2011, OHS attended the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's Convention and Trade & Mining Show in support The Jack Munroe Historical Society of Elk Lake, a recently incorporated OHS affiliate. The event attracted more than 27,000 participants. Pictured (center) with representatives of the Elk Lake-based group is the Hon. Michael Gravelle, then Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

Our senior committee, the Museums Committee, under the chairmanship of Serge Ducharme, continued its invaluable work of on-going support of Ontario's community museums. It is compiling a comprehensive list of museums operated by, or affiliated with, historical societies in Ontario. OHS's role in assisting these museums is both important and vital, and will only become more so in the future.

Last year, your Society hosted its 123rd Annual General Meeting, which included a keynote address by Dr. Ross Fair, recognition of Seventh Town Historical Society's 40th Anniversary, and a tasty reception brought to life by OHS volunteer Dorothy Duncan. The event also featured another of our flagships—The Honours and Awards Ceremony—capably hosted by programme chair Dr. Sharon Jaeger. Sharon's care and concern for the programme's integrity and success remain of the highest order.

In closing, I would like to thank our Board of Directors and all of our volunteers for their continued hard work in the preservation and appreciation of Ontario's history and heritage. I would also like to thank our staff Rob Leverty, Christina Perfetto, Andrea Izzo, and Heather Anderson. Their drive, knowledge, ingenuity, dedication, and unfailing good humour are the very ties that bind this vast enterprise together and keeps it functioning in a world of seemingly ever-increasing and more complex demands and challenges.

Executive Director's Report

Rob Leverty, Executive Director

The Ontario Historical Society has spanned three centuries and its members can look on its accomplishments in 2011 with pride.

The reports that follow speak well for the diversity and significance of the work done by the Society, its fiscal health, and the programmes designed to serve the needs of all the Peoples of Ontario.

This past year, the Society celebrated a century plus twenty-three years existence with an unprecedented growth in membership, resulting in the expansion of the heritage community and the OHS's services to it.

The OHS continues to broaden its base across Ontario, attracting members from every part of the province and from every discipline in the heritage field and beyond. The strength of the Society rests on the support and enthusiasm of its membership. The early months of 2012 confirm that OHS can confidently look forward to the continued expansion and influence of that membership.

It is my pleasure to thank our President, Dr. Brad Rudachyk and the OHS Board of Directors for the



OHS Executive Director Rob Leverty visited the recently affiliated Algoma 1812, a regional bicentennial commemoration organization, at their headquarters in Sault Ste Marie.

many hours and human resources that they have donated to ensure good governance of the Society.

Special thanks must also go to Dr. Tory Tronrud, Editor, and Dr. Ron Stagg, Book Review Editor, for their capable leadership at the helm of our venerable and scholarly journal *Ontario History*. I also deeply appreciate the co-operation and excellent work of John Thomas of Jones Deslauriers, for his management of the Society's insurance programme.

I want to thank my colleagues Christina Perfetto, Andrea Izzo, and Heather Anderson for their hard work and dedication this past year. Summer students Timothy Mikkelsen and Ryan Bradley were outstanding in helping us with our daily challenges.

I cannot thank enough all of our highly skilled and motivated volunteers. Our 2011 audited financial statements record that during the year, OHS volunteers donated approximately 8,563 hours of time to the Society in support of its activities.

Thanks to everyone who made it all happen in 2011. The Society will continue to build upon its tradition of service to the province's heritage community to ensure a future for Ontario's past. It remains a great honour and privilege to work on your behalf.

"The reports that follow speak well for the diversity and significance of the work done by the Society, its fiscal health, and the programmes designed to serve the needs of all the Peoples of Ontario."

Treasurer's Report

Museums Committee

Naresh Khosla,
Treasurer

Serge Ducharme,
Chair, Museums Committee

The Society's 2011 audited financial statements, prepared by Akler, Browning, Frimet & Landzberg LLP, demonstrate in detail that the Society is in sound financial health, continuing to operate with a small fiscal surplus with positive net assets. The Society remains committed to its policies of no deficits, fiscal discipline, strict spending controls, and prudent financial management. The OHS Board of Directors recently approved a balanced budget for 2012.

OHS staff continue to deal with the demands of rapid and sustained growth in membership, increased services, heavier workloads, and longer hours of work.

The Society deeply appreciates the continued financial support of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and all its corporate and government sponsors and individual members and donors.

The Ontario Historical Society's Museums Committee's role is to support community museums by providing advice and directing groups and individuals to proper sources, to provide letters of support, to produce resource material and to help network with the different museums across the province. The Committee's objectives for 2012 are:

- To diversify the regional representation of the committee and therefore approach members from the south, west, and east of the province to ease access to members;
- To compile a comprehensive list of museums that are operated by, or affiliated with, historical societies in Ontario;
- To promote the two museum award categories in the Society's Honours and Awards programme that recognize leadership and excellence in Ontario's museum community.

"The Society remains committed to its policies of no deficits, fiscal discipline, strict spending controls, and prudent financial management."



In November, the OHS spoke at a rally opposing the closure of Toronto's historic museums, in support of two of its affiliated societies. Pictured above are (left) Denise Harris, President, Etobicoke Historical Society (incorporated in 1962) and Janice Etter, President, Montgomery's INNovators (incorporated in 2011).

Educational Programmes, Services and Public Outreach

Not-for-Profit Members

Throughout 2011, the OHS continued to provide consultations and services to its over 875 affiliated societies, member organizations, and member institutions to discuss strategic directions, solve problems, provide references for grant applications, explore heritage designations and easements, review and revise constitutions and by-laws, ensure good corporate governance, examine insurance options, incorporate non-profits through affiliation, surrender charters, grant corporate name changes, and support efforts to obtain federal charitable tax status. In 2011, the OHS held incorporation meetings in the following 20 communities: Sault Ste. Marie, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, Cambridge, Drummond Centre, Parkdale (Toronto), Dalkeith, St. Catharines, Lincoln, Waterloo, Camp Borden, Etobicoke (Toronto), Burlington, Drummond Centre, Almonte, Collingwood, Simcoe, Arden, Owen Sound, Longford Mills, and Mississauga of the New Credit First Nation.

AGM and Honours and Awards Ceremony

The OHS held a successful 123rd Annual General Meeting and Honours and Awards Ceremony. The keynote address, given by Dr. Ross Fair, was entitled "Improving Upper Canada: Farming the Colonial Frontier." A reception courtesy of Dorothy Duncan featuring simple, healthy, and historical fare of our ancestors was held at the North York Memorial Hall. The Society also recognized the Seventh Town Historical Society's 40th Anniversary "of preserving,

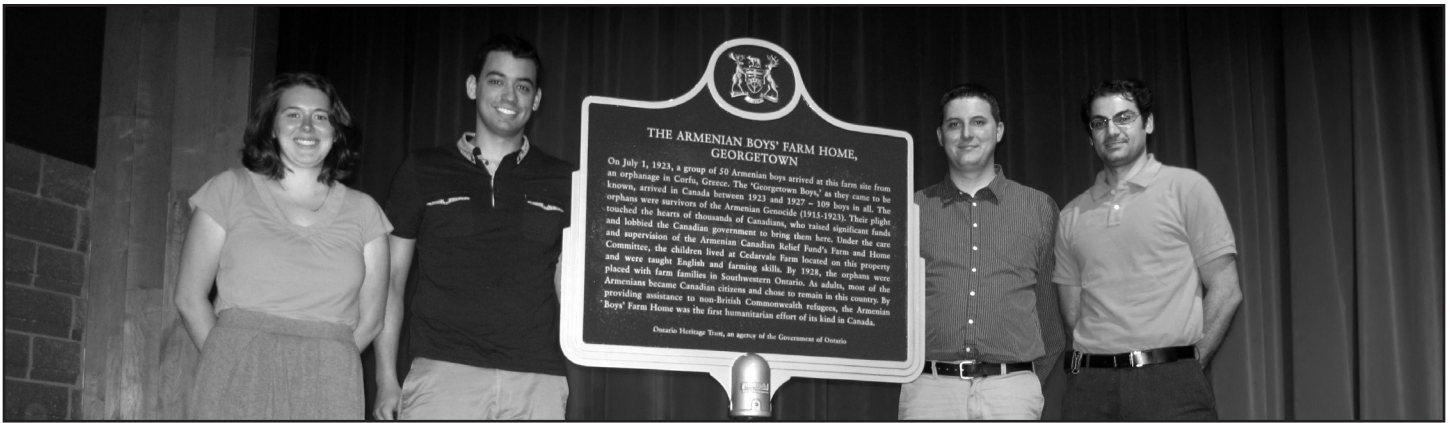
protecting, and promoting Ontario's local history as an affiliated society of the OHS since June 21, 1971."

Presentations and Workshops

In 2011, OHS gave a presentation and participated in celebrations at the 140th Anniversary of the Heritage Community Church in Collingwood. It also participated in Grey County's Black History Event, hosted by OHS affiliated society Owen Sound Emancipation Festival, in partnership with Grey Roots Museum and Archives. The Society was honoured to participate in the transfer of the Victoria Cross Library to the Seventh Town Historical Society in Ameliasburgh. The OHS gave a presentation at Heritage Canada's National Provincial and Territorial Council and attended its Annual Conference in Victoria, B.C. entitled *Connecting People, Places and Stories: New Strategies for Conservation in a Changing World*.

The Society attended the Peterborough Historical Society's AGM and presented the OHS's Riddell Award to Dennis Carter-Edwards for his article, "The Rebellions of 1837 and 1838 in the Peterborough Region," (*Ontario History* Vol. CI, No. 2). The OHS presented workshops at the Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora and to the Manitoba Historical Society in Winnipeg.

The OHS gave two oral history presentations at the Halton Heritage Conference, which was sponsored by the Halton Heritage Network and hosted by Halton Region Museum. The Society participated



In June, the OHS attended a plaque unveiling ceremony at the Armenian Youth Centre in Toronto. Erected by the Ontario Heritage Trust in partnership with the Armenian Community Centre of Toronto, the plaque commemorates The Armenian Boys' Farm House in Georgetown where 109 young boys, survivors of the Armenian Genocide, arrived in Canada between 1923 and 1927. It reads "By providing assistance to non-British Commonwealth refugees, The Armenian Boys' Farm Home was the first humanitarian effort of its kind in Canada."

in the SilverShoe Historical Society's (SSHS) Annual Memorial Candlelight Service at the Bethel-Union Pioneer Cemetery in Clearview Township, Simcoe County. OHS incorporated SSHS through affiliation in September 2007.

OHS attended the opening of Algoma 1812's Commemoration Office in Sault Ste. Marie. OHS incorporated Algoma 1812 on February 26, 2011. OHS had a book table and exhibit at the Ontario Black History Society's Annual Brunch in Toronto. The Society participated in Parks Canada's Trent-Severn Waterway Leaders' Roundtable in Peterborough and its War of 1812 Working Group Consultation. The OHS attended the Ontario Museum Association's annual conference in Kitchener entitled *Innovation Rooted in Community*.

In partnership with Trinity Theatre's project Building Bridges, the OHS gave a workshop at the John McKenzie House "on the role youth and history can play in building an integrated and socially cohesive society" to summer students from Marc Garneau CI in Thorncliffe Park, North Albion CI in Rexdale and Lester B. Pearson CI in Malvern.

In Toronto, OHS supported and celebrated the completion of the first phase of restoration of the O'Connor House and attended the Ontario Heritage Trust's announcement of the opening of Parliament Interpretive Centre. OHS also attended the 2011 Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards and the Jack Munroe Historical Society of Elk City

exhibit launch at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's International Convention and Trade & Mining Show. On Saturday, November 26th, the OHS spoke at a celebration of museums in support of the Etobicoke Historical Society (incorporated 1962) and the Montgomery's INNovators (incorporated 2011). Both of these OHS affiliated societies have vigorously opposed the closing of Montgomery's Inn Museum, Gibson House Museum, Zion Schoolhouse, and the Market Gallery by the City of Toronto.

In partnership with Friends of the Ermatinger-Clergue NHS, Voyageur Heritage Network, and Parks Canada, the OHS presented six workshops in Sault Ste. Marie including: Garden to Table 1812, Heritage Gardening, Saving Seeds Techniques, Exploring Herbs, Food and Folklore in 19th Century Kitchens, and Garden to Table Victorian Style. In October 2011, the OHS, in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and Voyageur Heritage Network, presented two workshops which featured "Training and Resources for Museums on a shoestring budget" and "What archives are, what they can do for you, and what you can do for them." These workshops, held at Anderson Farm Museum, were hosted by the Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums.

Insurance Programme

In 2011, the OHS insurance programme remained very popular; the Society processed and approved 39



On June 4, 2011, the OHS incorporated through affiliation the New Credit Cultural Heritage Society (NCCHS). Pictured above is NCCHS's new Board of Directors after an incorporation meeting held at the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.



This past year saw the continuation of the OHS's partnership with the Heritage Canada Foundation (HCF) across a number of HCF's programmes, including Young Canada Works and HCF's National Council. Pictured above at the OHS's John McKenzie House is HCF Executive Director Natalie Bull with Rob Leverty.

applications from member organizations across the province. As soon as the OHS approves an application for the Insurance Programme, Jones Deslauriers consults each historical organization to ensure that insurance policies are tailored to address specific needs and local circumstances. The OHS insurance programme, which is continually growing, enables and protects volunteers across Ontario who donate their time and skills to serve on the Boards of Directors of the Society's member organizations.

As of March 31, 2012, there are 56 historical organizations that have Directors and Officers Liability Insurance policies underwritten at a limit of \$2 million each. There are 58 organizations that have General Liability Insurance policies with liability limits of at least \$2 million, and 26 organizations have purchased coverage for contents and property.

Accessibility

The OHS participated in an Accessibility Roundtable hosted by the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario with all of its EnAbling Change Partners. The OHS's *Accessible Heritage Tool Kit* remained popular in 2011. OHS staff successfully completed an accessible customer service training program, which has helped shape customer service guidelines. These considerations have been taken into account in the recent redesign of the OHS website.

John Rae, First Vice President of The Alliance for the Equality of Blind Canadians and an OHS workshop speaker and volunteer, gave, on behalf of the

Society, numerous accessibility presentations. John also contributed another feature article, his fourth in his "Access Beyond the Ramp" series for the *OHS Bulletin*, "Expand Your Horizons: Multi-Sensory Tours and the AGO."

Online Connection ...

www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/accessibility



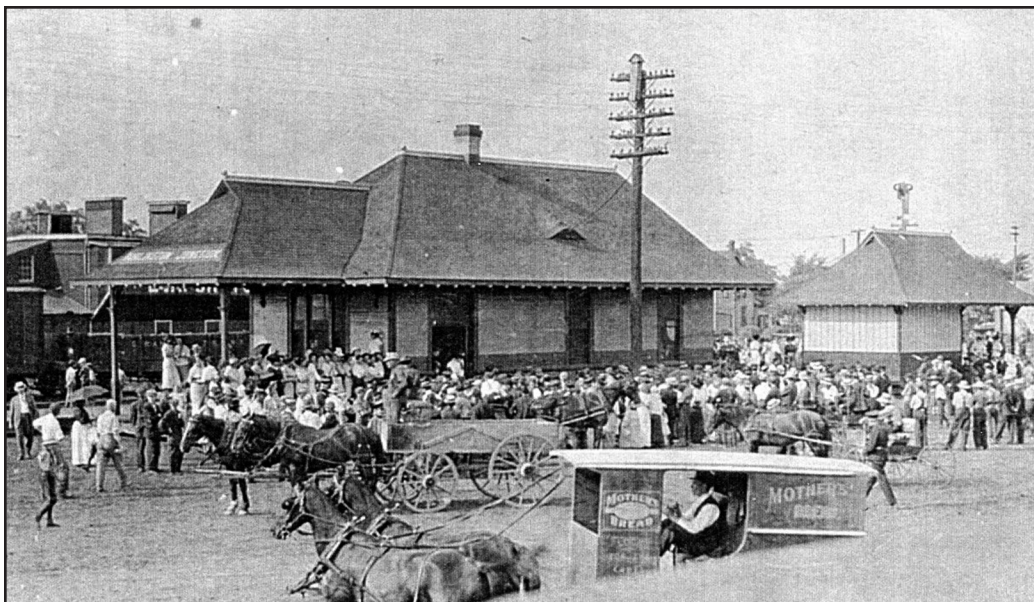
Read John Rae's article series
"Access Beyond the Ramp"

John McKenzie House

On February 21st the OHS held a Heritage and Family Day reception for the Society's members, donors, volunteers and friends. On December 11th, the OHS hosted the provincial launch of Caroline Di Cocco's new book *Memory and Identity: Re-Creating Cultural Identity After Immigration*.

The OHS participated in the 12th Annual Doors Open Toronto. Both days were well attended, with over 900 guests visiting the historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale. This successful event depended on dedicated OHS volunteers who donated their time to provide tours.

In 2011, the OHS had four Board of Directors meetings, five Finance and Audit Committee meetings, hosted eleven community meetings, held seven special events and had 21 private rentals at the John



On February 26, 2011, the OHS incorporated through affiliation Friends of Free-man Station (FOFS) as a non-profit organization. The group's mandate is to raise funds to preserve, relocate, and restore the 1906 Grand Trunk Railway station in Burlington (left). Since incorporating, FOFS has seen great success in fundraising and has secured a site to which the station can be relocated. Restoration and relocation is expected to finish by the end of 2012.

McKenzie House.

The OHS received a one-time special grant from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport enabling the Society to upgrade the entire phone system at the John McKenzie House and to purchase a new dishwasher. The OHS, in co-operation with ADT Security Systems, completely revamped its wireless security and fire alarm system.

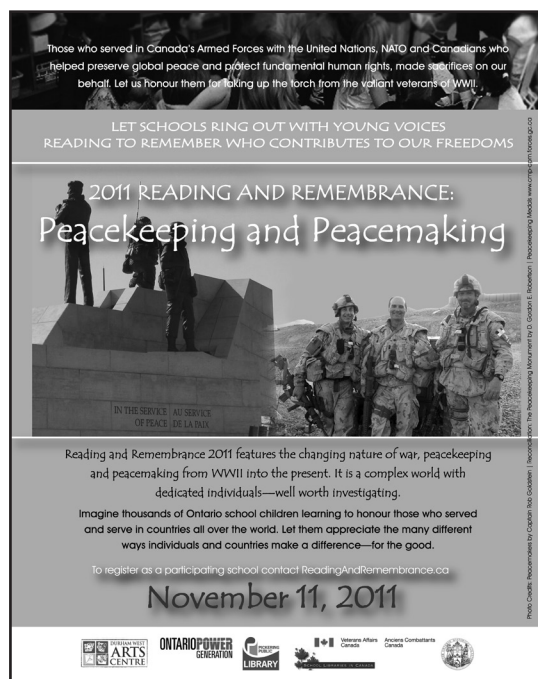
Parkview Neighbourhood Garden

The OHS enjoyed the third year of its partnership with the Parkview Neighbourhood Garden (PNG), a communal, organic market garden run by a volunteer steering committee. It is believed to be the first instance in Toronto of housing being reclaimed for local, urban agriculture. The garden is situated on the site of the John McKenzie property's former vegetable patch adjacent to the milk-house and stable, the latter being donated by OHS for use by the PNG volunteers to store tools, equipment and other garden items. PNG's second season was a great success.

Ontario Heritage Directory Online

In 2011, OHS launched a new online service: The Ontario Heritage Directory Online, a free database resource that connects Ontario's heritage community, tourists, and researchers. The Directory features a database of over 1,600 historical organizations, heritage sites, museums, archives, First Nations Councils, and Municipal Heritage Committees in Ontario and can be accessed at ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/directory.

The Society acknowledges the support of the Ontario Heritage Connection Society (OHC) and its Board of Directors, which signed a mutual agreement transferring the assets of the OHC to OHS. OHS would also like to acknowledge the support of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport through the Museum and Technology Fund.



2011's Reading and Remembrance "Peacekeeping and Peacemaking" reached over an estimated 190,000 students nationwide. Educators are encouraged to take advantage of this free bilingual service by visiting www.readingandremembrance.ca

Ontario History

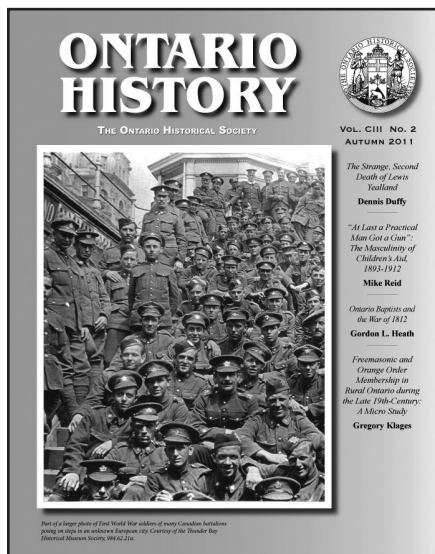
Dr. Thorold Tronrud,
Editor, *Ontario History*

Volume 103, numbers 1 and 2 of *Ontario History* features nine new articles of historical research and scholarship, in addition to 20 book reviews, courtesy of book review editor Dr. Tom McIlwraith. The autumn issue was Tom's last. I thank him for his hard work over the past five years; he did a truly excellent job. Stepping into his shoes is another highly qualified scholar, Dr. Ron Stagg of Ryerson University.

I also wish to thank Alain Nabarra who, since 2005, has provided French translations for *Ontario History*. He stepped down in 2011, yielding his place to Dr. Arthur Silver of Kingston.

Thanks as well to both the scholars on the journal's editorial Advisory Committee who have never failed to provide help me when needed, and to all those

experts who so generously reviewed and commented on manuscripts. They work anonymously and without compensation solely for the betterment of their discipline. We owe them our appreciation.



Ontario History In print since 1899

Vol. 103 featured nine new articles. In the spring issue, Nicki Darbyson examines how the campaign to abolish the death penalty following the trial and conviction of Steven Truscot in 1959 brought forward a gendered discourse, which, in turn, highlighted how Canadians felt about their changing justice system. Janet Larkin follows with an article about the Oswego Canal, an early 19th-century link between Canada and its southern neighbour that has today been largely forgotten. Monda and Sonia Halpern bring us back to the 20th century with their examination of an opinionated woman, Emma Griesbach, and her campaign through the pages of a political newspaper to bring high art to Ontario's farm women and thereby elevate the quality of their lives. In a similar vein, Carly Adams' article on the municipal playground movement in early 20th-century London shows how girls and young women profited from supervised places to play. Finally, Richard Jarrell corrects some current misconceptions about the origins of Ontario's wine industry by re-introducing Justin McCarthy de Courtenay, the man who established Ontario's and Canada's first viable commercial wine operation in Cooksville.

The autumn issue began with Dennis Duffy's fascinating study of Dr. Lewis Yealland, a medical researcher and practitioner in the field of "shell-shock" who was revered during his lifetime but who is now—posthumously—much maligned. He concludes that a carefully contextualized account of his practices may compel us to re-evaluate our views. Mike Reid's provocative article, "At Last a Practical Man Got a Gun" shows how a male-dominated Children's Aid Society between 1893 and 1912 produced a moralistic, dramatic and confrontational approach to rescuing children in peril, and not always to their benefit. Gordon Heath's article examines both the impact of the War of 1812 on the province's Baptist churches and the response of Baptists to the war. He concludes that ecumenical ties across the border and the urgent need for American aid, helped moderate the nationalistic impulse among Ontario's Baptists. Finally, Gregory Klages uses evidence from Freemasonic and Orange Lodges in rural southwestern Ontario to compare the dynamics of fraternal organizations in rural and urban settings in the late 19th century.

Affiliated Societies

Linda Kelly
Chair, Affiliated Societies

An Act to incorporate The Ontario Historical Society, Assented to 1st April, 1899, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, authorizes the OHS to incorporate not-for-profit historical organizations as separate legal entities in the Province of Ontario.

Citizens dedicated to preserving and promoting some aspect of Ontario's history can apply to incorporate non-profit corporations through affiliation with The Ontario Historical Society. Each applicant must satisfy OHS' incorporation criteria, which includes preparing a mission statement, forming a volunteer Board of Directors, establishing a constitution and by-laws, holding a public meeting, and paying an administration fee. Organizations must also remain members in good standing with the Society.

Between 2007 and 2011, the OHS incorporated 47 historical organizations across Ontario – 95% of which are not-for-profit corporations based outside of the City of Toronto, and 24% of which serve communities in northern Ontario.

In 2011, the OHS incorporated a record 14 not-for-profit historical organizations in one year. The Society is proud to welcome its new affiliated societies, incorporated in 2011:

February 26, 2011

Early Canada Association
Norfolk Arts Culture and Heritage Alliance
Friends of Lincoln's History
Algoma 1812
Friends of Freeman Station

June 4, 2011

Ramara Historical Society
Sumac-Simcoe County's Cultural Network
Dalkeith Historical Society
New Credit Cultural Heritage Society

October 1, 2011

Kennebec and District Historical Society
Montgomery's Inn Museum INNOvators
Society for the Preservation of the Samuel Bechtel Burial Ground

December 3, 2011

Archives Lanark
Kanyen'keha Revitalization Society



Online Connection ... www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/incorporation

Read the article "OHS Achieves New Landmark for Incorporation in 2011"

Communications

Andrea Izzo, Coordinator of Communications

The communications strategy for the Society in 2011 saw the organization branching out into new channels and forms of communication, while also preserving traditional methods. Communication between members, partners, the media, and the general public remains a high priority for the Society.

The OHS's Facebook Fan Page continues to be a growing success! As of June 2012, over 320 individuals with some interest in Ontario's heritage have followed the media releases of the Society and its partners.

The Society also developed and launched its new Ontario Heritage Directory Online, a database of over 1,600 organizations and institutions in Ontario's heritage community. Not only is this ground-breaking service an important element of OHS's communications, it will also act as a valuable tool connecting the province's vast network of heritage enthusiasts and professionals.

OHS Bulletin saw another very busy and successful year, with issues 178 through 181 jam-packed with information to inform, educate and entertain. Many thanks to the many volunteers who work tirelessly to make the *Bulletin* a success!



Photo Andrea Izzo

Toronto's Trinity Theatre partnered with the OHS in 2011 to provide a peer leadership workshop with youth from high density, recent-immigrant communities. Pictured above at the Society's John McKenzie House are students from Marc Garneau CI (Thornccliffe Park), North Albion CI (Rexdale), and Lester B Pearson CI (Malvern).



Photo Rob Leverty

In April, volunteer and former Editor of *Ontario History* Dr. Gabriele Scardellato gave an oral history workshop on behalf of the Society as part of the First Annual Halton Heritage Conference. This event was presented by the Halton Heritage Network at the Halton Region Museum in Milton.



***Online Connection* ... www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/facebook**

Follow the OHS on Facebook! Updates on OHS and partner events and programmes

Youth Initiatives

Joe Stafford,
Chair, Youth Initiatives

The Ontario Historical Society continued, in 2011, to emphasize the need to target youth and encourage within them an interest in their local history. The Society achieved this goal through a number of avenues: by continuing to support and engage Ontario youth through the *OHS Bulletin*'s "Youth Corner," Doors Open Toronto, and of course Reading and Remembrance. Two OHS awards were once again sponsored in support of the Ontario Heritage Fairs Association's (OHFA) Heritage Fairs Program. The Society's Youth Initiatives Committee, comprised of both OHS Board Members and high school students, instituted a new membership category for youth at a discounted rate, which was promoted at a workshop presented to Faculty of Education students at Queen's University.

Reading and Remembrance

This volunteer-run free educational program continued to see leaps and bounds with respect to its growth and its reach. An estimated 190,000 students participated in Reading and Remembrance's 2011 program: Peacekeeping and Peacemaking. Ten new lesson plans and 23 new Minutes were published in both French and English. The OHS extends many thanks to Angie Littlefield and Mary Cook for their invaluable contributions, and to Ontario Power



In May 2011, student Kayla Greenman of Gore Bay participated in the OHFA's Sudbury Regional Fair. She received an Ontario Historical Society Award for her project exploring the history of the Gore Bay Curling Club. Kayla remarked: "I have enjoyed working on the heritage fair, it was a great experience and I hope many people will feel the same excitement I did."

Generation and Veterans Affairs Canada for their financial support. Plans are in motion for the 2012 theme: "1812 to 2012, The Past Matters."

Ontario Heritage Fairs

The OHS was proud to be involved once again in the 2011 Ontario Regional Heritage Fairs, hosted by OHS affiliated society OHFA. The OHS provided ribbons of excellence, certificates and book awards, and the OHS Reading and Remembrance Award to students at 18 regional youth fairs including Durham, Grand Erie, Grey Roots, Hamilton-Wentworth, Keewatin-Patricia, Kingston, Niagara Catholic, Niagara Public, North Bay, Ottawa, Peel, Perth, Simcoe, Sudbury, Thames Valley, Toronto East, Toronto West, and Trillium Lakelands. Visit www.ohfa.ca for more information.



Online Connection ... www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/ohsbulletin

Read Queen's University History Student Carson Murphy's article "New Publication Brings Art and Loyalist Biographies Together," from the December 2011 (No. 1811) issue of the *OHS Bulletin*

Honours and Awards

Dr. Ian Radforth, Chair, Honours and Awards

In 1967, The Ontario Historical Society established an Awards programme to honour individuals, organizations, corporations, and authors who have contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of Ontario's heritage. The Society is pleased to announce its recipients for 2011, presented at its Honours and Awards Ceremony, June 9, 2012 at the Waterloo Region Museum in Kitchener:

Scadding Award of Excellence
The York Pioneer and Historical Society

Dorothy Duncan Award
The Beaverton Thorah Eldon Historical Society

President's Award
Kirk Howard, President and Publisher, Dundurn

Cruikshank Medal
James Fortin, Curator, Greater City of Sudbury

Carnochan Award
Wayne LeBelle, Field

Joseph Brant Award
Jack Lipinsky for *Imposing their Will: An Organizational History of Jewish Toronto, 1933-1948*, McGill-Queen's University Press

Fred Landon Award
Royce MacGillivray for *Dictionary of Glengarry*



At the Society's 2011 Honours and Awards Ceremony, the OHS's 2010 Museum Award of Excellence in Community Programming was presented to the Lake of the Woods Museum of Kenora. Pictured (left to right) are: Pam Cain, then Chair, OHS Museums Committee; Lori Nelson, Director, Lake of the Woods Museum; and Dr. Sharon Jaeger, then Chair, OHS Honours and Awards.

Biography, Glengarry Historical Society

Alison Prentice Award
Maria Meindl for *Outside the Box: The Life and Legacy of Writer Mona Gould, the Grandmother I Thought I Knew*, McGill-Queen's University Press

J. J. Talman Award
Ged Martin for *Favourite Son? John A. Macdonald and the Voters of Kingston, 1841-1891*, Kingston Historical Society

Riddell Award
Gregory Wigmore for "Before the Railroad: From Slavery to Freedom in the Canadian-American Borderland," *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 98, No. 2, September 2011

Donald Grant Creighton Award
Wesley Turner for *The Astonishing General: The Life and Legacy of Sir Isaac Brock*, Dundurn

Huguenot Society of Canada Award
Chris Alexander for *The Long Way Back: Afghanistan's Quest for Peace*, HarperCollins

Cemetery Preservation

Rob Leverty, Executive Director

In 1995, the Society was forced to establish a trust fund to protect Ontario's cemeteries from inappropriate development. In 2011, the OHS achieved many accomplishments in the struggle to preserve and promote Ontario's cemeteries thanks to generous financial contributions to the OHS Cemetery Defence Fund and donated time and skills from dedicated volunteers.

In 2011 the *OHS Bulletin's* "Cemetery News" column remained very popular, but the number of articles and pressing issues submitted far exceeded the space available for each publication. Throughout 2011, the OHS also helped to research and answer questions and assist families and descendants across Ontario who had relatives buried in pioneer cemeteries threatened by development.

Since 2006, the OHS and the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) have collaborated to determine how many cemeteries are not registered with the Province of Ontario. The OHS has no appeal rights with regard to unregistered cemeteries and thus it is almost impossible in these cases for the Society to intervene effectively to protect the *public interest*.

On June 2, 2011, in a meeting with Hon. John



On June 2nd, 2011, The Ontario Historical Society and The Ontario Genealogical Society officially presented to the Hon. John Gerretsen, then Minister of Consumer Services (pictured center) a binder listing all the unregistered cemeteries in the province.

Gerretsen, then Minister of Consumer Services, the OHS and OGS officially presented the Government of Ontario with a binder listing 1,535 unregistered cemeteries. The Province of Ontario subsequently requested that the two societies positively identify the exact location of all these cemeteries in order to register them.

The OHS and OGS have committed to providing the Ontario Government with this requested information, in the form of lists organized geographically by county or district. The OHS/OGS volunteer committee is now busy with the enormous task of identifying and documenting the location of all these cemeteries. They are working hard to complete this historic initiative as soon as possible so that all cemeteries in Ontario are equally protected under current legislation.

Membership

Christina Perfetto, Membership Coordinator

On behalf of The Ontario Historical Society, I take this opportunity to express my sincerest appreciation for the contribution of your support and generosity.

It is through the support of our members, subscribers to *Ontario History*, Affiliated Societies, donors, and volunteers like you that we are able to continue to strengthen our programs and develop new and innovative projects.



In 2011, OHS welcomed many new members, including the Forest History Society of Ontario (FHSO). Pictured (right) is Ken Armson, President, FHSO with OHS member John Bacher at Dundurn's launch of John's book *Two Billion Trees and Counting, the Legacy of Edmund Zavitz*.

We are glad to welcome our new members, subscribers, and Affiliated Societies. It is your membership and subscription fees that enable OHS to serve the citizens of Ontario.

We're proud of what we've been able to do in 2011, and we could not have done it without you. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude for your donations. Your continued support over the years truly means a lot!

New Members and Subscribers in 2011

Algoma 1812	Laura Lamb
Archives Lanark	Peter Lanosky
Kenneth Armson	Wayne LeBelle
Billy Armstrong	Annette & Samantha Lee
Lamine Baldé	Michel Legault
Carolyn Beacroft	Pierre Leriche
Jane Beecroft	Les Amis Du Musée Du
George Best	Moulin à Fleur
Steven Biggs	Angie Littlefield
Ann Birch	Lucan Area Heritage &
Joshua Blank	Donnelly Museum
Ryan Bradley	Lundy's Lane Historical Society
Dylan Burrows	Jeffrey McNairn
Caledon Heritage Foundation	Cheryl Merigold
Carleton Place M.H.C.	Adrian & Suanne Miedema
Chesley Heritage	Timothy Mikkelsen
Woodworking Museum	Jacob Minnetyan
John Clarke	Jean Miso
Frank Coleman	Montgomery's Inn Museum
Mary Cook	INNovators
Dalkeith Historical Society	Barbara Moore Better
Jolene DeCew Giesbrecht	National Historic Sites Alliance
Early Canada Association	for Ontario
EP Ipswich	New Credit Cultural Heritage
Every House Tells A Story	Society
Jane Fairburn	Norfolk Arts Culture and
Darrell Force	Heritage Alliance
Forest History Society of	North Bay M.H.C.
Ontario	North Halton Celtic Historical
Fort York Foundation	Society
Friends of Fort York and	O'Connor House
Garrison Common	Daniel Ohanian
Friends of Freeman Station	Gerry Patey
Friends of Lincoln's History	Planting Seeds of Hope
Friends of Twelve Mile Lake	Presqu'île Provincial Park
Church	Ian Radforth
Steven Galley Edwards	Ramara Historical Society
Christine Gonsalves	Susan Robinson Peters
Emil Gordon	Marc Seguin
Haliburton County Historical	Allan Sherwin
Society	Silview Community
Ruth Hess	Association
Janice Hogg	Society for the Preservation
Silver Hotel Group	of the Samuel Bechtel
Aviva Huberman Spodek	Burial Ground
Edward Janiszewski	Southgate Public Interest
Kanyen'keha Revitalization	Research Group
Society	Elaine Sta Mina
Stav Kassaris	Sumac-Simcoe County's
Kennebec and District	Cultural Network
Historical Society	Andy Thomson
Ian Kerr-Wilson	University of Buffalo
Paul R King	Vina Waddell
Patricia Kmiec	Jeff Weller
Emily Lada	Samuel Wesley
Michelle Lafontaine	Gregory Wigmore

Donors in 2011

General Donations

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OHS Cemetery Defence Fund

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**In 2011, volunteers
donated an estimated
8,563 hours of service**



THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The foremost historical organization in the province, The Ontario Historical Society, originally called the Pioneer Association of Ontario, was established on September 4, 1888 largely through the efforts of the Reverend Henry Scadding. It initially operated as a federation of local groups and was primarily concerned with the promotion of British-Canadian nationalism through the study of history. Reorganized in 1898 and incorporated with an expanded mandate the following year, the Society became increasingly involved in the movement to preserve archival records and historic sites. It also assumed more scholarly pursuits, including a publication program, in addition to encouraging and co-ordinating the activities of local historical associations and museums. Today the Society continues its many efforts to preserve, interpret and publicize Ontario's multi-faceted heritage.

Erected by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Ministry of Culture and Communications

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