# OHS BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOC

Issue 193 DECEMBER 2014

# **Volunteer Team Transforms** Historic Lighthouse Site

Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior incorporates through OHS

Paul Morralee, Secretary, CLLS pmorralee@morvision.on.ca

When a team of dedicated volunteers team up to save a part of Ontario history that they are passionate about, it is amazing what can be accomplished! That's exactly what happened recently on the north shore of Lake Superior near Thunder Bay during the Porphyry Point Lightstation cleanup.

Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior (CLLS) incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in February 2014 with a mandate to preserve, promote, and provide public access to lighthouses and the stories surrounding them.

The volunteer-based team has been active in restoring historic northwestern Ontario lighthouses.

A team of eleven donated over 330 hours of hard work that has seen Porphyry Point Lightstation transformed from a site that was characterized by fallen trees, long weeds, and a number of buildings left in disrepair.

The area woodlands have been tamed and deadfall removed from around the dwellings, work sheds, and lighthouse tower. The wild grass has been cut, exposing the original grounds, dwellings have been cleaned inside and out, exteriors have been painted and primed, and many new panes of glass have been replaced.

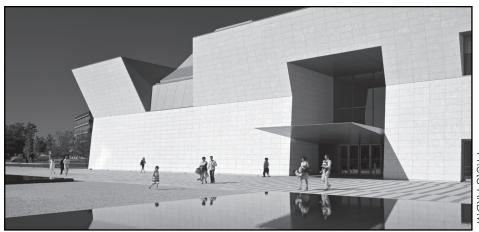
Volunteers were treated to a delightful surprise when two rusting 1950s-era automobiles were uncovered from wooded overgrowth.

Breathing fresh air into the lighthouse has offered volunteers a moment to pause and reflect about the possibilities for the near future. CLLS's goal for the general public and tourists is for them to enjoy access to the many amenities on the islands. For kayakers and canoeists, there are places to camp out and some shelter offered at the boat yard. For boaters and sailors, there is the opportunity to stay overnight in one of the houses, and tourists can fly in by float plane, charter a boat, or even land on the helipad to access the lighthouse tower and

"CLLS" cont"d page 2 ....

# Aga Khan Museum a Striking Symbol of Pluralism in Ontario

Toronto's Newest Cultural Centre Focuses on World History, Community, and Enlightenment



The recently opened Aga Khan Museum, clad in Brazilian granite, is seen here reflected in one of the park's five pools. Light and reflection are important concepts incorporated into the museum's design and mandate.

#### **Andrea Izzo Heather Anderson Sarah Pirani**

ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

In September, the OHS was granted a behind-the-scenes first look at Toronto's newest cultural centre, the Aga Khan Museum and Ismaili Centre. After a brief panel with speakers including: Henry Kim, Director of Aga Khan Museum; Luis Monreal, General Manager of the Aga Khan Trust

for Culture (AKTC); Malik Talib, President of the Ismaili Council for Canada; and a representative of architect Fumihiko Maki of Japan, we toured the light-filled museum and were treated to an intimate tour of the Ismaili Centre by its architect Charles Correa.

Located at Wynford Drive and the Don Valley Parkway, the site

"Aga Khan" cont'd page 3 ....

#### **Our Next Webinar for Heritage Organizations**

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 | Time TBD

**Topic:** Financial Management for Heritage Organizations **Speaker:** Heather Young of Young Associates, Arts Administration & Cultural Management at Humber College

Registration will open January 5, 2015

Register: www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/webinars Email alittle@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca to learn more

## In This Issue

New Members and Donors......2

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ..........3 Across the Province.....4 Museum News



CEMETERY NEWS......6 From The Bookshelf......7-8

The Ontario Historical Society



Founded 1888

Preserving, promoting, and protecting Ontario's history since 1888, from the grassroots to the scholarly

www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

# Nominate Excellence in Your Heritage Community!

OHS accepting nominations for annual heritage awards until January 9, 2015

o you know of a volunteer or professional working tirelessly to preserve and promote your local history?

Are you inspired by an excellent program, service, or exhibit offered by a local heritage organization, museum, or other institution?

Have you recently come across a book on Ontario's history that stood out to you above the rest?

Recognize excellence in your heritage community today!

This issue of the OHS Bulletin has a copy of the nomination brochure inserted. Please read it for further information.

www.ontariohistorical Visit society.ca or call 1.866.955.2755 with questions or concerns.



The Ontario Historical Society 34 Parkview Avenue Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2 **CANADA** 

POST CANADA **Publications Mai** 0040596539

@OntarioHistory

# **President's Report**

#### **Joe Stafford, President**

president@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

It is my great pleasure to present my first report as the newly elected president of The Ontario Historical Society. As I consider the long and distinguished history of the OHS, it is also a great honour. I would first of all like to thank Brad Rudachyk, now past president, for all of his hard work and dedication. He has left large shoes to fill! I also look forward to working with the executive director, Rob Leverty, OHS staff, and the new board of directors.

I am indeed fortunate to become president at a time when the OHS is expanding its influence with an ever-increasing number of affiliated societies across the province. As Rob constantly reminds the board, the success of the Society is largely because of the tireless work of its volunteers. It is because of their efforts that there are hundreds of successful historical societies and heritage organizations saving and celebrating history across the province.

On July 25, 2014, I witnessed the results of such efforts. I had the honour of representing The Ontario Historical Society at the Bicentennial Commemoration of the Battle of Lundy's Lane. It was here that British forces thwarted the last American invasion of Canadian soil during the War of 1812. The commemorative event was outstanding - a testimony to the dedication of the volunteers. Taking place on the actual battlefield and beginning at the exact time when the battle started, 7:30 p.m., the ceremony was well-organized, dignified, and impressive. Dignitaries included the Mayor of Niagara Falls, Jim Diodati, and the Minister of National Defence, Robert Nicholson. In the true spirit of commemoration, 160 American veterans, descendants of the

American soldiers who fought at Lundy's Lane, were also in attendance. Keith Jamieson, a representative of the Haudenosaunee warriors also spoke, reminding listeners of the important role that the First Nations played in the War of 1812. I can only imagine the amount of time and effort that the volunteers spent in preparing such a significant event. Bill Houston, the president of the Lundy's Lane Historical Society (LLHS), its executive, and all of the volunteers, epitomized what a wellorganized and dedicated historical society can accomplish in terms of preserving and celebrating the heritage of Ontario.

The Lundy's Lane Historical Society was one of the eight original local historical groups that came together to found a provincial historical society in 1888, which would later become The Ontario Historical Society. LLHS incorporated through affilation with the OHS in 1993.

As a retired secondary school history teacher, I was also impressed to see that the commemorative event had a strong educational component. The formal ceremony concluded with a gripping description of the battle by Sherman Zavitz, the past president of the Lundy Lane's Historical Society, who reminded us all of the gruesome reality of warfare and of the ultimate sacrifice paid by so many in the defence of Canada.

Education is an important part of the mandate of the OHS, and one of the areas of focus for my term as president will therefore be education, with a special emphasis on the youth of the province, inviting them to take a more active interest in the history and the heritage of this great province.

I look forward to my term ahead and I invite your correspondence. Contact me by emailing president@ ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

## THANK YOU Donors!

Sheryl Adelkind Rosemary Ambrose E. J. B. Anderson Carmela Andraos Kenneth Armson **Robert Banks** Sonja Bata Jane Beecroft Gyuszi Berki **Robert Biggs** Glenn Bonnetta Fred Bradley Pamela Cain Elaine Campbell George Carere John Case Marco Covi Deborah Cushing Sidney Down **Bruce Elliott** A. Ernest Epp **Ross Fair** Jane Gibson Gil Hardy **Torrance Henderson Ruth Hess** Helen & Aarne Juhola **Ronald Junkin Bruce Kidd** Joan Murray

Paul R. King **Barry Laver** J. Douglas Leighton Catherine McEwen Joan Miles

> **Barry Penhale Penny Potter** Geoffrey Reaume

Ian Reilly Lora Sanford Robert & Kathleen Saunders

> **Amy Scott** Alan Shiels **Donald Smith James Stanley Ginger Stevens** V. N. Styrmo **Margaret Surtees**

Vankleek Hill & District **Historical Society** George Warecki

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SINCE JULY 2014

The Bunker Military Museum of Cobalt

**Courtney Cameron** 

John Case

Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum

Ralph Cunningham

Jack de la Vergne

Friends of Moreston Village at Grey Roots

Hamilton Public Library Local History & Archives

Gil Hardy

Roger Harris

John Hesse

Historical Society of South Dundas

Kristin Ives

Kawartha Lakes Culture & Heritage Network

Austin Luhtala

**Edward Macdonell** 

Joan Miller

**Newmarket Historical Society** 

Nine Mile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society

Peter Okonski

Susan Purdy

Renfrew County Museums Network

Lora Sanford

**Heather Seguin** 

Settlers' Village Quilters Quilt Guild

**Maximilian Smith** 

**Ginger Stevens** 

West Nipissing Historical Society

## DONORS (CONT'D)

Gail Warner-Metzlaff **Larry Waters** Samuel Whyte W. A. (Dale) Wilson J. David Wood Glenn Wright

## "CLLS" from page 1

survey the beauty Lake Superior is famous for.

The lighthouse group's board of directors is assembling a second team of volunteers to continue painting and sealing the second dwelling from the elements. The group is working towards restoring a second leased lighthouse, a few kilometers east at Shaganash Lighthouse, dating back to 1922.

The sense of pride shown by all the volunteers was illustrated by the fact that so much work was accomplished in so few days. Now others are joining in to help where they can. More tools are being donated for the work parties, along with some much needed donations by local business. The group recently received charitable status and can now provide donors with tax receipts.

In the coming months, CLLS will share with the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans – the federal department which has divested this and many

other historic lighthouses - the collective efforts made this summer in order to continue to build the business case of the organization taking on the responsibility of permanent lighthouse stewardship.

The excitement experienced by the group is infectious, with many people in the community commenting about how important

it is to preserve our history and conveying their appreciation of the pragmatic approach taken by the group.

Together, the CLLS and OHS can help showcase the maritime history within this wonderful archipelago of islands, also known as the Lake Superior Marine National Conservation Area, which stretches from Thunder Bay's Sleeping Giant to Terrace Bay, and begin to rediscover how we got to where we are today.



A "before and after" shot of the Lighthouse Keeper's Place at the Porphyry Point Lightstation demonstrates the transformation undertaken through the efforts of the Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior (CLLS) volunteer team.

# **Executive Director's Report**

**Rob Leverty, Executive Director** rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

I am pleased to report that on October 18, 2014, the OHS Board of Directors incorporated the Kawartha Lakes Culture and Heritage Network and Settlers' Village Quilters Quilt Guild.

Since January 2014, OHS has also incorporated the Essex Armoured Soldiers Museum; Sharon Burying Ground Assoc.; Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior (CLLS); West Nipissing Historical Society; Friends of Moreston Village at Grey Roots; Nine Mile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society; Renfrew County

Museums Network (RCMN); and Historical Society of South Dundas. Articles featuring CLLS and RCMN can be read in this issue of the *OHS Bulletin* (page 1 and 6).

I recently visited Trafalgar Township Historical Society (TTHS), which has saved and restored the Palermo Schoolhouse in north Oakville. It was in January 2007 that I held a meeting in this historic (then unheated) schoolhouse to incorporate the TTHS. Looking back, it never occurred to me that in the ensuing years OHS would be swamped with an unprecedented number of applications from all regions of Ontario to legally establish not-for-profit



OHS staff took part in a day-long session of strategic discussions as a member of Heritage Canada The National Trust's National Council of Provincial and Territorial Heritage Organizations. OHS's Built Heritage Intern Sarah Pirani also represented the OHS at Heritage Canada's Conference "Heritage Builds Resilience" in Charlottetown.

## "Aga Khan" from page 1

is interconnected by a private, but publicly accessible 6.8-hectare park. This serene green space is a contemporary take on a formal Islamic garden designed by landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic of Lebanon.

Symbolic of the diversity of Toronto and of Canada, the cultural centre was a coming together of teams from across the globe, representing a wide range of ideas. The project seeks to foster understanding within Muslim societies and between other cultures, and reflects the Aga Khan's lasting relationship with Canada, and his appreciation for our country's commitment to embracing pluralism and cultural diversity. During the 2010 groundbreaking ceremony, the Aga Khan said of the centre: "Together, these three projects will symbolise the harmonious integration of the spiritual, the artistic and the natural worlds - in keeping with the holistic ideal which is an intimate part of Islamic tradition. At the same time, they will also express a profound commitment to inter-cultural engagement and international cooperation."

Readers may recognize the location of the cultural centre as the former site of the Bata Shoe head-quarters. Although the destruction of the 1960s John B. Parkin building was lamented by many in our heritage community, the general

consensus is that the Aga Khan Development Network has done a fine job in revitalizing the space – and has even received vocal support from Sonja Bata and the initially critical *Toronto Star* writer Christopher Hume.

## The Museum

The Aga Khan Museum boasts 1,800 square metres of gallery space, which includes one permanent exhibition gallery on the main floor and two temporary exhibition spaces on the second floor of the building. The collections are focused on exhibiting art of the Islamic world - not necessarily Islamic art, as there are a number of secular objects in both the permanent and temporary galleries, but art that was produced by people living in Islamic communities, both historically and up to through the modern day. From the Aga Khan Museum's mission statement: the aim of the museum is to show its visitors "the artistic, intellectual, and scientific heritage of Islamic civilizations across the centuries from the Iberian Peninsula to China."

The main floor's permanent gallery is laid out roughly chronologically. Starting from the entrance, visitors are greeted with artefacts dating as far back as the eighth century CE, including a display of ancient manuscripts, paintings and portraits, bottles and dishes, furniture, and an entire mosaic fountain. The exhibition ends

corporations. OHS salutes the over eighty historical organizations that have incorporated through affiliation in the past eight years.

In 2014, we held incorporation meetings in Thunder Bay, West Nipissing, Renfrew, Arnprior, South Dundas, Simcoe Island (adjacent to Wolfe Island), Newmarket, Owen Sound, Windsor, Lindsay, Leslieville (Toronto), and Bobcaygeon.

Congratulations to all our fellow fearless citizens at the grassroots level across Ontario who are donating their time and invaluable skills to preserve and promote our history. Each day, I am reminded that if you did not struggle, often against impossible odds, to save our history, including our stories, built structures, cemeteries, natural heritage, archives and museums, it would all be destroyed and forgotten – forever. If you lose, we all lose. Your victories and amazing accomplishments make this a more decent and civilized society for all Canadians.

Thanks to each and every one of you. My best wishes and good health in 2015!



On Labour Day weekend, the OHS was proud to join one of its affiliated societies, The Jack Munroe Historical Society of Elk City (JMHSEC), in celebration of the centenary of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI). Jack Munroe founded the Town that became known as Elk City, which grew to more than 10,000 residents during the mining rush. In August 1914, Jack enlisted in the PPCLI with his beloved Scots Collie "Bobbie Burns" and both served in France during the Great War. Seen here (above) with Terry Fiset, President, JMHSEC, unveiling the plaque commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the PPCLI and Jack's enlistment are his three great-nieces; from the left, Marjorie Morse and Ethel Eagles of Berwick, Nova Scotia, and Jean Bennett from Sarnia.

A major event of the day was the inaugural awarding of the "Order of the North," an honour created by JMHSEC to recognize the contributions of the Society's namesake to the North and, indeed, Canada. The actual medal features the iconic portrait of Jack and Bobbie on the obverse with the reverse featuring the "Order of the North" surrounded by a wreath of maple leafs and topped by a windswept conifer, suspended from a green and white ribbon. This special level of recognition can be awarded posthumously; the first recipient was Jack Munroe. His three great-nieces received replicas of the Order, with the original being displayed in Elk Lake.

JMHSEC incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in 2009.

with art from the beginning of the 20th century.

Upstairs in the temporary galleries, an art exhibition entitled "The Garden of Ideas: Contemporary Art from Pakistan" will be up until mid-January 2015 and "The Lost Dhow: A Discovery from the Maritime Silk Route" until April.

Museum staff plan to change temporary exhibitions on a roughly three-month basis, which is a relatively quick turnover. This speaks to their mission of becoming an engaging and "vibrant educational institution" that will encourage visitors to return again and again. Uniquely, the museum restaurant menu will change alongside the temporary exhibits, in order to reflect the cultures and areas of the world featured in them.

Although this is an institution with an international focus, we hope to see some evidence of Ontario's Muslim community reflected in future additions to the collection or temporary exhibits.

## The Ismaili Community

The Ismailis are a global community spread across Central Asia, the Middle East, South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and North

America. Ontario has the largest Ismaili population in Canada (~30,000). The group is led by His Highness the Aga Khan, the 49th hereditary Imam (spiritual leader) of the Shia Ismaili Muslims. The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a private international development agency, works to transform communities around the world, with a special focus on revitalizing heritage sites and improving quality of life. AKDN also has major centres in Vancouver and Ottawa.

The OHS's mandate and goals align with that of this project, namely bringing together people of all ages, walks of life and cultural backgrounds and providing a forum for individuals, organizations and institutions to exchange ideas, research and experiences related to Ontario's rich history in our case. We encourage and assist cultural institutions and groups, and sponsor projects with wide general appeal to discover more of Ontario's history, and encourage our members to visit this site with its masterful architecture, peaceful park and world-class museum.

## **Across the Province**

Congratulations to the 7th Town Historical Society, celebrating 45 years, and its Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre, celebrating 20 years this year.

Congratulations also to the many heritage award recipients announced this autumn! The Ontario Museum Association and Heritage Toronto recently hosted award ceremonies recognizing excellence in Ontario heritage.

The Great Lakes Storm of 1913 Remembrance Committee, which was recognized by OHS in June with the Dorothy Duncan Award, has also been recognized by Canada's History with a national award for community programming. Congratulations GLS1913!

The old Stiver Brothers feed mill on Station Lane in Unionville has been restored to pristine condition. Now owned by the City of Markham, it will be preserved as a community centre.

Our best wishes go out to Kaitlyn Malleau, recipient of the annual Andrew Hunter Prize for her paper, "The Time and Place for Subsistence Activities," presented annually by the Simcoe County Historical Association. Essay entries for The Andrew Hunter Award for 2015 should be postmarked by April 15, 2015, to: Simcoe County Historical Association, Box 144, Barrie, ON L4M 4S9.

Congratulations to Toronto's Pearson Airport, celebrating 75 years since it was first created on the land from nine farms, totalling 1,050 acres. It became the future site of the municipal airport in Malton and was later renamed Lester B. Pearson International Airport.

In September 2015, Etienne

Brûlé and 12 companions will recreate their 1615 journey from Orillia to Humber Bay. They will travel over 100 kilometres by canoe and foot over two days. Visit www.sht.ca to learn more.

A new historical plaque explaining why the Quebec-Ontario border is located where it is was unveiled in June. This was the culmination of a decadelong effort spearheaded by the Glengarry Historical Society to replace or restore some 50 border monuments along the border.

The Ontario Genealogical Society is offering access to scanning technology for electronic archiving and online posting of valuable and fragile paper records. The equipment is portable and can be brought to your site or location. Info: www. ogs.on.ca or 416.488.0734.

#### **Some Dates to Remember:**

January 10: The Bicentennial Tribute Banquet to Sir John A. Macdonald, hosted by the **Kingston** Historical Society in the Senior Staff Mess, Royal Military College at 6 p.m. kingstonhs@gmail.com.

January 12: Christine Lei discusses the First Commonwealth Games in Canada, 1930, with the **Burlington** Historical Society. www.burlingtonhistorical.ca.

January 14: "Sir John A. Macdonald – One Among Equals" with the Honourable Michael Chong, MP Halton Hills, at Helson Gallery, Halton Hills Cultural Centre, Church Street, Georgetown at 7.30 p.m.

Plan Ahead!! The Ontario Genealogical Society Conference "Tracks Through Time" is coming to Georgian College in Barrie, May 29 to 31, 2015.

# In Memory of Jean Morrison

The OHS was saddened to learn of the passing of Jean Morrison on September 22, 2014, at the age of 87. For over four decades, Jean played a vital role in the historical community within Thunder Bay and across the province.

Jean was the first woman to receive a Master of Arts degree in History from Lakehead University. Her thesis, "Community in Conflict: A Study of the Working Class in the Canadian Lakehead, 1903–1913," brought national attention to the history of northwestern Ontario and remains a seminal work in Canadian Labour History.

Her last book, Labour Pains: Thunder Bay's Working Class in Canada's Wheat Boom Era, received recognition with the 2009 OHS J. J. Talman Award. She also won two M. Elizabeth Arthur awards and is the author of the book Northwest Company in Rebellion: Simon McGillivray's Fort William Notebook, 1815.

Until her retirement in 1990, Jean served as a research historian at Old Fort William (now Fort William Historical Park). Her expertise and impact in that



community led the historic park to name its Fur Trade library in her memory.

In addition to Jean's significant impact within the historical community in northwestern Ontario and beyond, Thunder Bay Museum Director and Editor of *Ontario History*, Dr. Tory Tronrud, remarked that she will be remembered, "most for her sparkling personality, her willingness to help, her sense of humour, and her constant professionalism."



o Hockey Hall of Fame / Librar d Archives Canada / PA-05029

British runner, Alfie Shrubb.

Tom Flanagan frequently stated that Longboat could "run all day and often did." He took his speed overseas following his enlistment with the 180th Battalion at Brantford on February 17, 1916. Initially appointed lance-corporal, he voluntarily reverted to the rank of private in the fall of 1916 in order to proceed overseas, and sailed for Britain aboard the S.S. Olympic on November 13, 1916. His service record confirms his transfer to the 3rd Reserve Battalion on January 6, 1917, and to the 107th Battalion on January 18, 1917. The next month, on February 25, 1917, found him proceeding to France. Throughout the war, the famous runner proved ideally suited to running messages to those involved in trench warfare. This he did, in addition to ditch digging when not boosting the morale of others with his role in athletics.

It was with the 180th Sportsmen's Battalion and the Canadian Engineers that Longboat found his stride, so to speak. This battalion so distinguished itself in competi-

tion with other military units that its all-round athletic superiority resulted in their being awarded the prestigious Sam Hughes Trophy. It seems that none of this achievement escaped the enemy, who were also aware of Tom Longboat, and his having been dubbed the "Bronze Mercury."

Longboat was honourably discharged upon demobilization at Hamilton on May 9, 1919. His service awards consist of the British War and Victory medals. As a runner, he never again competed in major competitive events, but did make numerous public appearances for a period of time. Tom Longboat died in 1949. In August of 1957, a plaque in his honour was erected by the Ontario government outside the Six Nations' Council House near Brantford. May he be forever remembered.

Editor's Note: "Barry Penhale's Ontario" will be a semi-regular series exploring less well known, but fascinating stories in our province's past prepared by Barry Penhale, publisher emeritus, Natural Heritage Books.

# Barry Penhale's Ontario: Remembering One Who Served

## **Barry Penhale**

barry@naturalheritagebooks.com

With the First World War centenary observances under way throughout our country, it is time for one and all to pause and reflect on the enormous sacrifices made by the many Canadian soldiers who served in what military historians have labelled the Great War. A huge number of the young men involved came from humble backgrounds, including, among others, Ontario farm boys, daily labourers, and lumberjacks. They represented every nook and cranny of the province. Among them was a famous athlete, an Onondaga known as Tom Longboat. It is this remarkable Canadian that I choose to remember in this important anniversary year.

Cogwagee, Thomas Charles Longboat, was born on the Six Nations of the Grand River Reserve, just outside of Brantford, Ontario, on June 4, 1887. While a young man living in nearby Caledonia, Tom attracted attention as a tireless natural runner who daily ran to his place of work in the city of Hamilton, a distance of approximately seven miles. In time, he joined the very active in its day Irish-Canadian Athletic Club, which was based in Toronto. There he met the colourful Tom Flanagan, an outgoing larger-thanlife personality and a born entrepreneur. Flanagan was to become Longboat's friend and manager, a relationship later strained partly because of differing views involving training. Under Flanagan's tutelage, Tom quickly advanced in major race circles, placing first in internationally recognized competitions. Winning the famous Boston Marathon in 1907 may have been his greatest victory as an amateur. But once he turned professional in 1909, his races drew widespread interest as he matched his skills against the cream of the running fraternity, including noted

## **Museum News**

**Dr. John Carter** drjohncarter@bell.net

#### **MUSEUM MILESTONES**

How many museums exist in Ontario? Although a definitive answer to this question is not readily available or known, Heather Anderson and I have compiled a list of 154 not-for-profit museums and heritage centres. I'm sure that we have overlooked or are not aware of some others in this category. Of course, hundreds more are oper-

ated by the federal and provincial governments, municipalities and conservation authorities, or are run as private museums. This edition of Museum News considers four such community museums in south-western and central Ontario.

The feature article, written by Scott Gilles, provides fascinating information about the Ingersoll Cheese Museum. This is a site you should visit if you haven't done so previously. You'll also be able to tour the education mu-

seum situated there.

Windsor's Community Museum is growing and expanding onto the ground floor of 401 Riverside Drive, which is also home to the Art Gallery of Windsor. Renovations there will be starting soon; the much-anticipated opening is expected in October 2015. The original museum will remain open in the François Baby House on Pitt Street. This is a long-awaited step in the upgrading and expansion of the WCM.

The First Peoples exhibit gallery at the Bruce County Museum in Southampton was busy with activity throughout the summer months.

Members of the Saugeen First Nation and the Chippewas of Nawash demonstrated traditional skills and crafts. Interpretive programming and cultural demonstrations also took place. This highly interactive education programme was made possible through a grant from Bruce Power, and with partnerships created between local First Nations and the museum. A successful collaboration to be sure!

After 29 years as Director of the Huronia Museum in Midland, Jamie Hunter has retired. The new Executive Director appointed is Nahanni Born. Congratulations to both on their new adventures.

# Cheese Museum Offers Added Bite to Local History

Scott Gillies,

Curator, Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum curator@ingersoll.ca

Imagine a wheel of cheese weighing 7,300 pounds...that's just one of the stories featured at the Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum. Founded in 1793 by Thomas Ingersoll, father of Laura Secord, Ingersoll is a town steeped in history, which is reflected in its new corporate slogan, "Ingersoll: Our Heritage, Your Future."

For a town "built" on cheese, it's only natural that a museum celebrating this dairy product would be part of Ingersoll's local flavour. Opened in 1977 in a replica of a 19th century cheese factory, the museum pays homage to dozens of such enterprises that at one time graced nearly every side road in Oxford County.

For more than a century, Ingersoll and cheese have been synonymous. The southwestern Ontario town was the home to a mammoth cheese wheel (pictured right) made in 1866 and the headquarters of the Canadian Dairymen's Association, which formed a year later. The town gradually became one of the chief cheese markets in Ontario. To this day, people from across Canada still inquire at the museum about purchasing the now unavailable Ingersoll Cream Cheese.

As the Cheese Factory Museum grew in popularity, local residents began donating agricultural implements, and so, in 1984, a second

building had to be added to the site, and an original 19th century barn was moved from a nearby village.

Around the same time, there was a movement by Ingersoll Town Council to establish a Sports Hall of Fame to honour the community's numerous athletes, including Olympic diver Ken Armstrong, Canadian Ski Team member Brent Coyle,

NHL linesman George Hayes, and world champion race boat drivers Harold and Lorna Wilson.

Branded "Festival Town Ontario," Ingersoll hosts a number of free public events throughout the year, many of which take place at the museum, including Harvest Festival, Pumpkinfest, and Down on the Farm. The museum site marks the beginning of both the Thomas Ingersoll Trail and the Festival of Winter Lights driving tour. Even Santa Claus sets up shop in one of the museum buildings during the busy days leading up to Christmas!

Over the years, additional buildings have been added to the museum complex situated in Centennial Park. More recently, the site became the new home of the Oxford County Museum School, which had to relocate from Burgessville in 2011.

Visiting a cheese museum, one might expect to only see displays



The "Mammoth Cheese," made in 1866 in Ingersoll, Ontario, was featured at the New York State Fair in Saratoga. The cheese wheel weighed over 7,000 pounds and measured 7 feet in diameter and 3 feet high! Pictured here are approximately 20 people standing on top of it.

of different varieties of cheese, but this is not the case. While you can certainly learn about the processes involved in making cheese, there is much more to see and do!

The world-class wood carving by former resident Wilson Johnston will take your breath away and a bicycle ridden around the world will inspire. For some, Ingersoll has also become a destination for pilgrims coming to learn more about world famous evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson.

What originated as a seasonal museum with a specialized focus has morphed into a full-fledged community museum that continues to garner tremendous public support.

In 2012, the Town Council committed to hiring a full-time curator and to keeping the facility open year-round. Since then, a new exhibition gallery has been installed and a schedule of rotating displays has been established.

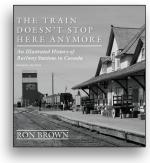
Several new public events have also been held at the museum, from book launches and a War of 1812 multimedia extravaganza, to Shakespeare under the Stars.

2014 is a year of numerous anniversaries and the Ingersoll Museum was in the thick of them with special exhibits, events and activities related to the centennial of World War One, the bicentennial of the War of 1812, the 150th anniversary of the first commercial cooperative cheese factory in Canada, the centennial of Ingersoll Machine & Tool Company, and centennial of the death of "Martha," the world's last passenger pigeon.

Being conveniently located one kilometre north of Highway 401 at Highway 19, the Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum has become a popular stop for thousands of travellers. Why not drop by and make our heritage part

of your future?

## **EXPLORE ONTARIO WITH DUNDURN**

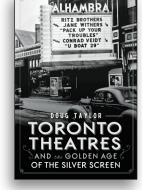


## THE TRAIN DOESNT STOP HERE ANYMORE

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF RAILWAY STATIONS IN CANADA 4TH EDITION

RON BROWN

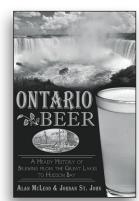
9781459727816 | \$29.99 PB 202 pages | Aug. 2014



TORONTO THEATRES AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE SILVER SCREEN

DOUG TAYLOR

9781626194502| \$21.99 PB 160 pages | July 2014



#### ONTARIO BEER

A HEADY HISTORY OF BREWING FROM THE GREAT LAKES TO THE HUDSON BAY ALAN MCLEOD & JORDAN ST. JOHN

9781626192560 | \$21.99 PB 176 pages | May 2014

Available through booksellers everywhere and as ebooks



e @dundurnpress

dundurn.com

**M** DUNDURN

# Museum News (cont'd)

# Incorporation Through OHS "A Major Step Forward" for Regional Museums Network

**Allan Symons**, Membership, RCMN, and Manager and Curator, The Canadian Clock Museum enquiries@canclockmuseum.ca

The Renfrew County Museums Network (RCMN) was established by representatives of several county museums at a special meeting held in Pembroke in 2002.

Carmen Goold, Ontario Ministry of Culture and Tourism, was the driving force for that meeting and with her ongoing interest is now considered our "godmother." Before then, the various county museums, some decades old, had operated more or less independently.

The purpose of this new network was to encourage the sharing of technical information and the mutual promotion of the museums throughout the county and beyond. Membership has grown steadily from the original 13, and currently includes 23 organizations that operate museums, some of which are new since 2002. We also have several important heritage partners.

A key member of the latter group is the Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA), a very strong supporter of our local museums for more than a decade. The collec-

tive goal now is to bring all of the county museums to the forefront of tourism in the Ottawa Valley.

In 2004 the RCMN received an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to fund the publication of the network's first brochure, titled Your Guide to the Museums in Renfrew County – Preserving and Promoting Our Rich Heritage.

The twenty-page booklet has a map and brief descriptions of all museums with hours of operation, plus pictures of some of their artifacts.

Also created was a communal Resource Kit with books, publications, and pamphlets from the Canadian Conservation Institute. Also part of the Kit are several environmental monitors for light intensity, temperature, and humidity measurement in our museums. Stored at a central location, the Kit is available to be signed out by members for short-term use at no charge.

For many years, the RCMN held between two and four meetings annually at our member museums, with special technical topics for discussion and occasional guest speakers. In that way, we were able to see each other's museums at least once.

In 2010, the informally operated RCMN finally set up a governance structure by establishing a board of directors and bank account, and by holding an annual general meeting. This improved the possibility of being able to apply for grants for network projects. The next step would incorporation be with the OHS (see below).

The organization applied for and received an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant in 2011 to develop a five-year strategic plan, a new brochure, and

our first-ever brand, logo, and network website (www.renfrew county museums.org).

The RCMN home page includes a map that shows the locations of all member museums, an editable page for each museum, a photo gallery, and an events listing. The site acts as a network tool for member websites and social media pages.

The new RCMN brochure is now available in various locations in Renfrew County, including most museums and the OVTA tourist information centres. It lists the addresses and telephone numbers of all 23 member museums, but is also state-of-the-art with a smart

At museums throughout Renfrew County we celebrate the stories that have shaped the history of one of Canada's most definitive cultures.

Ours is a landscape that has been home to first Nations people for over 12,000 years, and the European settlers who harnessed the wilderness. Over time, a rich history evolved.

The Renfrew County Museums Network celebrates this heritage through stories and archives, artefact collections, performance arts, interpretive programming and experiential learning.

Our museums are living laboratories dedicated to preserving, promoting and presenting history to make your visit both educational and memorable.

Learn a few words in Algonquin, Scottish or Kashub. See an antique weight drivine clock.

Tap your foot to Ottawa Valley fiddle music. Admire the handlwork of a pleed quilt.

Look up at an histori water tower.

Make a hand-dipped candle.

Hike a Footprints in Time trail.

Run your fingers over an Ordovician fossil.

View Samuel de Champlain's astrolabe.

Tour restored farm homes and railway stations.

Watch a blackmith working at the forge.

Look out on the lake where the Mayflower sank.

Visit the site of canada's first electric light.

Go back to class in a one-room school house.

Stand beneath the wings of a replica Spitfrie.

Pay tribute to those who fight for our freedom.

There's something for everyone!

Make aure your plans include time at a local museum.

Because memories can last a lifetime.

Front and back covers of a recently developed brochure (2011) profiling the programs and sites in the Renfrew County Museums Network.

phone QR code.

In spring 2014, Rob Leverty, Executive Director of the OHS, attended an RCMN meeting in Renfrew to advise us about the benefits of incorporation. This would represent a major step forward for our organization. After much discussion, the member representatives present voted unanimously to accept this important service offered by the OHS to its members. The result? Effective June 25th, the RCMN is now an Ontario corporation. This change for the RCMN will allow broader access to government funds as we look forward to the next decade.

# **Cemetery News**

Marjorie Stuart, Editor marjstuart@sympatico.ca

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains cemeteries and memorials for soldiers of the First and Second World Wars in 23,000 locations in 153 countries. This year

marks the centenary of beginning of the First World War. There have been numerous celebrations, notably in Belgium and France. Descendants visited many of these sites this past summer. The distinctive headstones marking the military burials are visible in many cemeteries across Canada. It is also not unusual to see that those who were killed overseas are commemorated on family tombstones here in Canada. Canada's Military Burial Ground is located at Beechwood **Cemetery** in Ottawa. In Toronto, there is a special military section in **Prospect Cemetery**. As you visit various cemeteries, pause before a military headstone and remember Rudyard Kipling's quote, "Their Name Liveth for Evermore."

It has been suggested that municipalities create archaeological plans to identify areas of high archaeological potential. These areas should include both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal sites. Unmarked

# DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE OHS CEMETERY DEFENCE FUND!

The resources of the OHS are constantly challenged as we try to defend threatened cemeteries across the province. We can't do it alone. All donations receive a tax receipt.

and unknown burial sites have surfaced in many locations across the province and can cause huge headaches for unsuspecting property owners. Under the *Cemeteries Act*, property owners are responsible for all costs associated with finding human remains, as well as maintaining the site on their property or arranging for relocation. The discovery of even the smallest burial site can cost thousands of dollars, all borne by the owner.

The joint OHS-OGS Unregistered Cemeteries Project continues to identify unknown burial sites that are not on the Ontario Registrar Cemeteries lists. An Unregistered Cemetery is not protected under the *Cemeteries Act* and can be closed and/or moved with minimal notice and input, with no right of appeal. There are some cemetery owners who feel that by failing to register with the Ministry, their cemetery is protected while, in fact, the reverse is the case. Contact me by email if



In September, the OHS was a guest speaker at the 17th Annual Memorial Candlelight Service hosted by the SilverShoe Historical Society (SHS) at the Bethel-Union Pioneer Cemetery in New Lowell. The ceremony is a non-denominational celebration commemorating the diverse history of Simcoe County, the Blue Mountains and surrounding Georgian Bay region. The SHS, which incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in 2007, has completely restored, researched, and opened for public access this historic cemetery. Pictured (from left): SHS President Janie Cooper-Wilson; OHS Executive Director Rob Leverty; and Dr. Naomi Norquay, President, Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee.

you know of a local cemetery that is unregistered so it may be added.

The Town of Saugeen Shores conducted an assessment of the **Old Southampton Cemetery**. They are to be congratulated for their efforts to preserve the burials that are threatened by ongoing bank erosion.

In Chatham a resolution was reached to preserve the site of **St. Paul's Anglican Cemetery**. The remains were supposed to have been removed around 1860. They lay undisturbed until 2012,

when the property owner prepared to build. The cemetery will be unmarked and maintained in perpetuity by the municipality.

Descendants are concerned about a possible closure of the **McNichol Cemetery** in Chinguacousy Township in Peel. This is a registered cemetery.

In Weston, possible construction at the site of the former St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Cemetery may impact the burial ground in use c. 1848 to 1898.

## **From The Bookshelf**

# **Dr. Cynthia Comacchio** ccomac5702@rogers.com

It may well be snowing by the time this issue of the OHS Bulletin is in members' hands; as I write, it is Thanksgiving weekend, the appropriate time to consider the riches that we enjoy, in this province and in this country, and to be thankful for each and all of them. Not the least of these is the ever-dazzling seasonal transition: the trees outside my window are still resplendent in autumn dress. We can also be thankful that we once again have a great bounty of books about Ontario history to consider "putting away" for cozy reading this winter. Or to indulge in now as a means of pre-empting, or at least postponing, thoughts of the inevitable cold and ice and snow...

# WHAT MAKES ONTARIO: CULTURE AND MATERIAL CULTURE

Much more easily defined than the encompassing term "culture," material culture – the tangible remnants of our past – nonetheless poses challenges of interpretation for those who try to understand both what it constitutes in the tangible, material sense, and in its relationship to the changing culture, or cultures, of the past. These books suggest the fruitfulness of striving toward making these connections, where "things" and experiences come together to make culture.

The Fort George Bill of Fare: The History of Cooking and Eating at Fort George Amanda Gamble. Friends of Fort George, 2014. PB: 205 pp. \$16. friendsoffortgeorge.ca

Inside Museums: Toronto's Heritage Sites and Their Most Prized Objects John Goddard. Dundurn, 2014. PB: 224 pp. \$20. dundurn.com

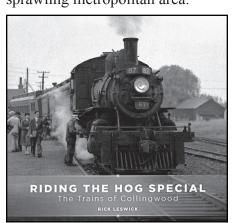
Toronto Theatres and the Golden Age of the Silver Screen Doug Taylor. The History Press, 2014. PB: 160 pp. \$22. dundurn.com (in Canada)

Published by the Friends of Fort George, and authored by one of the historic site's dedicated employees, Amanda Gamble's lovely (in fact, delicious) book serves its readers on many levels. It is first of all intended as a companion to the Fort's cooking program, but it stands alone very effectively. As the title indicates, this book explores the history of cooking and eating, bringing to light the daily practices and rituals of food sourcing, preparation and dining in early nineteenth-century Ontario, and more specifically in the Niagara region. It provides insights into the ordinary routines of the Fort, and, since the Fort was in many ways a microcosm of its surrounding community, some glimpses into the local culture and society of 1812. In all this, the book contributes to the burgeoning field of food history, but also in many ways to the social and cultural history of the period. For history enthusiasts who are also "foodies" and recipe-collectors, it features a sampling of recipes, some updated and others simply reprinted. These include some period treats that few would attempt now, such as "Coffee Creamed Much Admired," a jellied coffee dessert that first required the boiling of a calf's foot "till it wastes to a pint of jelly," and others that, while traditional, might better suit contemporary tastes, such as a classic Bread Pudding. Moreover, Gamble discusses how residents benefited, in terms of food and cooking supplies, from Niagara's market town status, and shows the remarkable variety of fruits and vegetables to be found in kitchen gardens, also key sources. The first appendix amusingly reveals how the "Mess Rules for the 41st Regiment of Foot," as of 1804, laid out twenty detailed rules to govern dining at the Fort, establishing fines for transgressions such as reading "Books, Letters etc. without Leave of the President" at table that were levied in bottles of wine. The second appendix is an equally fascinating post-mortem inventory, in chart form, of General Brock's household furnishings, upon sale of the estate to Major-General Sheaffe in November 1812. There is also a thorough bibliography of primary and secondary materials. This little book should inspire many Georgian-themed Christmas feasts.

John Goddard's book provides an entertaining foray into the inside stories of select Toronto heritage sites – and to the actual lives that unfolded in such designated private homes as Mackenzie House, Campbell House, Gibson House, and The Grange, as well as such public spaces and institutions as the City's first post office, Montgomery's Inn, and Fort York. While such commemorative spaces promise tourist experiences that provide a sense of what life was like for Torontonians of their period, much of this is, of necessity, of the "walk-through" variety. Yet the fact that these sites were preserved, designated, and opened to the public in this manner demonstrates that they were not exactly "typical," even in their own times. Visitors come away with a sense of the era's household or business activities, but visits generally offer little to satisfy the curious visitor's need to know the "true story" of private lives behind these now-public spaces. A former Toronto Star reporter, Goddard was intrigued enough by what was missing that he set out to research a selection of ten such sites, both the brick-andmortar aspects and, most importantly, the human "back-stories" of the lives they contained. This is an excellent resource, clearly written and organized, for those intending to explore the places whose histories and mysteries are detailed here, both as visit preparation and also to take along as enriching accompaniment; the author helpfully includes transit directions and lists of other attractions in the vicinity of each site featured.

Much like John Goddard, author Doug Taylor is a Torontonian with a fierce appreciation of the city's cultural history. A former history teacher, he is also clearly a film

buff; these combined interests inspired him to explore the grand movie houses of early twentiethcentury Toronto. Many of those described in this book, which is also nicely illustrated with period and contemporary photographs, appeared prior to the Great War, when "the movies" were still in their infancy, but already pulling in the locals for what was considered a sophisticated yet "respectable" public amusement, and also cheap enough for working people and even children to enjoy regularly. The 1920s saw their flourishing as never before; with dozens of new theatres built, they became firmly established in modern popular culture. Even the Great Depression could not put a damper on Torontonians' thirst for the movies. Interweaving personal memory and research, Taylor deftly discusses fifty historic movie theatres, tracing the changes and continuities in their style and arrangements during "the golden age of the silver screen." But he actually goes beyond his title's promise to conclude with a discussion of the contemporary city movie scene, ending with the state-ofthe-art Bell Lightbox, home to the acclaimed annual TIFF event, and an integral part of the cultural community of Toronto and its sprawling metropolitan area.



# BY LAND AND BY LAKE: TRANSPORTATION HISTORIES

So much of Ontario's history, as that of Canada, has been written – literally – along the lines of transportation and communication, as these traversed terrain and water, flatlands, mountains, lakes, rivers and oceans alike. Our continued fascination with these elements of our past demonstrates the powerful hold of rail and ship – and of stations and shipwrecks, in this instance – on collective memory.

The Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore: An Illustrated History of Railway Stations in Canada, 4th Ed. Ron Brown. Dundurn, 2014. PB: 192 pp. \$30. dundurn.com

Riding the Hog Special: The Trains of Collingwood Rick Leswick. 2014. PB: 115 pp. \$27. rc@leswicksc.com

Shipwrecks of Lake Erie: Tragedy in the Quadrangle David Frew. The History Press, 2014. PB: 144 pp. \$27. dundurn.com (in Canada)

The simple fact that Ron Brown's lovingly penned and illustrated history of Canadian railway stations is now in its fourth edition is evidence of how we continue to be fascinated by our rail heritage. In this case, it's not so much routes or trains that are the focus, but the stations where they stopped "in their

tracks" to load and unload people and goods. Until at least the middle of the twentieth century, train stations were more than merely points in a functioning railway system: they were vital community hubs, as important to ordinary people, whether conducting their everyday lives or reaching out to a wider world, as was the local post office. Many of these stations were architectural reflections of the ideals of an age: stolid Victorian red brick buildings with hardwood floors and service wickets, or perhaps made of local stone; later models boasted Art Nouveau and even Art Deco flourishes. Many of these historic buildings are gone, replaced by more contemporary, utilitarian boxes, if replaced at all. Some, however, as Brown demonstrates, have been officially designated for preservation, regardless of whether they still serve their original purpose or have been repurposed. Yet Brown does not simply detail the changing history of train stations across the land. He also considers their immediate environment, the "outside" parts that served both the railway business and the surrounding community, such as the station hotels and restaurants, and the local YMCA. The latter was deliberately situated in proximity to serve the many travelling men, young and old, who disembarked in towns where they knew no one and might therefore venture into trouble. As befitting what was historically the industrial and communications heartland, there is much Ontario content in this national history. Although the stations' stories form a compelling social history, Brown also reminds us that they, and the trains traversing them, helped to bring to fruition the Confederation dream of a new nation "from sea unto sea." His book closes with "the fight to save our stations," a contest well worth taking on for both heritage and environmental reasons.

Rick Leswick was also motivated to delve into the history of Collingwood trains because of his own affinity for trains, his love of history as story-telling, and his growing personal connection to the community. As does Brown, he focuses more on the sociocultural aspects of rail history than on the trains as feats of engineering. The railway at the heart of this local history began as the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron in the pioneering mid-century years, running from Toronto through Barrie to Collingwood as of the beginning of 1855. The "Hog Special" of the title was aptly named for its regular porcine passengers, who, sadly, were destined to make a one-way trip southward out of Collingwood on the Hamilton and North Western Railway that ran between the town and Beeton, twice daily until Depression exigencies reduced the

### 'Bookshelf' cont'd page 8 ...

**Editor's Note:** Prices (in CDN\$) may or may not include shipping/taxes.

How do we select books to be reviewed? Our criteria are simple: we review all recently published books relating to the history of this province that are sent to us by publishers, authors, and readers. To submit a book to be reviewed, forward a copy to: "From the Bookshelf," 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2.

## **Bookshelf' from page 7**

schedule to one daily trip in 1931. By 1955, the train was defunct. The tracks were ripped up in 1960. Thus, the Hog Special met the fate of so many other small-town rail services. Leswick structures this lovingly written and illustrated tribute in two parts: the first presents biographical sketches of the prime movers during the railway's various incarnations, while the second consists of stories, some first-hand, others handed down, by and about people whose lives were directly touched and often shaped by their connection to the railway. Leswick integrates original research into local archives and newspapers with these oral histories, and numerous photographs and other historic illustrations help to achieve his objective: "a book for all people who like to read history as a story and who revel in the tales of ordinary people." It's hard to think who this might exclude.

David Frew is an organizational psychologist by training, but, as a native of the Lake Erie area, a local history enthusiast and an avid sailor, he was drawn to the lore that surrounded the so-called "ghost fleet of Lake Erie," the sunken ships that count in the hundreds (491 since 1797, by Frew's own estimate), of which proportionately few have been recovered in more than bits and pieces. His first publication on the subject in 1993 effectively catalogued many of the sunken ships. This book represents his return to the subject, both to update the scholarship and also to revise and fill out his original work, born of his friendship with renowned "Beachcomber of Long Point," Dave Stone. Introduced in the earlier work, the Quadrangle in the title is his own appellation for the roughly 2,500 square mile area around Long Point. Frew begins this volume with a personal history that briefly outlines his interest in, and his approach to, historic shipwrecks, describing his acquired skills in qualitative historical methodology, and his adaptation of a database for the project. He also ventures into an honest discussion about "things that we missed" in the earlier book, as he sets out to remedy those gaps, primarily by means of the vastly advanced technologies that are now available to detect shipwrecks, photograph them, and otherwise provide for a wider range of artifactual evidence and closer analysis. His new research (Stone passed away in 2007) also confirms the partners' earlier contention that the Quadrangle has the highest shipwreck density in the world. Part II begins the actual histories, focusing on the War of 1812 that marked the beginning of a centurylong "golden age" of Lake Erie Shipping, and the first shipwreck, that of the schooner Amelia in 1813. Subsequent chapters discuss changing practices in commerce, and the impact of advancing technologies and new business models, in chronological order, with attention to the individuals and families behind their implementation, and includes a chapter on modern (post Second World War to the late 1990s) wrecks on the lake. Wellillustrated with maps, historic and contemporary photographs, and various advertisements and news announcements, Frew's engaging study ends with a reasoned, historically grounded discussion of the question, "Is Lake Erie's Shipwreck Era Over"?

#### FIRST NATIONS AND NEWCOMERS: ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY AND HISTORIOGRAPHY

Although many centuries of First Nations residence had already passed when Europeans arrived, Ontario, from the imperialist perspective, was in great need of "settlers" of a particular kind – a racially and economically selective notion that underlay immigration policy well into the twentieth century. For Indigenous peoples, physical and cultural displacement by the European colonizers was the tragic outcome. African-American newcomers of the nineteenth century would also find their "settlement" in a rapidly developing Anglo-Ontario society challenged by the racism of the host society. These two studies, promise much in our continued attempts to understand "race" and indigeneity in historical context.

The Promised Land: History and Historiography of the Black Experience in Chatham-Kent's Settlements and Beyond Eds. Boulou Ebanda de B'béri, Nina Reid-Maroney, Handel Kashope Wright. Epilogue by Afua Cooper, 2014. PB: 234 pp. \$25. utppublishing.com

Petun to Wyandot: the Ontario Petun from the Sixteenth Century

Charles Garrad. Eds. Jean-Luc Pilon and William Fox. Canadian Museum of History/University of Ottawa Press, 2014. PB: 623 pp. \$90. press.uottawa.ca

Notwithstanding the rich histories of our Black communities, and the importance of these histories to the larger picture of provincial evolution, politically, economically, socially and culturally, through to the present, the historiography of Black Ontario remains underdeveloped. The editors and contributors of The Promised Land take their title in its various meanings, "as both metaphor and reality": the Chatham-Kent settlements represented new hope and also, in an ironic take, an ideal beyond attainment. This exciting anthology derives from what its editors classify as "the remarkable collaboration" of The Promised Land Project, a community-university research alliance formed expressly to study the Black experience through an interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, cross-generational team encompassing academic and community scholars as well as students at various levels. This scope is itself ambitious, but the ultimate objective was to uncover the deeper elements of those experiences in nineteenth-century southwestern Ontario while also situating them in "a national and ultimately global context." The approach is, broadly speaking, a cultural one that focuses on human relationships: with the land itself, within the community, and with the external community. Historical geography informs much of the approach, at once mapping "settlement, culture and identities." The

> book is structured in three parts: the first is conceptual, methodological and historiographical, its chapters, individually and collectively, serving to map imagientries native into this oftenobscured past. The second provides a gateway into the Black

communities under study in an ostensibly traditional, but also a fresh biographical, approach that presents the life stories of three prominent residents as case studies of both agency – abolitionist and civil rights activism - and also "representation," as seen in the ideas about "blackness" projected from within the community, and also projected at its members by white society. The third section is in many ways the most innovative, in that it emphasizes the spatial dimensions of identity and culture with its emphasis on the role of "place" in shaping these. Here, an exciting "recontextualization" of abolitionism, as ideology and practice, moves us past the dramatic story of the Underground Railroad to see its interaction and coexistence with a "web of associations," Canadian and American, Black and White, that sustained the movement. The epilogue, by historian Afua Cooper, casts a critical eye to the larger questions of geography, identity and culture that animated this project, as well as those that it has so astutely raised.

Charles Garrad is well known to many in OHS circles due to his long engagement with the Society, and also with the Ontario Archaeological Society, over which he presided for some time. He is also an acclaimed scholar, his accomplishments in local and First Nations archaeology all the more impressive for the fact that he is also largely self-trained. Garrad has devoted the better part of fifty years to the early history and development of Craigleith and the Blue Mountain region. His life's work is presented here in a comprehensive volume of more than 600 pages that aims to uncover some 500 years of the area's Indigenous history, commencing at the point of contact in the early sixteenth century. His approach, as his earlier studies demonstrate, is a complex layering of documentary sources (largely European/Jesuit observations), archaeological recovery and interpretation, and anthropological evidence. The result is a masterful study that traces the trajectory of what was once known as the Petun Confederacy to its culmination as the Wyandot Nation. A joint project of the Canadian Museum of History and the University of Ottawa Press, the book is edited by Jean-Luc Pilon, the Museum's Curator of Ontario Archaeology, and William Fox, a Trent University anthropologist. Faced with the challenge of cutting the original manuscript by twenty percent, they have done an excellent job of curating the data alongside many enhancing tables, photographs, illustrations, maps and appendices, as well as a very helpful, detailed bibliography.

The *OHS Bulletin* is the newsletter of The Ontario Historical Society (OHS).

February 2015 issue copy deadline: **Friday, January 16, 2015.** 

Reprinting of articles must be accompanied by the acknowledgement: "Reprinted from the *OHS Bulletin*, (issue & date) published by The Ontario Historical Society." All photo credits and bylines must be retained.

Views expressed by contributors and advertisers are not necessarily those of the OHS. The Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Types of membership in the Society are: Individual \$40; Youth \$20; Senior \$35; Institution/Organization \$45; Life \$500.

Membership is open to all individuals and societies interested in the history of Ontario. The *OHS Bulletin* is sent free of charge to all members of the OHS. The OHS's biannual scholarly journal, *Ontario History*, is available to members for an additional \$22 per year; member organizations,

institutions and non-member individuals for \$31.50; and to non-member organizations and institutions for \$42. Membership inquiries should be directed to Christina Perfetto at members@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

Inquiries about submissions and advertising: Editor, *OHS Bulletin*, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2, 416.226.9011, izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Cemetery News Editor: Marjorie Stuart; From the Bookshelf Editor: Dr. Cynthia Comacchio; Printer: Harmony Printing ISSN 0714-6736

# The Ontario Historical Society 2014-15 Board of Directors:

Executive: Joe Stafford, President; Caroline Di Cocco, First Vice-President; Pam Cain, Second Vice-President; B.E.S. (Brad) Rudachyk, Past President; Bob Leech, Treasurer; Carolyn King, Secretary; Directors: Michel Beaulieu; David dos Reis; Ross Fair; James Fortin; Allan Macdonell; Alison Norman; Ian Radforth

Ontario History Editor: Tory Tronrud



"Delivering the Past"
rjburns@travel-net.com
www.deliveringthepast.ca

## Robert J. Burns, Ph.D

Heritage Resources Consultant

- Historical Research and Analysis
- Home and Property History
- Corporate and Advertising History
- Heritage Product Marketing Research

"The Baptist Parsonage" (est. 1855) 46249 Sparta Lane, P.O. Box 84 Sparta, ON NOL 2H0 Tel./Fax: (519) 775-2613