

## O'Connor House: A Community's Story of Perseverance

**Tony Wagner**, Chair, OCH  
tonywagner@oconnorhouse.ca

The O'Connor House (OCH) story is inspired by the life of the late Canadian Senator Frank O'Connor (1885-1939). O'Connor was born in Deseronto, the son of Irish immigrants, and the founder of Laura Secord and Fanny Farmer candy shops. The mission of the OCH organization is to preserve and maintain the historically significant Frank O'Connor estate buildings to heritage standards; promote and manage the property as a hub for community, educational, cultural and heritage related activities and programs; and celebrate the history, legacy and values of Frank O'Connor, including hard work, civic engagement and philanthropy, with a new generation of Canadians.

O'Connor House is a rare example of a 1930s Colonial Revival-style residence in a city where modernity rules. The three buildings (estate building, coach house and maintenance shed) are located on the property of the Toronto Catholic District School Board's Senator O'Connor College School near the intersection of Victoria Park Avenue and Lawrence Avenue East. Collaboration with the TCDSB continues to be a key element of the O'Connor House governance – restoration was managed under the TCDSB procurement and budget process with OCH as an equal partner on the restoration committee. The project architect was Kearns Mancini Architects Inc (www.kmai.com).

**'O'Connor' cont'd page 4 ...**

## Excellence in Ontario Heritage Recognized with OHS Awards

Twelve Awards Presented at Annual Meeting



Photo: Andrea Izzo

In 1967, the OHS established an Awards program to recognize individuals, organizations, corporations, and authors who have made significant contributions to the preservation and promotion of Ontario's heritage.

Dr. Ian Radforth, Chair of the Honours and Awards Committee, was pleased to present the 2013-14 awards at the historic O'Connor House in North York.

Thank you to those who participated, including especially the volunteer adjudicators who made this year's difficult decisions! The OHS encourages nomination of leaders in your community. Visit [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/awards](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/awards) to learn more.

Your next issue of the *OHS Bulletin* will include a nomination form that can be submitted no later than January 2015.

### Heritage Event in North York

#### North York: New Perspectives on Community Building and Cultural Exchange

Hosted by The Ontario Historical Society with  
The North York Historical Society and Toronto Public Library

Join us for an evening of historical exploration and discussion about  
Toronto's cultural roots with an emphasis on the impact of First Nations peoples

#### Speakers

**Don Smith:** The Marathon Aboriginal Methodist  
Camp Meeting at Cummer's Mill, 1828

**Victoria Freeman:** First Story, a Knife, and a Cradle:  
Remembering North York's Indigenous History

**Steve Logan:** Willowdale's Suburban Imaginary: the John  
McKenzie House and the Kingsdale Subdivision

**Carolyn King:** Mississaugas of the New Credit First  
Nations Moccasin Identifier Project: An initiative to  
recognize First Nations' impact on Toronto's landscape

**Tuesday,  
September 23**

6:30 p.m. to  
8:30 p.m.

Free admission

North York Central  
Library Concourse

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**The Ontario  
Historical  
Society**



**Founded  
1888**

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

[www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

**Scadding Award of Excellence** Outstanding contribution to the field of  
history by a heritage group: **The Living History Multimedia Association**

**Dorothy Duncan Award** Outstanding service by a non-profit organization,  
nominated by a Municipal or a First Nations Council:  
**Great Lakes Storm of 1913 Remembrance Committee**

**President's Award** Excellence in heritage conservation by a corporation,  
business or individual: **Denis Langlois, Owen Sound**

**Cruikshank Medal** Performing with distinction on behalf of the OHS:  
**Thomas F. McIlwraith, Mississauga**

**Carnochan Award** Many years of volunteer service to Ontario's heritage  
community: **Elwood H. Jones, Peterborough, and Danièle Caloz, Toronto**

**Joseph Brant Award** Best book on multicultural history in Ontario: **William  
Jenkins, *Between Raid and Rebellion: The Irish in Buffalo and Toronto***

**Fred Landon Award** Best book on regional or local history in Ontario: **John L.  
Riley, *The Once and Future Great Lakes Country: An Ecological History***

**Alison Prentice Award** Best book on women's history in Ontario: **Nina Reid-  
Maroney, *The Reverend Jennie Johnson and African Canadian History***

**J. J. Talman Award** Best book on social, economic, political, or cultural  
history in Ontario: **John Clarke, *The Ordinary People of Essex***

**Riddell Award** Best article on Ontario's history last year:  
**Michael Commito, "The Rise of Dubreuil Brothers Limited, 1948-1973"**

**Donald Grant Creighton Award** Best book of biography or autobiography  
highlighting life in Ontario, past or present: **Donald B. Smith,  
Mississauga Portraits: Ojibwe Voices from Nineteenth-Century Canada.**



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@OntarioHistory



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CANADA





## President's Report

**Dr. Brad Rudachyk, President**  
rudachyk@rogers.com

This will be my last "President's Report" in the *Bulletin*. As I write this, I am – as Past President and newly installed Treasurer Bob Leech likes to say – "Past President for Life." I have enjoyed my term. It has been a pleasure to serve.

Indeed, service and relationships are ultimately what it is all about. In this world awash with administrators and MBAs, it seems that so much is now measured instead by profit and product. I find this deliciously ironic in a world still staggering towards recovery from the financial meltdown of 2008.

The OHS is a not-for-profit organization and registered charity. As Dr. Wade Rowland wrote in a recent op-ed piece in the *Globe and Mail*, like the CBC, the OHS "exists not to make money or to satisfy financial goals, but to fill a public need – one that is not being served by private..." enterprise.

I have long said that "everybody loves history and heritage, but nobody wants to pay for it." Without the ongoing efforts of the hundreds of thousands of Ontarians who volunteer in heritage organizations, historic sites, and museums, little would be done and much would be lost. Your Society's record-breaking incorporation of affiliates over the past three years is a testament to those who see the value in things historical. This is good and exciting. However, there is another more ominous side to this growth – the slow, apparently inexorable, withdrawal of government support at all levels. More and more, it is becoming clear that when it comes to history and heritage – especially at the local and regional levels – "if we ain't doin' it, ain't nobody doin' it."

That is why it is even more important than ever that OHS continues to grow and remains strong. Public service is the core value of your Society. It is why when you call John McKenzie House, a person answers the telephone. It is why we publish the country's best provincial history journal, *Ontario History*. It is why we are working hard to embrace the digital reality with webinars and soon making the back issues of *Papers and Records* and *Ontario History* available online. It is why we work so diligently to support and advise our more than 850 affiliated societies, member organizations, and member institutions across this great province.

We do so, not for profit, but for public service because we are fully aware of the place and importance of history and heritage in a world so keenly focused on the present. This is not about nostalgia or a wish to live in some never-existent past golden age. It is about understanding that our shared past is a great cultural reservoir chock full of alternative ways of seeing, doing and being.

In conclusion, permit me to "borrow" from my remarks made at our very successful AGM on June 14. I would like to thank everyone for the honour and privilege of serving as your president these past three years. It has been my good fortune to serve during a period of growth and development. While much remains to be done, the OHS is healthy and moving in the right direction. As in politics, the world of not-for-profits is very much the art of the possible. During my tenure, I have been blessed to work with an extremely talented,

**'President' cont'd page 8 ...**

## Tribute to Dennis Osbert Pollock

February 1944 – December 2013

**Rob Leverty, Executive Director**  
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The OHS has lost a friend, dedicated member and volunteer, generous donor, and invaluable workshop leader. Canada has lost a gifted master gardener.

Dennis Osbert Pollock left us a legacy of heritage organic gardening and so many practical lessons of a life well-lived. We will remember his infectious jokes and irrepressible smile.

For decades, Dennis was the head gardener for Toronto's Black Creek Pioneer Village and a very active member of Downsview United Church. He also loved his dogs and was very fond of his farm located near Beaverton.

I first met Dennis when the OHS was restoring the historic John McKenzie House and its surrounding gardens between 1993 and 1996. He provided invaluable insights and advice. For years, Dennis grew geraniums in his



Dennis Pollock will be remembered as head gardener for Black Creek Pioneer Village, as a master gardener, and as a volunteer speaker and leader for the OHS at countless workshops across Ontario. Here, Dennis is pictured (centre) in May 2011 at Ermatinger-Clergue NHS after delivering five workshops for the OHS, titled: Garden to Table 1812, Heritage Gardening, Garden to Table Victorian Style, Growing and Cooking with Herbs, and Heritage Seed Saving.

greenhouses and, in the spring, he would donate them to the OHS in order to raise money for restoration projects. He got OHS involved in "Seedy Saturday," an annual

organic seed exchange fair and marketplace, which proved to be a valuable fundraiser and networking opportunity for the Society.

Dennis was a showman and

he loved a stage. He became an incredibly popular speaker and presenter, travelling to countless workshops and seminars in northern and southern Ontario on behalf of the OHS, sowing his gardening wisdom and tips. Always willing to share his knowledge and expertise, Dennis was constantly consulted by museums and historic sites when developing or improving their historic gardens.

In 2008-2009, Dennis again came to the help of the Society as it began to plan a communal organic market garden adjacent to the John McKenzie House. He was thrilled to see a group of volunteers establish the Parkview Neighbour Garden, and donated seeds to create greater diversity in the garden, and to attract birds and bees.

Instinctively, I know that in my lifetime, I will probably never be so fortunate as to work with and know such a talented and gifted person. Dennis was one of a kind. He was a man for all seasons.

## THANK YOU DONORS!

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

*SINCE APRIL 2014*

Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior  
Carla Cancellier  
Victor Caratun  
Richard Chuback  
Ross Cole  
M. Sam Cronk  
Wendy D'Angelo  
Allan Day  
Rick Degendorfe  
Paola Di Paolo  
Essex Armoured Soldiers Museum  
FamilySearch International  
Joseph Feeney  
Grey Roots Museum & Archives  
Heritage Oshawa  
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Niagara Military Museum  
Kathleen Pletsch  
Penny Plunkett  
Pamela Ramsay-Cohen  
Roger Robineau  
Sharon Burying Ground Association  
Sheffield Park Black History and Cultural Museum  
Sioux Lookout Community Museum  
Ada Sloan  
Owen Temby  
Andrew Thompson



## Executive Director's Report

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

On June 14th, the OHS held a successful 126th Annual General Meeting and Honours and Awards Ceremony. Thanks to the historic O'Connor House for their gracious hospitality and in particular our guest speakers Tony Wagner and Paul Farrelly for their excellent keynote address "The Inside Story: The Struggle to Preserve and Restore the Historic O'Connor House."

At the AGM, I was pleased to report that in December the Estate of Ruth E. Day donated \$101,700 in recognition of the Society's work throughout northern Ontario. The OHS has subsequently established a Northern Ontario Fund in memory of Ruth Day. The annual income from this restricted trust fund will provide much needed extra private revenue to support our work in the north. I would like to thank Ruth's son Derrick for supporting this incredibly generous gift on behalf of his mother's estate. Derrick and Diane Day have become members and made a personal donation to the OHS.

I also reported that the Society's 2013 audited financial statements demonstrate that the OHS is in sound financial health and that it continues to improve. The Society's operations in 2013 show once again a small fiscal surplus with an increase in net assets. It was the sixth consecutive year in which the organization has managed its operations with no deficit and no outstanding debts.

Bob Leech, OHS Past President and chair of the nominations committee, reported on the nominations of Dr. Ross Fair, James Fortin, and David dos Reis, all of whom were elected to the OHS Board of Directors by the voting members present at the annual meeting. Jim

was also elected the Chair of the OHS Museums Committee.

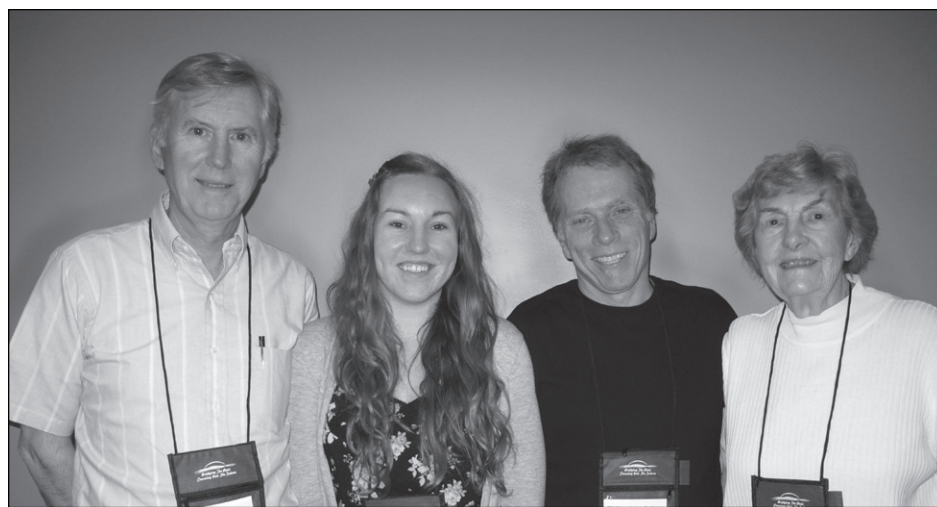
**Ross Fair** is currently an Adjunct Professor in the Department of History at Ryerson University and also serves as the department's Academic Coordinator for Continuing Education. He has an interest in immigration and the development of agriculture in Canada, a topic he explored in *Ontario History* in 2004 and continues to research. Dr. Fair has extensive public history and volunteer experience, and is presently a volunteer Director and Chair of the Plaques and Markers committee for Heritage Toronto.

**James Fortin** recently retired after spending thirty-five years working as Curator of Museums with the City of Greater Sudbury and with the Town of Walden at the Anderson Farm Museum. For the past three decades, he has been an active OHS volunteer and workshop leader for local historical societies and museums in northeastern Ontario. Jim was the recipient of the OHS's 2011 Cruikshank Medal.

**David dos Reis** completed his BA in Law & Society and History at York University and then earned his Juris Doctor from Osgoode Hall Law School. David practised litigation and real estate law for four years at Davis LLP and recently co-founded LD Law LLP in Toronto. He is currently a director of the Federation of Portuguese Canadian Business and Professionals and a member of the Portuguese Canadian Lawyers Association.

At the AGM, Naresh Khosla and Dr. John Carter completed their terms as directors of the OHS; we would like to thank both Naresh and John for their years of donated time and dedicated service.

As a provincial heritage organization, the OHS serves all Ontar-



In May, the OHS presented a workshop at the Ontario Heritage Conference in Cornwall entitled "Coming Full Circle: Lessons learned from the history of our built, cemetery, and natural heritage grassroots preservation in Ontario." The presentation described and analyzed the constantly evolving grassroots heritage movement in the province from the early nineteenth century to the present date, including a local focus on grassroots preservation in Cornwall and South Glengarry Township. Thanks to the three hard-working volunteers who made this professional development session possible (pictured with Rob Leverty, from left): Allan Macdonell, Sara Lauzon, and Dorothy Duncan. The conference was presented by the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Community Heritage Ontario and Heritage-Patrimoine Cornwall.

ians. Its board of directors reflects the diversity of the province by ensuring a mix and balance of different cultural and professional backgrounds with representation from all regions of Ontario. To learn more, visit [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/board](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/board).

Our peer-reviewed journal *Ontario History* continues to raise the bar for historical scholarship. At the AGM, thanks were extended to editor Dr. Tory Tronrud and book review editor Dr. Ron Stagg for their hard work, professionalism and scholarly expertise. 2013 saw nine new articles and sixteen book reviews published, in addition to the launch of a new electronic index covering the years 1993 to the present. Please visit [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/index](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/index).

Last year, the Society launched a fundraising campaign "Preserving 125 Years – Our Legacy for the Next 125," a project to begin scanning and delivering electronically

past and future issues of *Ontario History* and its predecessor *Papers and Records*. I am pleased to report that so far our members and subscribers, including individuals, families, affiliated societies, historical organizations, institutions and foundations, have donated over \$31,000 to this ambitious project. Thanks to all our donors for their generosity and support!

Our membership continues to rapidly expand in all regions of Ontario and the Society has already incorporated eight new not-for-profit historical corporations this year. Since January, the OHS has held incorporation meetings in Thunder Bay, West Nipissing, Renfrew, Arnprior, South Dundas, Simcoe Island (adjacent to Wolfe Island), Newmarket, Owen Sound, and Windsor (see below).

Thank you for your support; it remains a great honour and privilege to serve on your behalf. I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer.

## Five Historical Non-Profits Incorporated at June OHS Board Meeting

At its June 2014 meeting, the OHS board of directors approved for incorporation the following five not-for-profit heritage organizations.

In the Act to incorporate the Society, passed in 1899 at Queen's Park, the Ontario provincial legislature granted to the OHS the ability to incorporate not-for-profit heritage organizations as separate legal entities. Although the political climate in the province is not today what it was over a century ago, this vital responsibility could not be any more relevant and necessary.

The **West Nipissing Historical Society** brings together citizens dedicated to recognizing, documenting, preserving and sharing the local history and culture of West Nipissing.

**Friends of Moreston Village at Grey Roots** will voluntarily assist with the preservation and promotion of Moreston Village at Grey Roots Museum in Owen Sound.

The **Nine Mile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society** was established to protect and preserve the Nine Mile Point Lighthouse (built 1833, pictured right) and provide public access to the site. The lighthouse is located on Simcoe Island, adjacent to Wolfe Island in Eastern Ontario.

The **Renfrew County Museums Network** is an established network of museum and heritage groups advancing education and awareness of Renfrew County history.

The **Historical Society of South Dundas** is preserving and promoting the history of South Dundas and constituent areas (Matilda,

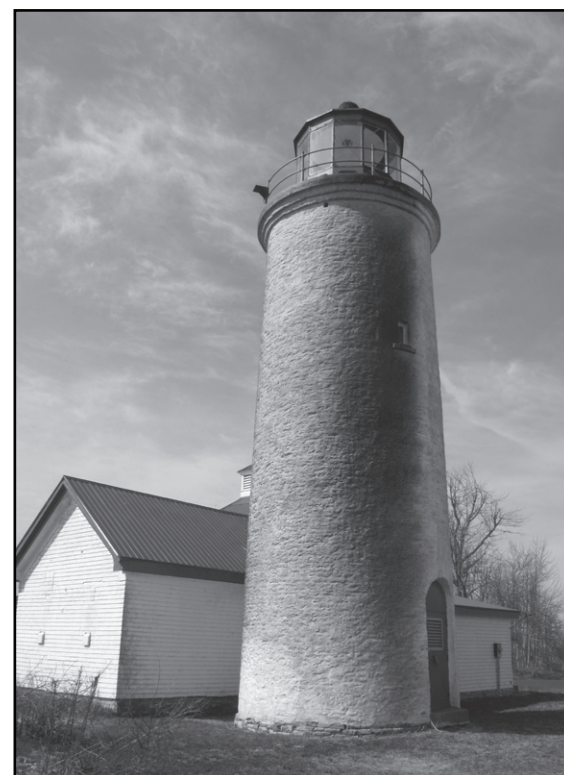
Williamsburg, former Villages of Iroquois and Morrisburg).

Since 2009, the OHS has incorporated 66 such organizations province-wide. 95% of those are located outside of the City of Toronto and 17% are based in Northern Ontario.

At its February board meeting, the OHS incorporated three additional not-for-profit organizations: the Essex Armoured Soldiers Museum, Sharon Burying Ground Association, and Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior.

Congratulations to these groups and their dedicated volunteers who are working to preserve and promote Ontario's local history!

Learn more at [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/incorporation](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/incorporation).



The Nine Mile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society is a volunteer citizen group working to protect and preserve the architectural integrity of the 1833 lighthouse on Simcoe Island in Eastern Ontario.

Photo Rob Leverty



## Across the Province

The year 2015 will be one with many celebrations, including the 400th anniversary of the arrival of French explorer Samuel de Champlain in Ontario and his legendary travels through many areas that are part of our province today. The Smith Ennismore Historical Society has devoted several articles in a recent issue of the *Smith Ennismore Times* to his accomplishments. Was your area one that should be remembered and should you be planning an event?

Sir John A. Macdonald's 200th birthday will be celebrated in January 2015 in many communities. Are you ready for the party?

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) received a generous gift from the late Mary Millard (1925-2013) of Toronto in the amount of \$1.8 million, which will be used, in part, to support its existing programs and services province-wide. This news comes one year after ACO celebrated a flagship 80th anniversary year. Learn more at [www.arconserv.ca](http://www.arconserv.ca).

The John McCrae Statue Fundraising Committee is seeking donations as the 100th anniversary of his famous poem "In Flanders Fields" is celebrated. Information: 1.800.838.1531.

Burlington's Friends of Freeman Station has launched a whinstone campaign as a fundraiser. One thousand of the stones that were fixed to the outside of the building's foundation are available for sponsorship at \$100 each. They will be individually numbered and replaced on the building along with a plaque listing the names of all the sponsors. To donate online: [www.freemanstation.ca](http://www.freemanstation.ca).

Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum has welcomed an 1803 log cabin to its museum complex. When restored and open to the public, it will be the home of

the Graf Loom, once operated by two excellent weavers of Jacquard coverlets, Edward and Albert Graf: 905.834.7604.

Heritage Canada The National Trust is offering a special discount of 30% on membership to members of many historical and heritage organizations, including the OHS. Interested? 1.866.964.1066.

The Family History Centre in Petawawa is now open on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Contact: Judy Thamas, 613.687.2967.

The Hastings County Historical Society hosted a gala evening in June to honour Gerry Boyce, known as an "Original Archive Angel," as his accomplishments are legendary: educator, historian, lecturer, author, and member of Belleville City Council, the OHS and the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Congratulations and thank you, Gerry. Keep up the good work!

Merv Lavigne, a tireless promoter of local history and historical preservation in the Cobalt and Halleybury area was recently inducted into the Cobalt Mining Museum Hall of Fame. Congratulations!

Springwater Provincial Park, under threat of being sold and closed, has had a reprieve thanks to the Beausoleil First Nation, the Innisfil Historical Society, and many other dedicated individuals and organizations.

Congratulations to Charles Garrad on the publication of *Petun to Wyandot: The Ontario Petun from the Sixteenth Century* (see photo page 8). His is joined by a host of other publications that have been recently announced, including: *Innisfil Veterans: Their Lives and Memories* (Innisfil Historical Society: 705.722.5862); Jean Somerville's *He Did It All With Dignity and Dispatch: A Biography of Andrew William*

Frank (Esqueping Historical Society: 519.853.1549); and Ian Robertson's *Camp Picton: Wartime to Peacetime* (613.399.2023).

A busy summer and fall season of special events has been announced by many heritage organizations and institutions. Here is a sampling:

**August 22:** Streetsville Historical Society's Historical Candlelight Walking Tour: 905.814.5958.

**September 5:** Friends of The OPP Museum sponsors Pedal for the Past Fundraising Bike Ride. All proceeds donated to the museum: 705.330.4178.

**September 8:** Markham Museum's Annual BBQ and Corn Roast, 6:30 p.m.: 905.294.4576.

**September 10:** Esqueping Historical Society's "World War I: The Halton Story" by Rick Ruggle. 7:30 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown: 905.877.8251.

**September 21:** Downriver Craft Sale, Moore Museum, Mooretown; [www.mooremuseum.ca](http://www.mooremuseum.ca).

**September 24:** Dunnville District Heritage Association's "Shipwrecked on Lake Erie!" presented by divers Georgann and Mike Wachter. 7:00 p.m. at the Dunnville Public Library: 905.701.8238 for reservations.

**October 1:** Swansea



Photo Rob Leventy

The OHS was honoured to participate in the fourth national conference of the Italian-Canadian Archives Project (ICAP) entitled "Reaching Across" at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau. ICAP is a national not-for-profit organization created to ensure the preservation of the Italian-Canadian experience. Pictured are two of ICAP's founding members, Angelo Principe (left) and Dr. Gabriele Scardellato. Angelo is an author and historian whose research on the struggle between fascists and anti-fascists within the Order of Sons of Italy in Ontario was recently published in the Spring 2014 issue of *Ontario History*; Dr. Scardellato was a former editor of *Ontario History*. Learn more about ICAP at [www.icap.ca](http://www.icap.ca) and to subscribe to *Ontario History* visit [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/oh](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/oh).

Historical Society's "Scandal in Early 1900s Swansea/High Park: Eugenics, Class, Abortion, and the Institutionalization of the 'Feeble Minded'" by Thelma Wheatley. 7:30 p.m. at Swansea Town Hall: 647.859.3901.

**October 4:** Jordan Historical Museum's Pioneer Day 2014: 905.562.7473.

**October 6:** Collingwood and District Historical Society's "Ghost Stories of Collingwood," recounted by Dean Hollin. 7:00 p.m. at Leisure Time Club: 705.446.1820.

**October 28:** Scarborough Historical Society's "Along the Shore: Rediscovering Toronto's Waterfront Heritage" with Jane Fairburn. 7:30 p.m. at Bendale Library.

### 'O'Connor' from page 1

The OCH not-for-profit organization was incorporated in October 2005 as O'Connor Irish Heritage House (operating now as O'Connor House) in response to the threat of the estate's demolition. A small but very determined group of community members, politicians, teachers and students were able to save this historic gem from its pending fate, and then secure grant funding from the City of Toronto, Ontario Trillium Foundation and the federal government to restore the buildings to their original historical features, but with modern building and safety standards. A fire caused by a construction accident at the estate building in May 2012 was a setback. However, with the commitment of the project partners, including the contractor and TCDSB insurance, the fire, smoke and water damage was recovered to pre-fire conditions, and the restoration continued about a year later.

In May 2014, OCH hosted the

Annual General Meeting and Honours and Awards Ceremony of The Ontario Historical Society. Attendees were able to take a tour through the buildings and adjacent property. The picture on page one shows the 2013-14 OHS award recipients in front of the historic estate building.

"Our all-volunteer organization has persevered through many challenges in restoring the buildings to heritage standards. In the coming weeks, we are expecting to finalize the arrangements under our lease with the TCDSB and we will be thrilled to then open the doors for the School and the community," remarked OCH Chair Tony Wagner.

You can make a difference by becoming an O'Connor House Member or donating funds. Your support will help us maintain the property to heritage standards and open its doors to the community. We welcome anyone who would like to play their part in this amazing story of ruin to restoration, of legacy-building, and of inspiration for future generations.

## OHS Welcomes New Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

The Ontario Historical Society would like to offer a warm welcome to Ontario's new Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport and Minister Responsible for the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games, The Honourable Michael Coteau. Mr. Coteau was first elected to the Ontario Legislature in 2011 as the MPP for Don Valley East and was re-elected in 2014. Prior to entering government, he served as a Toronto District School Board trustee for almost eight years.

Working alongside Mr. Coteau is Ms. Sophie Kiwala, MPP for Kingston and the Islands, and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Welcome Mr. Coteau and Ms. Kiwala! The OHS looks forward to continuing a strong working relationship with the Ministry and acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Ontario.



Photo Office of Minister Coteau

The Honourable Michael Coteau was recently appointed Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport and is the Minister responsible for the Pan/Parapan American Games taking place in Toronto between July and August 2015.



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

## MUSEUM MILESTONES

Research is one of the most important functions of any museum. Sadly, it is sometimes overlooked, allocated with meagre resources and not seen to be central to museum operations. How short sighted! This issue's feature article, written by Wayne Townsend, curator of the Dufferin County Museum, provides fascinating insight on how research helped that museum create new initiatives for collections, exhibit design, interpretation, education, community support

and revenue generation: a lesson for everyone to be aware of and a proven model of success to follow.

During Canada's centennial in 1967 and for years after, many museums and historical societies were involved with research of their communities. The Municipal Heritage Committee of South Bruce Peninsula has reintroduced a tangible example of one of these centennial projects. *Warton 1880-1980* is again available for \$15. Contact 1.877.534.1400 for more details or to order a copy.

Toronto's St. James Cathedral is marking the 100th anniversary of the declaration of the war in 1914

with a special exhibit in tribute to military chaplains. This exhibit will run from November 6 to 14, 2014. Archivist Nancy Mallett is looking for anyone who may know of individuals who served as military chaplains of any faith, or have been impacted in some way by their presence in times of need. If you have such information or stories, diaries, letters or photos, please contact Nancy at 416.364.7865 ext. 233, or archives@stjamescathedral.on.ca.

The Huronia Branch of the Ontario Hooking Craft Guild, in collaboration with the Simcoe County Museum, recently sponsored "The Barn Raising Project." A total of 68 entries of barn related hooked rugs from across Canada were received to be judged; forty

have been assembled into a travelling exhibit. Contact curator Kelly Swift Jones at 705.728.3721 or museum@simcoe.ca for more details. This innovative project will be the subject of a forthcoming lead article in Museum News.

After 13 years, Ian Bell has departed as curator at the Port Dover Harbour Museum and will be replaced by Angela Wallace. Ian will be pursuing his musical career and doing freelance graphic design (www.crookedstovepipe.ca). Rebekah Crocker, curator at the Norwich & District Museum, has left her position to begin an MA in Public History at the University of Bristol in England. The new curator at this site is Deborah Clifton. Best wishes to those leaving the field and to those entering it!

## Community Museums as Canadian Museums Celebrating 100 Years of W. J. Hughes Corn Flower

**Wayne Townsend,**  
Curator/Director, Dufferin County  
Museum and Archives  
curator@dufferinmuseum.com

Each year, community museums spend significant time and resources on efforts to attract audiences from outside of their geographic area. Tourist visitor dollars can supplement annual revenues from programs and events, but advertising can be expensive and finding target audiences in large centres can be difficult.

Sixteen years ago, as curator of the Dufferin County Museum and Archives (DCMA), I did an extensive item-by-item analysis of the permanent collection, trying to find artifacts of significance to Ontario or Canadian history unique to DCMA's collection.

My initial search came up short, but soon after a patron of the museum informed me that the founder of W. J. Hughes Corn Flower Ltd was from Dufferin County. The Toronto-based company produced the familiar glassware known and sold across Canada.

When I challenged our patron for his source, his assurance was that "as the local undertaker, I can assure you I buried his mother and father in the local cemetery in Shelburne." Had I found what I was looking for?

With a bit of research in our own archival collection, I was able to verify that William John Hughes was born and raised in Dufferin County, before he left to make his fortune in Toronto. Although the DCMA only had one piece of green-coloured glass in the collection that had the Corn Flower design etched on it, we decided to further investigate Corn Flower glassware as a connection that our community may have to a nationally recognized, often cherished and already collected item.

With the encouragement of the museum board, particularly one person who was a "Corn Flower" collector, a plan was quickly established and our collection

policy was reviewed to ensure that collecting "Corn Flower" was acceptable under our mandate, and it was! Since it was something not already in the collection, would we have the space to store it?

The first step was to contact the owners of W. J. Hughes Corn Flower Limited to gauge their interest and support. Phillip "Pete" Kayser had been involved with the business since before his marriage to Lois Hughes, the daughter of the founder of the company, "Jack" Hughes. It was perfect: business history and family history all in one house. The couple were enthusiastic and began to support the DCMA immediately with their personal stories, donating family pieces and photographs, as well as organizing and donating the remaining corporate archives. Some



The Dufferin County Museum and Archives (DCMA) in Mulmur, Ontario.

Photo DCMA

could purchase artifacts. Prices then were reasonable, as "Corn Flower" had not been yet fully rediscovered. We collected quietly so as not to drive up prices, and collected items of quality cut on elegant glass and, with the help of Pete, items that were cut early in the company's history.

The countless days spent interviewing Lois and Pete Kayser were drafted into notes. Information gathered from the archival material was inserted to support these stories. Glass blanks were researched. Collectors and members of the Canadian Depression Glass Association were consulted. All of this became a book, *Corn Flower: Clearly Canadian*, published by Natural Heritage Books.

The publishers insisted that a book based on a museum collection must be properly edited, designed, footnoted and indexed. The publication brought in new visitors as well as new donors of glassware and of money. It has become a reference for collectors and historians.

The museum decided 16 years ago to hold an event called the Corn Flower Festival, create a Corn Flower Club and produce a newsletter called *The Corn Flower Chronicle* as part of the development of the product. To each of these the museum brings new information and research. But the festival remains the most popular event, as each year the owners of the company, Lois and Pete, identify glass and entertain our visitors with their stories and knowledge. An auction and sale of consigned Corn Flower glass has been an added financial asset to our annual

operating budget.

The W. J. Hughes Corn Flower collection is now on permanent exhibit. Visitors drop in from across Canada and the U.S.A. expecting to see the now extensive and well-documented pieces. The exhibit theme is changed each year, and new donations are added. W. J. Hughes Corn Flower is an important and up-front feature of our website as well as our year-round marketing campaign.

The success of "Corn Flower" as a method to attract new audiences reaches its maturity this year in 2014. W. J. Hughes started cutting his glass in the basement of his home in 1914, making this the company's 100th Anniversary. The DCMA has once again an opportunity to market the collection and its connection to the community. The festival extended to a two-day event, June 7 and 8. The exhibit features the entire collection for the public to enjoy and educate themselves with. Labeling is aimed at not only informing current collectors but also attracting new audiences by highlighting the importance of "Corn Flower" as family heirlooms.

Community museums today are challenged to find new ways to keep the visitors engaged in their collections and visiting our sites both through the doors and electronically. Small museums should take a look on their shelves and find out what it is that only they have. Good business founded on collections is a great business model for today's museums.

Every community museum in Ontario has something that is unique to their shelves and holds a story worth telling – find out what it is!

Visit [www.dufferinmuseum.com](http://www.dufferinmuseum.com) for information on W. J. Hughes Corn Flower and the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the company.



Corn Flower gold rim pitcher and seven sizes of stemware and tumblers. The stemware is part of a matched 60-piece set, received as a wedding present in 1928 by Irene Somerville and Homer Taylor of Toronto (DCM A211-248). Photo DCMA

of the original documents included drawings, early catalogues and advertising scrapbooks. These donations provided not only research material but also two-dimensional archival items to visually support and enrich exhibits. Each year, Pete identifies all new donations of "Corn Flower" to ensure their authenticity and relate what he might know about the blanks, cutters and cutting, which are noted in the collection's records.

With the company owners on board, we began to build a collection. Collectors and dealers of Depression-era glass became an instant source from whom we



## Cemetery News

**Marjorie Stuart, Editor**  
marjstuart@sympatico.ca

### 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.

The annual clean-up event at Etobicoke's **Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital Cemetery** was recently held; each spring, tireless volunteers bring flowers, welcome descendants of the former hospital residents, and share memories and stories. Over the past eight years, this cemetery has transformed from its overgrown and forgotten state into a peaceful and well cared for burial ground.

The Niagara Historical Society has published *Stones, Saints & Sinners: Walking Tours of Niagara-on-the-Lake's large historic cemeteries with a supplementary tour of rural burial sites*, 2nd edition, by Fred Habermehl and Donald L. Combe: 905.468.3912.

Families and friends of those buried in Orillia's **Huron Regional Cemetery** have formed a group to preserve the cemetery and remember those who were forgotten and neglected. The group recently had a meaningful day of healing at the cemetery; unmarked graves were researched, flowers were placed and petals spread as names of the fallen were read aloud. Volunteers will continue doing weeding and maintenance projects, and the group is seeking support. Please contact Paola di Paolo: paoladipaolo@bell.net or 705.341.2758.

**Holy Trinity Anglican Church Cemetery** in Thornhill will restore the crosses marking the burial location of eight former residents of the Langstaff Industrial Prison Farm between 1928 and 1933.

Congratulations are in order

for Doug Miller, descendant of James and Jenet Purves, and to Ted Cooper, owner of the property near Lucknow where the **Purves Burial Ground** is located. The Coopers have owned the property since 1963 and never ploughed the burial site; together, Doug and Ted recovered, repaired and reinstalled the lost tombstone 162 years later. This story was reported in *Families*, the quarterly journal of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

Thanks to antique dealer Ray Mitchell of Guelph, a tombstone has been returned to **Elora Cemetery** from whence it is believed to have strayed! Ray purchased the grave marker and, after some research, returned it to its rightful place.

2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the *Empress of Ireland*, Canada's largest peacetime marine disaster following its collision with the *Storstad* in the St. Lawrence River. There is a lovely memorial in **Mount Pleasant Cemetery** in Toronto that reads "In Sacred Memory of 167 Officers and Soldiers of the Salvation Army, Promoted to Glory from the *Empress of Ireland* at Daybreak, Friday, May 29, 1914." Sadly it is fading from time and weathering, but the memory of the 1,012 souls who perished has not faded, as a memo-



The Catarqui United Church Cemetery Board is seeking assistance, advice and donations for an ongoing project to better preserve one of the oldest church congregation sites in Canada. The church, built in 1881, is adjacent to a cemetery that dates back to the eighteenth century. Information is available at [www.catarquichurch.org](http://www.catarquichurch.org) or by contacting Ena Birch at 613.766.1273.

rial service is held each year.

The Pennsylvania Folklore Society of Ontario's Chapter of the Twenty continues with its good work. Their application for heritage designation of the **Campden Mountain Mennonite Cemetery** was approved by the Town of Lincoln Council. Pat High, a chapter member, has reviewed and computerized the Vineland Cemetery internment records, and Vineland Cemetery trustees will be repairing tombstones damaged this past winter.

Vandalism is a huge headache for cemeteries, but this year, "mother nature" has been the main culprit! The effects of the severe winter and ice storms are particularly noticeable in many Ontario cemeteries.

The **Lee Cemetery** in Peterborough was threatened by road construction and expansion.

Thankfully, quick action by a number of local groups has resulted in the preservation of this 1818 pioneer burial ground.

The **Warner Cemetery Board** recently held its annual meeting in Niagara Falls. Established in the eighteenth century, the cemetery is the site of the first Methodist Meeting House west of the Bay of Quinte. Designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, it is managed entirely by volunteers, receives no government funding, and relies solely on tax-deductible charitable donations.

St. John the Evangelist Catholic School in Weston will soon be demolished, and concern has been raised that the playing fields are built over the site of St. John the Evangelist Cemetery. New construction at the site could potentially impact this unregistered, unmarked burial ground.

## Youth Corner

### Youth Outreach Workshop Focuses on Community Involvement and Volunteerism

**Lily Chan**, OHS Summer Student  
mpo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

On Thursday, July 15, 2014, The Ontario Historical Society hosted a youth workshop with Toronto Trinity Theatre's peer leadership group that focused on the positive benefits of volunteerism and community engagement, and on the importance of Canada's cultural and heritage organizations and institutions.

Several Ontario Historical Society staff and volunteers were on hand to speak to the secondary school students about working with a non-profit organization and about their volunteer experiences in the community.

The OHS's historic headquarters provided a suitable and fitting location for the workshop. The John McKenzie House was built in 1913

by a Willowdale-based farmer and has since been saved from demolition and restored by the OHS.

The students were given a tour of the John McKenzie House and participated in a number of educational and team-building activities. Thanks to several volunteers from the Parkview Neighbourhood Garden, the peer group also had the opportunity to tour a volunteer-run community garden and learn proper watering techniques.

Founded in 1982, Trinity Theatre's development programs give schools the tools they need to develop safer, more productive learning environments, and empower youth to take on leadership roles in the social/emotional development of their peer groups. Trinity has worked with the Toronto District School Board to address social issues ranging from

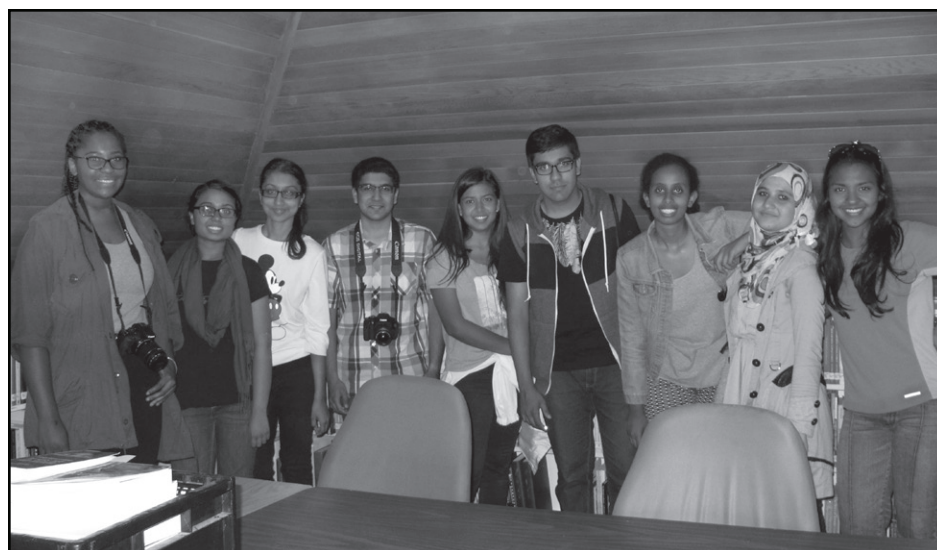


Photo Lily Chan

alcohol and drug abuse to bullying, AIDS education, the environment, conflict resolution, gender and

equity issues and more. Learn more at [www.trinitytheatre.ca](http://www.trinitytheatre.ca).

### Historical Educators Webinar: Secondary School

**Tuesday, September 30 | 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Hosts: Scott Pollock and Risa Gluskin**

Participants can expect both pedagogical and practical information for adapting historical thinking practices found in the new Social Studies, History, and Geography curricula into their classrooms, as well as lots of resources to take away! This webinar will discuss new approaches to historical significance, historical perspectives, continuity and change, and cause and consequence, and all secondary-level educators are invited to attend (curriculum examples will focus on grades 9-12). [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/webinars](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/webinars)



# From The Bookshelf

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

After an unrelenting winter and a 'near-miss' of a spring, it appears that we are finally enjoying the quick-as-a-blink Ontario summer. Regardless how we spend it – working as always, or finding a bit more time for recreation – summer reading is somehow always associated with "getting away," on actual holiday or even just figuratively speaking. This issue's *Bookshelf* has plenty to suggest by way of summer reading. Here's to happy travels, geographically or historically, in reality or in imagination...

## BIOGRAPHY, COLLECTIVE BIOGRAPHY, AND GENEALOGY

History is, in effect, the sum of biographies, those of individuals as well as those of social groups and communities. The works in this section tell much about the peoples of Ontario, singular and plural.

### Mud, Muskeg & Mosquitoes: The Life and Legacy of a Northern Ontario Pioneer

Diane Armstrong. White Mountain Publications, 2013. Hardcover: 146 pp. \$33. [www.wmpub.ca](http://www.wmpub.ca)

### The Peterborough Journal: Outstanding Moments and People

Elwood H. Jones. Trent Valley Archives Publications, 2013. Paper: 184 pp. \$25. [www.trentvalleyarchives.com](http://www.trentvalleyarchives.com)

### Vittorio's Journey: An Italian Immigrant's Story

Ruth A. Rappini. Glen Margaret Publishing, 2013. PB: 248 pp. \$25. [www.vittoriosjourney.ca](http://www.vittoriosjourney.ca)

### Anderdon: Some Folks Down the Road, Pioneer History and Genealogy, 1790-1920

Mark Warren, 2012. PB: 429 pp. \$53. [www.anderdon1812.com](http://www.anderdon1812.com)

### More Than a Mere Matter of Marching

Ontario Genealogical Society, Niagara Peninsula Branch, 2013. Paper: 315 pp. \$30. [www.ogs.on.ca/niagara](http://www.ogs.on.ca/niagara)

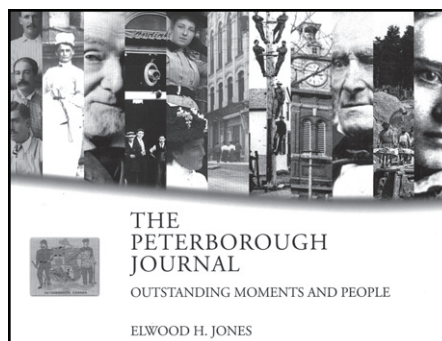
### A Century of Sport in the Finnish Community of Thunder Bay, 1900-2000

Thunder Bay Finnish Canadian Historical Society/Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame, 2013. Paper: 143 pp. \$25. [www.nwosportshalloffame.com](http://www.nwosportshalloffame.com)

*Timmins Times* columnist and local historian Diane Armstrong's historical biography arrives just in time, as summer starts, to remind us of the hardscrabble lives of our pioneering predecessors, who lacked our technologies for dealing with "mud, muskeg and mosquitoes" and nonetheless triumphed. The titular pioneer is the author's grandmother: Juliette Rose Ann Dawson Belanger, known as Dollie, an ironic name given this woman's strength of will and character, and sheer physical endurance. Dollie Belanger's personal story is also the entry point

to a rich account of early twentieth century settlement in North-eastern Ontario. Leaving a fairly comfortable urban life in Quebec, Dollie and her husband, J.O. Belanger, homesteaded in Dane, near Timmins. Because Belanger was the station agent and telegrapher for the T and NO railway, their log house was also the train station. In a clear and detailed narrative, Armstrong has managed to fill out the story of one indomitable woman in the context of the "New Ontario," as the northern parts of the province were then called, demonstrating the challenges and also the rewards of the project undertaken by the early settlers, and highlighting the central role of the railway in this project. In all likelihood, Dollie's story is fairly representative of so many others in similar situations across the land, most of whom, like Dollie, would otherwise be lost to us if not for writers such as Armstrong who are personally committed to uncovering their histories.

In contrast to the northern setting of these books, Ruth Rappini's biography, *Vittorio's Journey*, is set in urban southwestern Ontario in the post Second World War years of immigration and resettlement. Vittorio Rappini was the author's father and, like Diane Armstrong, this emotional attachment to the biographical subject infuses the larger history in meaningful ways. In 1941, Rappini was a teenage sailor from Bologna, serving in the Italian Navy; his submarine was bombed by British forces off Gibraltar. In a development that took his freedom but may ultimately have saved his life, the submarine's crew was rescued by its British attackers, and he sat out the war's remaining four years in an Allied POW camp. Growing up in the London, Ontario, household that her parents established in 1966, the oldest of five children, Ruth Rappini heard sparse recollections about his wartime experiences, although she recalls that her father was occasionally depressive and probably suffered what would now be termed Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. After his sudden death in 1994, she sought to put together the pieces of his hidden personal history. Thanks to his "black trunk" of documents and photographs, and a fortuitous package of wartime letters that his sister had saved and sent to the family after his death, as well as her own resourceful digging, Rappini was able to piece together a touching account of the decision to immigrate and the new start in Ontario that this life choice entailed. The story's highlights are the excerpts taken directly from Vittorio's own letters and illustrated by his own photographs. Like the stories of Dollie Belanger, the Finns of Thunder Bay, and so many others who 'came from away' to populate this province during the past century, Rappini's life story reveals much about the society-in-the-making that has become contemporary multicultural Ontario, the most diverse province in the nation.



In his chronicle of *The Peterborough Journal*, noted Peterborough archivist, local historian, and author (and 2013 OHS Carnochan Award recipient) Elwood Jones has compiled a fascinating compendium of moments and people who figured in the history of Peterborough and area prior to the Great War. Yet this lavishly illustrated book is more than a catalogue: Jones brings his deft historical touch to the context, interrelation and significance of the events and their participants. Carefully and astutely designed as a reference book, it is both indexed according to key words, in traditional fashion, but also by icons that quickly allow the readers to find the topic, event, person or group for which they are searching. As such, this book is a first-rate introduction to Peterborough and area history, a 'walk through the past' for community members, and an incentive to further study for historians, local and otherwise. The index includes more than 2,400 entries to whet researchers' appetites for more!

Mark Warren's comprehensive history of Anderdon Township in Essex County is informed by his personal history as a descendant of a pioneering family who spent his own formative years there. Warren's attention to detail provides for a lively and often humorous recounting of "tales" big and small, but all very interesting. His discussion covers the area's First Nations inhabitants from the creation of the Huron Reserve in 1790, the lives of the early white settlers, a mixed group of Scottish, Irish, American and French-Canadian farmers, skilled tradesmen, merchants and professionals, through the nineteenth century, including the experiences brought about by the War of 1812 and the American Civil War. It touches on the social, political, economic and cultural changes that unfolded in the tumultuous early twentieth century, through the Great War to 1920. In addition to reprinting an 1877 map that shows both the location and ownership of township homesteads, and a number of other rare maps, Warren has amassed more than one hundred historical images, culled from national, international, local and private family collections; selections from local and national newspapers, private correspondence and family papers; and genealogical information about 74 local families. Clearly written and organized in sixteen chapters, ten appendices, a 32-page index and a thorough bibliography and source list, this is a very productive and helpful historical resource.

The Niagara Peninsula branch of the ever-dedicated Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) should be rightly proud of their collective effort commemorating the War of 1812 as it was experienced in their region. Remarkably,

the biographical sketches that constitute this project accomplish just that: by means of oral histories and family stories passed down through generations, it is the experience, the lived struggles and sacrifices of the ordinary individuals and families that are captured here in their descendants' telling. There are 63 life stories, mostly about individuals, but also including those of families. Charts, maps, portraits, and other visual materials illustrate the "memories," external and additional sources are meticulously noted, and there is an alphabetical index. It is evident that OGS Branch members, editors, contributors and all who participated saw this project as more than commemoration of an important historic event, but as a true labour of love that will add the personal and familial elements to the story of a great conflict.



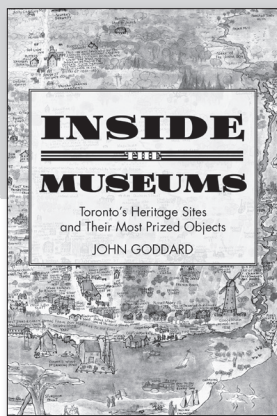
A joint project of the Thunder Bay Finnish Canadian Historical Society and the Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame, *A Century of Sport in the Finnish Community of Thunder Bay* recounts the sport history of the area's Finnish community during the twentieth century, including the surrounding rural townships. Clearly organized into six main sections, the book details the particular histories of clubs, indoor and outdoor sports, and resident Hall of Fame inductees, as well as 'Honourable Mentions'. In something of a departure from the standard historical approach that classifies sports into periods, the contributors have instead organized the many and varied sports clubs according to whether their activities were indoors or outdoors. The chronology is maintained within these classifications, however, so that origins, major players, and developments over time are readily established. There are brief and intriguing biographical sketches of some of the star Finnish organizers, supporters, coaches and athletes, especially, as noted, those inducted into the Thunder Bay Finnish Sports Hall of Fame. Historic and contemporary photographs illustrate the text. The result is a handsome and readable book that will engage those outside the Thunder Bay community as well as the Finnish community by providing a glimpse into the sociocultural history of northern Ontario communities and how this was so enriched by immigrant groups during Canada's Century.

## '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.





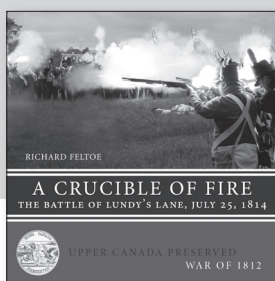
## INSIDE THE MUSEUMS

*Toronto's Heritage Sites and Their Most Prized Objects*

by John Goddard

210 pages | \$19.99 TP | includes 50 b&w illustrations, bibliography, index

Illuminates Toronto's early history through its small heritage museums and their prized objects. For the first time, showcases the city's scattered historic homes and other buildings as a single community.



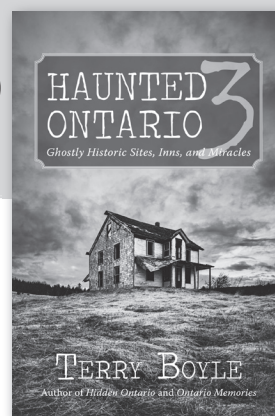
## THE CRUCIBLE OF FIRE

*The Battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25, 1814*

by Richard Feltor

176 pages | \$19.99 TP | includes 47 b&w illustrations, 30 maps, sidebars, notes & index

From the Battle of Chippawa to Lundy's Lane, *A Crucible of Fire* focuses on the period of the War of 1812 leading up to the siege on Fort Erie in September 1814. "Richard's books will be the perfect resource material for the historians of the future." — Mike Filey, *Toronto Sun*



## HAUNTED ONTARIO 3

*Ghostly Historic Sites, Inns, and Miracles*

by Terry Boyle

248 pages | \$22.99 TP | includes 61 b&w illustrations

Shiver as you read a selection of authentic ghost stories brought to life by Terry Boyle in this third volume of the Haunted Ontario series.

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## 'Bookshelf' from page 7

### SEEING THE PAST: ART, MATERIAL CULTURE, EXHIBITION

The visual and material elements of our history provide a particular experience of the past that allows for a significant and very personal re-imagining of people, landscapes, wildlife, nature, and quite simply "how things were."

### In the Footsteps of the Group of Seven

Jim and Sue Waddington. Gooselane Editions, 2013. Hardcover: 256 pp. \$55. [www.gooselane.com](http://www.gooselane.com)

### Dinosaurs and Dioramas: Creating Natural History Exhibitions

Sarah Chicone and Richard Kissel. Left Coast Press, 2014. Paper: 157 pp. \$30. [www.lcoastpress.com](http://www.lcoastpress.com)

### Creativity in Museum Practice

Linda Norris and Rainey Tisdale. Left Coast Press, 2013. Paper: 247 pp. \$33. [www.lcoastpress.com](http://www.lcoastpress.com)

### The Objects of Experience: Transforming Visitor-Object Encounters in Museums

Elizabeth Wood and Kiersten F. Latham. Left Coast Press, 2013. Paper: 176 pp. \$27. [www.lcoastpress.com](http://www.lcoastpress.com)

The title of Jim and Sue Waddington's book set outs precisely how it was conceived: they undertook to retrace the historic paths of the

legendary Group of Seven through the wilderness of Northern Ontario and some of the other landscapes that they immortalized in their art. Starting in 1977, and supported by an intensive personal program of research and discovery, the Waddingtons literally followed the artists in their committed search for the routes and sites that they wrote about and represented in their paintings. Their unique accomplishment is an "artist's-eye" perspective on the iconic works of the Group that helps to bridge the distance between our contemporary gaze and the ways in which these early twentieth-century Canadian painters might have conceptualized the environment that they strove to represent in their work. The introduction by art historian and museum and gallery consultant Tom Smart provides an excellent framework for the Waddingtons' journey in its every sense. A portion of the proceeds from sales will go to fund the Art Gallery of Sudbury's new Franklin Carmichael Art Centre.

Although the Left Coast Press titles are American works, our many museum, historic/heritage site experts and students in the fields will want to make note of their recent publication. *Dinosaurs and Dioramas* is a careful exploration of the history, function, design and public education mandates of natural history museums and exhibits by two experienced practitioners. Part 1, "Science Sets the Stage," is a fascinating overview of the relationship of history, natural his-

tory, and science in what they call "An Affair to Remember." Part 2 consists of seven chapters detailing the practical elements of the teamwork and strategies involved in designing and mounting successful exhibits.

The necessary creativity that sparks and sustains museum practices is further developed by Norris and Tisdale in what is at once a theoretical framework and a practical "how-to" manual to inspire all members of the museum team, "not just those in creative positions." They focus explicitly on the personal, subjective, emotional and consequently "human" connections that museum-goers

make with the objects that they view, and how that connection is both the most important element of the museum experience for visitors and the most challenging for museum professionals to foster. Wood and Latham outline an "object knowledge framework" and take readers through the methodology of "object relationships" and "object transformations." While all three of these books are, as noted, intended for an expert audience, they are clearly written and presented in such a manner that readers of all backgrounds with an interest in museums and how they work will find them worthwhile reading.

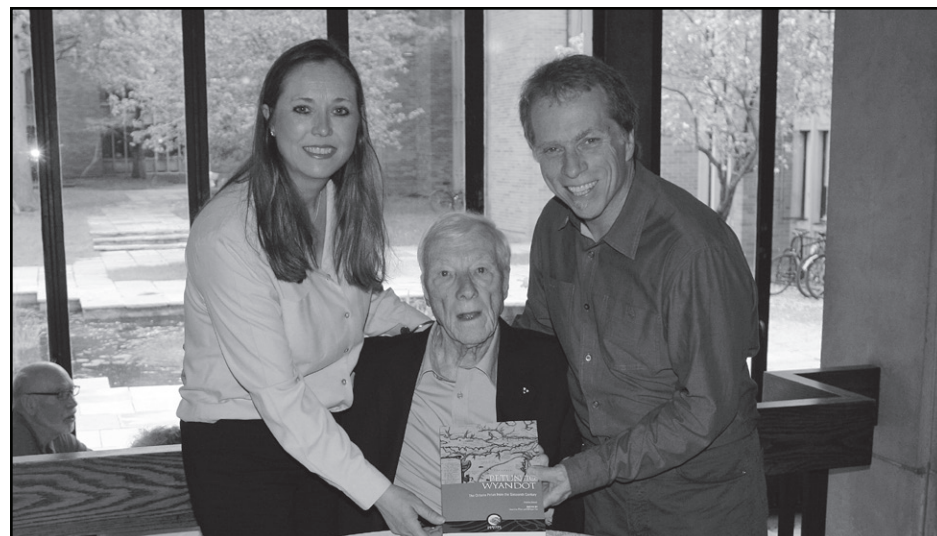


Photo Claire van Nierop

The OHS attended the book launch of Charles Garrad's *Petun to Wyandot: The Ontario Petun from the Sixteenth Century*, which features five decades of research by the acclaimed archaeologist, former executive director of the Ontario Archeological Society (OAS), and life member of the OHS. The event was hosted by the OAS and Archaeological Services Inc. Flanking Garrad are Lorie Harris, Executive Director, OAS, and Rob Leverty, Executive Director, OHS. Copies can be purchased from the University of Ottawa Press website.

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

September 2014 issue copy deadline: **Friday, August 29, 2014.**

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](mailto:members@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

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

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

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*Ontario History* Editor: Tory Tronrud



## 'President' continued from page 2

dedicated, and conscientious board of directors, and a staff second to none. Thank you, fellow board members. And thank you, Rob Leverty, Christina Perfetto, Andrea Izzo, Heather Anderson, Alison Little, and summer students Christopher Nitsopoulos, Elora Vink, and Lily Chan. Your support and many kindnesses will always be remembered with fondness. Our Society is blessed by all that you do each and every day. Finally, thank you to all of our members and affiliates. Without you there would be no Ontario Historical Society, and a province without a strong and vibrant OHS would be so much the poorer. After all, history is what we let it become.



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- Home and Property History
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