

OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 194

APRIL 2015

OHS Re-Prints Issue on First Nations History

1,700+ Copies Printed and Distributed to Manitoulin Island Community



Photo WGS

Seen here at the community launch of "Nineteenth-Century Wikwemikong: The Foundation of a Community and an Exploration of its Peoples" are (left to right): Dr. James Morrison, author; Ogimaa (Chief) Duke Peltier; Sandra Wabegijig, President, Wiikwe-aapkaak Gaabizhiwebak Society (WGS); and Dr. David Shanahan, author. Both Dr. Morrison and Dr. Shanahan contributed scholarly articles to the publication.

In March 1994, the OHS published a very special issue of *Ontario History* entitled "Nineteenth-Century Wikwemikong: The Foundation of a Community and an Exploration of its Peoples." This issue was so popular that OHS did a second printing, which also quickly sold out.

Located on the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve on Manitoulin Island, the Wiikwe-aapkaak Gaabizhiwebak Society (WGS) incorporated as a not-for-profit historical organization through affiliation with the OHS in October 2012.

Soon after, the board of directors of this new organization requested that the OHS reprint copies of

the March 1994 issue of *Ontario History* "for a new generation of community members who want to learn more about our history and to continue researching and writing our history."

The OHS then set up a meeting with the Hon. David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, to request financial assistance for this project. Last year, the reprint was made possible by the financial support of the Province of Ontario as represented by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

The OHS subsequently reprinted and delivered 1,735 copies of this special issue of *Ontario History* to its affiliated society on Manitoulin Island.

Public Library Partnerships a 'No-Brainer' for Historical Societies

North York Historical Society Donates Valuable Collection to North York Public Library

Andrea Izzo

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When local history author Scott Kennedy first heard that the North York Historical Society (NYHS) had donated over 6,000 pages of scrapbooks containing more than 1,600 historical photographs to Toronto Public Library's North York Central branch, he thought the partnership between the volunteer-run historical society and the City-owned library was a no-brainer.

Kennedy's book, *Willowdale: Yesterday's Farms, Today's Legacy*, (Dundurn, 2013), was well-received as an exemplary work of local history. It also relied heavily on the library's local history collection.

"This donation will make an already impressive resource at the Canadiana Department that much more impressive. I would never have been able to complete my book on the farms of Willowdale without it," remarked the Willowdale native.

Founded in 1960, the NYHS has long been collecting historical clippings, photographs, maps, posters, and books, often storing

these items in members' homes. This collection forms the basis of the scrapbooks now housed at the Toronto Public Library's North York Central branch, located at the busy intersection of Yonge Street and Park Home Avenue.

A major portion of the photograph collection consists of the work of Toronto photographer Ted Chirnside, who worked tirelessly to document North York's changing urban landscape during the 1950s and 60s.

The story of the NYHS echoes that of many local historical societies across Ontario. With limited funds and an aging core of volunteers, many organizations are facing pressure to find permanent, sustainable solutions to house their invaluable collections.

In 2004, the NYHS was granted five years of free office space in the restored Miller Tavern (formerly the Jolly Miller Tavern), a City of Toronto property. It was the first time that the NYHS had premises that enabled it to create a publicly accessible Heritage Resource Centre, and it was here the collec-

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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

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The 127th Annual General Meeting and Honours and Awards Ceremony The Ontario Historical Society

Saturday June 20th, 2015 | 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Ismaili Centre Toronto | 49 Wynford Drive, North York

Keynote address: Mohamed Dhanani
*Ismaili Presence in Canada and the
role of the Aga Khan Development Network worldwide*

free parking | TTC accessible | light refreshments
includes tour of the Ismaili Centre (10:30 am)

RSVP by June 12th:
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President's Report

Joe Stafford, President
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With my second presidential report I would like to highlight the educational initiatives of The Ontario Historical Society. As a former teacher, I am impressed with the work that the OHS staff team has already completed in terms of both student education and the teacher professional development. A Youth Column was added to the OHS Bulletin, featuring articles from students who express their concerns on various topics. The OHS has also held webinars that focused on teacher development: "Historical Educators" and "Historical Educators II", both of which trained educators on the Ministry of Education's curriculum changes, and "Learning and Teaching Black History in Ontario."

The OHS website provides a considerable amount of information and resources for teachers with such programmes as Reading and Remembrance (www.readingandremembrance.ca). Resources are still available around "Forging Freedom: In Honour of the Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade," including lesson plans and several academic papers. A wide range of materials are available on the War of 1812 as well. Our extremely popular Ontario Heritage Directory and Map is a great online tool to expose students to local history sites and heritage organizations.

I would like to add another youth initiative: a campaign to petition the Ministry of Education to change the high school graduation requirements in order to include a mandatory course in Canadian history at the grade 12 level. At the moment, Ontario students only have to take one course in Canadian history. This is a grade 10 course that looks at history beginning in 1914! This means that students graduate without any real understanding of pre-twentieth century Canadian history. This initiative is not entirely new. A few years ago students in my Renais-

sance Society history club began the campaign. Unfortunately, for various reasons, it "stalled" and I would like it to pick up steam again. Over 2,000 signatures have already been collected, many from current OHS members. More than 30 letters of support were also received, including letters from Charlotte Gray and John Ralston Saul. Dr. Saul expressed the feelings of many when he commented: I cannot think of another country in the Western democracies which takes so little care to teach students about the foundations of the democracy and the country in which they live. This is not a matter of choice for students or parents. It is a matter of citizen responsibility. For governments to refuse to ensure that all students are given the opportunity to understand their citizenship by understanding their history is quite simply irresponsible. I most happily and enthusiastically join in the support of your campaign to have a mandatory Canadian history course included at the Grade Twelve level.

There is an online petition available on the OHS website. A petition form can also be downloaded from our site. Please distribute it among your friends and colleagues! Completed petition forms should be mailed to the OHS. We need the support of every citizen of Ontario troubled by the fact that students graduate with little understanding of the history of their own country. This is a dangerous situation for a country as diverse as Canada. How can we expect high school graduates to understand their own country and to participate as active, informed citizens if they lack even a rudimentary knowledge of their own history? How can Canadians have a collective identity if they lack a collective memory?

Let us together make a difference. I look forward to the concerted effort of OHS members to make Canadian History mandatory at the senior level and to ensure that Ontario high school graduates are well-informed citizens who understand and appreciate the history of their own province and country.

'NYHS' from page 1

tion was centralized, catalogued, sorted, and indexed.

Soon, however, the collection became too large to be stored in members' homes and the office location – on the third floor of an operating restaurant – was not ideal from a preservation standpoint. When the five-year grace period ended, the NYHS did not have the resources to continue operating out of the Miller Tavern, and a long-term solution had to be found.

Positive discussions soon began with the Toronto Public Library's North York Central branch's Canadiana Department, and an agreement was struck to integrate the material into the existing local history collection. Future projects will enhance the material and its accessibility to the public.

The agreement, formally signed

on February 6, 2015, tells a positive story of the symbiotic and sustainable partnerships that are possible between non-profits and civic libraries.

The idea is not a new one, but it is one that makes increasingly good sense.

For example, since 1912, the Kitchener Public Library has played an integral role in the success of the Waterloo Historical Society (WHS). For over a century, the WHS has been storing its archival collection at the library. The two bodies formalized their long-standing relationship when a similar agreement was signed three years ago during the WHS's centenary celebrations.

Local history buffs and avid researchers like Scott Kennedy agree that these types of partnerships are crucial. "I have spent many happy hours in the sixth floor Canadiana

THANK YOU DONORS!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SINCE DECEMBER 2014

Fred Armstrong	A.H.B.I. Associates Inc.
Carl Benn	Funke Aladejebi
Ellen Blaubeurgs	Julia Armstrong
Betty Brannen	The Canadian Heritage of Quebec
June Dafoe	Hilary Dawson
Estate of Mary Carmelina Joanne Campanella	Grey Roots Museum and Archives
R. B. Fleming	Joel Kennedy
Audrey Fox	Jamie Laidlaw
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Richard Kilbourne	Leslieville Historical Society
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Waterloo Historical Society	Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands
Larry Waters	Ken Watson
	Woodland Cultural Centre
	Kate Zankowicz



Photo Sarah McCabe

Representatives of the Toronto Public Library and the North York Historical Society sign an important memorandum of understanding to provide long-term and sustainable public access to an important collection of historical materials.

Department at the North York Public Library, under the watchful eyes of the life-size golden lion statue carved by Paul Sheppard over 170 years ago. It would likely be impossible to calculate the end-

less volunteer hours that have gone into creating this precious resource of local history. I urge you all to grab your library card and pay the lion a visit."

Executive Director's Report

Rob Leverty, Executive Director
rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

I am pleased to report that the OHS Board of Directors has already incorporated three new not-for-profit corporations this year. Congratulations to the Leslieville Historical Society, The Harmony Collaboration, and the Nottawasaga Lighthouse Preservation Society!

In the past fourteen months, the OHS has 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), Bobcaygeon, Mississauga, and Collingwood.

Since 2009, the OHS has incorporated 71 new historical organizations through affiliation with the Society; 94% of these groups are based outside of Toronto.

In March 2011, the OHS had to apply to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for institutional eligibility in order to administer aid to a scholarly journal. In February 2012, SSHRC informed the OHS that, as the publisher of *Ontario History*, it had been awarded institutional eligibility.

I am very pleased to report that in January 2015, the OHS was again informed that the organization "has met all the requirements for grant-specific institutional eligibility at SSHRC." This has allowed the OHS to sign a memorandum of understanding with SSHRC and be awarded funding for the grant period 2015–2016 to assist the Society in publishing *Ontario History*.

The OHS insurance programme enables and protects volunteers across Ontario serving on the boards of directors of the Society's member organizations. The OHS insurance programme remains very popular, with the Society processing and approving applications from member organizations on an ongoing basis.

As of December 31, 2014, there are 97 historical organizations that have Directors and Officers Liability Insurance policies underwritten at a limit of \$2 million each. There are 97 organizations that have

General Liability Insurance policies with liability limits of at least \$2 million, with some up to \$5 million, and 40 organizations have purchased coverage for contents and property.

In June 2011, in a meeting with the Hon. John Gerretsen, then Minister of Consumer Services, the OHS and the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) officially presented the Government of Ontario with a database of 1,535 unregistered cemeteries. The Province of Ontario subsequently requested that the two societies positively identify the exact location of all of these cemeteries in order to officially register them.

I can report that in 2014, the OHS and OGS submitted to the Ontario Government detailed records of the unregistered cemeteries in Halton, Hastings, and Huron Counties. Since 2012, the two societies have submitted lists of unregistered cemeteries in the Districts and Counties of Algoma, Brant, Bruce, Carleton, Cochrane, Dundas, Durham, Elgin, Essex, Frontenac, Grey, Glengarry, and Haldimand.

The Province of Ontario can order a cemetery to be relocated if it is in the public interest. However, the OHS has no rights to appeal with regard to unregistered cemeteries, and it is thus almost impossible for the Society to intervene effectively to protect the public interest in these cases.

It is in the public interest that all cemeteries be accorded the same legal status and be treated equally. Therefore, the OHS, in partnership with OGS, will honour its public commitments on this important principle and will complete this historic initiative, documenting as much information as possible on the remaining unregistered cemeteries across Ontario.

So much of the OHS' mandate is now fulfilled by our dedicated volunteers who donate their time and skills assisting in the implementation of our programmes. In 2011, I started tracking their annual donated hours. I recently reported to our auditor that in 2014, volunteers province-wide donated approximately 10,450 hours of time to the OHS in support of its activities. In

2013, our volunteers donated over 8,900 hours.

I would like to thank everyone who has made a charitable donation to our new roof project. We completed a heritage review of the historic John McKenzie House last autumn, through the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario's PreservationWorks! programme. With the help of Sarah Pirani, our built heritage infrastructure intern, we are determined to re-roof the main house and coach house, and to replace all of the eavestroughing in 2015. Many other exterior and interior projects remain on our infrastructure wish list.

The Estate of Mary Carmelina Joanne Campanella has left the OHS a bequest of \$2,000, as well as two cedar chests, a sideboard, and a "Knight In Suit of Armour." The knight is now strategically located in the front hall of the John McKenzie House, faithfully volunteering as our new night watchman.

In January, I managed a very popular OHS book table at the Ontario Black History Society's (OBHS) Annual Brunch in Toronto. I met over 100 participants and sold many issues of *Ontario History* with articles about Black history. OHS incorporated OBHS on April 17, 1979. In February, I was the guest speaker at the Forest History Society of Ontario's AGM in Alliston and in March I gave a presentation to a membership meeting of the Halton-Peel Branch of the OGS in Brampton.

Congratulations to our colleague Alison Little, who recently started a permanent position as Senior Coordinator, Educational Programming & Exhibitions at the Archives of Ontario.

Alison (pictured right) joined the OHS in April 2013 as the Project Manager for the Society's Strengthening Ontario's Heritage Network project, funded until March 31, 2014, by a Museums and Technology Grant from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. In her almost two years of working for the Society, Alison launched our popular webinar series, oversaw the development of a new website, helped build our Ontario Heritage Directory map,



Photo THS

Last year, OHS staff Alison Little and Rob Leverty made a presentation to the Trafalgar Township Historical Society (TTHS). TTHS incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in 2007.

and created the new OHS blog, *The Well*, which highlights the important work and achievements of historical societies and heritage organizations across Ontario. Alison also worked diligently last year to submit our first-ever grant application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

On behalf of all the OHS staff, board, and volunteers, I would like to thank Alison for her tireless work and outstanding contributions to the Society. We all wish her the best as she begins her work with the Archives of Ontario.

The OHS has a proud past, but the Society must prudently modernize and constantly update its services and programmes if it is going to successfully adapt to the ongoing digital revolution. I am very pleased to report that the Ontario Trillium Foundation has awarded the OHS a 12-month grant "to develop an information management system that will digitize the delivery and fee structure of its publishing and archival materials. Funds will be used by the OHS for designing new online services, professional development, education, and networking activities."

Enjoy the spring, and I hope you can join us at our 127th Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, June 20, 2015.



Photo LHS

Congratulations to the Leslieville Historical Society (LHS), which incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in January 2015. Dedicated to researching, preserving, and celebrating their community's history, LHS has already begun to hold meetings and has launched a new website at www.leslievillehistory.com. Pictured here is LHS's volunteer board of directors at the historic Maple Cottage in Toronto's east end.



Photo FHSO

Seen at the Forest History Society of Ontario's (FHSO) Annual General Meeting in Alliston are (left to right) Ken Armson, Past President, FHSO; Rob Leverty, Executive Director, OHS; Mark Kuhlberg, President, FHSO; and Michael Commito, Director, FHSO.

FHSO is a not-for-profit corporation with a mandate to discover, preserve, and promote the history of Ontario's forests. FHSO is a member of OHS and Rob was the keynote speaker for their AGM.

Both Mark and Michael have contributed to OHS' peer-reviewed journal, *Ontario History*. Michael's article "A sparkling example of what aggressiveness, imagination, and skill can accomplish: The Rise of DuBreuil Brothers Limited, 1948–1973", was published in the Autumn 2013 issue of *Ontario History*. For this scholarly work, Michael was awarded the OHS's Riddell Award in 2013, which honours the best article on Ontario's history.

Across the Province

Greetings to our members, readers, friends, and colleagues! Many of you marked the end of 2014 and the arrival of the New Year with Hogmanay celebrations in your museums, organizations, and communities. As January is the birth month of two famous Scots, again you celebrated for their birthdays – Sir John A. Macdonald and “Robbie” Burns. The **Hastings County Historical Society** was one of the celebrating organizations, and will continue with their Annual Bus Tour on Saturday, May 23, with “In Search of Sir John A.” when they will tour and examine many of the sites that were important in Macdonald’s life. Reserve your spot: 613.961.7091.

The **Innisfil Historical Society** hosted a successful unveiling of a replica of the vessel *Emily May* at the Town Hall in Innisfil recently. The *Emily May* was a Lake Simcoe excursion steamer whose hull lies off Belle Ewart Park. Don Houghton and Bill Hester dedicated 2,200 hours to the research and production of this remarkable scale model.

We are pleased to report that The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, M.P., and Minister of the Environment, recently designated William Berczy (1744–1813) a National Historic Person. He will be recognized with a plaque that will accompany the statue of Berczy to be erected by the City of Markham at Berczy Square (16th Avenue and Kennedy Road).

The **Kingston and District Branch of the United Empire Loyalists** has announced that their collection of 170 history books has been placed on permanent loan to

the central branch of the Kingston-Frontenac Public Library.

The **Esquesing Historical Society** has announced “The Disappearing Mailboxes Photo Contest” for Halton Hills. Has your society considered a record of your mailboxes before they vanish?

The **East York Historical Society** would like to establish an East York Archives and are searching for a location to house it. Suggestions? 416.429.7821.

The **Fashion History Museum**, founded by Kenn Norman and Jonathan Walford, is soon to have a real brick-and-mortar home in the Hespeler Post Office in Cambridge. Constructed in 1922 and decommissioned in 1993, the former post office will make an excellent home for the “museum without walls.”

“The Society Has Lost Its Voice” announced the **Hastings County Historical Society**, with the passing of Bruce Bedell, their much loved member and Town Crier, who was well known across Ontario.

The City of Orillia has launched “Ontario 400” and has invited groups and individuals to help mark the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Samuel de Champlain in Huronia. For more information: Jacqueline Soczka, Manager of Culture at jsoczka@orillia.ca. See also www.ontario400.ca for more information about this landmark anniversary.

The mayor of Oro-Medonte Township, Harry Hughes, is seeking assistance with the preservation of the **Oro-African Methodist Episcopal Church** that stands at the corner of Old Barrie Road and Line 3 in his municipality. It is one

of the oldest African log churches still standing in North America and was added to the national historic register in 2002. It has been closed to the public since 2012 because of its frail condition. If you can help or to donate: <http://www.gofundme.com/oroafrianchurch>.

Local historical society newsletters are brimming with news of new books! Here are just a few: *The Best of Boyce* by Gerry Boyce, available at the Heritage Centre, Cannifton, and at the Hastings County Historical Society public events; *In Search of Promised Lands: A Religious History of Mennonites in Ontario*, by Samuel J. Steiner: 1.800.631.6535; *Rose Kessler’s Stories*, by Rose Kessler: 905.884.2789 or rhhs.ca; *Notorious Ontario: Outlaws, Criminals & Gangsters*, by Maria da Silva and Andrew Hind: awerda@rogers.com.

You have a busy spring and summer on your calendars: Here are some of your events:

Every Saturday in May: Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum will celebrate May...ple Month by providing a full Pancake Breakfast from 9:30 to 12:30; and, on **May 9**, Mother’s Day, there will be a Devon Tea from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. with maple tarts. Reservations: www.coldwatermuseum.com.

May 15: Thunder Bay Museum’s “Taste of History Dinner: Sir John A. Macdonald at 200.” www.thunderbaymuseum.com

June 10: Esquesing Historical Society Walking Tour at 7 p.m. led by John Mark Rowe, author of *Glen Williams: An Oasis in Credit Valley*. Details: 905.457.7696. June 20: Haileybury Heritage Museum hosts their Annual Yard Sale and B.B.Q from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and on July 17: Banana Split Day from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Details: 705.672.1922.



Photo Dane Lanken

A new historical plaque explaining why the Québec-Ontario is where it is was unveiled last June. The plaque is located, appropriately, right on the border, where Ontario’s South Glengarry Concession Road 8 crosses the line not far from Dalhousie, Québec.

The plaque’s unveiling capped a decade-long effort – spearheaded by the Glengarry Historical Society – to renovate or replace some 50 border monuments along the line, an effort that required close cooperation between municipalities on both sides of the border and indeed between the two provincial governments.

The land section of the border (most of the southern portion of the Québec-Ontario line is waterways) runs 43 kilometres, and is composed of two straight lines, one running north from the St. Lawrence River, the other south from the Ottawa River.

The project was marked throughout by cooperation and harmony between various volunteers, researchers, and levels of government.

Demolition Planned for Historic Building in St. Raphael’s

National Historic Site, constructed in 1806, has already been boarded up

Glengarry Fencibles Trust:
Brenda Baxter and Allan Macdonell
bbaxterb@cogeco.ca

On April 21st, the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall submitted an application to the Township of South Glengarry for demolition of The Bishop’s House (1808) in



The Bishop’s House National Historic Site – both the building and cultural landscape – located in St. Raphael’s (Township of South Glengarry), Ontario, is designated for architectural features and for its historical significance under the Ontario Heritage Act.

St. Raphael’s, Ontario. A group of concerned citizens, incorporated in 2010 as the Glengarry Fencibles Trust (GFT) through affiliation with the OHS, have been working to acquire ownership of this property. With the guidance of the Ontario Heritage Trust, GFT has developed a business plan and has gathered community partners to fundraise for the building’s restoration and reuse.

The diocese (owners of the house) and the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (owners of the cultural landscape) have refused to transfer the property to our community group without substantial funds to cover liability (guarantee the title). The school board plans to use the 1812 Military Parade Grounds as part of a new septic system for a nearby school, on a 60-acre piece of property owned by the board.

This property has multiple heritage designations. For 25 years, it served as the home and office



Photo Cheryl Rogers, 2015

of Rev. Alexander Macdonell, Ontario’s first bishop. Rev. Macdonell established the first college of Ontario in St. Raphael’s, constructed numerous schools and churches throughout the province, and was a mentor to Ontario’s first Premier, who was born and raised in St. Raphael’s. His parish was the whole of Upper Canada. Macdonell worked with Sir John Galt and promoted immigration to Canada. He raised the first Glengarry Fencibles in Scotland and the second Glengarry Fencibles in Canada. He accompanied the soldiers in battle in the War of 1812. He is Glengarry County’s one and only National Historic Person of Canada. His house and cultural landscape has been designated as a Level 1 heritage element

of the National Historic Site at St. Raphael’s (Parks Canada, 1999), and is recognized in Ontario’s top 1% in terms of heritage (Ontario Heritage Trust, 2011).

Under the previous Mayor, Jim McDonell (now MPP for this riding), the Township designated The Bishop’s House Property and Cultural Heritage Landscape in 2011 under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

South Glengarry Township Council must vote on this request to demolish within 90 days. The Diocese is now boarding up the building. We urgently need your support to stop the demolition.

For further information, please contact Cheryl Rogers at cherylrogers@sympatico.ca or Brenda Baxter bbaxterb@cogeco.ca.

Museum News

Dr. John Carter
drjohncarter@bell.net

MUSEUM MILESTONES

As many of you know, I have been a long-time advocate for recording, designating, protecting, preserving, and re-using this province's rich rural built heritage assets (see my recent article about this in the Fall 2014 issue of *ACO Acorn*). It is always encouraging to be made aware of novel ways to aid in these tasks. See the lead article written by Marie Turner, which describes

an innovative initiative between a local craft guild and a county museum – a good model for others to follow in their own communities!

I was excited to learn of the partnership between the OHS and Community Heritage Ontario (CHO). These two provincial heritage organizations offered three valuable webinars to assist in the training of new members of Municipal Heritage Committees throughout Ontario (see photo below).

There have been

several major changes in senior staffing at a number of Ontario museums in the last few months. After 26 years as curator of the Dufferin County Museum, Wayne Townsend has retired. Sarah Robinson has been chosen to replace him. Sarah has also taken on the duties of secretary of the Grey-Bruce-Dufferin Museum Network. Brian Manser has retired as manager of the Grey Roots Museum. Brian began working for Grey County in 1984, and has been manager at Grey Roots since 2004. Petal Furness has been named acting manager. An open competition will be held to permanently fill the

position.

After more than 27 years, Janet Cobban has retired as curator and educator at the John R. Park Homestead; her duties have been taken on by Kris Ives. Sheila McMath has recently been appointed as the new curator at the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo. Cathy McGirr has been confirmed as the director/curator of the Bruce County Museum in Southampton. Cathy is also assuming the role of chair of the Grey-Bruce-Dufferin Museum Network.

Congratulations and best wishes to all mentioned above.

Addition of Harbour Centre Revitalizes Museum's Place in Gore Bay Community

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

The Gore Bay Museum, founded in 1948 on a property originally used as a jailhouse and jailer's residence, now operates as a public museum with a collection that will take you back in time to appreciate the history of Gore Bay and western Manitoulin Island.

The Town of Gore Bay, located on the North Channel of Lake Huron and nestled between two tree-covered bluffs, is one of the larger communities on Manitoulin with a permanent population of just over 900.

Over the past 25 years, the museum has expanded with the addition of state-of-the-art galleries and the construction of the Harbour Centre, which has allowed a further expansion of cultural events and museum activities.

The Harbour Centre is a magnificent timbered structure that anchors the entrance to Gore Bay Harbour. A major renovation has given new life to the building by recognizing its value as a cultural resource.

In this vision, the aesthetics of

the building offer an improved and attractive façade. The interior wooden beams from the old Silverwood Creamery in Toronto have been retained but the roof, windows, walls, and flooring are all new.

The building has a ground floor with a main entrance, a large room for presentations including a kitchen, and an artist's exhibition area.

The second floor has six studio spaces where artists can create and showcase their work. The Harbour Centre offers a space for visitors to connect with the artistic community of Manitoulin Island.

The third floor houses the William Purvis Marine Museum. The museum is dedicated to preserving and promoting the marine history of the Great Lakes with displays organized around specific themes, as well as through publications, speakers, open houses, and special events. Avid marine historian Buck Longhurst donated his collection to the museum, which now comprises the core of the exhibits.

The marine museum contains an archive of records from the Great



Photo Gore Bay Museum

The addition of the Gore Bay Museum's Harbour Centre has been a positive step forward to engage the community.

Lakes' marine history and photographs of many Great Lakers. The archive and the museum draw visitors to the Harbour Centre who want to research the history of Great Lakes shipping. It also acts as a satellite facility to the main museum building.

Since its rebirth, the Harbour Centre has been a hub for community activity, having hosted many programs including a book fair, art exhibitions, numerous Writers' Circle presentations, weaving lessons, harp lessons, and even weekly Scrabble games. The Harbour Centre hosted a Plein Air week in the summer, a haiku writing week, and also a Poetry and Jazz Festival in July. Activities at the light-filled Harbour Centre building emphasize lifelong learning and strengthening the ties of the community with its culture.

The original concept for the

building by the shore of the bay was to be an incubation centre for small emerging businesses. Thus the renovation of the Harbour Centre has brought this purpose full circle for the benefit of both the businesses and cultural community.

There was a realization that an important part of Gore Bay history was left out of the museum's experience. The connection of both museums is an important way to understand the marine background of Manitoulin Island and the Great Lakes settlements, which were dependent upon marine travel both for their livelihood and for the transportation of people and goods.

The addition of the Harbour Centre has allowed the museum to not only re-think its role within the Gore Bay community, it has also allowed it to tell a more holistic story of its history.



Photo Sarah Pirani

The OHS teamed up with Community Heritage Ontario (CHO) to present a very successful three-part series of training webinars on Municipal Heritage Committees and the Ontario Heritage Act. Thank you CHO!

Pictured is (left) OHS executive assistant Heather Anderson with Wayne Morgan, an independent heritage planning consultant and vice president, CHO. Our next webinar, which focuses on federal government grant opportunities for community cultural events, can be viewed on the OHS website.

Ontario History Index Online

The OHS continues to work hard on digitizing our scholarly journal, *Ontario History*, ensuring that 116 years' worth of research and writing on Ontario's diverse history will be preserved for many more years to come.

In the meantime, *Ontario History* is available in print, with two new issues published each year.

The 2014 issues included 10 new peer-reviewed articles and 16 book reviews.

Ontario History's entire index is available online at: www.ontario-historicalsociety.ca/index.

Those interested in becoming subscribers to *Ontario History* can do so on our website or by calling 416.226.9011.

Thank You!



DUNDURN

The Ontario Historical Society would like to recognize Dundurn for making a recent generous donation of young adult historical fictional novels. This gift will be used to recognize students across the province who stand out in their local Heritage Fair events!

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Young Canada Works Internship Funding Helps Kick-Start OHS's 2014-15 Infrastructure Project at John McKenzie House

Sarah Pirani, Built Heritage Rehabilitation Project Manager
spirani@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

The OHS had a full house last summer with the addition of three summer students as well as a built heritage intern, Sarah Pirani.

Sarah joined the team in July 2014 on a one-year contract to manage a rehabilitation and infrastructure project for the historic John McKenzie House, the Willowdale headquarters and corporate archives for the OHS.

The project represents a necessary and vital continuation of the OHS's over 22-year stewardship of the site, which is designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* and is protected by a heritage conservation easement with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

After weathering over 22 years of Toronto climate, the house's exterior requires some major restoration and rehabilitation work! Several goals included in this multi-year project include replacing the house's roof, evaluating overall energy efficiency, installing emergency weather mitigation systems, improving accessibility, and detailing a community engagement plan for the house and adjacent Parkview Neighbourhood



Pictured (left) with OHS Built Heritage Rehabilitation Project Manager Sarah Pirani is 2014 OHS summer student Alexei Kaufman outside the historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale.

Photo: Andrea Izzo

Garden.

The building's roof, soffits, fascia boards, and eavestroughing must be replaced in 2015. Meetings with the City of Toronto Infrastructure Department have been productive and indicate strong support from the property owner to see these goals accomplished.

Thanks to the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario's *PreservationWorks!* Program (see article below), the OHS received (nearly free of charge!) a preliminary heritage assessment and a detailed report on the urgent and secondary infrastructure maintenance needs of the house and outbuildings. This

was made possible thanks to the expertise of restoration architect Ian McGillivray of McGillivray-Architect, who kindly volunteered his time and expertise.

The Young Canada Works program has funded a summer student in 2014, Willowdale resident Alexei Kofman, and a 2015 summer student to assist Sarah with research and the legwork related to the project.

Sarah graduated from the Master of Landscape Architecture program at the University of Guelph, and she looks forward to using her experience in built heritage and project management. Sarah asks: "What colour should the new roof be?! I look forward to tackling our list of projects as Built Heritage Site Rehabilitation Manager and Planner!"

The OHS deeply appreciates the ongoing support of the Department of Canadian Heritage YCW program (delivered by Heritage Canada: The National Trust and by Canadian Museums Association) for funding summer student and internship positions.

OHS also continues to thank and look to the support of the Willowdale and broader community for this crucial built heritage rehabilitation and infrastructure project. You can donate in any of the three following ways.

Visit ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/jmhouse; mail a cheque payable to the OHS Infrastructure Fund to the OHS at 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale, ON, M2N 3Y2; or call toll-free 1-866-955-2755. All donations will receive a charitable tax receipt.

Architectural Conservancy Ontario's PreservationWorks!

An invaluable service for members of the Ontario Historical Society, defenders of Ontario's built heritage and its heritage landscapes

Members of the Ontario Historical Society know that it takes energy, passion and persuasion to successfully defend a heritage property that is threatened with demolition or a "renovation" that would destroy its character. They also know that saving our heritage often requires expert advice – of the kind that is available through Architectural Conservancy Ontario's advisory program, *PreservationWorks!*

When the dedication of local lovers of architectural heritage may not be sufficient to persuade municipalities or owners of heritage sites that saving them is feasible, a report provided by *PreservationWorks!* will often show that conservation and restoration for 21st century uses are not sentimental dreams, but options that make sense, practically and economically, as well as culturally and historically.

Since 1972, ACO's *PreservationWorks!* has maintained an up-to-date roster of structural engineers, restoration architects, landscape architects, archaeologists, lawyers and historians who are able to sup-

ply its clients with expert advice regarding their conservation needs, wherever they arise in Ontario.

Clients of *PreservationWorks!* have included owners who are eager to conserve or restore their heritage properties but are fearful of the costs of doing so, as well as community organizations and municipalities that are keen to preserve their local heritage sites but are having a hard time persuading the owners that preservation is feasible. Their clients also include developers who want to demolish heritage sites to make way for new construction, without realizing the economic value and potential of what they are inclined to destroy.

Although its reports are based on brief visits, resulting in preliminary conclusions, clients of *PreservationWorks!* laud the program for its professionalism and for its offering of practical, economical alternatives to inappropriate "renovations," and to demolition and rebuilds, where the loss to the property owner and the municipality, if that happens, will be tragic as well as irreversible.

PreservationWorks! clients also

appreciate the approachability of its consultants and their understanding of their personal needs. This statement, from Allen McDonnell, regarding the Bishop's House at St. Raphael's in South Glengarry Township, is typical:

"The consultant's report confirmed the building was worth saving, and convinced the community to look for feasible uses."

For *PreservationWorks!* consultants, the feeling is often mutual, according to architect John Rutledge: "I've learned as much as the clients have."

Devereaux House in Halton Hills is an 1860s farmhouse that was restored after a *PreservationWorks!* report in 2007. The report noted that, while some restoration of its interior was needed, the structure and exterior of the house were essentially sound and demolition was not necessary. The Town of Halton Hills is now the owner of the restored Devereaux House, which accommodates the clubhouse for the Georgetown Soccer Club and is available for other community uses.

To learn more about the Devereaux House, its *PreservationWorks!* report and its restoration process, go to: www.devereauxhouse.ca/preservation.htm.

PreservationWorks! is not only for houses; its services are available for any kind of architectural or landscape heritage, including industrial buildings, warehouses, bridges, lighthouses and cemeteries.



The cost to clients of *PreservationWorks!* is far less than its expert consultants would charge privately. There is an honorarium of \$300 per consultation, plus travel expenses, for a site visit and a report, which is delivered within six weeks of the initial request – sooner when urgent delivery has been agreed to.

PreservationWorks! welcomes new clients and is always on the lookout for experts to join its roster of consultants.

For more information about *PreservationWorks!* and a link to their downloadable application form, go to: www.arconserv.ca/preservationworks or contact: Manager of *PreservationWorks!*, Tatum Taylor at presworks@arconserv.ca.

ACO looks forward to collaborating with the OHS in the future, in our mutual defence of the buildings, structures and landscapes that are the symbols and containers of Ontario's history.

From The Bookshelf

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio
ccomac5702@rogers.com

February is a month that demonstrates what “relativity” means as it concerns time and space: although the shortest of the twelve, it can seem as long as the other eleven collectively. Of course, our “space,” Ontario, could simply be known as “winter”. Yet for all the weather complaints that we indulge in at this time of year, there are some things that even winter’s depths allow by way of enjoyment – fireside evenings, roasted chestnuts (see below!), hot chocolate, mulled wine. Put some, or all, of these together with good stories from our shared and individual pasts, and, just maybe, spring is more than just a distant longing...

STORIES: REAL AND IMAGINED

“Storying the past” is the best part of what historians of all sorts aim to do. These three eminently readable books – a memoir, a novel, and a historical narrative – demonstrate how the factual and the imagined, the overlooked and the commemorated, the present and the past, are interwoven in what we understand as the historical. Moreover, all three authors share a personal connection to the histories they trace.

Shadows in the Tree

Jennifer DeBruin, UE. General Store Publishing House, 2013. PB: 167 pp. \$20. www.gsph.com

Chronicles of an Ottawa Chestnut Lover

Luciano Pradal. Legas, 2013. PB: 134 pp. \$15. legaspublishing.com

My Brother’s Keeper: African Canadians and the American Civil War

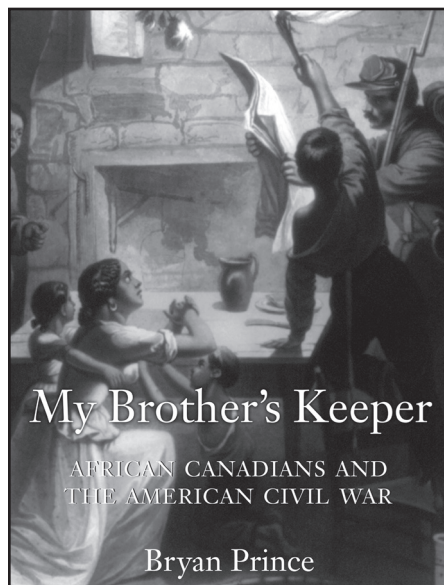
Bryan Prince. Dundurn, 2015. PB: 352 pp. \$27; epub \$13. www.dundurn.com

Author of an earlier *From the Bookshelf* selection, *A Walk with Mary*, Jennifer DeBruin’s second work of historical fiction is a compelling narrative that relates back to Mary’s story. Just like Mary’s story, this tale of the Eamer family is directly connected to the author, who is descended from them. Carefully researched and recounted, *Shadows in the Tree* weaves imagination into factual elements about real characters and real events in the best tradition of historical fiction. The story is framed by the continuing quest of Eliza, a college professor, genealogist, and Loyalist descendant, who is inspired to pursue her grandmother Mary’s family history to its late 18th century roots. Eliza’s research uncovers some of the sparse details concerning the emigration of Maria Catrina and Peter Eamer to the British colony of New York, a background common to many eventual Loyalists. The Eamers’ story unfolds in the context of a dream sequence in which Eliza “experiences” what happened 200 years ago, when Peter Eamer took up arms for the Loyalist side and Maria Catrina was forced to lead her children on a daunting escape to Upper Canada through the Adirondack Mountains. The vulnerability,

courage, and determination of the Eamer family, trying to start anew in a new land and suddenly cast on the wrong side of revolution, is well captured. This is especially so in Maria’s part of the story. A lone mother whose maternal devotion, loyalty to the British Crown, and fierce determination to reunite her family in a safe haven are her driving force, she is doubtless representative of the dangers in which many Loyalist women found themselves. Like no other genre of historical writing, fiction suggests the personal, human costs of historic events that are rarely depicted in the political and military histories, in many instances because the historical records do not allow for such glimpses.

As much good old-fashioned storytelling as memoir, and just as enticing, is the tale of “an Ottawa chestnut lover,” as he calls himself. Luciano Pradal has worn many hats since emigrating to Ottawa from the Veneto region of Northern Italy in 1966. Although a stationary engineer by trade, Pradal’s discovers a true passion for the fine art of chestnut roasting, a retirement project that effectively grew out of his larger cause as a dedicated supporter of Italian culture in the capital region. This is a lively personal account of his career as an Ottawa chestnut roaster and street vendor, and his wagon with its *fornello* (a traditional wood-charcoal oven) was a welcome fixture in Little Italy and in the city’s ever-bustling Byward Market. We learn much about chestnut culture, including the history of the humble but delicious little brown nut (here I surrender all pretence of objectivity), its traditional and contemporary cultivation, and the ways and means of using chestnuts in some simple but amazing recipes. Among these is the legendary *castagnaccio*, a treat that features chestnut flower, pine nuts (*pinoli*), and raisins. As the author tells it, chestnut lore dating back to the mid-15th century has it that its power was such that any man who indulged in *castagnaccio* that was offered by a woman would instantly fall in love with and marry her. In brief sketches, in Italian and French as well as English, Pradal provides a unique and distinctly heartwarming glimpse into the everyday happenings – simple, complex, and often both at once – that occur on city streets among everyday people. We also share the author’s take on life as an Italian immigrant and Canadian citizen, among his diverse identity “hats.” Lovingly illustrated with colour photographs, these chronicles are at times amusing and at times touching, always with very interesting perspectives on the social history that evolves at street level.

Buxton resident and acclaimed local historian Bryan Prince is already known to OHS members for his many publications about the African Canadian community, and for his dedication to local, provincial, and international heritage and history projects in that important area of research. A descendent



of slaves who fled to Canada in the pre-Civil War years, Prince has painstakingly uncovered the largely neglected contributions of African Canadians to that war. Testifying to their continued fellowship with those who remained enslaved in the South, these men selflessly relinquished their own freedom and safety to actively support the Union cause. When President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, which took effect in 1864, permitted Blacks to join the Union Army, many who had established new roots in Canada were quick to enlist. At the heart of this story are the approximately 1,100 African Canadians who took it upon themselves to fight for the greater cause of liberty for all. Given the thinness of documentation about these men, as well as their number, Prince rightly focuses on the individuals for whom the records reveal enough information to convey as much as possible about their experiences. Not surprisingly, considering that the largest proportion of the former slaves settled in Kent and Chatham, much of what unfolds tells about men from this area. As always in wartime, the prospects were grim for all participants; the Civil War introduced new weaponry and strategies that led to horrendous casualties. But no one confronted a worse fate than former slaves, as Prince emphasizes, whose very presence in the fight against former masters who considered themselves racially superior was an outrage to be punished hideously. This work adds much to a story that, although well-told from the American side, has not yet given due consideration to the contributions of African Canadians.

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT: ONTARIO WATERWAYS

In a province graced with an abundance of waterways, most of us are never far from a river or lake of diverse size and function. Common to all is the crucial role that these rivers and lakes have played in Ontario’s history, as they have fundamentally shaped our development, natural, human, and manufactured. The books considered here present us with much to consider in terms of the historic influence of land and water in making Ontario over the past 200 years or so.

There are not many in southern Ontario who haven’t at least some acquaintance with the pretty towns on the Great Lakes’ shorelines. For some time back in the 20th century, they have largely been associated in the public consciousness with tourism and recreation. Yet their

Port Stanley: The First Hundred Years, 1804-1904

Robert J. Burns and Craig Cole. Port Stanley Historical Society, 2015. PB: 158 pp. \$25.

Reclaiming the Don: An Environmental History of Toronto’s Don River Valley

Jennifer L. Bonnell. University of Toronto Press, 2014. PB: 316 pp. \$30. www.utorontopress.com

LaOke of the Woods: Through the Lens of Carl G. Linde

L. Nelson, B. Murray, L. Riddell, eds. Lake of the Woods Museum, 2014. lakeofthewoodsmuseum.ca

Riverdale: East of the Don

Elizabeth Gillan Muir. Dundurn, 2014. PB: 215 pp. \$30. www.dundurn.com

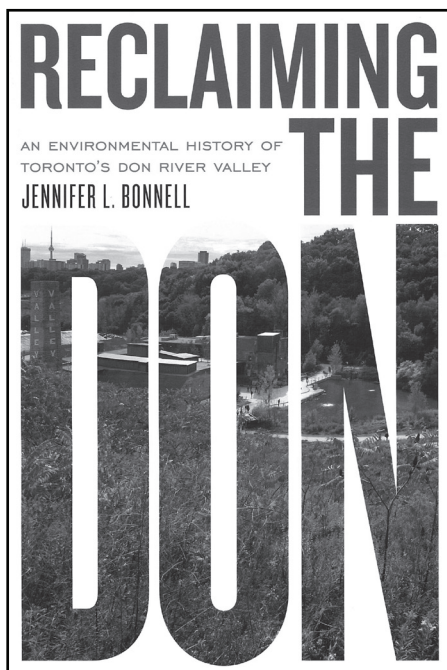
histories are much more utilitarian. Their status as ports resulted from the growing 19th century industrial expansion, whose products, both raw and manufactured, were – before the mid-century railway network – dependent on sail and steamship. As Burns and Cole recount, during the first century of the town’s development, the north shore of Lake Erie was well served by Port Stanley; its rail connections made it a significant gateway for stock and passengers alike, to and from southern Ontario and the United States. By the last quarter of the 19th century, as rail made transportation and communications ever easier and more affordable, and middle-class families began to pass their leisure time with excursions away, but not far, from home, the town leaders were able to capitalize on the new propensity for a stay by the water. Port Stanley’s natural beauty, and modern steamship and rail links allowed the small town to capitalize profitably from the late Victorian tourist trade. The book’s photographs effectively capture the ambitious scale of the resort, hotel, and cottage development projects, as well as their impressive results. For reasons both historical and nostalgic, this is a lovely book, and all proceeds will return to its publishers, the Port Stanley Historical Society.

McMaster University historian Jennifer Bonnell has produced an impressive scholarly examination of a small river with a large reach. The Don River has been central to Toronto’s development since colonial times, when its mosquito-ridden swampy lowlands also featured as a major source of malarial infestation. It was a key component of the city’s Victorian-era industrialization, boasting some 50 mills by the late 19th century. The river valley delimited east-west expansion while encouraging a flow of goods and traffic, hence urban development,

“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.



in a north-south direction in the 20th century. The Don remains a significant player in the life of the city. In seven chapters, the author traces the intertwined trajectories of river, valley and city, giving due consideration to natural, built, and human environments, to the outcome of unfettered industrialization and its consequent environmental damage, to the river and the valley's centrality in 20th century conservation movements, and to the contentious issues, and uneasy resolutions, surrounding the Don Valley Parkway. This meticulously researched analysis effectively demonstrates how the river, despite its relatively small size, has nonetheless held both spatial and conceptual importance for a broad spectrum of interests. Industrialists and developers consistently aimed to reap the financial benefits associated with production and urban spread; activists since the 1880s have aimed to protect and preserve the river valley's natural beauty and environmental significance, as signified in 1949 by the establishment of the Don Valley Conservation Association. In the midst of these poles were, and remain, the ordinary Torontonians who lived, worked, found refuge or were incarcerated in, exploited, and enjoyed "the Don." The 21st century finds over 90 percent of the river's

watershed urbanized, with serious consequences for water flow, exacerbating the danger of flash floods, and also for public health, as pollutants are flushed into the city's sewer system. Bonnell's closing chapter, "Remembering the Don," follows one of her principal themes concerning the Don's multiplicity of "imagined futures" to its logical conclusion in a discussion of contemporary projects, under the aegis of the ambitious Lower Don Lands plan, which will require the rerouting and naturalizing of the river's mouth to permit mixed residential use as well as natural parklands. In sum, there is much here to interest and inform readers who want to know more about local and provincial history, environmental, geographic, and urban history, and sociocultural history.

Just as is the case with historical societies and heritage associations, we owe a great debt of gratitude to our active and dedicated local museums insofar as, despite their financial and staff constraints, they consistently produce impressive works of local history. The example considered here, published by the Lake of the Woods Museum, showcases the photographic artistry of local photographer Carl G. Linde. The first publication of Linde's masterful images, this collection of 140 early 20th century photographs is carefully curated by its editors to provide readers with a captivating foray into the sociocultural history of Kenora and the Lake of the Woods region. As always, the images convey so much of the stories – about pioneers, work on the land and in fledgling industry, recreation, ethnicity, and culture – for which written documentation is sparse. Through Linde's camera lens, we see and "feel" the diverse segments of the area's history that come together in a rare "picture" of Lake of the Woods in its early days of white settlement, although, most notably, he photographed local First Nations people as they made historic adaptations to this "settlement." This lovely compilation commemorates the museum's 50th anniversary and it is a fitting tribute both to the museum and

to the skills of one intrepid early 20th century photographer, an emigrant from Massachusetts who spent three decades traversing the community to record its natural environment and its human events, large and small.

Elizabeth Gillan Muir has produced a lively popular history of one of Toronto's most famous neighbourhoods, the east end community of Riverdale. Her focus is the factors that made this neighbourhood, from its early history as a sparsely populated colonial enclave in the Don River Valley, through the push and pull of development as detailed by Jennifer Bonnell, to its early 20th century influx of immigrants that led to the establishment of Greek Town, Chinatown, and a significant community of African Canadians. More recently, as she demonstrates, the neighbourhood, long displaying a rich cultural mix of ethnicity, class, and "race," has entered into a phase of gentrification that has at once encouraged heritage conservation and also pushed real estate prices to unprecedented peaks. In addition to the well-chosen photographs that contribute so much to our understanding of the community's evolution over two centuries, the author's focus on the life stories of some of its leading citizens, as well as the ordinary lives of Riverdale inhabitants. These are the women and children, an often-overlooked element of neighbourhood life, who populated its streets in more numbers and for more hours than the male breadwinners who left for work for the better part of each day. As evidenced in the forward contributed by historian Elizabeth Abbott, a Riverdale resident and co-founder of the Riverdale Historical Society, Toronto is a "city of neighbourhoods," and this one contains any number of fascinating stories.

AS THE WAR ENDS: CHRONICLES OF 1812

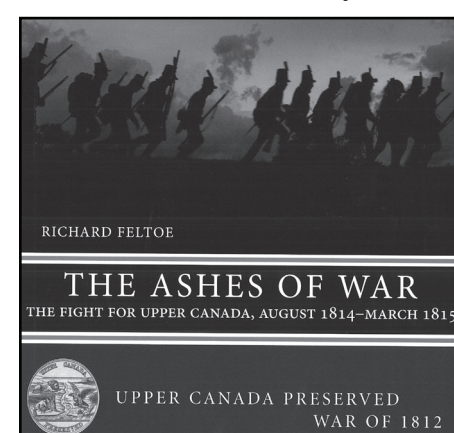
Richard Feltoe's multi-volume War of 1812 series, *Upper Canada Preserved*, published by Dundurn Press, is wrapping up with these two volumes. Along with the two discussed here, Dundurn is making a six-book bundle available.

The fifth book of the series sees Feltoe zeroing in on the Battle of Lundy's Lane in the watershed summer of 1814, in contrast to the four earlier volumes that each covered a six-month span. This

A Crucible of Fire: The Battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25, 1814
Richard Feltoe, Dundurn, 2014.
PB: 168 pp. \$19. dundurn.com

The Ashes of War: The Fight for Upper Canada, August 1814–March 1815
Richard Feltoe, Dundurn, 2014.
PB: 232 pp. \$20. dundurn.com

narrowed focus permits the author to delve more deeply into the surrounding events and personalities, and to spend more time on the actual "game-changing" battle itself. Particularly interesting are the carefully selected excerpts from eyewitnesses that help to give readers a more direct sense of how this furious battle – with 3,600 British and Canadian troops and their First Nations allies facing down about 2,800 Americans for nearly six hours – might have been experienced, in the intense heat and humidity of a Niagara summer. In the end, some 1,700 casualties bore witness to its ferocity.



Like the five that precede and build up to it, the sixth and final book, *The Ashes of War*, packs a lot of historical detail into an examination of strategies and battles in a highly readable manner, and is just as generously illustrated with maps, illustrations, and other visual materials. Here Feltoe turns his expert eye on the closing battles on the Northern Frontier, covering all the key events: the siege of Fort Erie, the conflicts at Cook's Mills and Michilimackinac (Mackinac), enemy raids into the southwestern parts of the colony, and the near-legendary story of the Nancy. As any effective concluding volume should do, this one covers the negotiations in Ghent that culminated in the signing of an Anglo-American peace treaty on Christmas Eve, 1814, momentarily putting an end to the War of 1812. But the story does not end there: Feltoe moves into 1815 with an intriguing overview of the war's varied impact on its main protagonists, Britain, the United States, the British North American provinces that were Canada in the making, and the Indigenous peoples, so integral to the fight on both sides of the none-too-firm border. This is a first-rate closing to a very popular series.

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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.

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