

Shaftesbury's *Murdoch Mysteries* Honoured with Provincial Heritage Award

OHS President's Award presented June 23, 2018
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Toronto, Ontario

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In 1967, The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) established an awards program to recognize individuals, organizations, corporations, and authors who have contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of Ontario's heritage.

The President's Award recognizes an outstanding contribution to heritage conservation or promotion in Ontario's recent past. The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to present the 2017 President's Award to the television series *Murdoch Mysteries*, a production of **Shaftesbury**, for bringing greater public awareness to Ontario's rich history.



Actor Thomas Craig (far left) and Shaftesbury Chairman and CEO Christina Jennings (centre right) accept the 2017 OHS President's Award from OHS President Caroline Di Cocco (centre left) and OHS Honours and Awards Committee Chair Ian Radforth. Christina Jennings founded Shaftesbury in 1987; the Toronto-based production company's content is now sold in 120 countries worldwide. Thomas Craig plays Inspector Brackenreid on the hit show, *Murdoch Mysteries*. Craig is also known for his recurring roles on the popular British-TV series *Coronation Street* and *Where the Heart Is*.

For eleven seasons, *Murdoch Mysteries* has delighted television audiences with episodes that feature both stories rooted in Ontario's past and heritage locations throughout the province. *Murdoch Mysteries* season 12 is currently in production. The OHS appreciates how much research and hard work goes into Shaftesbury's production of lively narratives that reflect the values, attitudes, and behaviour of the people of Ontario more than a century ago. With an average weekly viewership of 1.2 million, *Murdoch Mysteries* is one of Canada's most successful and longest-running drama series, and has been licensed to broadcasters in 110 countries and territories worldwide to date.

By making extensive use of Ontario heritage sites as filming locations, *Murdoch Mysteries* has greatly increased public awareness of them. Viewers in Ontario appreciate seeing familiar historical sites and learning about others in their province. Fans from around the globe have come to know something of the richness of Ontario's heritage, and many have visited the province to see places depicted on the show.

Moreover, the behind-the-scenes series, *Making Murdoch*, further promotes appreciation of the heritage landmarks depicted in episodes, and commendably, it invites viewers to get out and visit the province's historical sites. The OHS Honours and Awards Committee is proud to recognize **Shaftesbury's *Murdoch Mysteries*** with the 2017 President's Award. The award was presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in Toronto, Ontario.

Founded in 1888, the Ontario Historical Society is a non-profit corporation and registered charity dedicated to the preservation and celebration of Ontario's history for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. To learn more about the OHS's Honours and Awards Program, or to submit a nomination, please visit <https://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/index.php/categories> or contact the Society's offices by telephone or e-mail.

-The Ontario Historical Society-

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