

Barry and Dianne Munro Recognized for Restoration of the Lapp Family Cemetery

OHS Cemetery Preservation Award *Honourable Mention*
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Toronto, June 23, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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 Cemetery Preservation Award recognizes an individual or not-for-profit heritage organization for having demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the preservation and protection of cemeteries in Ontario. This year, the OHS is pleased to present an honourable mention in this category to Barry and Dianne Munro for their impassioned restoration of the Lapp Family Cemetery. the



Barry and Dianne Munro accepting an honourable mention in the 2017 Cemetery Preservation Award category from Chair of the OHS Honours and Awards Committee Ian Radforth (far right) and Co-Chair of the OHS Cemeteries and Preservation Committee Janie Cooper-Wilson (far left).

When Barry and Dianne Munro retired to their new home in Niagara Falls, they became the legal owners of the 100-year-old abandoned and derelict cemetery located on their property. Advised by a realtor to cover all visible evidence of the cemetery's existence, they instead became highly motivated to restore dignity and respect to the voiceless pioneers interred so many years ago. They enthusiastically embraced the responsibilities and the many challenges facing them in order to salvage a crucial part of their community's history.

As the onerous task of unearthing and identifying the fifteen partially buried, stained, and broken limestone grave markers began, Barry and Dianne's intense research not only revealed more information about members of the Lapp, Hershey, and Sayler families who are buried in the cemetery, it also took them on a personal journey of discovery involving one of Barry's own early ancestors. Barry learned that his 2X Great Grandfather was a United Empire Loyalist who was taken prisoner during the Upper Canada Rebellion for democratic reform in 1837.

The Lapp Family Cemetery has been restored to an esthetically pleasing appearance featuring a charming white picket fencing, flowers, and landscaping entirely due to the extraordinary dedication and loving care of Barry and Dianne Munro. The OHS Honours and Awards Committee is pleased to present an honourable mention in this category to Barry and Dianne Munro for their extraordinary efforts to restore, preserve, and maintain the early nineteenth-century Lapp Family Cemetery, where burials took place from 1844 to 1895. The award was presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in Toronto, Ontario on June 23, 2018.

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-

Contact: Daniel Dishaw - ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca - 416.226.9011

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