



Owen Sound's Richard Thomas Recognized with Provincial Heritage Award

OHS Carnochan 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 Carnochan Award recognizes an individual who has contributed many years of service to the heritage community. The OHS is pleased to announce that **Richard Thomas** is the recipient of the 2017 OHS Carnochan Award.



Richard Thomas (centre) accepts the 2017 Carnochan Award from Chair of the OHS Honours and Awards Committee Ian Radforth. Richard was joined by nominator Petal Furness, Manager, Grey Roots Museum and Archive.

Richard has been a long-time champion of heritage in Owen Sound and throughout Grey County. As an author, videographer, researcher, and exhibit writer he has informed the public about the history of the city and the area.

A talented author, Richard has retrieved and brought to life the history of local people and institutions. He has researched and written local histories, including those of Owen Sound Transportation Company, the city's Harrison Park, and the conflicts of the prohibition era in Owen Sound. Moreover, that era has been made vivid to a great many readers through his D.B. Murphy detective stories set in prohibition-era Owen Sound.

In addition, Richard has done an enormous amount of work assisting Grey Roots Museum and Archives to present public exhibits. Numerous videos that he produced have been used to illustrate aspects of local heritage at the museum. As a researcher and writer, he was a key contributor to the museum's

presentation of exhibits on topics ranging from the history of wood and furniture production in Grey County to drink and its opponents. As the researcher and writer of the museum's "Mrs. Eaton's War," he drew on collections of letters to explore the relationships between Grey County soldiers at the front during the First World War and their families and friends at home. Recently he was involved in researching and writing panels for the exhibit "Black Roots," which relates the history of prejudice and struggle along the Old Durham Road near Priceville.

Richard has also become a fixture at the Owen Sound Public Library, where he has chaired the library board, helping to strengthen its impressive collection, and delighted both children and adults with his lively presentations. When the Owen Sound Marine and Rail Museum was threatened with closure, Richard's persistent hard work was essential to its survival and continuing success. Richard's service to the heritage community has been wide-ranging and deeply appreciated in his region. The award was presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society at the Japanese Canadian 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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