



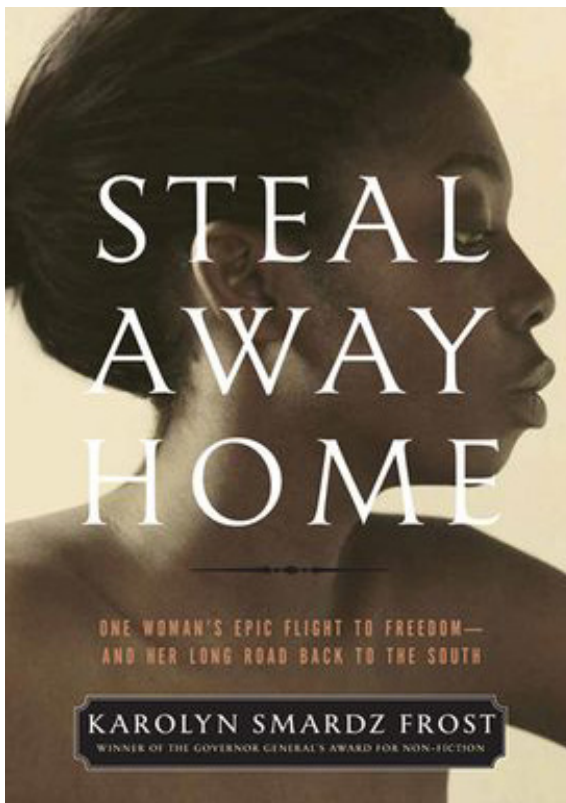
## Historian Karolyn Smardz Frost Recognized with Provincial Book Award

OHS J.J. Talman 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 J.J. Talman Award recognizes the best book on Ontario's social, economic, political, or cultural history, published in the past three years. The OHS is pleased to announce that **Karolyn Smardz Frost** is the recipient of the 2017 J.J. Talman Award for *Steal Away Home: One Woman's Epic Flight to Freedom—And Her Long Road Back to the South*, published by Harper Collins.



*Steal Away Home* reconstructs the life, times, and odyssey of Cecilia who was born into slavery in Louisville, Kentucky, and escaped across the Niagara River in 1846 to freedom in Canada, where she settled in Toronto and became part of the city's vital African-Canadian population. Frost draws on her detailed research into archival, newspaper, and archaeological sources to portray that community and to communicate the role of the Underground Railroad in the flight to freedom in nineteenth century North America. The correspondence between Cecilia and Fanny, her former owner and companion, captures Cecilia's lived experiences in a narrative that is as personally engaging as it is historically significant. *Steal Away* situates Cecilia firmly in the evolving context of North American, Canadian, and Ontario culture in the nineteenth century and highlights issues that continue to resonate today.

The Ontario Historical Society Honours and Awards Committee congratulates Karolyn Smardz Frost for winning the 2017 J.J. Talman Award. 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.

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-The Ontario Historical Society-

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