

the
Ontario
Historical
Society

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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Historical
Society**

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

34 Parkview Avenue
Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2

TEL: 416-226-9011

FAX: 416-226-2740

TOLL-FREE: 1-866-955-2755

WEBSITE: www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

E-MAIL: ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca



**ONTARIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY** *Since 1888*



The OHS will be transitioning to a new logo in 2018.



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Established in 1888, The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) is a not-for-profit corporation, registered charity, and publisher. The OHS is a non-government group bringing together people of all ages, all walks of life, and all cultural backgrounds interested in preserving some aspect of Ontario's history.

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Caroline Di Cocco, **PRESIDENT**

As the OHS celebrates its 130th year, the Society continues to experience unprecedented growth and diversification of its membership, resulting in the expansion of the province's heritage community and our services to it.

In 2017, thirty-eight historical organizations and institutions became OHS members and/or subscribers to *Ontario History*. In addition to those new members and subscribers, we also incorporated five new groups through affiliation with the OHS. Our workload has dramatically increased, which is why we are working to build a new membership management system (and digital platform) in order to better serve our members and the heritage sector in Ontario.

I am pleased to announce that in 2018, the OHS will be launching a new online platform, a new logo, and a new digital brand. This new logo (shown on page 2) is designed to function in the digital world, complete

with an exciting colour scheme and a modular layout that will facilitate consistent and recognizable branding online and in print. Each square represents a region of Ontario that the OHS works to serve every day; Northern Ontario, Central Ontario, Eastern Ontario, Southwestern Ontario, and the Greater Toronto Area. These five squares come together to form the shape of the province. The white trillium represents the Society's commitment to natural history across the province, and serves as a strong symbol of stability and continuity in Ontario. The new logo will not replace the historic OHS seal. Our historic seal will remain an important part of the Society's past and future going forward.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of the Ontario Historical Society's volunteers, donors, members, subscribers, and staff for their support and hard work throughout 2017.

Finally, I would like to thank the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario for inviting OHS Executive Director Rob Levery and I to discuss the challenges facing the Ontario heritage community. I look forward to strengthening this partnership going forward.



In August 2017, the OHS received a private audience with the Society's Honorary Patron, The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario to discuss the challenges facing Ontario's heritage community. On May 8, 2018, the OHS attended the Lieutenant Governor's reception in honour of patronage organizations at the Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto. In her remarks, the Lieutenant Governor stated that "In this province, the first to receive patronage is the Ontario Historical Society, so recognized in 1888 by our sixth Lieutenant Governor, Sir Alexander Campbell." Seen here at the reception is OHS President Caroline Di Cocco (left), the Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell and OHS Executive Director, Rob Levery.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Serge Ducharme, **TREASURER**

The Society's 2017 financial statements, audited by Akler, Browning, Frimet & Landzberg LLP, show a modest loss with a balance sheet that is sound, healthy, and debt free.

Revenues from grants, memberships, subscriptions to *Ontario History*, and donations amounted to \$400,605. Donations to the Society increased from \$29,274 the previous year to \$37,575 in 2017.

Total expenses were \$438,750 for the year. This is a reduction of approximately \$97,000 from the previous year. The fiscal deficit of \$38,000 helped to finance restoration projects for the historic John McKenzie House and the development of a new online platform.

In 2017, OHS volunteers donated approximately 12,400 hours of time and expertise to the Society in support of its activities, up from 11,300 in 2016.

The Society is very appreciative of the financial support in 2017 of the Laidlaw Foundation; Dundurn Press; Alpema Foundation; Westminster Heritage Properties; Waterloo Historical Society; MacTier Railroad Heritage Society; Lennox & Addington Historical Society; Ventin Group (Toronto) Ltd Architects; National Trust for Canada; York University Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies; York University Department of History; Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport; Department of Canadian Heritage (Young Canada Works, through The Canadian Museums Association); Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program/Avec l'appui du Programme d'infrastructure communautaire de Canada 150; Capital Assets, Museums & Heritage Services, City of Toronto; Toronto Heritage Grant Program and all the OHS members, subscribers to *Ontario History*, and our individual donors.

The Society remains committed to its policies of fiscal discipline, strict spending controls, no debt, and prudent financial management. The OHS still maintains positive net assets representing an accumulated surplus for the Society.

PUBLIC OUTREACH, SERVICES, PROGRAMS

Rob Leverty, **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

NOT-FOR-PROFIT MEMBERS

Throughout 2017, the OHS provided the following consultations and services to over 850 of its affiliated societies, member organizations, and member institutions: examine strategic directions, solve problems, provide references for grant applications, explore heritage designations and conservation easements, review and revise constitutions and by-laws, discuss good corporate governance, process insurance applications, incorporate not-for-profits through affiliation, write letters of good standing for affiliated societies, surrender charters, facilitate corporate name changes, and support and review member applications for federal charitable tax status.

From January, 2017 until May 31, 2018, the OHS has held 14 incorporation meetings in the following communities: Deseronto, Peterborough, Lang (in the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan), Kingston, Huntsville, Hockley Valley (in Mono Township), Thunder Bay, Willowdale, West Toronto Junction, Scarborough, Kensington Market, Brooklin, Adjala Township, and Dufferin County.



On November 18, 2017, the OHS Board of Directors incorporated the Madill Church Preservation Society (MCPS). This new not-for-profit historical organization has acquired the church for a nominal fee and The United Church, to its credit, will transfer \$10,000 to the MCPS—funds originally allocated for the demolition of the church.

PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, AND EVENTS

The following list is a *sample* of the events, presentations, workshops, and webinars that the OHS was involved with in 2017:

THE OHS HELD A TABLE OR GAVE A PRESENTATION AT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- ~Ontario Black History Society's Black History Month Kickoff Brunch
- ~Ryerson University Sociology Class Presentation
- ~Special Libraries Association Leadership and Management Conference
- ~Pickering Township Historical Society 20th Anniversary
- ~Huntsville and District Historical Society Annual General Meeting
- ~Collingwood Public Library
- ~Paris Plains Cemetery Association

THE OHS HELD AN INCORPORATION MEETING OR HERITAGE CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

- ~Thunder Bay Municipal Heritage Committee
- ~Lakehead University History Department

- ~St. Mark's Coptic Museum
- ~Deseronto Historical Society
- ~Georgian Bay Township Historical Society
- ~Friends of Hope Mill
- ~West Willowdale Neighbourhood Association
- ~Norfolk Historical Society
- ~Ontario Heritage Fairs Association
- ~Madill Community Church and Cemetery
- ~South Dumfries Historical Society
- ~Junction Heritage Conservation District

THE OHS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS:

- ~Active Archives Symposium
- ~Trinity Theatre Peer Leaders Youth Workshop
- ~Webinar: We are All Treaty People: Ontario's Treaties with Indigenous Peoples, Land Claims, and Reconciliation
- ~Webinar: Ontario's WWI History: 100 Years on at Vimy, Passchendaele and Hill 70

THE OHS PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- ~Doors Open Toronto
- ~Not Just Numbers: Representation in the Canadian Census, presented by the Toronto Ward Museum
- ~Heritage York Annual Dinner
- ~Queen's Park Black History Month Reception
- ~Thunder Bay Heritage Symposium
- ~Book Launch of "Frontier City: Toronto on the Verge of Greatness" by Shawn Micallef
- ~Ontario Museums Association Indigenous Collection Symposium
- ~Friends of the South Grey Museum Annual Celebration of Agnes Macphail
- ~Archives of Ontario Family Focus Exhibition Launch
- ~Six Nations of the Grand River Champion of Champions Pow Wow
- ~Owen Sound Emancipation Festival
- ~Heritage Toronto 2017 Awards
- ~Heritage Toronto & City of Toronto "MemenTO: Toronto's History of Innovation"
- ~Ontario Heritage Trust Symposium on Intangible Heritage
- ~Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation "Values and Visions in Public Schooling"
- ~Ontario Archaeological Society Annual Symposium
- ~Myseum Toronto "Under the Skin of a City: Exhibiting Toronto"
- ~York Pioneer & Historical Society Annual Dinner



During Archives Week 2017, the OHS held a Symposium at the Archives of Ontario entitled, "Active Archives: Bringing Ontario's History Online." The symposium explored new pathways and initiatives in the delivery and presentation of Ontario's history. Dee Psaila, Manager of Digitization & Operations, Information Privacy and Archives at the Archives of Ontario (pictured above) delivered a presentation on current digitization practices and partnerships at the Archives.

INSURANCE PROGRAM

Established in 2008, the OHS Insurance Program remains very popular with the Society's membership. In 2016-2017, the OHS held 64 insurance consultations with historical organizations, witnessing continued growth in the number of new insurance policies issued to member organizations across Ontario.

Once the OHS approves a new application, the Society's insurance broker, Jones DesLauriers Insurance Management Inc., holds a thorough consultation with the applicant to ensure that each policy is tailored to the specific needs and local circumstances of the organization. The OHS Insurance Program provides protection for the volunteer board members of OHS member organizations across Ontario.

As of December 31, 2017, there are 141 historical organizations that have Directors and Officers Liability insurance policies underwritten at a limit of \$2 million each. There are 135 organizations that have Commercial General Liability insurance policies with liability limits of at least \$2 million, with some up to \$5 million. There are 53 organizations that have purchased coverage for contents and property.

PARKVIEW NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN

The OHS has enjoyed nine years of its partnership with the Parkview Neighbourhood Garden (PNG), an organic market garden run by volunteers. The garden is situated on the site of John McKenzie's former vegetable patch adjacent to the milk house, stable, and coach house.

Volunteers help mentor high school students earning their community service hours. Some graduates return to volunteer, as their love for gardening grows. Many impromptu tours take place throughout the garden season when interested people stop by to learn more.

In 2017, despite a cold and wet start to the season, followed by summer-like weather in the fall, many crops did very well. The previous year, bee hives were hosted on private properties throughout the neighbourhood by people interested in bio-diversity and wanting to do their part to save the bees. Thanks to the bees, the PNG witnessed a

tremendous increase in the yield of the fruit bearing shrubs, crops, and trees. Bees, gathering much-needed food for winter were photographed by camera enthusiasts as late in the season as November.

PNG continued to focus on companion planting with the four year annual crop rotation planting strategy. By using only compost made on-site—where added contents could be more easily tracked and monitored—the overall health of the garden was improved. These methods help prevent insect-related issues and diseases. These processes also provide additional benefits to insects, birds, and wildlife.

For the first time, the front garden bed was devoted exclusively to pollinator plants in 2017. With a grant from the Ontario Horticultural Society, many native species were added. The wild grape vine, donated by a local farmer a few years ago, successfully climbed to the top of the pergola for the first time. Elsewhere in the garden, native plants and globally threatened species were included in the planting plan. A second four square garden was also added.

What proceeds are gained by selling the produce are used for future PNG needs. Excess funds and surplus produce were donated to local food-related charities.



PNG volunteers work in the garden from early spring until late in the fall.

CEMETERY DEFENCE

In 1995, the Society was forced to establish a trust fund to protect Ontario's cemeteries from inappropriate development. In 2017, the OHS continued the struggle to preserve and promote Ontario's cemeteries. This on-going work was accomplished thanks to financial contributions to the OHS Cemetery Defence Fund and donated time and skills from generous volunteers.

Throughout 2017, the OHS helped to research and answer questions in order to assist families and descendants across Ontario who had relatives buried in pioneer cemeteries that were threatened by real estate development.

In September 2016, an OHS staff member was appointed to the Cemetery, Crematorium & Municipal Advisory Committee of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario, a new not-for-profit corporation, delegated with the responsibility to administer provisions of the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 on behalf of the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services. Meetings of the Advisory Committee were held in 2017, with the aim to represent the consumer interests

of Ontarians as regards to Cemeteries and Crematoriums. The OHS is the only member representing heritage interests on this provincial stakeholder committee.

Since 2006, the OHS and the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) have collaborated to determine which cemeteries are not registered with the Province of Ontario. The OHS has no notification or appeal rights with regard to unregistered cemeteries. It is almost impossible in these cases for the OHS to intervene effectively to protect the public interest.

On June 2, 2011, in a meeting with Hon. John Gerretsen, the then-Minister of Consumer Services, the OHS and 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 these cemeteries in order to register them.

In 2017, the OHS and OGS submitted to the Ontario government detailed records of the unregistered cemeteries, in Oxford County, Parry Sound District, and Peel Region. Since 2012, the two societies have also submitted lists of unregistered cemeteries in the Regions, Districts and Counties of Algoma, Brant, Bruce, Carleton, Cochrane, Dundas, Durham, Elgin, Essex, Frontenac, Grey, Glengarry, Haldimand, Halton, Hastings, Huron, Kenora, Kent, Lambton, Lanark, Leeds, Lennox and Addington, Lincoln, Manitoulin, Middlesex, Muskoka, Norfolk, and Northumberland.

The OHS, with a membership from all cultures and religions, believes it in the public interest that all cemeteries be accorded the same legal status and be treated equally. The Society will continue to honour its public commitments on this important principle and will work tirelessly to complete this historic initiative, documenting as much information as possible on the remaining unregistered cemeteries across Ontario.



On August 16, the OHS met with Director of the Oshawa Museum Laura Suchan to discuss cemetery preservation issues in Durham Region and across Ontario. Laura has been working to protect and promote the preservation of local historic cemeteries in her community for many years, and she brings a great deal of passion and expertise to the table. The OHS looks forward to working with Laura on cemetery preservation in the future! Pictured, from left to right, are Rob Levery, Laura Suchan, and Heather Anderson.

ONTARIO HISTORY

Thorold (Tory) Tronrud

EDITOR, *Ontario History*

A variety of historical themes characterized the two 2017 issues of *Ontario History*. These included rural history (Elizabeth Ritchie's "Cows, Sheep and Scots"); ethnic history (Dann J. Broyld's study of John W. Lindsay, a Black man seeking freedom in 19th-century British Canada); environmental history (science and wilderness advocacy in the 1970s, by George Warecki); legal history (Nestor Prisco's study of the appointment of Judge Alphonse Valin); commemorative history ("Social Networks and the 1912 Commemoration of the Brock Centenary" by Peter W. Holdsworth); military history (Brook Durham's examination of the rehabilitation of soldiers at the Speedwell Military Hospital in Guelph); ships and shipping (the building of the Welland Canal by Roberta M. Styran and Robert R. Taylor); and Indigenous history ("Sharing the Land at Moose Factory

The OHS has published its scholarly journal, *Ontario History*, since 1899.

in 1763," John D. Long's posthumous article completed in collaboration by Richard J. Preston, Katrina Srigley, and Lorraine Sutherland), and Michael Stevenson's article on Orillia's Champlain monument.

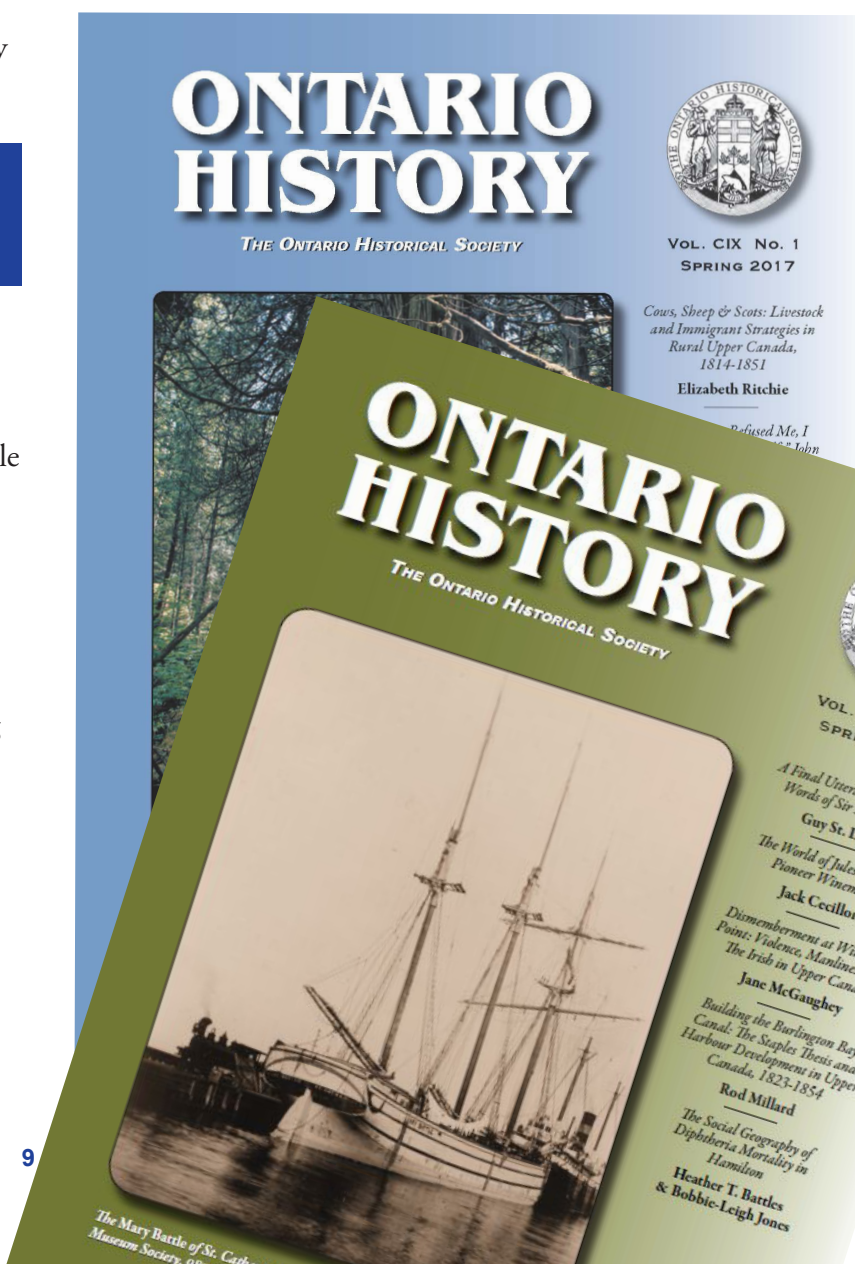
As usual, I must thank the journal's editorial board; the committee of the board dedicated to assisting the journal in so many ways; my book review editor, Alison Norman; my translator Michael Zawada; the board of directors and staff of the OHS who give me unwavering support; the peer reviewers who donate their time and expertise to the cause; and to the writers of articles and book reviews whose work ensures that *Ontario History* remains the province's preeminent history journal.

As of 2017, new issues of *Ontario History* are now available both in print through the OHS and online through Érudit, a digital publisher and scholarly

disseminator. With online publishing, the journal's readership and international reach have increased tremendously, along with ease of access for readers.

The Society's new digital publishing partnership with Érudit saw *Ontario History* reach distinguished academic libraries across the world. Some of those institutions include Harvard University, University of British Columbia, Google Scholar, Duke University, Université de Bordeaux, Yale University, Zentralbibliothek Zürich, and Universidad de Granada.

For over a century, the OHS has been a leader in publishing peer-reviewed scholarly works on Ontario's history. In 2017, the Society forged new partnerships to ensure that those high-quality publications would be available to as many people as possible, both in Canada and internationally.



AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Allan Macdonell, **DIRECTOR**
Chair, Affiliated Societies Committee

Citizens who organize to preserve and promote Ontario's history can apply to incorporate not-for-profit corporations through affiliation with the OHS. Each applicant must satisfy incorporation criteria, which includes preparing a mission statement, forming a volunteer board of directors, establishing a constitution and a set of by-laws, holding a public meeting, and paying a fee.

The Ontario Historical Society provides many services and programs to its affiliated societies, including the popular insurance program.



Soon after incorporating through affiliation with the OHS (June 2016), the Lakehead Transportation Museum Society (LTMS) began working to prevent former Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker, the Alexander Henry, from being sent to the scrapyard. After several months of negotiation and fundraising, the LTMS brought the Henry back to Thunder Bay in June, 2017. The LTMS plans to use the retired ship as a museum space.

"From January, 2010 to December, 2017 the OHS incorporated 82 historical organizations across Ontario, 90% of which are based outside of Toronto, and 15% of which serve communities in Northern Ontario."

In 2017, the OHS incorporated five not-for-profit historical organizations. The Society is proud to have served the following affiliated societies:

INCORPORATED FEBRUARY 28, 2017

~St. Mark's Coptic Museum

INCORPORATED APRIL 8, 2017

~Deseronto and District Historical Society

INCORPORATED NOVEMBER 18, 2017

~Madill Church Preservation Society
~Rella Braithewaite Black History Foundation

INCORPORATED DECEMBER 22, 2017

~Friends of Hope Mill



Celebrating their 155th anniversary in 2017, the Owen Sound Emancipation Festival (OSEF) is the longest-running festival celebrating Emancipation Day in North America. Pictured above are the OSEF festival organizers posing for a photo with Lawrence Hill, the 2017 keynote speaker. From left to right are: Nathan Segal, Dorothy Abbott, Aly Boltman, Blaine Courtney, Lawrence Hill, Brent Courtney, Terri Jackson, David Sereda, and Rachel Taylor. The OSEF was incorporated by the OHS in 2006.

HONOURS AND AWARDS 2017

Ian Radforth, **DIRECTOR**
Chair, Honours & Awards Committee

Established in 1967, the OHS Honours and Awards program recognizes excellence in Ontario's heritage community. Congratulations to the 2017 recipients.

AWARDS FOR ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

***Murdoch Mysteries* (Shaftesbury Films)**

SCADDING AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior

DOROTHY DUNCAN AWARD

Clarendon Mills Community Archives

RUSSELL K. COOPER LIVING HISTORY SITE OR

HERITAGE-BASED MUSEUM AWARD

Fort William Historical Park

AWARDS FOR SERVICE

CRUIKSHANK MEDAL

Pamela Cain

CARNOCHAN AWARD

Richard Thomas

CEMETERY PRESERVATION AWARD

Cooley-Hatt Pioneer Cemetery

CEMETERY PRESERVATION AWARD

HONOURABLE MENTION

Lapp Family Cemetery

AWARDS FOR AUTHORS

HUGUENOT SOCIETY OF CANADA AWARD

Carol Off

All We Leave Behind: A Reporter's Journey into the Lives of Others



Every year, the Ontario Historical Society's Honours and Awards Program pays tribute to authors, historians, archivists, librarians, volunteers, and caring citizens from across the province who have worked tirelessly to preserve and promote our collective history. The 2016 OHS Honours and Awards were presented at the 129th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society. Seventeen representatives joined the OHS to accept their awards.

JOSEPH BRANT AWARD

Robert C. Vipond

Making a Global City: How One Toronto School Embraced Diversity

FRED LANDON AWARD

Brian D. McInnes

Sounding Thunder: The Stories of Francis Pegahmagabow

DONALD GRANT CREIGHTON AWARD

Donald A. Wright

Donald Creighton: A Life in History

ALISON PRENTICE AWARD

Ma-Nee Chacaby, with Mary Louisa Plummer

A Two-Spirit Journey: The Autobiography of a Lesbian Ojibwa-Cree Elder

J. J. TALMAN AWARD

Karolyn Smardz Frost

Steal Away Home: One Woman's Epic Flight to Freedom - And Her Long Road Back to the South

INDIVIDUALS

Wendy Cameron
 Yana Yordanova
 Taylor Nisbet
 Judy McGonigal
 Larry Mohring
 Gordon Craig
 Ruth Cameron
 J. David More
 James Zieman
 Amy Scott
 David Brydges
 Michael Scott
 Karen Millyard
 Catherine Waine
 Michael Leverty
 Rosemary Sadlier
 Rachel Binette
 Robert Russo
 Jeremiah Roberts
 Bill Reimer
 Nestor Prisco
 Mark Plishewsky
 Sean Mathieson
 Karen Lemmon
 Paul Gelinas
 Peggy Deming-Maloy
 Christopher Andreae
 Peter Okonski
 Glenn Carey
 David Hill
 William M. Kane
 Trevor Parsons
 Eric Payseur
 Hassam Munir

ORGANIZATIONS & INSTITUTIONS

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 La Société Historique de Nipissing Ouest
 Ajax Public Library
 Heritage St. Clair
 Salt Springs Church Heritage Society
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 Colpoy's Bay Women's Institute
 Libraries for Nipissing University & Canadore College
 The Friends of the Arnprior & District Museum
 BCUL site Unithèque
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 Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec
 Bibliothèques de Montréal
 Canadian Research Knowledge Network Consortium
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 Modern Language Association
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 REPÈRE - Services documentaires multimedia
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 Università delgi Studi di Udine
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| Betty Brannen | Wendy Mitchison | Marion Leithead | W. Paul and Cathy |
| Kelsey Dishaw | Sharon O'Shea | Carol Agnew | Willoughby |
| Arthur Bullen | Elizabeth Ruth Redelmeier | Kenneth Armson | Waterloo Historical |
| Paul Carroll | Nevi Ruisch | Janet Batchelor | Society |
| Mary Carroll | Paul Shaver | Jamie Laidlaw | R.G. & Elizabeth |
| John Carter | Ada Sloan | Jeffery Alexander Smith | McQuillan |

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| Steven Clendenan | Bernadette Curtis | Marcel Martel | Neighbourhood- |
| Steve Kressler | Barry Penhale | Alison Little | Garden |

OHS NORTHERN ONTARIO TRUST FUND

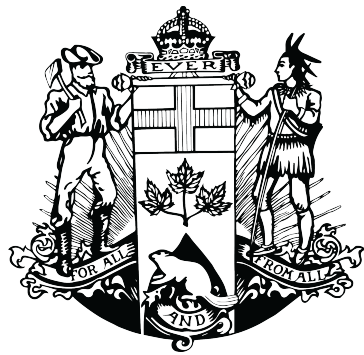
Estate of Ruth E. Day

OHS CEMETERY DEFENCE TRUST FUND

Estate of Jean Burnet

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Department of Canadian Heritage (Young Canada
Works, through The Canadian Museums Association)
Capital Assets, Museums & Heritage Services, City of Toronto
Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program
The Ventin Group (Toronto) Ltd Architects
The Laidlaw Foundation
York University Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies
Dundurn Press
Alpema Foundation
Westminster Heritage Properties
National Trust for Canada
York University Department of History
Toronto Heritage Grant Program



the
Ontario
Historical
Society

**In 2017,
volunteers
donated an
estimated
12,400 hours
of service in
support of
the OHS.**

