

# OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 198

MARCH 2016

## OHS REACH PROJECT UPDATE

ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY PLANS ORGANIZATIONAL  
CHANGE AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES



Photo - Sarah McCabe

Members of OHS affiliate group Thunder Bay Finnish Canadian Historical Society at Finnish Labour Temple, Thunder Bay, during OHS Reach stakeholder consultation in November 2015. From left to right: Anneli Tolvanen, William Roberts, and Jane Chapman.

**Sarah McCabe**, OHS Reach Project Manager  
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The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) is pleased to report on the progress of the OHS Reach project, which was launched at the Society's Annual General Meeting in June 2015. OHS Reach is in its initial one-year development stage of a three-year initiative to transform how the Society interacts with members, subscribers, and other stakeholders, and to furnish the expansion of online services and access. The OHS was awarded a 2015 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant in support of this project.

Extensive research has been conducted to determine the best method of online delivery for *Ontario History*, the peer-reviewed scholarly journal published by the OHS since 1899. Several options are being considered in detail by the OHS Board's Ontario History Committee, with a recommendation to be made to the Board this spring. Subject indexing of *Ontario History* will be completed from 1993 to the present.

The OHS has commissioned legal counsel to issue an opinion on copyright issues associated with publishing *Ontario History* online. This information will be of great interest to OHS members who are dealing with similar copyright questions regarding their own published material.

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## GLENGARRY FENCIBLES TRUST BRINGING HISTORIC BUILDING BACK TO LIFE

NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE BUILDING  
NEEDS A NEW ROOF



Photo - Allan Macdonnell

The Bishop's House (built in 1808) sits on the Ruin of St. Raphael's Roman Catholic Church National Historic Site of Canada.

**Allan J. Macdonnell**, President, Glengarry Fencibles Trust  
**Brenda Baxter**, Director, Glengarry Fencibles Trust

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The "Fencibles" will take possession of the Bishop's House in March 2016, and will work to bring the property back to life. This house is part of the Ruin of St. Raphael's Roman Catholic Church National Historic Site of Canada (1996) and was designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 2011. It is considered to be in the top one percent—in terms of historical significance—of the province's heritage properties (Ontario Heritage Trust).

The house will be reopened as an arts and culture centre with studios, exhibit space, a catering kitchen, and a tea room overlooking the grounds. The former refectory with high ceilings will be reused for receptions and concerts. The Bishop's House will recognize the public service of Canadian pioneers associated with this National Historic Site, including Alexander Macdonnell, Ontario's first bishop, and John Sandfield Macdonald, Ontario's first premier.

The project's heritage architect is Ron Rayside of Rayside Labossière, Montreal, a firm that specializes in the adaptive and sustainable reuse of former religious buildings.

The College garden, with its stunning stone wall, laid out in 1826, is of particular heritage interest, and will be restored and opened to the public. Mark Burleton, National Capital Commission, who is in charge of the gardens at Rideau Hall, has offered to advise the Fencibles on the garden's restoration.

The renovation work for this two million dollar conservation project will be done in phases. The first phase will address immediate threats to the physical integrity of the building and preserve its architectural features.

'GLENGARRY FENCIBLES TRUST' CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Joe Stafford**, President  
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The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) has launched one of its most important youth initiatives, the Student Publishing Program. I have always believed that one of the most important roles of the OHS is to provide the youth of this province with opportunities to learn about the history of their own communities. The program's mission statement emphasizes this important role and highlights the reasons for establishing a student publishing program: "By writing about their local history, students will have an opportunity to engage with their communities and learn first-hand about the multitude of resources in their own backyard." I would also like to congratulate Daniel Dishaw, our Communications and Outreach Coordinator, for his excellent work in implementing the program.

Daraius Bharucha, a history teacher at Bill Crothers Secondary School, and recipient of the Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Teaching, has assumed a leadership role by agreeing to pilot the program. In fact, the entire History Department has agreed to participate. I would especially like to thank the following teachers for their involvement in the program: Lora Gillies, Laura Cipolla, Ryan Kent, and Kyle McNiven. As a result of their commitment, approximately 160 students will be researching the history of their own communities. They will be accessing the resources of the various historical societies, museums, and archives in their region. This is an excellent opportunity to receive valuable feedback from both the teachers and the students about the program, and to determine if any improvements are necessary before inviting other schools from across the province to participate.

I would also like to congratulate Professor Michael Bliss Ph.D. on his 2016 induction into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will be held on April 14, 2016, at the Hamilton Convention Centre. As the preeminent medical historian of his era, Michael Bliss has brought the history of Canadian medical research and health care achievements to readers around the world. Professor Bliss is also a long-time member of the Ontario Historical Society, often donating both his time and resources to various OHS projects. In 2000, Professor Bliss submitted a paper and delivered a lecture ("Ontarians Who Have Changed the World: Banting and Osler") to the Society's Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario's History symposium. I want to thank Dr. Bliss for his many contributions to the field of Canadian medical history, and for all of the support he has offered the Ontario Historical Society over the years. Congratulations, Professor Bliss.

On Wednesday, February 17, I had the pleasure of representing the OHS at the Ontario Heritage Trust's celebration of Heritage Week, which



Photo - Kathy Grant

Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) President Nikki Clarke and Ontario Historical Society Communications and Outreach Coordinator Daniel Dishaw attended the Ontario Liberal Party Caucus's Black History Month Reception at Queen's Park. Premier Kathleen Wynne delivered a speech celebrating Ontario's new Anti-Racism Directorate and a new proclamation set forth by the government to officially recognize Black History Month on the twentieth anniversary of its celebration in Ontario. As President of the OBHS, Nikki Clarke was presented with a framed copy of the proclamation, pictured above.

took place at the Faculty of Health Sciences at Queen's University. The Kingston Museum of Health Care also participated, providing me with the opportunity to learn more about this fascinating museum. A wide-range of educational programs are offered through the museum, including "Health Care in Early Civilizations", which involves grade four and grade five students creating their own sculptures modeled on ancient Greek temple offerings, and "WWI: The Dirty Details of Disease", which invites grade ten students to act as detectives, examining historical artifacts provided by the museum. The Kingston Museum also hosts exhibitions and lectures that are open to the public. One of the museum's directors, Peter Milliken, the former Speaker of the House of Commons, attended the Ontario Heritage Trust's event and spoke very highly of the museum. I encourage all OHS members to visit this unique and intriguing institution.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff of the Ontario Historical Society for all of their hard work. I would also like to thank all of our members and affiliated organizations for their continued efforts to preserve the heritage of Ontario, in particular the history of their local communities—a history that students from across Ontario will be encouraged to explore through the OHS Student Publishing Program.

## STATUE OF A PETUN-WYANDOT WOMAN

**Charles Garrad**  
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On Monday, August 24, two events of interest to Ontario Archaeological Society (OAS) and Ontario Historical Society members occurred at the Simcoe County Museum near Barrie. The first was the formal opening of the Natural Resources Gallery, which further adds to the First Nations collections of the Museum.



Photo - Charles Garrad

The Woman of the Corn statue sits in a garden outside the museum.

The second was the ribbon cutting and opening of the Kenneth E. Jobe Sensory Garden, the central feature of which is this bronze statue of a Petun-Wyandot woman holding an ear of corn. She has become known as The Woman of the Corn. Some time ago, Kenneth E. Jobe donated funds to create a statue or life-size bust of a Petun-Wyandot woman. This was superbly done in bronze by sculptor Marlene Hilton Moore, of nearby Hillsdale, whose work is meticulously researched and executed.

The statue of the Petun-Wyandot woman was placed in the gardens outside the museum. Speakers at the

Photo - Philip Jackman



Long-time OHS Volunteer and Executive Director of the Silvershoe Historical Society (SSHS) Janie Cooper-Wilson delivered a speech at the Orillia Museum of Art and History (OMAH) in February as part of their monthly "History Speakers" event. Cooper-Wilson recently received the 2015-16 OMAH History Award, presented by the Mayor of Orillia, Steve Clarke. The award recognizes her work as a driving force in the restoration process at Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church National Historic Site. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that this historic Canadian

landmark is properly preserved for future generations. As the Executive Director of the SSHS, Cooper-Wilson has also been instrumental in the restoration and designation of the Bethel-Union Pioneer Cemetery in Clearview Township. The OHS would like to congratulate Janie Cooper-Wilson on her recent recognition, and thank her for the years of hard work she has dedicated to preserving and protecting Ontario's history. Cooper-Wilson also received the OHS Carnochan Award in 2013.



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Rob Leverty**, Executive Director  
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I am pleased to report that the OHS Board of Directors incorporated two more not-for-profit corporations on December 21, 2015. Congratulations to Heritage Port Stanley and Middlesex Centre Archives!

In 2015, the OHS incorporated nine not-for-profit historical organizations in total: two in northern Ontario, two in eastern Ontario, one in central Ontario, three in southwestern Ontario, and one in Toronto. Since 2009, the OHS has incorporated 77 new historical organizations through affiliation with the Society; 95% of these groups are based outside of the City of Toronto.

Established in 2008, the OHS Insurance Program remains very popular with the Society's members. In 2015, the OHS held 27 insurance consultations with historical organizations and witnessed a 16.2% growth from the previous year in the number of new insurance policies issued to member organizations across Ontario.

As of December 31, 2015, there are 115 historical organizations that have Directors and Officers Liability Insurance policies underwritten at a limit of \$2 million each. There are 113 organizations that have General Liability Insurance policies with liability limits of at least \$2 million, with some up to \$5 million, and 44 organizations have purchased coverage for contents and property.

So much of the OHS's mandate is now fulfilled by our dedicated volunteers who donate their time and skills assisting in the implementation of our programs. In 2011, I started tracking their annual donated hours. In 2014, our volunteers donated over 10,450 hours. I recently reported to our auditor that in 2015 the Society's volunteers donated approximately 10,750 hours of time to the OHS in support of its activities.

Thanks to all of you who participated late last year in the Government of Ontario's initiative to develop a new Cultural Strategy. OHS Directors, staff, and members participated in many of the Town Hall Meetings held across the province.

In the OHS Submission to the Government of Ontario, the Society made several important recommendations. I would like to highlight two very important recommendations that the OHS made to the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport:

1) "Since the mid-1990s, governments at the municipal, provincial, and federal level have continually divested or offloaded heritage responsibilities onto local volunteer organizations. Many historical assets were deliberately neglected or threatened with demolition. Grassroots not-for-profit groups were forced to incorporate in order to take on more and more of the stewardship and related responsibilities that come with preserving and maintaining our heritage infrastructure. It is the volunteers associated with these historical organizations that are now restoring our train stations, preserving our lighthouses, protecting our archival documents, repairing our cemeteries, and protecting our natural heritage. They are all doing so with less and less government support.

Any new Culture Strategy for Ontario must address a serious heritage infrastructure deficit that Ontario's heritage not-for-profit organizations have had to inherit. As part of any new Culture Strategy for Ontario, the OHS recommends that an Ontario Heritage Infrastructure Fund be created to assist grassroots, community organizations in the restoration and maintenance of these valuable heritage assets.

This heritage infrastructure grant would help with repairing roofs,



Photo - Daniel Dishaw

OHS Executive Director Rob Leverty poses for a photo with the new Member of Parliament for Willowdale, Ali Ehsassi, at the Annual OHS Heritage Day Reception at historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale.

conducting green energy upgrades, mitigating the impacts of extreme weather, improving accessibility for persons with disabilities, or general maintenance. These are small amounts of money that would not cause a financial burden to any government. It should be designed specifically for not-for-profit organizations that have incorporated in order to assume the ownership and responsibility of restoring and maintaining provincial heritage assets. The OHS believes that the return from this type of heritage infrastructure investment would be invaluable in the promotion and protection of heritage in Ontario."

2) "Government funding to heritage organizations was both cut and frozen in the mid-1990s. For example, funding for the Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) has been reduced. The HODG program is a statutory-based initiative designed to promote public awareness of Ontario's rich and diverse heritage. The program provides our grassroots historical organizations, located throughout the province, with a portion of their annual operating support (maximum grant reduced from \$3,000 to \$1,500).

On May 24, 2012, at a meeting with the Hon. Michael Chan, then Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, the OHS stressed that the HODG program was so important to our member organizations that the Society was willing to administer it on behalf of the Province of Ontario if his Ministry was no longer willing to.

The OHS recommends that the HODG program be maintained and expanded so that new historical organizations incorporated through the OHS are able to apply, and that more funds are available for grassroots, community based organizations each year."

If your organization participates in the HODG program, it is very important that your voice be heard. Please take the time to visit and/or write your local Member of Provincial Parliament and send me a copy of your letter outlining why this grant is important to your organization and your local community.

If you would like to read the Society's submission in its entirety, please contact us via email and we will be happy to forward you a copy.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has made a charitable donation to our new roof project for John McKenzie House. I am very pleased to report that, in partnership with the City of Toronto, work will begin this spring to replace the old and decaying asphalt shingles presently on the main house and coach house with a new slate roof. When the historic John McKenzie House was built in 1913, a beautiful slate roof was installed. We are thrilled that the roof will now be restored to its original condition. 34 Parkview Avenue is going to look magnificent. Needless to say, many other exterior and interior projects remain on our infrastructure wish list.

## 'OHS REACH' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

The OHS membership survey conducted in December 2015 was very successful, receiving individual and institutional responses from all across the province. The data collected is being reviewed and analyzed, and will be shared in aggregate with members and heritage sector colleagues. The OHS sends a sincere thank you to everyone who participated! Your very thoughtful comments, compliments, suggestions, and ideas are highly valuable to the OHS, and will help the Society enhance its programs and services to better serve its members, and broaden its role as an advising organization within Ontario's heritage community.

In January 2016, OHS Reach concluded its series of stakeholder consultations that were conducted across Ontario, in person and by phone. The OHS was delighted to meet with and discuss the needs of OHS affiliate and member groups, authors and historians, peer organizations, educators, students, archivists, librarians, museum professionals, and many other groups and individuals. Again, the OHS would like to thank all those who participated for your time and hospitality.

A consultant, Kim Pittaway, has been engaged to undertake a review of the Society's human resources deployment, and to update the OHS strategic plan.

Over 130 OHS publications have been digitized, on topics including accessibility, genealogy, food and drink, education, Black history, and First Nations peoples. These are to be made available in the Society's planned online e-book store.

Exciting things are to come, including planning for computer infrastructure upgrades and the expansion of our online services.

Just announced: OHS Reach will present a series of three webinars with OurDigitalWorld on "Project Management for Digitization Programs" on March 23, 30, and April 6, 2016. Please check the OHS website for registration details. A webinar on information technology management for heritage organizations is also in development for this spring. Stay tuned!



## CEMETERY NEWS

**Marjorie Stuart**  
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Norfolk County has installed an interpretive display at the site of the Norfolk County Poor House Cemetery. The display tells of the trials and tribulations of those that resided there. The poor house was established in 1868 and closed in 1961. Over the years, the cemetery was neglected, and so attempts to restore or salvage the grounds—sometimes known as Infirmary Farm Cemetery or Industrial Farm Cemetery—were carried out. The Norfolk Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society worked with the County to ensure that those buried there were not forgotten. They identified 218 known residents who were buried in the cemetery but the name of each resident interned may never be known. The cemetery received a heritage designation in 2007. This is a registered cemetery.

Brian Winter is long-time OHS member, donor, and subscriber to *Ontario History*. He is also a retired archivist for the Town of Whitby. A few years ago, Brian submitted a history of the Methodist Episcopal Cemetery in Brooklin, Ontario, and, as a result, the cemetery was designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 2013 as the Brooklin Pioneer Cemetery. It is now registered with the government of Ontario! The cemetery was established by the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1847 and remained in use until 1884. The Township declared the cemetery officially closed and it was forgotten until 1990, when the cemetery was rediscovered. The Town of Whitby purchased the cemetery in 1997. A commemorative plaque for the site has been proposed.

The Town of Haldimand, at the request of Oneida United Church, has designated Gore Cemetery under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The cemetery near Hagersville was established in 1832. It is one of the earliest cemeteries in the area and is still active. This is a registered cemetery.

Our readers are reminded to watch for official notices in their local newspapers. These could be Ontario Cemetery Closure Notices, road widening, transmission line installations, etc—anything that could impact a cemetery. A call or email to the OHS would be gratefully appreciated.

## BARRY PENHALE'S ONTARIO

### A TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND JOHN CHRISTIE HOLLAND (1882–1954)

**Barry Penhale**  
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I believe in heroes and anticipate opportunities to introduce some of them in future installments of the *Bulletin*. On the heels of Black History Month, I have chosen to acquaint our readers with a gentleman who left some big shoes to fill—John Christie Holland. My delving into his remarkable life story led me to discover that his ancestors arrived in North America in 1792, along with other captured Africans. John Holland's ancestors were from a village along the west coast of Africa. Their next home was to be on a Maryland plantation where John Holland's grandparents met and married. His father, Tom, described as a man of unusual stature, escaped slavery and arrived in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1860 in the company of his brother William, both of whom had adopted the Holland name from their former master.

The Ontario of John Holland's time found African-Canadians largely excluded from mainstream institutions. With employment for a man of colour extremely limited, John Holland and many others found little available to them other than working as railway porters. John worked as a porter for thirty-three years, rising through the ranks to become head porter with the Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo Railway (TH&B) eventually attaining the position of Private Car Attendant, the highest rank possible for a Black man of his era. Throughout those years, John Holland studied theology and steadfastly held to his belief that one day he would be a minister with his own church. At forty-two years of age he was ordained as a minister of the African Methodist Episcopal United Church. It was a red-letter day for Holland and the congregation of Stewart Memorial Church (as it would soon be known).

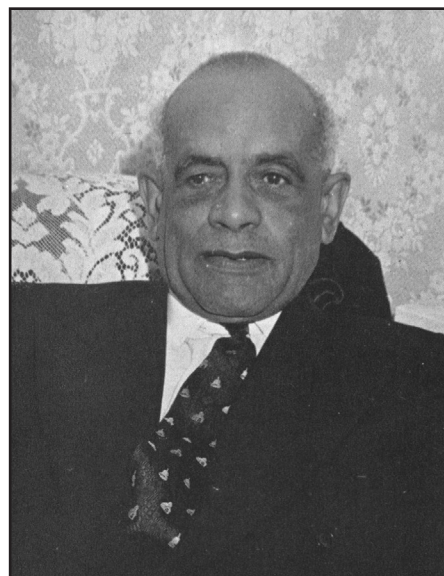
Once Reverend Holland had a pulpit, he availed himself of every opportunity to assist Black Hamiltonians confronted with the colour-bar issues of the day. A person for whom this writer has enormous respect, Wilma Morrison, personally experienced racial barriers that existed when she was growing up in Hamilton. Fortunately, she was also exposed to the welcoming style of Reverend Holland and recalls how Stewart Memorial Church became the “in” place, noted for overflowing crowds. In historian Adrienne Shadd's exceptionally thorough book, *The Journey from Tollgate to Parkway*, Morrison remembers how John Holland would accompany Black men to the steel factories in the late 1930s and early 1940s. His interventions on their behalf proved successful and led to their being hired despite commonplace “No Negroes Need Apply” policies. Any examination of Reverend Holland's active role in the Hamilton of his day speaks of a soft-spoken, modest individual who fought tirelessly for the principles that guided his life. It was widely reported that when he was proclaimed Hamilton's Citizen of the Year on January 4, 1954 (the choice was unanimous), John Holland cited the recognition as a tribute to his people and their strides towards equality.

When The Reverend Holland died on June 22, 1954, the loss of one of Hamilton's favourite sons was felt deeply across the city and beyond. The memorial services witnessed record attendance. In the foreword to Jessie L.

Beattie's biography of John Holland, published in 1956, Norman Rawson wrote, “The great church was filled to the doors. The humble, the poor, the rich, the socially elite, the politically famous were all there and sorrow was written on every face. We had all lost a beloved friend.”

The annual John C. Holland Awards—established in 1996 as part of the city of Hamilton Sesquicentennial—pay tribute to Reverend Holland and the principles he fought for. Credit must go to the Hamilton Black History Committee, chaired by the dedicated Evelyn Myrie, who came to Hamilton in 1989 to become a consultant for the Status of Women, Canada. Ms. Myrie and her fellow committee members organize this gala event—now in its twenty-first year—booking keynote speakers of prominence, and top-notch musical performers. A tally to date indicates 150 award recipients, seventy-

seven youth recipients, and six youth scholarships valued at \$110,000—quite an achievement, and a lasting tribute to a true Canadian hero. Some very recognizable names are among the past award winners, including the Honourable Lincoln Alexander; world-class sprinter and Olympian, Ray Lewis; retired McMaster University professor, Dr. Gary Warner; renowned entertainer, Jackie Washington; human rights activist, Dennis Scott; best-selling author, Lawrence Hill; and our dear friend, Wilma Morrison of Niagara Falls, preserver of Black history par excellence. Each has admirably followed in the footsteps of the Reverend John Christie Holland. No mean feat!



The Reverend John Christie Holland



Photo - Clik Clik Event Photography

At the Ontario Black History Society's Annual Black History Month Kick-off Brunch and Reception on January 31, two of the Ontario Historical Society's most dedicated volunteers, Barry Penhale and Jane Gibson, received the Ontario Black History Society's Harriet Tubman Award for Commitment to a Purpose. Jane and Barry have long been identified with racial equality and human rights causes. The OHS would like to congratulate Barry and Jane on receiving this well-deserved honour!



## MUSEUM NEWS

**Dr. John Carter**  
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In the late 1980s, Stephen Bayley, former Director of the Coran Foundation's Museum of Design, boldly predicted that, "commerce and culture are going to become one of the great cultural experiences of the 20th century. So you have museums becoming more commercial, shops becoming more intelligent and cultural." Thirty years later, Karen VandenBrink's article (below) outlines the kind of seamless integration that Bayley projected.

I would like to congratulate Susan Hughes, Project Manager for the City of Toronto's Archaeological Management Plan, as well as the City of Toronto's Heritage Preservation Services team. Working with the cultural heritage consultancy firm ASI, Ms. Hughes and members of the Heritage Preservation Services team were recently awarded the prestigious Conservation and Heritage Management Award, presented annually by the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA). This award recognizes the excellence of Toronto's Archaeological Management Plan. The plan was created to identify land developments that have the potential to impact archaeological sites, and to establish planning procedures, policies, and protocols for conserving the city's archaeological record.

Joan Johnston, the former long-time Curator of the Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum in Martintown, and former OMA Councillor and Board Member of the Ontario Heritage Trust, has moved from Cornwall to live with her family in Montreal. All the best to Joan.



Photo - Ben Thomas

Former OHS Board Member and current Project Manager for the City of Toronto's Archaeological Management Plan, Susan Hughes accepts an award from the Archaeological Institute of America on behalf of the City of Toronto's Heritage Preservation Services team and Toronto-based archaeological and heritage services firm, Archaeological Services Inc. (ASI). Congratulations, Susan, ASI, and the City of Toronto's Heritage Preservation Services team!

Condolences to Dr. Chris Castle and her family on the death of her mother, Frances Castle. Fran started as an educational guide at Black Creek Pioneer Village in 1965. After many years of dedicated service, Fran rose to the position of Interpretation Coordinator before her retirement.

In February, Windsor's Mayor Drew Dilkens cut the ribbon to officially open the new Chimczuk Museum. It will operate as a satellite site of Windsor's Community Museum, and is located at 401 Riverside Drive. Make sure you visit this wonderful museum the next time you are in Windsor.

## MUSEUM IN A MALL: THE CITY OF WATERLOO MUSEUM

**Karen VandenBrink**, Manager  
The City of Waterloo Museum

When Quebec-based development company Ivanhoe Cambridge embarked upon the redevelopment of its Conestoga Mall in the north end of Waterloo, many were surprised to hear that it would include an integrated heritage museum—the first of its kind in Canada. While this might be somewhat unconventional for a shopping centre, Ivanhoe Cambridge strives to think outside of the box in order to bring maximum benefit to its retailers and properties.



Photo courtesy of the City of Waterloo Museum

The Museum has two access entrances; one located off the food court and a second exterior entrance.

In 2007, an opportunity to create an innovative cultural partnership presented itself to the developer and the City of Waterloo.

Ivanhoe Cambridge planned for a major renovation of the mall and approached the City to consider offering a more innovative use for the 4,000 square feet promised as "community space." Several options were discussed, and Ivanhoe Cambridge supported the idea of a museum space to house the City's collection. For ten years the collection had remained in storage, allowing for very limited public viewings. The new partners then set out to determine the best plan of action for executing this initiative. By consulting

with similar property management collaborators, the redevelopment process was fine-tuned to suit the needs of the community, the property owner, and the municipality.

The City of Waterloo Museum at Conestoga Mall opened in 2009. This exciting new venue is consistent with Waterloo's dedication to innovation and creativity. This cultural initiative engages our visitors in a non-traditional setting to showcase the community's cultural assets. The project not only involves the community, it also develops a partnership between private enterprise and municipal heritage services.



Photo courtesy of the City of Waterloo Museum

The Museum presents three exhibitions annually to encourage repeat visits by mall users. The exhibition space is approximately 1,200 square feet.

The museum has been open for six years and a great deal of work has been done to meet the community museum standards of the province. Museum staff have also been engaged in the preparation of policy recommendations for municipal council meetings. In cooperation with TCI Management Consultants, the museum is also working towards the development of a Museum & Archival Collections Strategy. The plan will help to project future storage needs, programming opportunities, and the overall sustainability of the museum. The strategy will be informed by research initiatives, including feedback from over 350 individuals and groups across the country.

The museum now has three full-time staff and hosts three exhibitions annually. Without the support and dedication of the City of Waterloo and Ivanhoe Cambridge, this unique and inspiring institution would not have been possible. The museum serves as a model for property developers and municipalities everywhere; cultural institutions and corporate interests can often intersect, providing both parties, and the community, with added benefits.



## ACROSS THE PROVINCE

### Dorothy Duncan

Former OHS Executive Director

Welcome to the New Year—2016! Many historical societies, heritage groups, and museums with Scottish roots celebrated in January with lunches, dinners and programs to honour two of our Scottish heroes—John Macdonald and Robbie Burns. The Orillia Museum of Art and History hosted a packed Macdonald Dinner, with Dan Needles as the guest speaker. We were saddened to learn of the death of his father, William “Bill” Needles, on January 12, just 10 days after his 97th birthday. Bill was an original Stratford Festival company member.

The Simcoe County Historical Association has just opened nominations for the annual Andrew Hunter Award contest. The award, which includes a \$500 prize, goes to the best undergraduate historical essay received by April 18, 2016. For more information, please call 705-734-9808.

The Glengarry Historical Society is developing a new programme to recognize local historians (post-1960). Recognized historians will have their names recorded on the wall at the Glengarry County Archives in Alexandria. What a great idea! To learn more, please contact Robin Flockton at flockton23@outlook.com.

The Petun Artifact Repository in Collingwood is now closed. For details and access to the research and records of the Petun Research Institute, please contact Charles Garrad at 416-223-2752 or charles.garrad@sympatico.ca

Congratulations to the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) on hosting such a successful event on January 31. The OBHS held their annual Black History Month Kick-off Brunch and Reception, which sold out to the tune of 600 tickets! Congratulations to Nikki Clarke, who was recently elected as the new president of the OBHS.

The Jack Munroe Historical Society of Elk City (JMHSE) is pleased to announce the recipient of their Order of the North award for 2015. The honour is posthumously awarded to Jack Englehart. JMHSE President Terry Fiset states that “the qualities exhibited by Jacof Englehart make him the ideal individual to receive the second Order of the North to be awarded by our Society.” Nominations for the 2016 Order of the North award are open from now until July 1, 2016. Please contact the JMHSE for more details: 705-678-2237; elklake@ntl.sympatico.ca.

The newly formed Lucy Maud Montgomery Society aims to purchase the Norval Presbyterian Manse from the adjoining church to create a Literacy Centre and Museum about L.M. Montgomery. Kathy Gastle will serve as the organization’s first chair.

The Stiver Mill Farmers’ Market in Unionville is now fundraising for Phase 2 of the Stiver Mill Cultural Centre and year-round farmers’ market. For more information, please contact Bob Stiver at Stivermillmarket@hotmail.com

The Video Archivist, Len Gould, from the Society for International Hockey Research is searching for 1970s hockey footage from the OHA, EHL, WHL, NAHL, WHA, and NHL. Contact him at Mess3499@yahoo.com if you can help.

Friends of the John R. Park Homestead in Essex County have a newsletter filled with upcoming events in March—the Maple Festival, Maple March Break, Maple Moon, and a Fundraising Dinner, as well as their Annual Yard Sale on May 1 and a series of basket-weaving workshops. They are looking for participants and assistance with these events. For more information, please contact Kris Ives, 519-738-2029 or jrph@erca.org.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 20: “The Toronto Park Lots: The Founding of a City” with Wendy Smith, hosted by the Toronto Branch U.E.L. at 2 p.m. at their headquarters. For more details, please call 416-489-1783.

- March 27: Join Ian Wheal for his heritage walking tour “CN Feeder Line Network to the TTC—Toronto’s Rejection of a CN Proposal”. The tour is free of charge and will begin at 1:30 p.m. The group will meet at Old Weston Road & St. Clair Avenue West. For more information, please contact Ian at 416-593-2656.

- March 30: “The Aerodromes of Toronto: DeLessep to Downsview and Beyond” with Robert Galway at 7:30 p.m. at Northern District Library, Toronto. The event will be hosted by the North Toronto Historical Society. For more details, please call 416-481-6622.

- April 4: The Collingwood and District Historical Society (CDHS) will be celebrating the first 40 years of the Society. Guest speaker: Rob Leverty, Executive Director of The Ontario Historical Society. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Leisure Time Club, Collingwood.

- April 9: The Owen Sound Emancipation Festival presents “Grey County Black History Event with Northern Terminus Journal Vol. 13 Release”. The event, which will take place at the Grey Roots Museum & Archives, is devoted to celebrating Black history and the Underground Railroad. The \$25 ticket includes lunch and refreshments! For more details or to register for this event, please visit the Grey Roots museum website, [www.greyroots.com](http://www.greyroots.com) (see ‘Events’).

- April 13: “The Street Arab—British Home Children” with Sandra Joyce, at 7:30 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown, hosted by the Esquesing Historical Society. For more information, please call 905-877-8251.

- April 16: “Did one of your ancestors go to Australia?” with Pat Smith at 10:30 a.m. at the Upper Ottawa Valley Genealogical Group Library in Pembroke. For more information about this event, please call 613-638-7862.

- April 28: “Virgil and Homer—What History?” with author David Hemmings. For more information, please visit <http://stcatharineshistory.wordpress.com>

- May 14: The Huron County Historical Society will be offering a bus tour, “Trek to Guelph: Gateway to the Huron Tract.” The tour will begin in Goderich, paying visits to the Guelph Civic Museum, Market Square, John McCare House, and lunch at Historic Albion Hotel. Gil Stelter will speak on John Galt. The \$69 ticket includes lunch and refreshments. To register, please contact David Armstrong at 519-524-1156, davidarmstrong@hurontel.on.ca.

- May 28–29: Doors Open Toronto, 2016. The Ontario Historical Society will be participating in our sixteenth year with Doors Open Toronto, offering tours at historic John McKenzie House (JMH) in Willowdale. As a special feature of this year’s Doors Open, the JMH Coach House will house an exhibition by local artist Stefan Nicoloff. Though Doors Open Toronto will run from May 28 to May 29, Stefan’s exhibit will be open to the Public from Wednesday, May 25 to Wednesday, June 1. More information below...

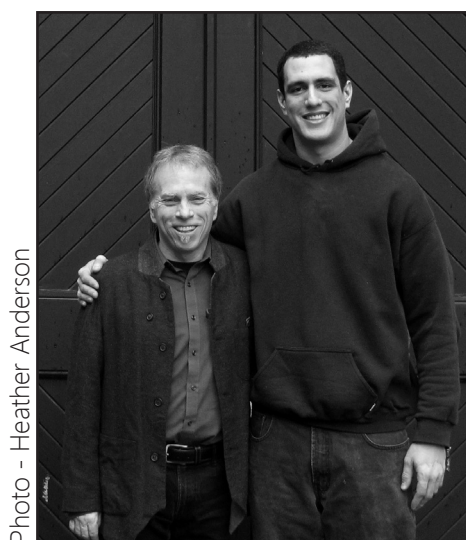


Photo - Heather Anderson

For Doors Open 2016, the OHS will have a special guest exhibition at John McKenzie House (JMH). Stefan Nicoloff, pictured here with OHS Executive Director Rob Leverty, brings his “Gilded Wings” exhibit to the John McKenzie House Coach House (1918). The following is a short description of Stefan’s exhibit:

“The process of writing history, referred to as historiography, is dependent upon the relationship between the writer (historian), the archive (images, objects, stories,

and music) and previous interpretations of the past. Drawing on the discourses of post-structuralism and aesthetic theory, Gilded Wings seeks to unpack the role that contemporary art plays in helping shape new or alternative histories that challenge more dominant narratives. In doing so, Gilded Wings explores the relationships found between identities, histories, and geographies, prompting discussions surrounding how the emergence of new or repressed histories contributes to the malleability of identity.”

Stefan Nicoloff ([@svnicoloff](https://twitter.com/svnicoloff)) is a curator, educator, and arts entrepreneur. His interests and curatorial focus surround notions of memory, identity, and place.

- May 28: “Tales from the Hastings Woods: Exploring Centre Hastings” a day-long guided bus tour sponsored by the Hastings County Historical Society. For more information, please call 613-961-7091.

- June 4: “Looking Back in Time” heritage bus tour and luncheon hosted by Lanark County Genealogical Society with guest speaker and author Sandra Joyce. For more information, please call 613-267-2232.

## UPCOMING WEBINARS

Thinking of digitizing your local history collection?

Attend the upcoming 3-Part OHS Webinar with OurDigitalWorld!

### “Project Management for Digitization Programs”

**Part 1.** Wed. March 23, 11a.m. –Planning your Project

**Part 2.** Wed. March 30, 11a.m. –Implementing your Project

**Part 3.** Wed. April 6, 11a.m. –Bringing your Project Online

Register today on the OHS website: [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

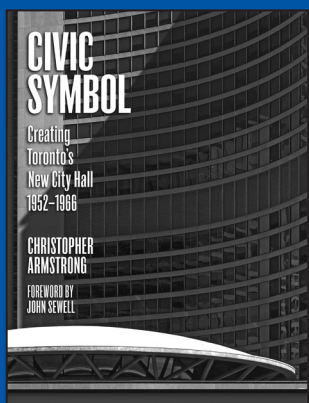


## FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio  
ccomac5702@rogers.com

At the time of writing, it is not yet mid-February, and, despite the overall mildness of this winter, most of us are undoubtedly in a “let it be done” mood. Yet there are plenty of upcoming celebrations that should help us take heart until spring finally arrives, despite Wiarton Willy’s refusal to declare its imminence. Mid-February includes Valentine’s Day (chocolate makes everything better) and Family Day [the 15th], which is also—and was originally—Heritage Day. By coincidence, that Monday also happens to be National Flag of Canada Day, as it is officially known—and unofficially mostly unknown—marking the anniversary of the Maple Leaf flag’s first raising on Parliament Hill fifty-one years ago. And before and after those history-based celebrations, there are always good books to hunker down with to wait until the first crocus pops up...

## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY HISTORIES

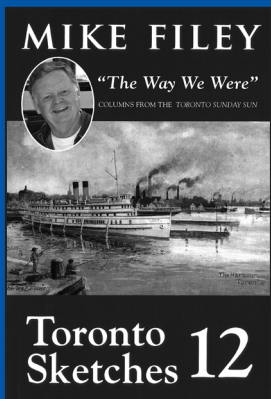


### *Civic Symbol: Creating Toronto's New City Hall 1952-1966*

CHRISTOPHER ARMSTRONG

Toronto: U of T Press, 2014  
Hardcover; 203 pp. \$32.47  
[www.utppublishing.com](http://www.utppublishing.com)

Historian and Professor Emeritus (York University) Christopher Armstrong has published a long list of scholarly studies that consider both resource and urban development in Ontario. His discussion of four pivotal years in the history of Toronto’s “new” City Hall, a modernist civic landmark that almost didn’t get built and has been alternately lauded and reviled since its 1965 opening, is as much a tale about the city and its elite as about its architectural symbol. Much of the story is about the fascinating contortions, controversies, and compromises that took place “behind the curtains,” commencing with Mayor Nathan Phillips, who planted the seed, the adjudication of the international design competition, and the consequent, somewhat fraught, selection of the now-iconic, then almost frightening, futuristic submission by Finnish architect Viljo Revell. Armstrong sketches the conservative traditionalist perspective of the city’s dominant class, hence its political leadership, at mid-twentieth-century. Yet the curved twin towers of the new city hall, protectively encircling the “clamshell” council chambers at their feet, in their strange “newness,” represented the beginnings of Toronto’s own trajectory of sociocultural change as the conformist fifties gave way to the radical sixties. In his usual manner, Armstrong does not avoid casting a critical eye over the machinations at the period’s municipal governments and their mayoral leaders, despite the book’s celebratory purpose. Meticulously researched and carefully illustrated with architectural plans and contemporary photographs, this book sheds much light on the reasons why Torontonians persist in their love-hate relationship with their now more than half-century old new city hall.



### *Toronto Sketches 12: The Way We Were*

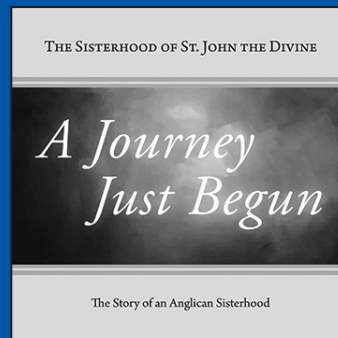
MIKE FILEY

Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2015  
Paperback; 214 pp. \$19.99  
[www.dundurn.com](http://www.dundurn.com)

Most Torontonians, and many Ontarians outside the GTA (‘there be dragons’!), know Mike Filey’s name and his weekly Toronto Sunday Sun column, “The Way We Were.” The long-time journalist and Toronto history

buff has published historical sketches about the city since 1973. His quick, interesting, and often amusing recounting of people, events, places, and things—especially transportation-related things, such as streetcars, buses, boats, trains, and airplanes—have had a steady readership.

Filey has also curated a selection of those columns in 12 volumes, titled *Toronto Sketches*. No. 12, reviewed here, which contains 67 columns and many corresponding photographs. Filey is remarkably talented at chronicling fascinating “firsts,” such as “Our First Remembrance;” “First TTC Rider Paid 7c Fare;” “Toronto’s Union Station, Then and Now;” “When Vaudeville Ruled (Loews Theatre);” “Take the Time to Go to Jail” (Don Jail); and “Toronto’s First Grey Cup”. There are also a few “seconds” (“Toronto’s Second Subway;” “Gargoyles Get a Second Life”) and a number of “worsts” (“Toronto’s Worst Disaster;” “1944 Storm Still the Worst”). All in all, this eclectic compilation contains much in the way of Toronto facts on any number of subjects, and makes for informative and fun reading.



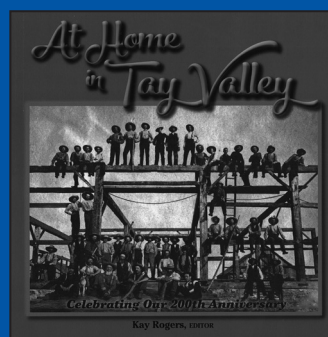
### *A Journey Just Begun: The Story of an Anglican Sisterhood*

EDS. JANE CHRISTMAS & SISTER  
CONSTANCE JOANNA GEFVERT

Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2015  
Paperback; 217 pp. \$26.99  
[www.dundurn.com](http://www.dundurn.com)

Also a collective and celebratory production, in this instance by a community of Anglican sisters, *A Journey Just Begun* honours the 130-year history of the only indigenous Anglican women’s order in Canada. There is an introductory “stage-setting” section in which the chronology of the Sisterhood’s story is clearly laid out, including the developments leading to its 1884 establishment in Toronto. The editors have deftly framed the book by tracing the administrative and spiritual leadership of each of its six Reverend Mothers. They describe what these women accomplished during their particular period, but also effectively link these “internal” histories with the larger historic changes taking place outside the convent walls. A number of the Sisters contribute their own thoughts about various elements of their community.

This is not simply a collective biography of The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, but also a sociocultural history that sheds light on religious practices, the daily lives and duties of women within their monastic community, and their vital contributions in community service, such as running orphanages, assisting at homes for unwed mothers, and, most famously, founding what is now the St. John’s Rehabilitation Clinic at Sunnybrook Hospital. Also vital to understanding the sisterhood’s evolution, both continuities and changes over time, is its contextualization in the material and natural worlds, with Part II focussing on the “sacred space” consisting of their living, working, and leisure rooms, as well as their chapels, guest house (still accommodating visitors), and “gardens and grounds”. Finally, the Sisters’ own contributions of original photographs and artwork, poetry and other writings, music, and recipes provide a personal glimpse into the impressive earthly as well as spiritual traits that they embody.



### *At Home in Tay Valley: Celebrating Our 200th Anniversary*

KAY ROGERS

Burnstown: Burnstown Publishing,  
2015 - Paperback; 247 pp.  
[www.burnstown.com](http://www.burnstown.com)

This celebratory publication, as the title indicates, was planned and published to mark the 200th anniversary of what started in a key agricultural region of the province. What makes this book stand out is its collective effort. While local historian and writer Kay Rogers is to be applauded for initiating the project and editing the submissions from Valley residents, it is the residents themselves who, by presenting their individual stories, reminiscences, photographs, and personal perspectives as long-time dwellers, really bring the book to life. As Rogers’ own succinct preface tells us, “The township’s geology laid the groundwork for human activity on the land,” from the time when the Omâmiwinini (Algonquin) were the sole inhabitants, to the arrival of white “settlers” in 1816. Its inauguration as the “Perth Military Settlement”, through further 19th century immigration



waves (Scottish, military, and Irish) and considerable socioeconomic changes as Ontario gradually became the most populous and industrial of the provinces, concluding in the present, as tourists continue to be enticed by the region’s beautiful lakes and rivers. The book is organized both thematically and chronologically. It begins with discussions about the land itself, its geological formation (Jim Stone), the origins of its place names (Karen Prytula), and its history and heritage as traced through the archaeological records (Brenda Kennett). These brief contextual pieces are carefully written and referenced.

A separate and somewhat longer section presents a thorough and insightful consideration of Omàmiwinini history prior to white “settlement”, as First Nations-“settler” relations and communities developed along the Ottawa River through the 19th and early 20th centuries, to what the author, Algonquin historian Paula Sherman, describes as their current “resurgence”. These contextual pieces are as valuable to scholars as to the general reader. There are plentiful maps and historic photographs throughout. A model for local and celebratory histories, this book also has one of the best covers I’ve seen, a black and white photograph of men raising a barn in 1886. Net proceeds will fund the excellent cause of an annual history scholarship for a student accepted into any post-secondary program “who has demonstrated a keen interest in history.”

‘GLENGARRY FENCIBLES TRUST’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

Glengarry Fencibles Trust is a locally based volunteer organization and a registered charity, incorporated by the Ontario Historical Society in 2010 to own, preserve, and rehabilitate this historic property. Volunteers have been working for the conservation and sustainable reuse of this house since 2004. This effort, leading to the acquisition of the property in August 2015, was covered by the *OHS Bulletin* in several reports during the past year.

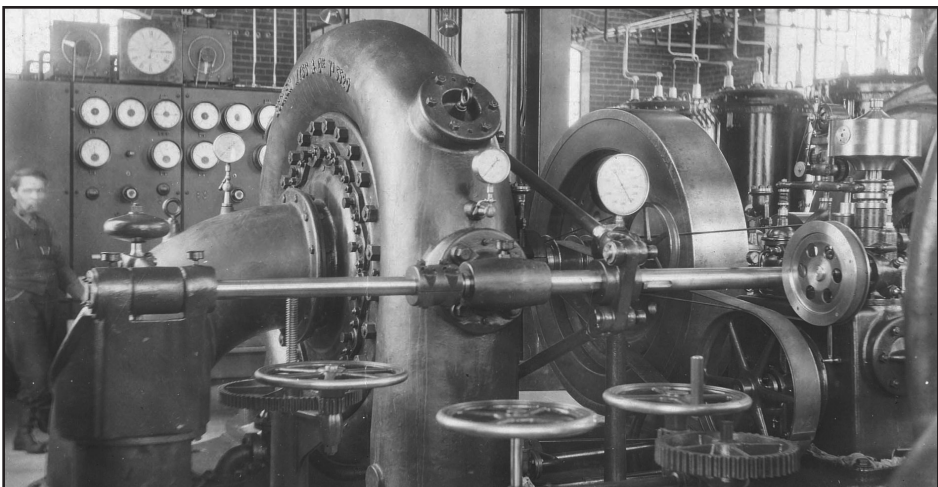
This project requires capital for matching program funding to ensure that the house and grounds, an important and unique part of Ontario’s early history, are preserved for the enjoyment and educational benefit of future generations. If you would like to help or would like more information, please contact the Fencibles at [info@bishopshouse.ca](mailto:info@bishopshouse.ca). All donations will receive an official receipt for income tax purposes. Visit our website for more information and updates: [www.bishopshouse.ca/support](http://www.bishopshouse.ca/support) or visit our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/thebishopshouse](http://www.facebook.com/thebishopshouse).

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100 YEARS OF HYDROELECTRIC POWER  
IN BEAVER VALLEY


Barry Penhale  
[barry@naturalheritagebooks.com](mailto:barry@naturalheritagebooks.com)

The release of the Special 100th Anniversary Edition book, *Building The Eugenia Power House and Hydro Dam 1915*, recognizes a major industrial landmark located within Ontario’s scenic Beaver Valley in Grey County. The publication and launch of the commemorative volume—initiatives of the Eugenia District Community Improvement Association—were highlights of ongoing celebrations during 2015, encouraged and supported by the Municipality of Grey Highlands, and in cooperation with Ontario Power Generation (OPG). The historic Power House, known today as the Eugenia Generating Station, is owned and operated off-site by OPG. Three generators continue to supply hydroelectricity to the area. The surrounding property is under the management of Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, and attracts hikers and naturalists annually. On Saturday, July 4, 2015, during the 12th Annual Eugenia Gold Rush Festival, the plant was opened to the public and more than five hundred visitors toured the historic site.



The main turbine in commercial operation at Eugenia (November, 1915)

Construction of the original Eugenia Power House represented an astounding amount of hard work and innovative technology for the time. The challenges and achievements related to the project are well documented from cover to cover in this commemorative hardcover publication compiled and designed by Eugenia resident, Barbara Pearn. Many outstanding and historically important images tell the story of the monumental effort involved in bringing electric power to a unique place dominated by the rugged Niagara Escarpment. Fittingly, the commemorative volume was introduced to a sizeable audience at a celebratory function on November 13, 2015, held at the Beaver Valley Cidery near Kimberley; the timing almost matched the date that the original switch was activated—November 18, 1915. Among the special guests in attendance were numerous past and present hydro personnel, a number of whom had worked at the Eugenia Generating Station over the years. Their memories and anecdotes added greatly to an occasion that reminded all present of the importance of Ontario’s abundant industrial heritage.



**Robert J. Burns, Ph.D.**  
Heritage Resources Consultant

- Historical Research Analysis
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Types of membership in the Society are: Individual \$40; Youth \$20; Senior \$35; Institution/Organization

\$45; Life \$500.  
Membership is open to all individuals and societies interested in the history of Ontario. The *OHS Bulletin* is sent free of charge to all members of the OHS. The OHS’s biannual scholarly journal, *Ontario History*, is available to members for an additional \$21 per year; member organizations, institutions and non-member individuals for \$31.50; and to non-member organizations and institutions for \$42. Membership inquiries should be directed to Christina Perfetto at [members@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:members@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

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