

OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 199

JULY 2016

JOHN MCKENZIE HOUSE SLATE ROOF RESTORATION PROJECT



Using a drone-mounted video camera, the Ontario Historical Society has been documenting the progress of the roof project in its final stages. Using time-lapse video, aerial photography, interviews with the heritage architects, and interviews with the construction team, the OHS will promote the importance of heritage conservation and the organizations that make these valuable projects possible. This photo was taken on June 5, 2016 (two months from the start of construction).

Daniel Dishaw, Communications & Outreach Coordinator
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It was in 1992 that the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) stepped in and rescued John McKenzie House from demolition. Twenty-four years later, this historic house is getting a new slate roof! Since the initial restoration project began in August 1993, the OHS has invested countless hours of staff time and its financial resources to help restore, maintain, and operate this valuable piece of Ontario's heritage. The Society signed a 25-year lease with the City of Toronto in 1993 to use the building as its offices.

From 2009–2013, the OHS worked with the City of Toronto and the Ontario Heritage Trust to secure a heritage conservation easement for all the buildings (main house, coach house, stable, and milk house) and surrounding property, guaranteeing their protection for generations to come.

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OHS AGM & HONOURS AND AWARDS CEREMONY HELD JUNE 11



Photo - Boris Melev

2015 OHS award winners. Front: (left to right) Joan Roberts; Elise Harding-Davis; Councillor Rita Ossington (Tecumseh); Bill Warnick and Sylvia Weaver (Port Maitland H.A.); Linda Kearns, Tammy Adkin, and Bev Dietrich (Guelph Museums); and Charles Garrad. Back: Ryan O'Connor; Diane Turbide (from Penguin Canada, accepting for Wab Kinew and Sheila Watt-Cloutier); Janet De Vos (Port Maitland H.A.); Owen Temby; Craig Heron; Hugh Grant; and H&A Chair Ian Radforth.

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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. 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.

Our 2015 Honours and Awards Program recognized an impressively diverse group of organizations, individuals, topics, and publications. Environmental history, labour history, women's history, economic history, Ontario archaeology, First Nations history, African-Canadian history, and a variety of local histories from across the province were all represented among this year's award winners. The 2015 OHS Honours and Awards winners are:

AWARDS FOR ORGANIZATIONS

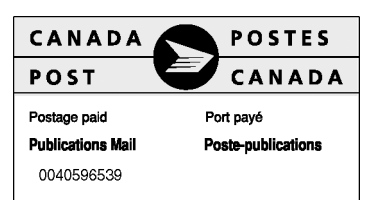
Scadding Award of Excellence: **Wolfe Island Historical Society**

President's Award: **Ivanhoé Cambridge**

Dorothy Duncan Award: **Port Maitland "On the Grand" Historical Association**

'AWARD WINNERS' CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...

The Ontario Historical Society
34 Parkview Avenue
Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2
CANADA



PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Joe Stafford, Past President

The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) has been very active in promoting an increased awareness of the importance of conserving the history and heritage of Ontario. As president, I represented the OHS at one of several local “town hall meetings” organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport as part of the process to develop a cultural strategy for the province. The OHS also organized a province-wide campaign to encourage its members to attend these meetings to remind the government that heritage is a critical part of our culture and must be central to any provincial cultural strategy. The OHS staff also participated in the consultation process by providing feedback on key parts of the draft cultural strategy.

The OHS has also taken steps to improve its funding situation, which is critical to the future success of the Society. On May 18, 2016, OHS Executive Director Rob Leverty, then First Vice-President Caroline Di Cocco, and I met with then Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport Hon. Michael Coteau* to continue making a case for an increase in government funding to the OHS. We provided information to the Minister regarding the work of the OHS, and emphasized that our funding was cut and has been frozen for the past twenty years. In order to stress that our funding was inadequate, we highlighted the fact that at least two of our not-for-profit member organizations receive significantly larger core annual grants from their municipalities than the OHS receives from the province. We indicated what our funding would be in 2016 had we received increases at the rate of inflation since 1996. We again tried to convey that it would be in everyone’s interest to move from an annual grant application process, to a three- or five-year funding cycle.

We also told Minister Coteau that the Heritage Operating Development Grant (HODG) was vital to our grassroots historical organizations. We presented to Minister Coteau a file of recent letters in support of HODG sent to the OHS by our member organizations from across the province. We felt the meeting was constructive and it is our hope that there will be some positive outcome for the OHS in the future.

As mentioned in my last report, the OHS has launched its Student Publishing Program, which is currently being piloted at an Ontario secondary school. We look forward to receiving feedback regarding possible improvements. I strongly encourage all our affiliated organizations to contact their local high schools and encourage them to participate. Since the program revolves around local history, the students will be visiting their local museums, historical societies, and archives. This is a great opportunity



Photo - Boris Melev

Past President Joe Stafford led the 128th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society. After two years as President, Joe will now serve the Society as Past President, welcoming Caroline Di Cocco (pictured at the top of page 3) as the new President of the OHS. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication, Joe.

for our member organizations to reach out to the youth of this province. Please see our website for more information about the program. We look forward to your participation!

On behalf of the Ontario Historical Society I would also like to send our best wishes and deepest sympathies to the family of Fred Armstrong, who recently passed away at age 90. Dr. Armstrong was OHS President from 1978 to 1980. He leaves a legacy of deep commitment and respect for the history of all Ontarians.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers and member organizations and institutions across the province for their dedication in both preserving and promoting Ontario’s vibrant heritage. I would also like to thank the staff of the Ontario Historical Society and my fellow members of the Board of Directors for all their hard work. At our Annual General Meeting on June 11th, Caroline Di Cocco was elected President and I will now serve the Society as Past President on the Board. It has been an honour to serve as your President for the past two years. I hope you all have a great summer!

**Hon. Michael Coteau has since been reassigned as Minister of Children and Youth Services. The new Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport is Hon. Eleanor McMahon. Welcome, Minister McMahon.*

‘AWARD WINNERS’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

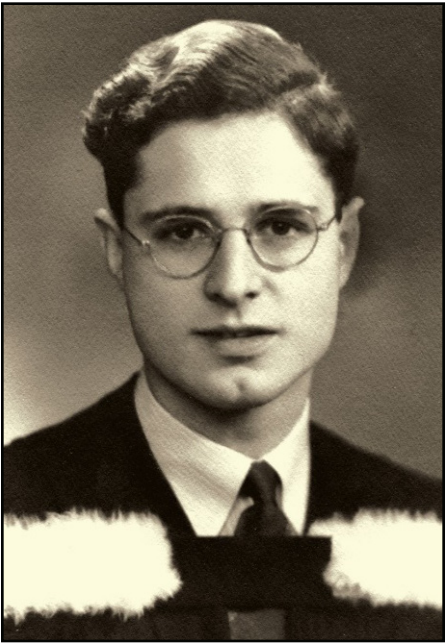
Museum Award of Excellence in Community Programming: **Guelph Museums**
B. Napier Simpson Jr. Award: **Town of Tecumseh Heritage Committee**

AWARDS FOR SERVICE

Cruikshank Gold Medal: **John Rae**
Carnochan Award: **Charles Garrad**
Carnochan Award: **Elise Harding-Davis**

AWARDS FOR AUTHORS

Joseph Brant Award: **Wab Kinew**
The Reason You Walk
Fred Landon Award: **Craig Heron**
Lunch-Bucket Lives: Remaking the Workers’ City
Alison Prentice Award: **Joan M. Roberts**
Cracked: How Phone Operators Took On Canada’s Largest Corporation...And Won!
Donald Grant Creighton Award: **Hugh Grant**
W.A. Mackintosh: The Life of a Canadian Economist
J.J. Talman Award: **Ryan O’Connor**
The First Green Wave: Pollution Probe and the Origins of Environmental Activism in Ontario
Riddell Award: **Owen Temby and Ryan O’Connor**
“Property, Technology, and Environmental Policy: The Politics of Acid Rain in Ontario, 1978-1985.”
The Journal of Policy History
Huguenot Society of Canada Award: **Sheila Watt-Cloutier**
The Right to Be Cold: One Woman’s Story of Protecting Her Culture, The Arctic and the Whole Planet



Celebrating the Life of Former OHS President Fred Armstrong, 1926–2016

Fred reflected his passion for history in all aspects of his life. After receiving his PhD at the University of Toronto, he taught at the University of Western Ontario from 1963 to 1991, specializing in nineteenth-century Canadian political history and urbanization. Throughout his life, he published many historical works and received several awards for his research, including: Fellow of the Royal Historical Society; the American Society for State and Local History’s Certificate of

Commendation, and The Award of Merit; Western’s President’s Medal; and the Ontario Historical Society’s Cruikshank Gold Medal. He was also a member of the London and Middlesex Historical Society. He is survived by his wife, his children, and his granddaughter.

Fred Armstrong asked that donations be made to the Ontario Historical Society upon his passing. Thank you to the following donors for fulfilling his wish:

Douglas Elliott, Donna and Mike Costa, Colin Read and Syndey Stagg, Lisa Berger, Richard Ivey, Helen and Ivar Liepins, Bryna Warshawsky, Toronto Public Health CDC, Carolyn Gay, University of Western Ontario, Rob Leverty, Stephen Thomas, and Cheryl O’Dette.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rob Leverty, Executive Director
rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

I am pleased to report that since January 2016, the OHS Board of Directors has already voted to incorporate six new not-for-profit corporations through affiliation with the Society. Congratulations to The Friends of Wesleyville Village, Ontario; Elgin Historical Society; Friends of Historic Bovaird House; Lakehead Transportation Museum Society; Green Machinery History and Heritage; and Friends of Grain Elevators!

The Society held a successful 128th Annual General Meeting on June 11, 2016, at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in Toronto. Brad Rudachyk, OHS Past President and Chair of the 2015–2016 Nominations Committee, delivered the nominations report. The proposed slate for the 2016–2017 Board of Directors was unanimously adopted. Congratulations to Caroline Di Cocco, who was elected OHS President.

Janie Cooper-Wilson, who lives in Elmvale, Simcoe County, was elected to serve as a new member of the OHS Board of Directors. Since 2013, Janie has been an active member of the Oro African Church Steering Committee and, in partnership with the local municipality, has donated her time and skills to save this National Historic Site from further deterioration. Janie was recently the recipient of the 2015-2016 Orillia Museum of Arts & History Historic Reconstruction Award for her work to restore the Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church. As a founding member of the SilverShoe Historical Society, Cooper-Wilson has been instrumental in the restoration and heritage designation of the Bethel-Union Pioneer Cemetery in Clearview Township. She received the OHS Carnochan Award in 2013. Welcome, Janie!

At the 128th AGM, Brad Rudachyk and Jim Fortin stepped down from the Board after completing their terms as OHS Directors. I want to thank both Brad and Jim for all their years of outstanding and dedicated volunteer service to the Society.

Our keynote address was given by Margaret Sault of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation (MNCFN). Margaret is the former Research Director, MNCFN, and was elected last November to the MNCFN Council. She spoke of the importance of history and research to indigenous peoples. Thank you, Margaret, for sharing your invaluable insights and experiences with us.

'ROOF PROJECT' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

We are now very excited to report that in partnership with the City of Toronto, the roof of the John McKenzie House will be restored to its original condition with a new slate roof. An asphalt roof, installed decades ago to replace the original slate roof, had decayed beyond repair. In an effort to further restore the house to its original condition, the OHS has partnered with the City of Toronto to install a new slate roof designed to match the original, built in 1913.

ABOUT SLATE ROOF CONSTRUCTION

The slate for this roof comes from a quarry in Quebec. Each individual shingle is expertly cut using a hammer and chisel. Since each piece is hand-wrought—and therefore slightly unique in thickness—the roofers have to sort the slate by size before they begin laying the slate for installation.

With a roof that can last over 100 years, typical galvanized steel roofing components cannot be used, as they only last approximately 40 years. Instead, copper ring nails are used to nail down each shingle, while lead-coated copper is used for the chimney flashing, vent caps, and drip edges. All the work is done by hand, contributing to the uniqueness of each slate roof. Thank you to everyone who supported this exciting project. We look forward to sharing the results with you in the September edition of the *Bulletin*!



The craftsmanship involved in cutting, organizing, and laying the slate is impressive. This photo demonstrates how many end-points, slopes, angles and ridges have to be considered in designing and constructing the slate roof.



Photo - Boris Melev

OHS Executive Director Rob Leverty and new OHS President Caroline Di Cocco pose for a photo with Margaret Sault (centre) of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation after her keynote speech at the 128th AGM of the Ontario Historical Society.

After the AGM, the Society recognized fourteen individuals, organizations, and authors at our 49th OHS Honours and Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to all our winners, and thank you for working diligently to protect and promote Ontario's history. For more information about our award winners and our 2015 Annual Report, please visit the OHS website.

I would like to thank all of you who took the time to write your local MPP and send copies of your letters to me about the importance of the Heritage Operating Development Grant to your organization and community. As promised, I made sure that all the appropriate people saw your eloquent and persuasive letters. Together, we are stronger.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the restoration and preservation of John McKenzie House, headquarters of the Ontario Historical Society since 1993. Thanks to your generous donations and public support, the OHS has been able to preserve this historic property for future generations. Please read more about our new slate roof project on page 1 and visit our website to see more photos documenting this project from day one.

Thank you for your support; it remains a great honour and an incredible privilege to serve on your behalf. We hope you enjoy the rest of the summer.

ANDERSON FARM MUSEUM & HS / KICX 91.7 ANNUAL ROCK THE FARM!

The Anderson Farm Museum Heritage Society (AFMHS) and KICX 91.7 are excited to announce a new addition to their 8th Annual Rock The Farm **FREE Concert & Farmers' Market** summer series: Walden Has Talent (a showcase for youth) Wednesdays, starting at 5 p.m. from July 6 until August 24.

Their 2016 Rock The Farm lineup offers a variety of different music. Bring your own folding chairs or blankets to sit on. An assorted selection of food and refreshments are available for purchase on-site. This year, they will be hosting an Open Mic for Teen Bands. Details on www.sudburylibraries.ca.

Extended Hours for the AFMHS 10th Annual Fall Fair on Sept. 10th! They are excited to announce that this year's guests will have an additional two hours to enjoy the Fall Fair. The grounds will now remain open from 9:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Two more hours of live entertainment featuring a variety of talented local groups and musicians. Free activities, displays, and demonstrations by their 24 community partners will be set up throughout the 14-acre site. Plenty of activities and demonstrations for guests of all ages.

We hope to see you at our 10th Annual Fall Fair & 100th Anniversary of the Barn! For details, contact Gwen Doyle, CIO AFMHS at 1-705-692-3021 or Gwen.doyle@bell.net; AFMHS page: www.Walden-CAN.com.



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

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CEMETERY NEWS

Marjorie Stuart,
cemeteries@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

There have been two official notifications of Intended Declaration of burial sites. Remains were discovered when underground utility lines were being repaired on Spark Street in Ottawa. Remains were also found during construction on Britain Street in Toronto, which has been identified as the former Duchess Street Burial Ground, also known as Old Presbyterian Burying Ground. Notices of Intended Declaration or Closure are placed in local newspapers. These appear twice in a two-week period. In the case of an unregistered cemetery, a site disposition agreement is negotiated with the land owner. In the case of a registered cemetery, there is a period of 45 days to notify the Registrar of Cemeteries.

There is the right to appeal the decision related to a registered cemetery. It is impossible to monitor all local newspapers. For this reason we ask members of the public to notify The Ontario Historical Society as quickly as possible. This can be done by email to cemeteries@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca. Telephone messages can also be made to 416-226-9011 or 1-866-955-2755 (toll-free).

The Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO), an Ontario Government-designated administrative authority was officially established in January 2016. The BAO will oversee the operations of all aspects of funeral operations for registered or licensed cemeteries under the *Funeral, Burial & Cremation Services Act*, 2002.

Carey Smith is the newly appointed Registrar for the Bereavement Authority of Ontario. Nancy Watkins is the new Registrar of Burial Sites, War Graves, Abandoned Cemeteries and Cemetery Closures, Ministry of

Government Services. OHS has recently held very productive and positive meetings with both Registrars.

The Niagara Peninsula Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society is actively transcribing cemeteries and is eager for volunteers. Contact Joe Wilson, Cemetery Coordinator at niagaracemeteries@ogs.on.ca.

Efforts are being made to raise funds for the preservation of Canton United Church and Canton Cemetery. Land for the church and cemetery was donated by James and Susan Hawkins in 1806. Susan Hawkins was the first burial in 1811. Other burials of interest were Charles Currelly, founder of the Royal Ontario Museum and a Civil War veteran, and Sgt Edward Edwin Dodd, one of 29 Canadian soldiers who received the Congressional Medal of Honor. His grave is marked with a plaque and American flag.

A previously unknown or perhaps lost aboriginal burial site may have been rediscovered in Ottawa. A Carleton University professor recently found an article in the Ottawa Citizen of June 26, 1852, that reported human remains had been found during construction at Wellington and Bay streets. It was believed that this was a communal aboriginal cemetery that was originally discovered in 1843. The bones have vanished and it is now impossible to identify their origin or age but they could be centuries old. One theory is that they were later deposited in crevices along the cliffs overlooking the Chaudière Falls, a site that was considered sacred by the Algonquin people.

Robin McKee has sent us a list of free tours offered at Hamilton Cemetery. The popular tours sponsored by the City of Hamilton are lively and informative. They start early in May and run almost weekly until 12 November. For more information, contact robinmckee3@gmail.com or 905-544-9559.

In 1995 the OHS established a Cemetery Defense Fund to protect Ontario's cemeteries from development. We are continuing the search for abandoned and unregistered or unlicensed burial grounds. Lists are submitted by county and district. Recently, lists for Manitoulin, Middlesex and Muskoka counties were completed for submission. We welcome any information about abandoned or little known sites. There are an estimated 1,500 unprotected burial grounds and sites in Ontario that need to be protected.

ACROSS THE PROVINCE

Dorothy Duncan
Former OHS Executive Director

Congratulations to the City of Belleville, the County of Hastings, and the Hastings County Historical Society on the opening of the Community Archives in April at the John M. Parrott Art Gallery in the Belleville Public Library, 254 Pinnacle Street, Belleville. The Historical Society has also moved its offices to the second floor of the same building. For more information, call 613-967-3304.

Many communities are planning to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday next year, including the Town of Latchford, which will celebrate its 110th birthday on July 15, 2017, the date of its incorporation. The Burlington Historical Society is planning a book about the Burlington Waterfront and is calling for volunteers to research, write, edit, and search for pictures for the July 2017 project. If you have an interest in participating, email info@burlingtonhistorical.ca and add Canada 150 to the subject line.

The Silver-Wood branch of the Wellington-Halton District Women's Institute has chosen Dorothy Duncan as their Canadian Author, and will be presenting a display about her and her books at the Country Heritage Park, Tremaine Road in Milton for the summer. For more information, please call 1-888-307-3276.

On April 4th, 2016, the Collingwood and District Historical Society (CDHS) held its Annual General Meeting and celebrated its 40th Anniversary. Special guest Robert Leverty, Executive Director of the OHS, delivered the keynote speech on "Coming Full Circle - Learning from the Past". Mr. Leverty presented a commemorative plaque to Treasurer and Membership Secretary Joan Miller and Vice President Glenn Copeland. Life Memberships were presented to four of the original founding members of the CDHS, Judy and Peter Perry, and John and Ralph Sneyd.

Congratulations to the Curve Lake Pow Wow Committee, who recently received the Samuel Armour Award from the Peterborough Historical Society. This was their 62nd annual Pow Wow, an event that attracted over 7,000 members and brought Aboriginal communities and non-Aboriginal communities together to celebrate ancestors and sacred traditions with the theme "Honouring Our Residential School Survivors".

The OPP Museum in Orillia is planning its 6th Annual Pedal and Run for the Past on Friday, September 9, at St. Marie Among the Hurons, Midland, featuring the routes and trails of Tiny and Tay townships and the

towns of Midland and Penetanguishene. To learn more or to get involved, please call 705-330-4178.

The Fryfogel Tavern Museum in Shakespeare, built in 1845, is in the process of restoring a pioneer kitchen in the basement. They are also developing an arboretum on the property, which is the first Canadian arboretum to be internationally accredited. For more information, contact Reginald White at glore174@sympatico.ca.

The York Pioneer & Historical Society is seeking volunteers for the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017 as well as the 150th anniversary of their Society in 2019. Also, they are looking to fill the roles of Vice-President for the Society and Editor for *The York Pioneer Journal*. Please contact yorkpioneers@gmail.com if you are interested.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 23: The Burk's Falls and District Historical Society will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 162nd Battalion (WWI) at their Heritage Day on Saturday, July 23, 2016, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The celebration will take place at Watt Century Farm House Heritage Centre, 827 Chetwynd Road, Burk's Falls. This event will be hosted in partnership with the Strong Agricultural Society Heritage Centre. All are welcome! For more information, please visit burksfallsdistricthistorialsociety.com.

- August 12: The Honourable Alexander Leslie, Chief of Clan Leslie, will visit the Leslie Log House from 12.30 to 2 p.m. He will also tour the Museums of Mississauga and the Streetsville Historical Society. For information and to register, please call 905-814-5958 or 905-826-7198.

- September 12: BBQ and Corn Roast at Markham Museum, 6:30 p.m. Please bring plates, cutlery, and a \$10 donation. For details, call 905-294-4576.

- September 17: Pioneer Festival at Black Creek Pioneer Village featuring old time sausage-making, a quilt auction, and much more! For more information, please call 416-736-1733.

- September 17: "The Teston Road Ossuary" with archaeologist Dr. Ronald Williamson, sponsored by the Richmond Hill Central Library in conjunction with the Mary Lou Griffin Local History Collection at the Library, beginning at 10:30 a.m. To register, call 905-884-9288, ext. 233.

- October 1: Pioneer Day 2016 is the 50th anniversary of the Chapter of the Twenty, Pennsylvania German Folklore Society, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the grounds of the Jordan Museum of the Twenty. Call 905-562-5242.

- October 29: "An Affair to Remember" sponsored by the Aurora Historical Society, with dinner and dancing at the King Valley Golf Club. To order tickets, please call 905-727-8991.

MUSEUM MILESTONES

Dr. John Carter,
drjohncarter@bell.net

Ontario is lucky to have such a diversity of museums, many of which have been featured in this column over the past two years. In this issue, Katie Huddleston, who is the Museum and Heritage Coordinator for the Town of New Tecumseth, describes how the Museum on the Boyne (in Alliston) was created and details its continued evolution as an important cultural resource in this community (see article below).

Congratulations to chair Rowena Cooper and all the other members of the North Grenville Municipal Heritage Committee. They recently held a very popular day-long workshop in Kemptville for neighbouring heritage committees, museums, historic sites, colleges and universities, and the public from Eastern Ontario. Over 65 registrants participated in sessions dealing with the restoration, renewal, and re-use of built heritage resources. This type of professional development opportunity should become a model for other regional groups throughout the province.

It is always encouraging to report activities related to Ontario's history. Two events celebrating the 1837 and 1838 Upper Canadian Rebellions were recently offered. Heritage St. Clair sponsored a plaque unveiling event in Sombra, Ontario, commemorating the St. Clair Raids of June 1838. The St. Clair Raids are one of only a few of the 14 incursions associated with the 1838 Rebellion that have not been recognized with a provincial heritage plaque.

Grey Roots Museum in Owen Sound and the Ontario Historical Society co-sponsored the "Remembrances of Rebellion" seminar. Speakers Chris Raible, Dorothy Duncan, and John Carter gave presentations related to various aspects of the 1837 & 1838 rebellions. Of special interest was the display of five original prisoners' boxes, some of the last remaining pieces of physical evidence of the 1837 rebellion. These artifacts are rarely exhibited to the public and provided a bonus to those in attendance. Thank you to the private owners and museums who lent these important artifacts for use in this temporary display.



Photo - Boris Melev

Chair of the OHS Honours and Awards Committee Ian Radforth and OHS First Vice President Pam Cain (far right) present the 2015 Museum Award of Excellence to the representatives of Guelph Museums. From Guelph Museums (left to right) are Bev Dietrich, Curator; Tammy Adkin, Museum Manager; and Linda Kearns, In Flanders Fields at 100 Task Force Chair.

Plaudits to the Guelph Civic Museum. The museum received national coverage in *The Globe & Mail* on April 30, 2016. Nathalie Atkin's article "Before Chanel, there was Lucile" reported on an exhibition about early fashion designer and Titanic survivor, Lady Duff Gordon. Regarded as one of England's first couturières, Lucy Sutherland actually grew up in Guelph before moving to England to find fortune and fame. The "Lucile: Fashion. Titanic. Scandal." exhibit runs until November 13, 2016, at the Guelph Civic Museum, 52 Norfolk Street, Guelph, Ontario. The impressive work of Guelph Museums was honoured with an OHS Award (the 2015 OHS Museum Award of Excellence) to recognize their exceptional programming for the 100th anniversary of the poem "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae. Congratulations, Guelph Museums!

The activities mentioned above show that selected stories from Ontario's past make excellent topics for interesting, educational exhibits and events for local museums and heritage groups to offer. I look forward to hearing from you about how your organization plans to use local historical resources and artifacts in upcoming displays and programming.

MUSEUM ON THE BOYNE ADAPTING TO BROADER POST-AMALGAMATION MANDATE

Katie Huddleston, Museum & Heritage Coordinator
Town of New Tecumseth

Simcoe County is home to several amazing community museums, one of which is the Museum on the Boyne. Nestled in the trees of Riverdale Park in the Town of New Tecumseth, the Museum on the Boyne is a community museum that represents the five municipalities of South Simcoe.

The museum began with a group of concerned citizens advocating for a local museum. Council offered the group a vacant agricultural building in Riverdale Park, and the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum (SSPM) was born. The museum opened in 1960. The McDonald log cabin was also donated to the SSPM in 1960 by Salada-Shiriff-Horsey Ltd. The cabin was disassembled piece by piece and rebuilt on site.

Due to lack of funding and staff, the museum was only open occasionally in the summer. The power was shut off the rest of the year. Without power, the harsh environmental conditions worsened the condition of the already fragile artifacts. The museum became Alliston's Centennial project in 1991



Photo - Museum on the Boyne

The Museum building was originally built in 1914. It was repurposed in the 1950s and has served the community as a museum since.

and, thanks to dedicated volunteers and town employees, the museum was rejuvenated as a community asset.

When Alliston amalgamated with Tottenham, Beeton, and New Tecumseth in 1991, the Jeffery's barn was donated to the museum. A barn-raising ceremony took place on July 1 to commemorate Alliston's Centennial and Canada Day. The barn raising took approximately five hours to complete. The barn is made entirely from white pine.

In 1991, the Town of New Tecumseth assumed ownership over the SSPM and continues to operate the museum today. After a brief closure for renovations and upgrades, the museum reopened on October 6, 1996, and has remained a year-round facility since. It was not until January 1, 2005, that the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum was renamed the Museum on the Boyne to better reflect the museum's mandate.

Thanks to amalgamation, the museum now represents five municipalities; Adjala-Tosorontio, Bradford-West Gwillimbury, Essa, Innisfil, and New Tecumseth. The museum has a mandate to represent and recognize the history of all five municipalities from settlement to present day. With such an expanded mandate, the staff of two struggle to create a sense of ownership between the communities and the museum.

Currently the Museum on the Boyne is one of four museums in Ontario working through the Engaging Your Community Tool Kit with the assistance of the Ontario Museums Association. The goal of this project is to increase awareness of the museum across the five municipalities. This initiative should increase the number of annual visitors, program participants, local artifact donations, and financial supporters. The museum is halfway through the process; our next step is to begin the Community Consultation.

In other exciting news, 2016 marks the 25th anniversary of the amalgamation of New Tecumseth and the resurgence of the museum. A lot has changed at the museum in the past 25 years, and there is still more to be done. The museum now adheres to the standards set out by the Province and is governed by Town Council and an Advisory Committee. A new entrance exhibit highlighting each municipality with infographic panels and a large map is currently being installed. A new inventory of artifacts is underway with updated photographs and condition reports for all pieces. The museum has also introduced iPads with interactive software to better engage visitors.

The Museum on the Boyne is determined to grow with the many different communities that it is dedicated to representing. For general information about the Museum on the Boyne, visit www.motb.ca or check out www.sumac.info for other great museums and galleries in Simcoe County.

SINGING THE PRAISES OF CHINESE-CANADIAN
ICON JEAN (WONG TOY JIN) LUMB

Barry Penhale
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I shall always recall late June of 1961 when the trillium province was experiencing a scorching heat wave. My second daughter, Nora, a sister to Nancy, arrived on June 30 at a time when those living in Northumberland County were desperate for any relief from the stifling humidity.

Photo - David Wong



Former Toronto mayor David Crombie and the Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy with the plaque honouring Jean Lumb, unveiled at Diversity Park in Old Chinatown on Saturday, April 23, 2016.

Nora’s pending arrival had postponed my trip to Richmond, Virginia, scheduled for the end of June following my appointment as the first Executive Director of the Christian Children’s Fund (CCF) of Canada. When I finally arrived in that historic southern city I was quickly schooled by the experts at CCF international headquarters. My principal host was a charming gentleman with an interesting background as a missionary to China. Some months later, after returning home to work from the Canadian branch of CCF, I was pleased to welcome that very same individual who had provided me with the royal treatment south of the border in Virginia. I now had the opportunity to dish out the best in northern hospitality and what better way to do so than to introduce my visitor to one of Toronto’s finest Chinatown restaurants, the Kwong Chow.

The Chinese shops and restaurants at that time were a magnet, drawing Torontonians as well as out-of-towners to Old Chinatown. The Lichee Garden, Sai Woo Restaurant, Nanking Tavern, and the Kwong Chow were considered the “Big Four.” The latter opened in 1959 and was run by Doyle and Jean Lumb. Finer hosts did not exist and their graciousness was not lost on dining patrons, including prominent businessman and theatre impresario Ed Mirvish, former Toronto mayor David Crombie, and the well-known author and broadcaster Pierre Berton. In recalling the Kwong Chow, Berton was quoted as saying, “Jean was a wonderful hostess at the restaurant. She was so bubbly, alive, and gracious—she was all those things. In those days, the Kwong Chow was the best Cantonese restaurant in Toronto.”

The Kwong Chow was situated upstairs at 126 Elizabeth Street at Dundas. Perhaps my most memorable dining experience was on that occasion when I was playing host to my Virginian visitor whose vocabulary in Cantonese was both extensive and impeccable, astounding diners and staff alike. Even the kitchen emptied out, or so it seemed, as the entire staff wanted to get a close look at my companion. Incidentally, he found everything to his liking, much to everyone’s delight.

Despite the Kwong Chow’s considerable workload and the raising of six children, Jean Lumb somehow found both the time and the energy to establish provincial business and restaurant associations. Among numerous other achievements, Jean was appointed to the Board of Governors of Women’s College Hospital, the first Chinese-Canadian woman in that role. Further recognition came in 1976 when she received Canada’s highest honour, the Order of Canada. During 1977 she was to be presented with the Queen’s Silver Jubilee Medal and the Governor General’s Award. A review of accomplishments and honours serves to remind us that Jean Lumb also fulfilled an appointment as a Citizenship Court Judge. This was especially significant, since Jean played such a pivotal role in bringing about meaningful change to our immigration laws. Jean was stripped of her Canadian citizenship when she married her Chinese husband in 1939.

Undoubtedly Jean’s greatest single accomplishment had resulted from her participation in a 1957 meeting with then Prime Minister John Diefenbaker. Jean Lumb, as the only woman in a delegation of more than thirty Chinese-Canadians, was asked by the PM to sit by his side and translate the key presenter’s address. Her role proved invaluable in bringing about major changes in the immigration law that until then separated Chinese families. From that moment forward Jean became the go-to person in the Chinese-Canadian community of her day. By the time of her passing in 2002, Jean Lumb’s monumental humanitarian work had benefited not only Chinese-Canadians, but also the entire country.

Though we lost Jean Lumb some fourteen years ago she is not forgotten. Annual awards in her name are presented by the Jean Lumb Foundation (administered by her daughter Arlene Chan) to support the higher education aspirations of Asian-Canadian students. How fitting that a 2015 Award winner, Ms. Jessica Chan, was emcee at the unveiling of an Ontario Heritage Trust Plaque in honour of Jean Lumb, C.M. on April 23, 2016. That the site was but a good stone’s throw away from the former Kwong Chow location was not lost on the many in attendance, including those with lengthy ties to Toronto’s Old Chinatown. Former Toronto mayor and MP David Crombie, a longtime friend to the Lumb family and appreciative Kwong Chow patron, drew on his storehouse of memories during the reception at City Hall rotunda. *OHS Bulletin* readers can see the historic plaque by visiting Diversity Gardens (Old Chinatown) at Elizabeth Street and Foster Place.



The Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior (CLLS) has been granted money for waterfront remediation of several lighthouses on Lake Superior by the Ontario Government’s Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund. The mandate of the CLLS is to preserve, protect, and promote the lighthouses of Lake Superior. CLLS will use these funds for watershed and shoreline improvements. This project will involve shoreline cleanups, improving trails to three lighthouses, completing dock improvements, and repairing septic tanks and outhouses. The photo above shows visitors returning to the boathouse and docks on Porphyry Island after a hike to the nearby lighthouse. Work will commence this summer on Shaganash (No. 10), Porphyry, and Trowbridge Lighthouses, which stretch east from the city of Thunder Bay.



On Saturday, May 28, and Sunday, May 29, the Ontario Historical Society participated in Doors Open Toronto 2016 at John McKenzie House. The OHS has participated in Doors Open Toronto every year since it began in 2000. Now, Doors Open events happen all over Ontario, and they are a great way to interest the public in local heritage sites! The OHS welcomed over 650 visitors. Many of our guests were members of the local Willowdale community who were interested in learning more about the history of John McKenzie House as well as our new slate roof project. Pictured here are OHS volunteers, Joy (far left) and Max (right) with OHS Membership and Public Outreach Assistant, Jessica Di Laurenzio at John McKenzie House on Sunday, May 29.

Photo - Rob Levery

BRINGING VISION TO REALITY: A PROPOSED LAKEHEAD TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

Charlie Brown, President, Buddies of the Brill Inc.
brillbuddies@gmail.com

It all started as an offhand comment during a Labour Management meeting in January 2001 between the management at Thunder Bay Transit and then President of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 966 in Thunder Bay, Charlie Brown.



Photo - Charlie Brown

One of the Brill Trolleys in storage. This trolley is painted in the livery colours (red and white) of the former Port Arthur fleet.

The topic of discussion was the purchase of new buses for the city transit fleet when management made a joke that the department should purchase some Brills instead of brand new Nova buses. It received a good laugh from management, but piqued Brown's interest. He inquired about the Brill reference and was informed there was a Brill Trolley graveyard in Richmond, BC, where a collection of the old buses had been awaiting destruction for over twenty years. Though Brill Trolleys were common across Canada until the mid-1970s, Vancouver was one of the last cities to upgrade to a more modern diesel fleet, running their Brill buses well into the 1980s.

The Brill Trolleys are particularly significant to Thunder Bay. After the Second World War, they were manufactured at the Canadian Car Foundry in Fort William. Fort William and twin city Port Arthur were amalgamated in 1970 to form Thunder Bay. Brown proposed that the transit department buy two units and restore them, one in the livery colours of Fort William and one in the colours of Port Arthur, since both cities ran the Brills on separate systems. His proposal got a good laugh. So Brown took his proposal to City Council and received \$12,000 for the project.

The restoration took a bit longer than anticipated, but was completed in 2007 and both units were showcased in Thunder Bay Transit's 115th Anniversary celebration. Since the anniversary celebration, the trolleys have been stored in the Transit Building while Brown and the Buddies of the Brill Inc. continue to seek out a permanent home for the buses.

Both units were built in Fort William and were originally sold to Saskatoon, where they ran until they were sold to Vancouver in the mid-seventies. "We call them our prodigal sons," said Brown. "They left us, but have returned." When Brown retired from Thunder Bay Transit in 2011, the city discussed selling the Brills. Brown went back to City Council and convinced the municipality to be patient as the Buddies of the Brill searched for a place to showcase the historic trolleys.

In the fall of 2015 the Buddies of the Brill incorporated as a non-profit organization through affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society (OHS). "The OHS affiliation has been a big help in bringing our profile up in the community," said Brown. Shortly after the Buddies incorporated through the OHS, Brown was asked to chair a city-sponsored Heritage Transportation Committee, which proposed to City Council last year that a Transportation Museum be created for Thunder Bay.

The Lakehead Transportation Museum Society (LTMS) was founded soon after, with the goal to build a state-of-the-art transportation museum to house the Brills and a variety of other transportation artifacts significant to the Thunder Bay area. The Buddies of the Brill are working with the Thunder Bay Railway Historical Society (also an OHS-affiliated organization), dedicated to the restoration of a CNR caboose. The Buddies are also working with a number of other organizations to restore the historic James Whalen Tug and the Via Train, both presently located in Thunder Bay's Kaministiquia River Heritage Park.

The Lakehead Transportation Society recently incorporated through affiliation with the OHS as the Buddies of the Brill and the Thunder Bay Railway Historical Society have done. Brown added that "Thunder Bay is one of Canada's largest transportation hubs. This city was built on the transportation industry and it's time we recognized that heritage with a Lakehead Transportation Museum."



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Nomination deadline: September 30, 2016



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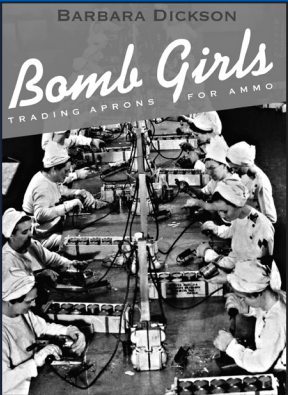
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FILLING IN THE GAPS: THE SECOND WORLD WAR



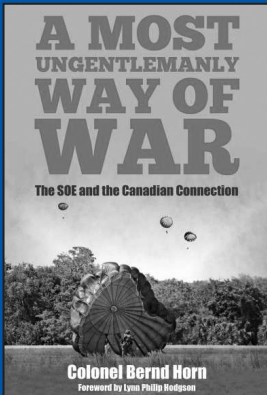
Bomb Girls: Trading Aprons
for Ammo

BARBARA DICKSON

Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2015
Paperback; 288 pp. \$26.99
www.dundurn.com

Although we have seen a number of excellent histories of late about women’s contributions in wartime, none has closely examined their crucial employment in munitions production. Barbara Dickson has performed a close search of archival materials, unpublished government documents, published contemporary newspapers and magazines—including the plant’s own newspaper, produced by its workers and often featuring their own life stories. She has also gathered their “own stories” from a number of private sources, such as personal recollections (written and oral), interviews, and photographs, all of which tell much about the work and lives of these “Bomb Girls”. Dickson recounts a thoroughly compelling story about the women who worked at the Allied War Supplies Corporation Project No. 24, more popularly known as the General Engineering Company of Canada (GECO) fuse-filling munitions factory, or simply as “Scarboro”. The largest in Canada, it was opened in 1940 in Scarborough, and would eventually employ more than 21,000 people who filled more than a quarter of a million fuses. Although the title suggests that Dickson will focus entirely on women’s work in the factory, she actually goes beyond this important subject by detailing factory operations, the daily production routine on the shop floor, administration, employee relations both with each other and with the factory owners (brothers R.M.P. and P.D.P Hamilton) and also the work of men “on the line.” Nonetheless, as the war went on and more men enlisted, the ratio of women to men became a

remarkable 9:1. The result of her impressive research is a captivating and multi-layered social history of life on the Second World War home front from the viewpoint of the women employed in difficult, often heavy, and all-too-dangerous essential production, six days each week. Testimonies from some of the women themselves, mostly housewives and single women who joined the crew from places across Canada, demonstrate their pride in contributing to the war effort in such an important way. Their testimonies also explore their growing sense of self as they became adept production workers and earned good wages, many for the first time in their lives. Ultimately what comes through in this very readable book is the fact that, despite the physical strain, the constant attentiveness required by the work, and the very real dangers inherent in munition production, these women enjoyed a camaraderie and sense of “we can do it” that often gave them as much as they gave to the job at hand.



A Most Ungentlemanly Way
of War: The SOE and the
Canadian Connection

COLONEL BERND HORN

Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2016
Paperback; 240 pp. \$19.99
www.dundurn.com

Just published in January, this book is another detailed and thorough analysis by a prolific military historian who is also a retired infantry officer. Here, Dr. Horn focuses on the SOE (Special Operations Executive), a necessarily shadowy group whose Canadian connection is generally uncharted and consequently unknown, even to many military history adherents. That said, this is a book that does not require previous knowledge of that history, as the author adeptly sets the background from the Nazi conquest of Poland through the Phoney War to the fall of France and the Scandinavian countries, emphasizing the serious lack of preparation by Great Britain and its Great War allies. Unlike Germany, in short, they had learned little from the horrific Great War experience and had taken few precautionary measures during the testy, and shockingly brief, interim peace. From that context of urgency and indecisiveness, Horn zeroes in on the SOE established by Winston Churchill, and from there, on the role of Canadians—including the one code-named “Intrepid.” The “special operations” featured infiltration of enemy lines, espionage, sabotage, and ongoing attempts to raise and assist resistance forces within occupied Europe. At the aptly named “Camp X” in Whitby, agents undertook the training that prepared them—as much as they could be prepared—for their overseas missions. The risk of death was acknowledged, but even death was preferable to falling into Gestapo hands. The SOE’s story is inherently worth telling, but it is also one of extraordinary dedication and individual and collective acts of heroism. The author’s spare, succinct telling actually underlines the dramatic, hazardous, and often grievous nature of the assignments that this group was specially created to carry out: its mandate was to “set Europe ablaze”. While in every sense a scholarly book, carefully referenced and indexed, it qualifies nonetheless as “a good read”. Remarkably, it provides the actual historical basis for the CBC series, X Company, now in its second season—yes, that is this Camp X!

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