

OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 202

MARCH 2017

OHS SYMPOSIUM HELPS UNIFY HERITAGE COMMUNITY IN THUNDER BAY

129TH OHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HONOURS & AWARDS CEREMONY

Photo - Daniel Dishaw



Forty-five individuals and twenty-four organizations and institutions attended “Making Connections” at the Thunder Bay Museum during Heritage Week. OHS Executive Director Rob Levery, Executive Assistant Heather Anderson, and Communications & Outreach Coordinator Daniel Dishaw travelled to Thunder Bay to attend the symposium and meet with OHS members from across the region.

Daniel Dishaw, Communications and Outreach Coordinator
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On Saturday, February 25, the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) co-hosted the heritage symposium “Making Connections” at the Thunder Bay Museum in Northwestern Ontario. Twenty-four historical organizations and heritage institutions from across the Thunder Bay area gathered to strengthen their network of support and learn more about exciting new preservation and restoration initiatives in their communities.

The symposium was hosted by the Thunder Bay Museum, which often serves as a hub for heritage activities and events in the City of Thunder Bay. Director and Curator of the Museum Dr. Tory Tronrud has also served as the editor of the Ontario Historical Society’s scholarly journal, *Ontario History*, since 2005 and teaches a course on Museum Studies at Lakehead University. In partnership with Dr. Tronrud and the Thunder Bay Museum, OHS Vice President Pamela Cain reached out to the growing number of heritage groups in the region and planned a day-long symposium during Heritage Week 2017. The day consisted of four workshop presentations and introductory addresses from more than twenty local organizations and institutions.

Attendees heard presentations from the Thunder Bay Public Library, Volunteer Thunder Bay, the PARO Centre, and the Ontario Historical Society.

‘OHS HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM’ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...

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JOIN US SATURDAY JUNE 10 FROM 1:00-4:00 PM FOR OUR AGM AND HONOURS & AWARDS CEREMONY IN THE YORK UNIVERSITY SENATE CHAMBER, ROOM N940, ROSS BUILDING, KEELE CAMPUS.

THE 2017 OHS AGM IS CO-SPONSORED BY THE ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO, THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT, AND FOUNDERS COLLEGE AT YORK U.

THIS YEAR’S KEYNOTE ADDRESS “SHARING THE QUEST TO PRESERVE ONTARIO’S HISTORY” WILL BE DELIVERED BY MARK EPP, MANAGER OF OUTREACH & PROMOTION, ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO.

AN OPTIONAL TOUR OF THE ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO WILL BE OFFERED TO ALL ATTENDEES BEFORE LUNCH IS SERVED AT 12:00 PM.

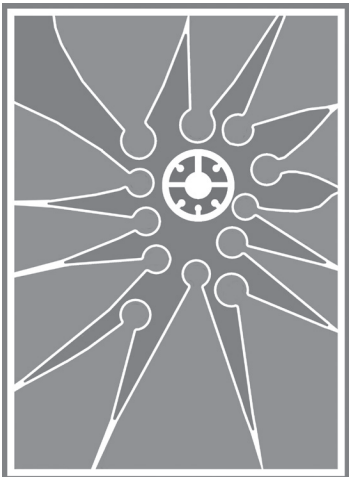
THE ONTARIO HERITAGE FAIRS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HOLDING THEIR PROVINCIAL HERITAGE FAIR FROM 10:00 AM-12:00 PM AT FOUNDERS COLLEGE. ALL OHS AGM ATTENDEES ARE INVITED TO THE FAIR.

FORMAL INVITATIONS WILL BE SENT OUT SHORTLY. RSVP TO OHS@ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY.CA -OR- 416-226-9011 BY FRIDAY, MAY 26.



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Founders College Banner

On May 5, 2016, the Ontario Historical Society attended the Ontario Heritage Fairs Association’s Toronto East Regional Heritage Fair, one of 17 regional fairs held across the province each year. Students research historical topics of their choosing and then present to a panel of judges at the fair. The finalists from each region will present their work once more at a Provincial Heritage Fair, being held this year at Founders College, York University (Keele Campus) on June 10. All OHS AGM attendees are invited to visit the fair and witness the impressive work of students from across Ontario.

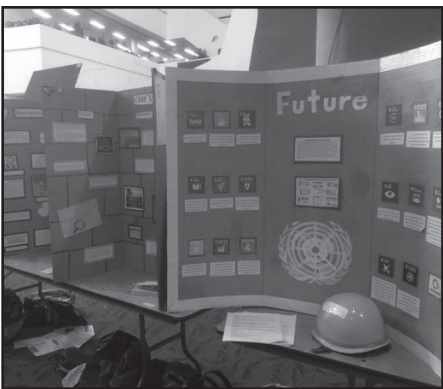


Photo - Daniel Dishaw

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PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Caroline Di Cocco, President
carolinedicocco@gmail.com

I am pleased to announce that the Ontario Historical Society has been very busy thus far in 2017. In January, the Society held its first webinar of the year, “We are All Treaty People: Ontario’s Treaties with Indigenous Peoples, Land Claims, and Reconciliation”. *Bulletin* readers can learn more about the webinar and Dr. Alison Norman’s work in the article below (bottom of page 2).

I want to take this opportunity to remind OHS members that many of our past webinar recordings are available for on-demand viewing on the Society’s website. Over the past three years, the OHS has presented webinars on twenty topics including, “Learning and Teaching Black History in Ontario” (presented by former OHS President Dr. Bryan E. Walls C.M. O. Ont. DDS and Mrs. Brittany Miles, M.Ed), “@OntarioHistory: Social Media for Heritage Organizations” (presented by Kim Pittaway), and “Access...Beyond the Ramp: Accessibility Planning for Heritage Institutions and Organizations” (presented by John Rae). I hope you are able to take advantage of this extensive resource.

The OHS attended several Black History Month events in February, including the Ontario Black History Society’s (OBHS) annual Black History Month Kickoff Brunch on January 29. The OBHS honoured long-time members and friends of the OHS Bryan and Shannon Prince with the Harriet Tubman Commitment with a Purpose Award. Congratulations to Bryan and Shannon on behalf of the Ontario Historical Society.

OHS Director and Co-Chair of the Cemeteries and Preservation Committee Janie Cooper-Wilson delivered a presentation on the Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church on February 6 in Collingwood. As a local historian and descendent of the founding community that built this historic church in the mid-19th century, Janie was a driving force behind the extensive restoration project undertaken by the Township of Oro Medonte, completed in 2016.

On February 20, the OHS welcomed members, donors, and community members to its headquarters, historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale, for a Heritage Day Reception. Thank you to everyone who attended!

The following week, three OHS staff members travelled to Thunder Bay for “Making Connections”, a heritage symposium co-hosted by the Ontario Historical Society. With attendees from 24 heritage organizations from across the Thunder Bay area, the gathering was a huge success. You can read about the symposium in greater detail on the front page of this issue.

The OHS Insurance Program remains incredibly popular with our member organizations. In 2016, the Society held 37 consultations and saw a 19.9% growth in new insurance policies issued. Since January 1, 2017, the OHS has held consultations with eight groups interested in Directors and Officers Liability, General Liability, and Property & Contents insurance.



Photo - Daniel Dishaw

At this year’s Black History Month Kickoff Brunch, the Ontario Black History Society honoured Bryan and Shannon Prince with their prestigious Harriet Tubman-Commitment with a Purpose Award. Bryan and Shannon are curators at the Buxton National Historic Site and Museum. Bryan Prince has authored many works dealing with Ontario’s Black history, including “I Came As A Stranger,” “A Shadow On The Household,” “One More River To Cross,” and “My Brother’s Keeper: African Canadians and the American Civil War.” In this photo, Bryan Prince (far left) and Shannon Prince (centre) accept the 2017 Harriet Tubman-Commitment with a Purpose Award, presented by Steven Cook, Site Manager, Uncle Tom’s Cabin (Ontario Heritage Trust).

I would like to extend my condolences to the family of Harry Barrett on behalf of the Ontario Historical Society. Harry was a gifted storyteller and dedicated much of his life to the preservation of Ontario’s natural history. He was known as an expert on everything to do with Norfolk County and published sixteen books in his lifetime: a variety of works dealing with local wildlife, education, conservation, local history, and more. Harry was a lifetime member of the OHS. He will be greatly missed.

Please take a moment to review the back cover of this issue, which advertises our Accessibility Improvement Project for John McKenzie House. In 2016 the OHS partnered with the City of Toronto to replace the decaying asphalt roof with a new slate roof. We also made significant repairs to the chimneys, the dormers, and the original limestone steps—a few of the building’s defining heritage features. I am proud to announce that the Society has now raised over \$38,000 to improve accessibility at this historic home, which serves as the OHS’s headquarters, a community hub for Willowdale residents, and a rental space for local groups. In order to complete the project, we still need to raise an additional \$17,000. Thank you for your continued support!

I look forward to meeting our members at the Annual General Meeting and Honours & Awards Ceremony on June 10 in the Senate Chamber at York University. Special thanks go to our 129th AGM partners, the Archives of Ontario, York University’s History Department, and York University Founders College for their hospitality and support.

2017 OHS WEBINAR SERIES

“WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLE: ONTARIO’S TREATIES WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, LAND CLAIMS, AND RECONCILIATION.”



On Wednesday, January 18, the Ontario Historical Society held its first webinar of 2017, entitled “We are All Treaty People: Ontario’s Treaties with Indigenous Peoples, Land Claims, and Reconciliation.” The webinar was hosted by Dr. Alison Norman (left), who is a Research Advisor in the Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation in Toronto, as well as a Research Associate in the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies & Indigenous Studies at Trent University. Dr. Norman has also worked as a researcher for the Truth

and Reconciliation Commission. She earned her Ph.D. and B.Ed. from OISE/University of Toronto, and her M.A. and B.A. in history from Queen’s University. Her academic research is focused on the history of Indigenous teachers in 19th century schools in Ontario. Dr. Norman is on the Council of the Canadian Historical Association, recently completed a three year term on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Historical Society, and is currently the Book Review Editor for the OHS’s scholarly journal, *Ontario History*.

Treaties are legally binding agreements that set out the rights, responsibilities, and relationships of First Nations and the federal and provincial governments. Ontario is covered by 46 treaties, dating back to 1764. Dr. Alison Norman’s presentation was designed to raise awareness of the importance of treaties and treaty relationships. The webinar describes who the Indigenous peoples of Ontario are, and gave an overview of the land surrenders and treaties that were signed in this province. Dr. Norman also touched on the current state of land claims negotiations in Ontario, noting that there have been 41 negotiated settlements since 1983, with a total of 357,039 acres of land transferred, and \$165.38M in settlements issued.



Source: <https://files.ontario.ca/firstnationsandtreaties.pdf>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rob Leverty, Executive Director
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I am very pleased to report that on February 28, the OHS Board of Directors voted to incorporate St. Mark's Coptic Museum through affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society. This museum is a not-for-profit institution that celebrates the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of the Copts and is witness to Coptic art as a living tradition. Based in Scarborough, the museum is one of the Canadian Coptic Community's contributions to Canada's multicultural society. Congratulations to all the dedicated museum volunteers who worked on this incorporation application.

Since January 2015, the OHS has incorporated seventeen new not-for-profit historical organizations: four in northern Ontario, two in central Ontario, five in southwestern Ontario, two in the Greater Toronto area, two in Toronto, and two in eastern Ontario. As the OHS celebrates its 129th year, the Society continues to experience unprecedented growth and diversification of its membership, resulting in the expansion of the Province's heritage community and our services to it.

Meanwhile, for the OHS to flourish in the digital age, the Society must also continue, as prudently as possible, to modernize the delivery of its services. Therefore, after extensive research to determine the best method of online delivery for our scholarly journal *Ontario History*, I'm pleased to announce that the OHS has signed a contract with digital publisher and scholarly disseminator Érudit.

Created in 1998, Érudit is a highly respected not-for-profit interuniversity consortium based in Montreal. In partnership with Canadian libraries and publishers, Érudit is a digital humanities and social sciences platform promoting scholarly research and publishing in French and English. Érudit disseminates more than 150 journals worldwide on its digital platform.

For the 2017 Spring and Autumn issues of *Ontario History*, online subscriptions through Érudit will be available to institutions (i.e. university libraries). Individual subscriptions will be offered beginning in 2018. Publishing *Ontario History* in digital form will give our journal global exposure, allowing the journal to reach broader audiences and new generations of students.



Photo - Daniel Dishaw

On Friday, February 24, the OHS met with the executives of four member-organizations which incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in recent years. From left to right are OHS Executive Assistant Heather Anderson; Paul Morralee, Director, Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior Inc.; Craig Symmington, President, Thunder Bay Railway Historical Society; Charlie Brown, President, Buddies of the Brill & President, Thunder Bay Transportation Museum Society; OHS Executive Director Rob Leverty; and Jerry Baker, Thunder Bay Railway Historical Society.

I want to assure our present subscribers that *Ontario History* will continue to be published and available to anyone who wants it in print form. More information will follow, but for now I wish to celebrate this exciting leap forward and to commend the great work done by my colleague Sarah McCabe and the OHS Board's *Ontario History* Committee, chaired by Dr. Michel Beaulieu.

Almost twenty-five years have elapsed since we published the last index to *Ontario History* (1973 to 1992.) I am pleased to inform you that we have now completed a journal index from 1993 to 2016. These years broke exciting new ground covering rich, diverse themes and research fields. This comprehensive subject index includes 57 issues containing 278 articles, features over 2,000 terms. With the financial assistance of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the OHS was able to hire professional indexer Celia Braves, who did an outstanding job. Please view or download the index from the OHS website (Education and Publications → Publications → *Ontario History* → Index to *Ontario History*).

I hope you enjoy the coming spring and look forward to seeing you Saturday, June 10 at our 129th Annual General Meeting and Honours & Awards Ceremony.

ACTIVE ARCHIVES: BRINGING ONTARIO'S HISTORY ONLINE

[AN OHS SYMPOSIUM AT THE ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO - APRIL 6 \(1:30-4:00 PM\)](#)

JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION OF "ACTIVE ARCHIVES"; EXPLORING NEW PATHWAYS AND INITIATIVES IN THE DELIVERY AND PRESENTATION OF ONTARIO'S HISTORY.

["ACTIVE ARCHIVES" WILL FEATURE FOUR PRESENTATIONS:](#)

DEE PSAILA - MANAGER, DIGITIZATION & OPERATIONS, INFORMATION PRIVACY AND ARCHIVES, ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

"Share the Load: Digitization Partnerships at the Archives of Ontario"

DANIEL DISHAW - COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH COORDINATOR, OHS
HASSAM MUNIR - YORK UNIVERSITY HISTORY STUDENT & OHS PLACEMENT

"Public History on Social Media: Reaching New Audiences"

SARAH MCCABE - PROJECT MANAGER, OHS

"Bringing Ontario History Journal Online: 117 Years of Scholarship"

ALISON NORMAN, PHD - RESEARCH ADVISOR,
MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

"Indigenous History Online: Research, Writing & Preservation"

COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED COURTESY OF THE ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO. 1:30-4:00 PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017.

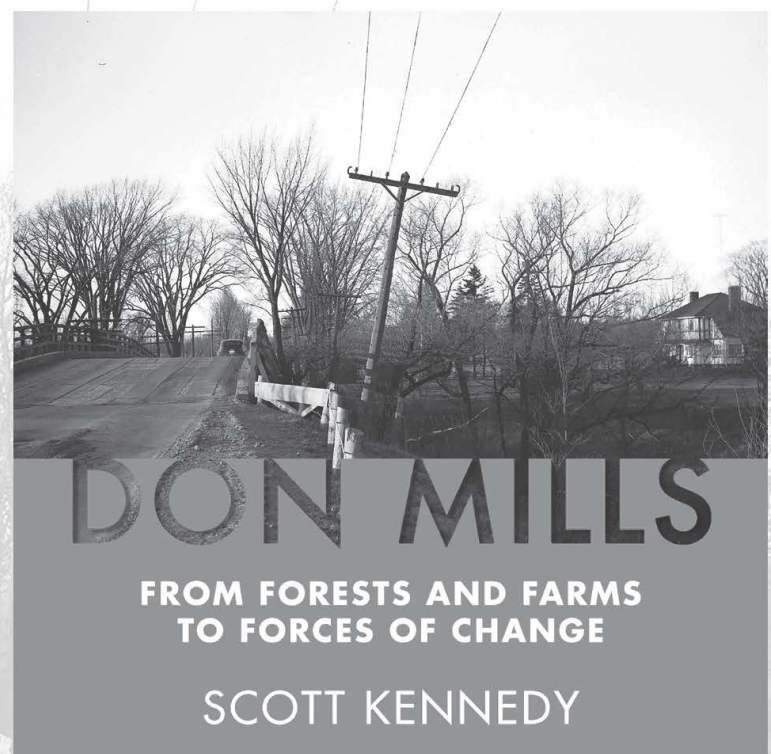
ATTENDANCE IS FREE, BUT SPACE IS LIMITED!

~GEORGE SPRAGGE CLASSROOM, ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO~

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OWHN/RHFO: NETWORKING FOR THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY IN ONTARIO

Dr. Rose Fine-Meyer, Senior Lecturer, OISE/University of Toronto
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In the late 1980s, the Ontario Women's History Network/Le Réseau d'histoire des Femmes en Ontario (OWHN/RHFO) was established in response to the absence of women's historical experiences at all levels of education. Created by historian Alison Prentice and members of the Women's History Project at OISE, University of Toronto, the network's first meeting took place in 1989 and brought together a group of feminist scholars, archivists, librarians, and teachers who were challenging the ways in which women had been either ignored or marginalized in history courses in Ontario. In 1990, the OWHN/RHFO incorporated through affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society. Since then, OWHN/RHFO has helped to develop and promote women's historical materials, and to build networks among teachers, students, scholars, and communities through the joint publication of resources and twice-yearly conferences.

Photo - Moira Armour in Toronto Women: A Walk Through History



OWHN/RHFO'S first Executive Committee, elected at the founding conference in 1990. Standing: Jane Errington and Elizabeth Smythe. Seated: Paula Bourne, Alison Prentice, and Pat Staton.

Over the last 30 years, OWHN/RHFO conferences have provided a venue for educators from across Ontario to make contacts, develop projects,

share resources, access classroom materials, and stimulate new scholarship in the field of women's studies and women's history. Independent scholars, university researchers, teachers, graduate students, and community members were all welcome. The founding conference in 1990, entitled Bridging the Gap: Women's History in the Classroom, set the standard for future conferences to feature academic scholars, high school teachers, and dramatic re-enactors, among others, and to focus on a different theme each year. For many years, the spring conference and annual general meeting took place in Toronto, with the fall conference being held in another Ontario city. Resource materials generated at the conferences included copies of papers and speeches; course syllabi, resource handouts, annotated bibliographies, books, biographies, and a wide range of images, provided by panelists and workshops. One example is the *Teacher's Guide to Resources in Women's History and Contemporary Studies*, which was created for the 1991 conference.

Since its establishment, the organization has provided much-needed opportunities for elementary, high school, and university teachers to learn about historical resources about women and share their interests in a like-minded community. OWHN/RHFO has supported the publication of women's history posters and resources, women's presses, and bookstores, and has focused on local, national, and international women's issues and history. The wide range of conference themes, including women workers, women in the arts, Indigenous women's knowledges, immigrant women, and Black women's historical experiences, speaks to the diverse interests of the network. Indeed, in 2002, members held a conference at Seneca Falls, New York, which allowed for cross-border collaboration among Canadian and American scholars, teachers, and community leaders, including members of the United States National Historic Sites and Park Rangers, as well as Parks Canada.

OWHN/RHFO has been unique in Ontario by reaching out to educators from university to elementary school and by sharing resources among educational communities, both public and private. Without the support of elementary and secondary school teacher unions in Ontario, OWHN/RHFO's support for publications, posters, and events would not have been as strong. Like other similar groups, OWHN/RHFO members still meet for the annual conference, but face ongoing challenges to maintain membership. As teachers and students rely more on digital platforms for resources, there is less interest in attending face-to-face conferences. As OWHN/RHFO moves forward in developing a stronger digital platform, members will come together in Sudbury in 2017 to explore current scholarship and resources on the historical experiences of northern Ontario women. With the OWHN/RHFO files now housed at the Archives of Ontario, plans will be made to digitize valuable resources to make them more widely accessible to educators in the province. OWHN/RHFO's impact is reflected in the greater inclusion of women's historical experiences in school history education today.

... 'OHS HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The presenters offered guidance on a number of issues facing heritage preservation and restoration groups working across Ontario, including fundraising, volunteer recruitment/retention, digital communications, strategy, planning, social media, approaches to collaboration, and digitization. Each session generated a great deal of open discussion, circulating ideas and suggestions from a diverse group of organizations and institutions in the region.



Photo - Sarah Jane Walker

The OHS travelled to Thunder Bay a few days in advance of the conference to meet with members and colleagues in the City of Thunder Bay. On Thursday, February 23, members of the OHS staff joined OHS Vice President Pamela Cain for a meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee for the City of Thunder Bay. Left to right are Laura Montgomery, Heidi Stroble, Jennifer Bonazzo, Douglas Yahn (Vice Chair), Andrew Cotter (Chair), Diane Pallen, Councillor Larry Hebert, Daniel Dishaw (guest), Anthony Yozipovic, Rob Leverty (guest), Pamela Cain, and Heather Anderson (guest).

OHS Second Vice President and Chair of Lakehead University's History Department Dr. Michel Beaulieu explained the value of these gatherings in an interview with TB NewsWatch. Dr. Beaulieu remarked that "We're lucky in Northwestern Ontario, all the organizations represented here and the individuals, we all know each other. It's like a family. These periodic meetings are extremely useful for coming together to understand common challenges and also what we can do as groups." In response to a rapidly expanding community of OHS member organizations in the region, the Ontario Historical Society looks forward to holding more of these sessions in the near future.



Photo - Alya Naumova

On February 14, 2017, OHS Project Manager Sarah McCabe spoke to Dr. Paul Moore's 4th year Sociology class at Ryerson University. Alya Naumova, Dr. Moore's PhD student and the class's teaching assistant, invited Sarah to represent the Ontario Historical Society and speak to the 110 undergrads on "Why Toronto's History Matters (to You)."



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MUSEUM MILESTONES

Dr. John Carter
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This issue’s lead article comes from Eastern Ontario. President of the Glengarry Fencibles Trust Brenda Baxter explores some of the successes and challenges faced by this not-for-profit group on their journey to save the Bishop’s House, located at the Ruins of St. Raphael’s, National Historic Site in Glengarry County. Great strides made by a genuinely dedicated group!

The City of Waterloo Museum, located in the Conestoga Mall in north Waterloo, kicks off the city’s year-long celebration of Canada’s sesquicentennial with an exhibition of more than 500 self-portraits by individuals who live, work, and play in Waterloo. This exhibition, which runs from January 17 until June 9, offers an opportunity for the local community to celebrate its past, present, and future.

GLENGARRY FENCIBLES TRUST: MAJOR STRIDES IN HISTORIC HOME’S RESTORATION

Brenda Baxter, President, Glengarry Fencibles Trust
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This stately Georgian House in St. Raphael’s Ruins, National Historic Site, was facing demolition just two years ago. Despite challenges and barriers, the building now has a promising future. On March 31, 2016, Glengarry Fencibles Trust (a not-for-profit community group that incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in 2010) acquired ownership of the Bishop’s House (1808) and its heritage stone wall Garden (1826) located across from the Church (1821). The house served as the headquarters of Alexander Macdonell. He was a leader and military chaplain of the Glengarry Fencibles (War of 1812), first bishop for the entire Catholic Church in Upper Canada (1819–40), member of Ontario’s Legislative Council, promoter of immigration, and founder of Ontario’s first college in St. Raphael’s. As a politician, his most significant achievement was ensuring that all settlers received a valid deed to their land. The Honourable John Sandfield Macdonald (first Premier of Ontario, 1867–72) lived on a neighbouring farm and was once a student at this house. The bishop was a towering figure and is recognized as a National Historic Person of Canada for his contributions to national defense, education, and public service.

Photo - Saul Rosales



A roofing team lays the new plywood deck before applying the water and ice shield atop the Bishop’s House (1808), located on the grounds of a National Historic Site in Glengarry County. Since saving the building in the summer of 2015, the Glengarry Fencibles Trust has worked to ensure its preservation. The home is now being fitted with a new roof to ensure its protection for years to come.

Conservation measures to preserve this magnificent heritage property are well underway. The Glengarry Fencibles Trust successfully raised \$100,000 and qualified for a 2016–17 Parks Canada Cost-Sharing Grant for National Historic Sites. The generosity of private donors from across the country made a significant impact on this fundraising campaign. With the \$200,000 raised, Rayside Labossière (Montreal architects specializing in sustainable adaptive reuse) planned and supervised the construction of a new roof and oversaw repairs to the mansard and windows. Bourgon Construction of Cornwall won the tender for this contract.

In April, the Fencibles held a sold-out gala dinner, and in October, a Celtic-themed fundraising concert. The heritage garden at the Bishop’s House is also being revitalized under the guidance of landscape architects. This work was made possible by grants from South Glengarry Township and Farm Credit Canada. Another not-for-profit, Dry Stone Canada, has arranged with the Fencibles to use part of the 200-foot garden wall for a weekend “dry stone walling workshop” to take place June 3–4, 2017.

What is your site/institution/organization doing for Canada 150? Please let me know your plans and projects, so I can feature some of these wonderful initiatives in future editions.

The museum community in Southwestern Ontario has recently witnessed the departure of several senior staff members. After 25 years of dedicated service as Curator at Guelph Civic Museums, Bev Dietrich has retired. Susan Dunlop is also retiring after 25 years as Curator of the Wellington County Museum and Archives. We also say farewell to Tom Reitz, who has been at the helm of the Doon Heritage Crossroads (now the Waterloo Region Museum) for more than 30 years. Thanks to all three for their significant contributions, and best of luck to all in the future.

It is always sad to report losses in the Ontario museum sector. Dave Guthrie, a former interpreter at Fort Malden National Historic Site and then curator of the John R. Park Homestead, has passed away. Suzanne Purdy, who first worked at the New Brunswick Museum and most recently was the curator at the Craigleith Heritage Depot, has died. Audrey (Webster) Underwood died on January 23, 2017. Audrey was a long-time executive member of the Bruce County Historical Society, and was a strong supporter of and volunteer at the Bruce County Museum in Southampton. I would like to offer my condolences to the Guthrie, Purdy, and Underwood families. Our thoughts are with you.

The home holds historical significance for a variety of groups, individuals, and municipalities from across Ontario. Historical records and artifacts that pertain to this house and its heritage are in safekeeping at the National Archives and the Archives of Ontario, as well as archival collections in London, Edinburgh, Rome, Quebec, and Kingston. The library of the Bishop’s House is in the rare books collection at Queen’s University.

Glengarry Fencibles Trust has been given an extraordinary opportunity to raise the funds necessary to preserve and promote this valuable piece of our history, and Parks Canada has agree to match up to one million dollars in donations. We have been given until March 31, 2017, to raise our share. With more funds, we will be able to further restore the interior of the house and open up the spacious main floor to the public. Our overall goal is to preserve Canada’s rural built heritage and open up new spaces for historical interpretation, heritage tourism, and cultural interests. The board members of Glengarry Fencibles Trust are currently fundraising to carry out this vision and ensure that the rural built heritage of early Ontario is preserved and accessible to the public.

For further information, contact Brenda Baxter, 613-931-2022, bbaxterb@cogeco.ca, Glengarry Fencibles Trust: 4147 Military Road, P.O. Box 230, Green Valley ON K0C 1L0.

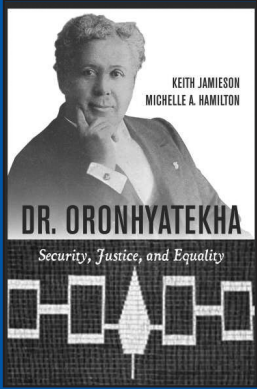
FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio
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Although this issue of the *OHS Bulletin* will come to you some time from now, I am writing on Family Day in mid-February. A decade ago, Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty promised that, if re-elected, he would establish a provincial statutory holiday in the dreaded darkness of February. On October 12, 2007, the provincial government established Family Day, first observed on February 18, 2008. Its creation raised Ontario’s number of statutory holidays to nine per year. But long before the much appreciated onset of Family Day to break up the great grim stretch between Christmas and Easter holidays, the Heritage Canada Foundation established Heritage Day, a day set aside across the nation for the celebration of Canada’s historical, national, cultural, and scenic heritage—as well as the personal heritage of each Canadian. Unlike the clever former Premier, however, the Foundation was never able to persuade the federal government to make it a statutory holiday. Family Day presents a particularly good opportunity to celebrate our heritage nonetheless, as Canadians and as Ontario citizens, as the OHS acknowledges in its annual Family Day event at John McKenzie House. I celebrated Family/Heritage Day by reading some excellent books to present to *Bulletin* readers for your enjoyment and enlightenment.

FIRST NATIONS, FIRST PEOPLES: RECOVERING FORGOTTEN HISTORIES

We are currently witnessing a remarkable growth in historical publication on Indigenous communities, much of it inspired by their growing pride and rightful determination to “indigenize” Canadian history, and also by the revelations and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. There can be neither truth nor reconciliation without knowledge—and historical understanding as the foundation. All three of the books discussed below make important contributions to that understanding.



Dr. Oronhyatekha: Security, Justice, and Equality

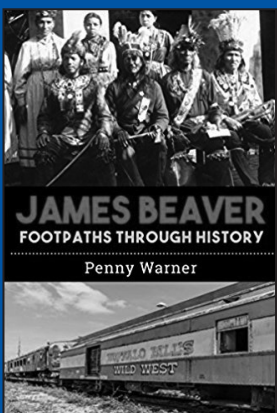
KEITH JAMIESON &
MICHELLE A HAMILTON

Toronto: Dundurn, 2016
Paperback; 368 pp. \$26.99
www.dundurn.com

It's astounding that the central figure in this fine biography remains largely unknown to Canadians, and to Ontarians especially. Keith Jamieson, of the Mohawk First Nation, in concert with Western University public historian Michelle Hamilton, have meticulously outlined the contours of Dr. Oronhyatekha's extraordinary life and career. The product of some twenty years of research by Jamieson, which was further substantiated by Hamilton, and there is scarcely a page that doesn't bring forth some unique and remarkable skill, endeavour, point of view, or achievement that the subject developed and sustained during his lifetime. In a historical moment that saw all manner of oppressive state regulation and socially embedded racism brought upon Indigenous peoples, Oronhyatekha managed to attend the University of Oxford—he was probably the first Indigenous person, and certainly one of only a few actually born in the British North American colonies to do so. He went on to become one of the first Indigenous physicians in Canada. In addition to his evident intellect, he was also an eloquent speaker and prolific writer, taking up such then-radical causes as the rights of Indigenous peoples, especially women and children. All the while, he found sustenance in his origins and proudly called on Indigenous communities to withstand the oppression that was intended to sideline and diminish them to the point of depletion. The book's subtitle, "Security, Justice, and Equality," represents the three pillars of Haudenosaunee culture.

Oronhyatekha (*Burning Sky* in Mohawk) was born on the Six Nations, one of 14 children of Peter and Lydia Martin; he was named for his father but rarely used his "Christian" name. Although he trained as a shoemaker at the Mohawk Institute, alongside all the other Indigenous children being fitted for wage labour rather than educated in any true sense, he was determined to pursue higher education and make his way forward to serve his people. After leaving Oxford in 1862, he married and entered the Toronto School of Medicine, completing his medical degree in 1866, and ultimately settling to practice medicine in London. In 1874, he was elected president of the Grand Council of Canadian Chiefs. He also became the first non-white member of the fraternal organization known as The Independent Order of Foresters, and shortly afterwards its first Indigenous Supreme Chief Ranger. Under his tenure, it became one of the foremost insurance institutions in North America, and one of the first to offer low-cost insurance to working families. He died wealthy and socially prominent at the age of 65 in 1907.

Much of what the authors have used to uncover and recover Oronhyatekha's life story has never before been employed as historical evidence: an avid collector and founder of his own small museum, Oronhyatekha donated a number of artifacts to the Royal Ontario Museum, which were stored away and forgotten, until the beginning of the 21st century. Jamieson was particularly fortunate to be able to employ oral history, stories, photographs, and paintings, many of them passed on to him by current generations of Oronhyatekha's family members. Compelling writing based on important new sources and an inspirational story make this a book both enjoyable and informative.



James Beaver: Footpaths Through History

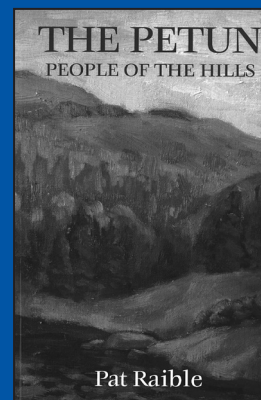
PENNY WARNER

Available from the author:
www.penny_warner2@aol.com
2016; Paperback; 245 pp.

Chief James Beaver lived a remarkable life. His family belonged to the Cayuga Nation, and he was among the first generation to be born on the Six Nations reserve, in 1845. Upper Canada was seeing an increasing influx of white, mostly British, settlers, who arrived for the specific purpose of taking up land grants established by the colonial government to appropriate the land that belonged to Indigenous peoples. He witnessed the social and political repercussions of colonial policies that favoured displacement and "containment" to ever-diminishing plots of land that

could not adequately sustain the farming that was part of the government's plans for the "Indians". Farming, along with conversion to Christianity, and schooling of children according to British ways were integral to the "civilizing mission". Confederation greatly reinforced the subordinate status of Indigenous peoples and extended the modes of regulation, now in the hands of the federal government, across the rapidly expanding nation-state.

This shifting historical context sets into bold relief the remarkable life of James Beaver, the author's great-great-grandfather. Although, like other Indigenous people of his time, Beaver was obliged to make his way according to Euro-Canadians' narrow views of "Indian" capabilities, his intelligence, ability, curiosity, and love of adventure allowed him to break through those racialized constructs that were now upheld by law. He was a carpenter, a hotel-owner, a carver, a painter, and an entertainer in the very popular Wild West shows of the late nineteenth century. Warner carefully recounts his life in reference to the history unfolding around him, including Ontario's transformation as it urbanized and industrialized; the residential schools; popular culture; and the impact on Indigenous peoples of historic events such as the world wars. Her exploration of genealogy, and her use of family stories passed on in the oral history tradition, make clear that James Beaver encountered, and sometimes connected more closely with, important members of both First Nations and "Euro-Canadian" society. Far from being "contained", Beaver's life demonstrates how he bridged the racial divide to adapt to the oppressive Indian policies laid in place during the early post-Confederation years—but also, and more importantly, to act on his own account and make his own successes in the white world off-reserve. His is a story well worth knowing, and his great great-grand-daughter provides an excellent opportunity to delve into it.



The Petun: People of the Hills

PAT RAIBLE

Creemore: Curiosity
House Books, 2016
Paperback; 94 pp.
www.curiosityhousebooks.ca

Many OHS members will recognize Pat Raible's name: she has been a devoted Ontario history enthusiast and OHS member for many years. Inspired by the work of archaeologist Charles Garrad, her first book reflects a long-standing personal interest in the Petun people who lived and thrived in the area around what is now known as the town of Creemore (where she resides). In this remarkably comprehensive book, the author capably synthesizes the published materials relevant to her subject, while also re-examining original sources. She succeeds in taking both an interesting and "an admiring look back" at the culture of a people long ago dispersed far from their original territory. The author begins in the late 16th century when "the Petun", so named by Samuel de Champlain, were a thriving people, highly skilled trappers and farmers, as well as hunters and gatherers, judging by the placement of their villages on high ground near fertile land. The community's women were the farmers and gatherers; their longhouses each contained extended family descended from the maternal side. The author traces Petun migration from a 16th century village on the west side of Creemore (named "Sidey-Mackay site" by archaeologists, reflecting the land's first European owners) where they resided from about 1580-1600, to the "Melville site", northward and up the hill—where Champlain visited them in 1616—and then to the "Hamilton-Lougheed site" in the direction of Dunedin. Because their primary crop, and the basis of their diet, was corn, they were obliged to move on when the soil became depleted.

Like the other European "explorers" of his era, and for some centuries to come, Champlain was primarily interested in the fur trade, but also in conversion to Christianity. Hence the Jesuits were quickly as much a European presence as the traders. In an all too familiar development for Indigenous peoples after contact, by the close of 1641, the Petun had been devastated by European diseases, warfare with the Iroquois from the south, and the effects of both: epidemics, starvation, violent death, and imprisonment and enslavement by the victors. In what came to be known as "the Dispersal" that occurred between 1649 and 1651, they abandoned their territories and journeyed west and south to find safety. Testifying to the breadth of their dispersal, their present-day descendants can be found among the Wyandot nations of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Michigan. In Pat Raible's capable hands, their story is told with sensitivity and the respect that we owe to them.

If you know of any recently published works on Ontario's history that specifically deal with local or regional history, please contact *Bulletin* Editor Daniel Dishaw at ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

BARRY PENHALE'S ONTARIO

ALGONQUIN: ONTARIO'S OLDEST PARK BREATHES HISTORY

Barry Penhale

barry@naturalheritagebooks.com

Ralph Bice, the grand old man of Algonquin, author, columnist, guide, lay preacher, and trapper, had his own unique way with words. During his lifetime (1900–1997) Bice pecked away at an ancient typewriter, churning out delightful writings of mainly an anecdotal nature. Under the heading “Along The Trail,” his columns earned him a huge following among community newspaper readers. In time he would author several books including the very popular *Along The Trail with Ralph Bice in Algonquin Park*. Bice’s association with the park dated back to 1917 when he began guiding tourists. In the book, he recalls some favourite Algonquin Park visitors, among them C.P. Folsom from Dayton, Ohio, who was especially fond of Rain Lake. Folsom’s first visit to Algonquin occurred in 1912 and his last was in his 85th year. Ralph felt Folsom had seen more of Algonquin Park than any other summer visitor.

Any delving into Algonquin Provincial Park’s history (the Algonquin Park Act passed in 1893) reminds us that American tourists were on the scene considerably earlier. A series of vintage photos show American industrialist George B. Hayes and his party circa 1897. Hayes, a Buffalo businessman, made numerous visits, often engaging local indigenous guides. From those days of early tourism up to the present, a pattern of repeat visitors became synonymous with Ontario’s oldest park. It is the park’s cultural history that lures me back. My latest visit left me with an even greater appreciation for the “continuity” found throughout the park—one of Algonquin’s unique heritage features.

During my fall 2016 park visit, Killarney Lodge owner/host Eric Miglin confirmed that Rod MacKay, “the font of all knowledge” when it comes to Algonquin history, lived nearby. Author of many fine affordable guide books that exist thanks to the Friends of Algonquin Park, Mackay tells us much about Algonquin Park’s storied past. Segments of this past come to life at the Algonquin Logging Museum, a reminder of past life in the bush and a must-see destination. Should luck be with visitors, an encounter with MacKay could take place at his “home away from home,” the museum’s blacksmith shop. Word is that his new book on Algonquin is forthcoming. What great timing in this year of special celebrations!

One can almost hear the cry of the loon and the voices of exuberant young campers as they belt out the lyrics to “Blue Lake and Rocky Shore.” Camps for children and families have long been a cherished Ontario tradition and no more so than in Algonquin Park, dating back to 1908 when Fanny Case of Rochester, New York, selected a site in the park for the relocation of Camp Northway. In the 1920s, canoeist Ron Perry was instructed to take two troublesome senior boy campers on an arduous six-day canoe trip, travelling what was termed the Opeongo Circuit. He visited an abandoned boy’s camp site at the southern end of Lake Opeongo but it wasn’t until the 1980s that he mentioned this to experienced camp operators, none of whom could identify it on lists of terminated sites. Ron often wondered if the ghost camp had joined the mysteries of the North, like Tom Thomson’s so-called murder.

The mention of painter Tom Thomson leads to a new friend, Gregory Klages, a cultural historian whose exceptional book *The Many Deaths of Tom Thomson* has garnered superlative reviews. The publication could



Ralph Bice, the “grand old man of Algonquin”, joins the ribbon-cutting ceremony alongside Ontario’s Premier Bob Rae as part of the Park’s centennial celebrations in 1993.

not be more timely, as we remember Thomson on the 100th anniversary of his baffling disappearance (July 8, 1917) during what should have been a routine outing in his canoe. While *The Jack Pine* and *The West Wind* remain among Thomson’s most famous Algonquin-based paintings, Klages observes that the artist also had a particular fascination with Algonquin’s past, especially the area’s logging history. He considers Thomson an important recorder of Algonquin Park heritage through sketches and paintings of early lumbering camps, decaying wooden dams, and the remains of old rotting alligators—those ingenious amphibious machines built in Simcoe, Ontario, in the late 1880s.

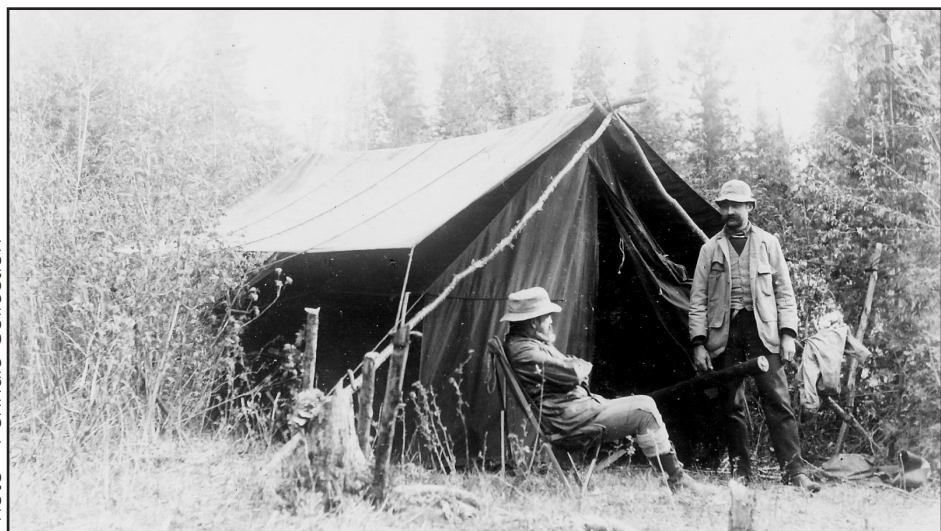
The long-established rustic lodges within Algonquin come complete with their own rich histories. The oldest and most historic place of accommodation is Bartlett Lodge, a short water-taxi ride from Cache Lake Landing. The importance of Cache Lake cannot be over-emphasized and a series of five illustrated panels close to the parking area tell the story well. Be it Bartlett Lodge, Arowhon Pines situated on Little Joe Lake, or Killarney Lodge on the Lake of Two Rivers, their impressive number of repeat visitors speaks volumes. Eric and Poppy Miglin treasure their lodge’s more than 80-year-old history, and letters excerpted in their annual Killarney Lodge newsletter attest to the importance of the park to longtime guests, as illustrated by a sampling of excerpts that are both nostalgic and historic: “Times have changed. In 1954 it cost between \$60 and \$80 a week to stay at Killarney Lodge, depending on whether or not you were staying in a tent. A canoe could be rented for two dollars a day and eight dollars hired a guide to take you to the best fishing spots”; “In 1949 Allen and Nancy Gage came to Killarney for their honeymoon. Last June (2000) they returned to celebrate 50 years of married life complete with a grown family, memories and snapshots.” Maria Gould, granddaughter of Killarney founders Bert and Sylvia Moore, recalled how they first leased land in Algonquin Park in 1933 and completed the main lodge two years later: “Grandma Moore was Killarney Lodge’s first cook, cooking meals on a wood stove. Diners through the week were made up of road construction crews, and Sunday dinners attracted Huntsville families.”

The role of outfitters in the park reminds us of their place in Algonquin’s history. The Averys of Whitney are known for their close association with the eastern limits of Algonquin Park. My treasured Avery-made bird’s eye maple paddle was gifted to the Canadian Canoe Museum. The names of outfitters and portage stores are as well-known to many outdoor enthusiasts as are the lakes and rivers themselves. Algonquin Outfitters, founded in 1961 by Bill Swift Sr. and Dave Wainman, now operates from ten sites with Swift’s son Richard as the current president. Long-time friend Gord Baker who manages the busy Oxtongue Lake location has been on the scene for a mere twenty-five years. It’s the same with The Portage Store, long identified with the Miglin family. Eric, his brother Sven, and his wife Donna took over in 1976, and now Sven and Donna’s daughter Liana and husband Vince Ouimet are involved—yet another reminder of the lengthy association outfitting families have with the park and their special place in Algonquin history. One cannot leave this subject without mentioning two of Algonquin’s most fascinating personalities, Ed and Molly Colson, who circa 1937 were granted a licence to operate a canoe livery and store from a small log cabin at the south end of Canoe Lake, thus launching The Portage Store.

Molly is especially interesting—a nurse from Ottawa who came to visit park friends in 1900 and stayed. A legendary Algonquin personality, she became famous as a midwife, prenatal counsellor, setter of broken bones, and tooth puller. The Colson names also appear as managers, in 1908, of the long-gone Highland Inn at Cache Lake and ultimately owners of the also vanished Algonquin Hotel at Joe Lake Station. Her fifty-year association with the park is marked by a plaque at her favourite picnicking spot on Smoke Lake, a locale fittingly known as Molly’s Island.

Finally, it’s back to Ralph Bice to close this article concerning his beloved park. “I don’t know if guides go to heaven, possibly they do. But if they do there can be no doubt but what they will be disappointed. For no spot could be as nice as Algonquin Park was 50 years ago”.

Photo - Penhale Collection



George B. Hayes’s party from Buffalo, New York, during a visit to Algonquin Park circa 1897.

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Historic John McKenzie House

Over **\$38,000** raised.
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The OHS has raised over \$38,000, but needs an **additional \$17,000** in order to complete the project. **Help us make this historic property accessible to all members of our community.** To make a donation, please contact us at the email/number/address listed below. Please make cheque payable to the Ontario Historical Society, Re: Accessibility Improvement Project. Thank you for your support!



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