

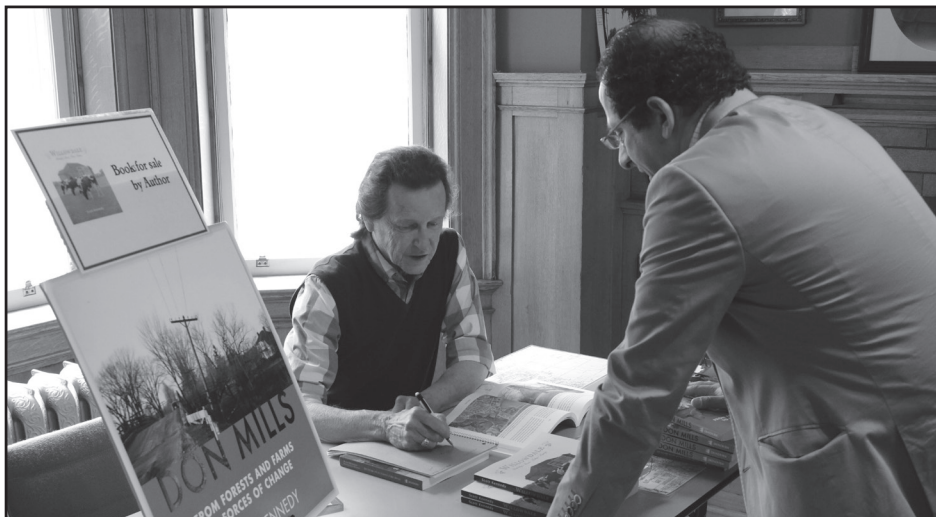
OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 203

JULY 2017

OHS PARTICIPATES IN DOORS OPEN TORONTO FOR 18TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR



Author Scott Kennedy (left) and MP for Willowdale Ali Ehsassi (right) discussed the history of Willowdale, Don Mills, and the John McKenzie House during the MP's visit for Doors Open Toronto 2017.

Daniel Dishaw, Communications & Outreach Coordinator
ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

The OHS welcomed over 800 visitors to the historic John McKenzie House for Doors Open Toronto 2017, held May 27 and 28. The event marked the 18th consecutive year that the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) has opened the doors of the John McKenzie House to local residents from all across Toronto. The OHS also greeted a number of international visitors and tourists from various parts of Canada.

When guests arrived at the John McKenzie House, they were greeted by Doors Open volunteers and OHS staff, who offered guided tours of the house and handed out pamphlets detailing the building's impressive history. For many visitors, this was their first time taking a tour of the house. Though the OHS maintains an active relationship with the local community and has participated in Doors Open for 18 years, Willowdale welcomes hundreds of new families and individuals into the community each year. The OHS is enthusiastic about sharing the history of Willowdale with new residents and tourists.

This year, local historian and author Scott Kennedy joined the Ontario Historical Society to help educate guests about the history of Willowdale and the John McKenzie House itself. Author of *Willowdale: Yesterday's Farms, Today's Legacies*, Kennedy used some of his primary research materials—including early maps of Willowdale and North York—to help new residents and guests understand the agrarian heritage of the community

'DOORS OPEN TORONTO' CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...

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2016 OHS HONOURS AND AWARDS RECIPIENTS



Photo - Daniel Dishaw

The 2016 OHS Honours and Awards were presented at the 129th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society. Seventeen representatives joined the OHS to accept their awards.

Daniel Dishaw, Communications & Outreach Coordinator
ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Founded in 1888, the Ontario Historical Society is a not-for-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 established an awards program to recognize individuals, organizations, corporations, and authors who have contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of Ontario's heritage. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the OHS Honours and Awards Program.

Our 2016 Honours and Awards Program recognized an impressive and diverse group of organizations, individuals, topics, and publications.

The 2016 Ontario Historical Society's Honours and Awards winners are as follows:

AWARDS FOR ORGANIZATIONS

- President's Award: **Township of Oro-Medonte**
Scadding Award of Excellence: **Friends of Crysler's Farm Battlefield**
Dorothy Duncan Award: **Thunder Bay Public Library**
Russell K. Cooper Award: **Museum Windsor**

AWARDS FOR SERVICE

- Cruikshank Gold Medal: **Geoff & Edith Geduld**
Carnochan Award: **Paul Carroll**
Carnochan Award: **Maurice Smith**
Cemetery Preservation Award: **Don Weaver**

'OHS AWARD WINNERS' CONTINUED ON PAGE 3...

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



OHS@ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY.CA

ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY.CA

/ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY

@ONTARIOHISTORY



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Caroline Di Cocco, President
carolinedicocco@gmail.com

I want to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers, members, subscribers, stakeholders, and donors for their continued support and generosity. In June, we launched a crowd-funding campaign through the National Trust for Canada's "This Place Matters" to improve accessibility at the historic John McKenzie House. As I'm writing this, the competition has not yet concluded, but we have raised nearly \$3,000 and many of you have been voting constantly to endorse the project. Thank you to everyone who has supported this initiative! The Society remains committed to the preservation and maintenance of the John McKenzie House, and we would not be able to do it without your help.

The 129th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Ontario Historical Society was a huge success, thanks in large part to our sponsors, The Archives of Ontario, the York University Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, and the York University Department of History. I would like to personally thank Mark Epp, Manager of Outreach and Promotion at the Archives of Ontario (AO), who delivered the keynote speech at the AGM, "Sharing the Quest to Preserve Ontario's History". Alison Little, Jay Young, and Danielle Manning of the AO also helped make our annual gathering a success, assisting the Society in the planning and promotion of the event, and providing free guided tours of the AO to our attendees. Finally, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. Marcel Martel and Diane Stadnicki of the History Department. Their assistance in planning this meeting was instrumental. Thank you to everyone who joined us on June 10, including our award recipients.

The OHS recognized 19 individuals, authors, and organizations at the annual Honours and Awards Ceremony on June 10, which began just after the AGM. The Honours and Awards Program was established in 1966–67, making this year the 50th Anniversary of a program that serves to honour and recognize outstanding work in the heritage sector across Ontario. Please join me in congratulating all our winners. A full list of this year's recipients can be found on page 1 of this issue (cont'd on page 3). For more detailed descriptions of the award categories and this year's winners, please visit our website.

OHS Directors and staff also recognized Bob Leech at the 129th AGM. After more than 10 years of service on the OHS Board of Directors, including terms as Vice-President, President, and, most recently, Treasurer, Bob resigned from the board as of June 10. His leadership and expertise have helped guide the Society through many successful years, and his presence will be greatly missed. Thank you, Bob. We wish you all the best.

David dos Reis also stepped down as a Board Director, effective June 10. David's exceptional legal expertise has been an asset to the OHS over



Photo - Daniel Dishaw

Past OHS President (and most recently, OHS Treasurer) Bob Leech accepts a certificate of appreciation from current OHS President Caroline Di Cocco at the 129th AGM of the Ontario Historical Society, held on June 10, 2017. The OHS thanks Bob Leech for more than 10 years of service as an OHS Director. He was also presented with a lifetime OHS membership and a lifetime subscription to *Ontario History*.

the past three years. He will remain involved with the Society as ex-officio Chair, OHS Legal Committee. This is a new volunteer position offering legal information to the OHS Board of Directors, and reaching out to other lawyers for assistance as required by the Society. This is deeply appreciated. Thank you, David. We appreciate all your contributions as a Board Director, and look forward to working with you in your new capacity as ex-officio Chair of our Legal Committee.

On that note, I would like to introduce our new board members for 2017–18. I am pleased to welcome: Gabriella Colussi Arthur (Toronto), Associate Lecturer in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics at York University; Mark Plishewsky (Oshawa), a CPA candidate who will join PricewaterhouseCoopers as an Auditor and Risk Assurance Advisor in September; and Serge Ducharme (Field), a former OHS Director who will rejoin our Board, elected as Treasurer, effective June 10, 2017. Thank you all for your enthusiasm for the preservation of Ontario's history. We are excited to work with all of you.

Finally, I want to draw your attention to an OHS social media campaign, running from July 5 until mid-August, 2017. The "#OHShistory" campaign is based on archival research conducted by OHS placement student Hassam Munir at the Archives of Ontario, utilizing the OHS Fonds. Original documents and correspondence (from 1899–1920) will be used to illustrate the early history of the Ontario Historical Society, established in 1888. The Society has been preserving Ontario's history for 129 years, and through this campaign we hope to share some of our own history with all of you. Please follow us on Twitter and Facebook to learn more about our formative years as the foremost historical society in Ontario.

PARIS PLAINS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Lana Jobe, Paris Plains Cemetery Association
lanajobe@hotmail.com

The little cobblestone church on the plains near Paris, Ontario, inscribed as "Wesleyan Methodist Church", was built in 1843. Adjacent to the church is a small pioneer cemetery; the earliest tombstone on the grounds is dated 1828.



Wesleyan Methodist Church, est. 1843.



The Paris Plains Cemetery, c. 2017.

Even though the cemetery was in use during this early period, a committee to administer it was not formed until 1877. A meeting was called in 1878 to purchase an additional half-acre from the original donor, Mr. Henry Maus, to total one acre of land available for burials. The committee, it seems, was

always short on funds for upkeep and relied on the community's help for planned clean-ups, to help level the ground, and to initiate fence repairs. Over time, fewer people were available to help and the cemetery fell into disrepair.

By the request of the community, the current board was formed in 2011. The cemetery was incorporated as the Paris Plains Cemetery Association in 2012, through affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society.

The only burial records available to us, besides the one minute book, are those of the early circuit riders, housed at the United Church Archives in Toronto. The committee has begun updating the operational and maintenance records, and implementing by-laws as required by the regulations under the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*.

New fences have been erected, stones have been repaired, and regular lawn maintenance implemented, all with the support of the community. Because it is still an active cemetery, it is important to maintain an attractive and safe site. Many stones had sunk beneath the earth, so a ground-penetrating radar scan was conducted in the areas that were unmapped. Eventually we would like to complete the scan to ensure that we are not disturbing unmarked graves.

We also received our first grant from TD Friends of the Environment for the acquisition of trees for the perimeter wind break. The County of Brant has been supporting us through a small grant for the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery, and considers it "money well spent".

The Paris Plains Cemetery is owned by its community and proud to be supported by the descendants of the original settlers. The cobblestone church and the little schoolhouse beside the cemetery are also designated heritage buildings.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rob Leverty, Executive Director
rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

I regret to inform you that since my last report, the OHS has lost three long-time, dedicated members: Barbara Kane, Ian Reilly, and Michael Bliss. Barbara was a tireless and energetic volunteer who donated countless hours to both the OHS and the North York Historical Society. Ian Reilly was President for 16 years of the 7th Town Historical Society, (owners, in Trust) of the Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre in Ameliasburgh, Prince Edward County, and was a strong supporter of the Society's work. Michael Bliss was a distinguished professor of Canadian history and also generously volunteered his time and skills to the OHS for many years. They were all extraordinary volunteers for the Society and will be deeply missed.

Since the mid-1990s, governments at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels have continually divested or offloaded heritage responsibilities onto local volunteer organizations. Many historical assets were deliberately neglected or threatened with demolition. An unprecedented number of grassroots groups have been forced to incorporate through affiliation with OHS in order to take on more and more of the responsibilities that come with preserving and maintaining our heritage. It is the volunteers associated with these historical organizations that are now restoring our train stations, preserving our lighthouses, repairing our cemeteries, and protecting our natural history.

The OHS has also become increasingly dependent on volunteers to fulfill its mandate to preserve and promote Ontario's history. The 2016 OHS audited financial statements show that "volunteers donated approximately 11,300 hours to the OHS in support of its activities, up from 10,750 in 2015. Due to the difficulty in determining the fair value of this time, no amount has been reflected in these financial statements."

I am concerned about the increased burden that heritage volunteers are assuming while I fear that they are also being taken for granted. While the public and the private sectors continue to withdraw their support, there is a common misconception that volunteers have the time and means to step in and save our history. I think we need to turn this expectation around. In your communities, and as part of the OHS, you donate your time and skills because you believe in preserving and promoting history. You care. You are motivated by your belief that the present is predicated on the past and it is important in any society to ensure that this concept is not threatened or lost through neglect, greed, or political expediency. We know this happens and we know our work is difficult because we have seen so many battles won and lost—and an equal number of compromises reached in order to preserve our history.

We are advocates for the preservation of our history and the heritage of our communities. Imagine if none of us made the conscious decision to accept this responsibility. Imagine if no one was dedicated to acting on behalf of the causes



Photo - Daniel Dishaw

The OHS is pleased to welcome new board members Gabriella Colussi Arthur (left) and Mark Plishewsky (centre). Executive Director Rob Leverty congratulated Gabriella and Mark after they were elected to the OHS Board of Directors at the 129th Annual General Meeting at York University on June 10.

that will make a difference for future generations. Imagine how different the world would be—because it certainly would be. We know it, and that is why we do it.

We preserve our history by telling the stories and honouring the voices of the past: Indigenous peoples, marginalized people, women, farmers, and those keeping the doors open for a small museum, stopping the demolition of a heritage building, preventing the shredding of our archival documents, or fighting the desecration of a cemetery. This incredibly important work would not be done if it weren't for advocates like you. Your contribution is vital and priceless. Imagine putting a dollar figure on the work done across this province by heritage volunteers...

Over 800 of our member organizations in Ontario agree. We cannot be seen as 'just volunteers living for the past'. We serve the public interest in Ontario through our work. One of the ways we do that is by ensuring that such services are not endangered. We must continue to engage our communities and public officials in this mission to ensure that Ontario's history is integrated into our future.

To all of you who volunteer in the pursuit of preserving and promoting our history: you should feel emboldened by our successes and empowered by our experience and expertise. We should demand to be recognized as the advocates we are and to be given our rightful place at the table to show that we are voices to be reckoned with.

You might now be expecting me to call on you to join some sort of campaign, but frankly, another campaign is the last thing any of us need on our ever-growing to-do lists. Instead, if you are able, I would encourage you to do this: make sure your local MP, MPP, Mayor, and Councillors know about the work you are doing. Highlight your successes—and mention if the work you are doing is work that used to be done by government employees. Tally (or estimate) your organization's volunteer hours, and include that in a letter to your local politicians. Copy the OHS on your letter, so that we can track your contributions. Consider sharing it with your local newspaper as well. It's time we all made sure that our efforts are not ignored, and that the value of our contributions is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL BLISS



OHS staff, directors, and members alike were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Michael Bliss, Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto. His contributions to the field of Canadian history are immeasurable, having published more than a dozen influential works, including the foremost history on the discovery of insulin (*The Discovery of Insulin*, 1982). His work earned him an induction into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in 2016, a prestigious honour that is rarely bestowed upon individuals outside the medical community.

As an educator, Professor Bliss influenced a plethora of scholars and students over the course of his 34-year career at the University of Toronto. Students flocked to his courses, raving about his fun and engaging lecture style. He also supervised 24 Ph.D. candidates during his time at UofT.

Over the years, Bliss dedicated a great deal of time and energy to the preservation and promotion of Ontario's history, often lending his support, intellect, and time to the Ontario Historical Society's initiatives. He was a long-time member, donor, and volunteer, eventually donating a large portion of his UofT office library to the OHS Library. When Professor Bliss was inducted into the Canadian Hall of Fame, the Ontario Historical Society made a donation in his honour.

In 2000, the OHS held a Symposium in Willowdale, Ontario entitled "Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario's History". Bliss delivered a presentation, "Ontarians Who Have Changed the World: Banting and Osler" and offered summarizing remarks to the audience. Over the years he

lent his support as an advisor and regular contributor, assisting the Society on a variety of issues.

Born in Kingsville, Ontario, in 1941, Michael Bliss lived a celebrated life, influencing and impacting countless individuals. He leaves behind a legacy of work that few scholars can compare with, and a personal reputation that we should all strive to emulate. He will be greatly missed.

... 'OHS AWARD WINNERS' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AWARDS FOR AUTHORS

Joseph Brant Award: **Keith Jamieson & Michelle Hamilton**
Dr. Oronhyatekha: Security, Justice, and Equality

Fred Landon Award: **Richard White**
Planning Toronto: The Planners, The Plans, Their Legacies.

Fred Landon Award (HONOURABLE MENTION): **Jennifer Grainger**
Early London: A Photographic History from the Orr Collection, 1826–1914

Alison Prentice Award: **Deborah Gorham**
Marion Dewar: A Life of Action

Donald Grant Creighton Award: **Steve Paikin**
Bill Davis: Nation Builder, and Not So Bland After All

J.J. Talman Award: **Sarah Bassnett**
Picturing Toronto: Photography and the Making of Modern City

Riddell Award: **Jeffrey McNairn**
"The common sympathies of our nature": Moral Sentiments, Emotional Economies, and Imprisonment for Debt in Upper Canada."
Histoire social/Social History Vol. 49. No. 98.

Huguenot Society of Canada Award: **Mohamed Fahmy & Carol Shaben**
The Marriot Cell: An Epic Journey from Cairo's Scorpion Prison to Freedom

RESTORING THE CROSS (SMITH) CEMETERY

Allison Gibson
allisongibson@live.ca

In 2011, while researching my family history, I discovered that my maternal fourth great-grandparents, William Brandiga Smith and Elizabeth Squires, had lived just southwest of Merrickville, Ontario, not far from where I myself had grown up—in Winchester, Ontario. I learned that their original stone farmhouse was still there, as was an old family burial ground, the Cross (Smith) Cemetery. Locating the cemetery was a challenge, as it rests on a narrow strip of land between Atkinson’s Creek and a neighbouring farm field approximately 500 feet from the road at 326 Putnam Road. With a lot of help from the current farmhouse owners, Jan and Brian Fitzpatrick, I was able to locate the pioneer cemetery. It was completely overgrown, entangled, and all but lost. A few broken headstone fragments strewn about the base of a stump at the edge of the field were the only evidence of the cemetery’s existence.



The Cross (Smith) Cemetery before the clean-up and restoration process.

This was the beginning of an ongoing effort to study, restore, and commit to preserving this long-neglected sacred ground.

The Cross (Smith) Cemetery, known originally as the Smith Family Burying Ground, was established by the family of William Brandiga Smith (b. 1793) some time after he purchased the 100 acres of farmland in 1826. Although William’s birthplace is unclear, it appears that his parents, Humphrey Smith and Lurana Vaughan, were both born in the United States. Humphrey, Lurana, and their family immigrated to Canada and made their first census appearance in 1804 in the neighbouring township of Montague in Lanark County. In 1817, William married Elizabeth Squires (b. 1797 in New York State), and they raised a large family of 12 children in the same stone farmhouse that still stands today. I am descended from their eldest daughter, Rebecca.

The most informative account of the Cross (Smith) Cemetery was created in 1963 by local historian Alice Hughes. Alice documented her visit with the Cross family, who had owned the land since 1929, creating a transcription and map of the cemetery. The Cross family had been told that there were about 100 people buried there and that, although there were many fieldstone markers, there had only ever been four inscribed gravestones. The four inscribed gravestones belonged to: William B. Smith; his wife, Elizabeth Squires; his brother, George T. Smith; and George’s wife, Mercy Vaughan. Besides members of the Smith family, apparently there were friends and neighbours buried there as well. The Cross family stated that there were

likely many children buried in the cemetery, especially after an outbreak of Scarlet Fever, which was the presumed cause of death for three of the Smith children who died over the course of three days in May 1838. In 1879, William’s youngest son, Ambrose, granted Philo Bissell “sixty-six acres of land more or less saving and excepting a piece of land about forty feet by seventy feet now enclosed for a Burial ground” on the condition that his mother could be buried there upon her death. This stipulation was fulfilled when Elizabeth died in 1880; she was reportedly the last person buried in the Cross (Smith) Cemetery.

After studying the site and learning more about its history, I approached Marjorie Stuart, a member of the OHS Cemetery Preservation Committee. Marjorie confirmed that the Cross (Smith) Cemetery was registered and protected under the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*. I then contacted the Cemeteries Regulation Unit (now the Bereavement Authority of Ontario) in August 2012 regarding the grievous condition of the cemetery, and was directed to speak with the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, as they were registered as its licensed operator. The municipal staff stated that they had no knowledge of the cemetery and therefore had no history of tending to the site. With the future care of the cemetery seeming uncertain, an inspector for the Cemeteries Regulation Unit visited the cemetery in June 2013 to assess its condition. The inspector recommended to the municipality that they reclaim and begin maintaining the derelict burial



The Cross (Smith) Cemetery after the clean-up and restoration process.

ground. In April 2014, the municipality allocated \$1,500 to clean up and fence in the Cross (Smith) Cemetery. The initial clean up of the site took place in October that year. In the fall of 2015, the site was fenced with metal posts and a double row of chain, and a sign reading “Cross-Smith Cemetery” was installed at the field entrance on Putnam Road. During the various stages of the clean-up process, more gravestone fragments and many fieldstone markers were revealed. In May 2016, I hired Jim James of GPRS Enterprises Inc. to perform a ground-penetrating radar study of the cemetery. The long years of neglect made the area difficult to scan, but Mr. James was able to locate 29 individual burials at the west end with a high degree of confidence. Although there are many fieldstone markers at the east end, it was impossible to individuate any burials there, and Mr. James explained that this was likely the site of a “Potter’s Field” or mass grave, which were common before the 20th century due to epidemics resulting in numerous fatalities over a short period of time.

Although I live north of Kingston, Ontario, I regularly monitor, help maintain, and work to improve the Cross (Smith) Cemetery. I continue to advocate on behalf of the cemetery and the memory of the pioneers who were laid to rest there. Though it has taken a great deal of work and dedication, a small pioneer cemetery has received some much-needed maintenance and recognition after decades of neglect. I encourage people to visit the site, and I welcome any queries or information that others may have regarding the history of the Smith family or the Cross (Smith) Cemetery. I can be contacted at allisongibson@live.ca.

...‘DOORS OPEN TORONTO’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in which they now live. The John McKenzie House, built in 1913, stands as an early example of residential development on what was traditionally farmland. Kennedy’s knowledge of the local history and his collection of maps helped shed light on the rapid development of Willowdale, which transformed a vast expanse of farmland into an urban sprawl in less than a century.

Kennedy also displayed copies of his most recent book, *Don Mills: From Forests and Farms to Forces of Change*, which piqued the interest of many guests, including Ali Ehsassi, Member of Parliament for Willowdale. MP Ehsassi paid a visit on Saturday morning and engaged the author in a lively conversation about the history of North York. Since Mr. Ehsassi is both the current MP for Willowdale and a former resident of Don Mills, the two had a great deal to talk about. Ehsassi purchased half a dozen copies of each book for friends, family members, and his constituency office. Kennedy was delighted to see the MP’s interest in our local history and signed a personal note in each of the books.

For more information on how to volunteer with the OHS for Doors Open Toronto, please contact us at ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped the OHS welcome guests to the John McKenzie House on May 27 and May 28 for Doors Open Toronto 2017. Over 800 people visited the historic home and the adjacent Parkview Neighbourhood Gardens over the weekend. We look forward to another exciting year in 2018.

MUSEUM MILESTONES

Dr. John Carter
drjohncarter@bell.net

When I was hired as a provincial museum advisor for the then Ministry of Culture in 1981, one of my first clients was the Elgin County Pioneer Museum. Over the years I worked with various advisory committees, boards, and curators as this museum evolved. It is certainly gratifying to report that, over 35 years later, the Elgin County Museum is thriving and still growing. In the following article, Mike Baker provides details and explains the most recent developments at this site. I look forward to the completion of this exciting project, and congratulate Elgin County for its continued support of this ever-changing and important local museum resource.

Many communities across the province are celebrating Canada 150. In Deep River, the Canadian Clock Museum will be offering a special exhibit and program focused on celebrating 150 years of Canadian clocks.

ELGIN COUNTY'S NEW HERITAGE CENTRE

Michael Baker, Curator, Elgin County Museum
mbaker@elgin.ca

The County of Elgin is moving ahead on Phase One of a new Heritage Centre next to the site of the present museum at 450 Sunset Drive, south of St. Thomas, Ontario. The county successfully applied for a \$485,500 grant from the federal government's Cultural Spaces program, which will be matched by the county. The new Centre will provide much-needed exhibit and program space replacing a smaller, less accessible space on the fourth floor of the Elgin County Administration Building.

The Centre is the next step in a process that started with the relocation of the former Elgin County Pioneer Museum to the fourth floor of the county building in 2006. The move was prompted by a study that revealed serious structural problems with the 160-year-old house at 32 Talbot Street, St. Thomas, which had been occupied by the museum since it opened in 1957. As well, the environmental controls were no longer up to standard and the storage capacity was exhausted.



An artist's rendering of the new Heritage Centre in principle elevation.

The decision to move to the county building came following a survey of several potential sites, among which was the unused fourth floor of the county building, itself a repurposed 1939 nurses' residence that was part of the former psychiatric hospital on Sunset Drive. The county had purchased the building in 1985 but had never fully renovated the fourth floor. The renovation carried out in 2005–06 saw a complete gutting of the space and the creation of exhibit space, a storage area outfitted with compact shelving, a meeting room, offices and work space. A set of four mechanical units provide excellent environmental control.

This location opened in October of 2006 and now houses approximately 13,000 of the museum's 15,000+ permanent collection in a combination of compact storage, purpose-designed art racks and shelving. Larger artifacts are currently in an off-site storage location owned by the county. The exhibit program also responded well to the space, with over 30 travelling and collection-based shows mounted in the past 10 years including a textile exhibit that featured a full-size four-harness loom.

The current site has performed well given its limitations but the goal was always to construct a stand-alone building in the adjacent lot to the south, which is owned by the county. The Phase One building will provide around 3,000 square feet of exhibition and programming space that will house travelling shows as well as exhibits drawn from the permanent collection. The installations, which will enjoy a larger space than is currently available on the fourth floor, will be laid out to allow for school and group tours, lectures, and other programs. The museum is revamping school and other youth programs in anticipation of finally being able to welcome students back to the museum.

Examples from the museum's one-of-a-kind collection, dating from the 1860s onwards, will be interpreted and displayed. Contact Allan Symons at (613) 584-9687 for further information.

Castle Kilbride National Historic Site in Baden, was featured in the season finale of the television series *ANNE*, on CBC. This episode, the last in the series' first season, aired on Sunday, April 30. It was great to see one of Ontario's finest house museums being promoted on this popular television program. Congratulations to Traci Loch, Sherri Gropp, and the Township of Wilmot for this special achievement!

Sad to announce the passing of several long-serving Ontario museum personnel. Barry Lord, celebrated curator, author, and pioneer in the museum planning and arts management fields, died on March 9. Audrey Caryi, who worked as an interpreter and gardener at Lang Pioneer Village Museum for 35 years, passed away recently. Alvira Wigle died at her home in Kingsville. She was a member of the first Museum Advisory Committee for the John R. Park Homestead, a founder and first president of the Kingsville-Gosfield Historical Society, and an active volunteer at the Jack Miner Foundation. All will be missed and not forgotten.




Please remember to send me information about the Canada 150 events that your organization/site is sponsoring at drjohncarter@bell.net.

Visibility and accessibility will be the other key benefits of constructing the new building. Visitors sometimes struggle in finding the museum even after they're inside the four-storey county building. The new Centre will have a separate driveway directly off Sunset, bringing visitors right to the building, which is completely barrier-free. Drivers on Sunset, which is the main road to Port Stanley, a summer beach and shopping destination, won't be able to miss the distinctive new building. Designed by Ventin Group, it will have a unique pavilion shape in the modernist tradition.

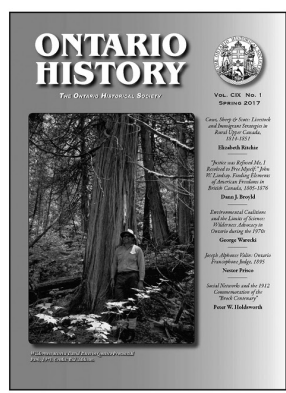
With an anticipated opening in the late fall of 2017, the county will be able to mark the 150th anniversary of Confederation with a survey of its history from its founding in 1854 to the present. The first travelling exhibit in the new space scheduled for 2018 will be the popular medieval exhibition "Once Upon a Time", on loan from the Bruce County Museum. It is fitting that the first travelling show comes from the other Ontario county named after Governor-General Lord Elgin.

ONTARIO HISTORY

THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Since 1899, *Ontario History* has been a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal devoted to the history of all things Ontario from the earliest times to the near present.



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This advertisement for *Ontario History* appeared in the program of the Canadian Historical Association's annual meeting for 2017 "From Far and Wide: The Next 150", held at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario. Established in 1899, new issues of the journal will also be available online via Érudit.

BARRY PENHALE'S ONTARIO

EXPERIENCING GREY COUNTY HISTORY

Barry Penhale

barry@naturalheritagebooks.com

It is now more than thirty years since my wife Jane and I married and soon after purchased property in Grey County. She would not have arrived at the altar if it wasn't for the unwritten but deadly serious pact we made to own some kind of country place. Though work necessitated being in Toronto, Jane, having been raised on a Brant County farm, simply could not imagine life without ties to an Ontario that lay beyond the GTA. As the only child of a mother and father whom I now regard as day-tripping pioneers, I was easily persuaded. I remain eternally grateful for their introducing me to the great outdoors. As it has turned out, my now considerable years in broadcasting, journalism, and publishing have afforded me a unique opportunity to see a whole lot of the province that remains my personal favourite.

It wasn't long after purchasing (perhaps that should be rescuing) what had started out life in 1872 as a one-room fieldstone schoolhouse that our lives were enhanced by our new neighbours. In time, friendships developed with members of long-established local farm families—Milton and Marilyn Ellis, the Charles family, the Flanagans, and the Calders of Calderwood Farms in nearby Holstein. The Calders have played a significant role in Canada, not only locally but also nationally. It was Murray Calder who, as MP, successfully got an act before Senate, which then passed into law as Bill S-22 (*The National Horse of Canada Act*) on November 8, 2001. This remarkable equine, affectionately dubbed “The Little Iron Horse” by countless admirers, has been in Canada

since its introduction in 1665, when French King Louis XIV shipped a gift of two stallions and twenty mares from his royal stables to the New World. The horses appear in wonderful paintings by the exceptionally talented Cornelius Kriegoff. Today the Canadian Horse can be found across Canada. A well-known West Grey dairy farmer, Michael Schmidt, enthusiastically lauds this historic breed and can be counted on to have one or more on his farm. Speaking earlier of the Calders, Murray's parents are still fondly remembered in part for their individual roles in preserving Egremont (now Southgate) history—Muriel by penning local histories and leading the charge to conserve her region's heritage, and Jim Calder for simply existing. A farmer, master tale spinner, a veritable “walking history”, he was a delightful and frequent visitor to our reclaimed schoolhouse.



Photo - Roman Pylypcak

Millie J. Young and her husband George R. Hubbard retired to a farm near Markdale known as Hubbert's Hill.

A regional search for greater living space found us taking possession of a century farmhouse in 1996 within Grey Highlands, then known as Artemesia Township. Late in April it was necessary to chop ice at the entranceway to get inside. But a bigger challenge was ahead when the driver of the huge moving van miscalculated as he attempted to back into our laneway and found himself royally stuck! The move-in was eventually completed with three weary men hand-bombing every item, including heavy furniture. To this day, notwithstanding the foregoing, we have come to realize that here in Grey Highlands we are surrounded and enriched by a plethora of history, including tangible reminders of early Black history related to the northern terminus of the Underground Railroad. We also immediately discovered that this is Agnes Campbell Macphail country, with highway signs reminding travellers of “The Lady from Grey”, “champion of the working class” and first woman elected to the House of Commons (1921–40), and most recently featured on the Canada 2017 Commemorative \$10 bill. Needless to say we have become ardent Macphail fans and I intend to devote a future column solely to this important figure in Canadian history.

Macphail Country is a lovely part of Ontario that continues to benefit from the historical concerns and achievements of two other remarkable individuals no longer with us. Today, the name Millie Hubbert adorns the busy reading room much appreciated by countless researchers during visits to the county's Grey Roots Museum and Archives, situated just south of Owen Sound. We had barely moved into our farmhouse

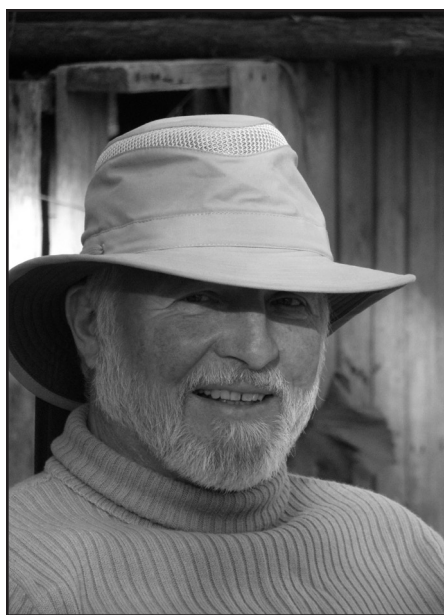


Photo - Doris Fraser

Les MacKinnon was posthumously awarded the OHS Carnochan Award in 2015. Les was a lifetime member of the OHS and known to many across Ontario as a local heritage champion.

when Millie, an author, educator, and storyteller, called from nearby Markdale. Upon taking “our very first call” on our kitchen-wall dial phone, I realized I knew Millie's distinctive voice because of her frequent appearances on the CBC radio program “Fresh Air”. As it turned out, I was to publish her last book, which sadly she did not live to see. Her legacy involves the many delightful books she authored and her generous posthumous financial contribution that makes the Millie Hubert Reading Room possible.

A big man (physically) with big concerns, Les MacKinnon, a Grey County native, was truly a formidable force. His passing at only 65 years of age in 2015 robbed Ontario of one of its most determined and effective heritage advocates. A self-described “fiery fourth-generation Scottish Canadian”, with unshakeable convictions when it came to many community projects, Les's forte

was his unwavering stand on behalf of neglected parts of our past. He devoted more than 25 years to the celebration and documentation of Black history in Grey County. It was his vision and leadership in the company of other concerned citizens that brought widespread recognition to a local long neglected Black cemetery. Known as the Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery, it has now been reclaimed and rededicated, its story told in a NFB documentary *Speakers for the Dead*, and is now recognized as a heritage site of great importance.

Les entered our lives when he unexpectedly arrived at the farmhouse—our very first visitor. His weight proved too much for a handed-down family rocking chair! But it was his zeal and conviction that impressed us most—we immediately found ourselves recruited to his causes. In more ways than one he left large shoes to fill when his lengthy struggle with cancer ended. Hopefully, future generations will be inspired by the heritage victories won by a local Grey County boy, who is now himself part of the area's history.

It is this rich history that captures our combined attention. Jane chairs the Friends of the South Grey Museum, a small dedicated group (incorporated by the OHS in 2014) known for punching above their weight! I serve on the board of the South Grey Museum and, with the support of Kate Russell, the museum manager, have the responsibility for an annual speakers series. Our full lives continue to relate to volunteer projects on the calendar, and our appreciation for the rich history of Grey Highlands continues to grow by leaps and bounds.



Robert J. Burns, Ph.D.

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FROM THE BOOKSHELF

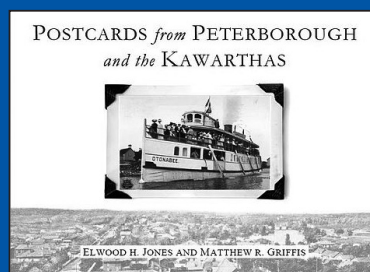
Dr. Cynthia Comacchio

ccomac5702@rogers.com

In these at-long-last summery post-Canada 150 days, as I write, I am happy to offer *Bulletin* readers an eclectic mix of historical works that are, as always, eminently readable and informative. And what good fortune to receive two books about historical representation in postcard form! Who doesn't love vintage postcards? In addition, two well-known and highly regarded authors have new publications that shine some historical light on "local heroes" (Tom Thomson) and local history (Windsor). All in all, this month's "catch" makes for enjoyable summer reading, whether at the cottage or in your own backyard.

POSTCARDS FROM SMALL TOWN ONTARIO: HISTORICAL REPRESENTATION AND HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

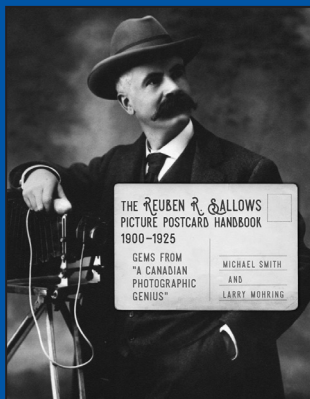
Everyone loves vintage postcards. I was most fortunate to have two postcard collections arrive on my desk at the same time, entrancing me for hours while I admired their beautifully replicated representations of local scenes and scenery, architecture and landscape, social life and wild life, as captured by the cameras of local photographers in early 20th century Ontario. But postcards, as the authors below remind us, are more than "pretty pictures". They are at once representations of life as it was, and also of life as it was idealized—life as certain influential groups wanted it to be, by their particular standards, in the past.



Postcards from Peterborough and the Kawarthas

ELWOOD H. JONES &
MATTHEW R. GRIFFIS

Peterborough,
Trent Valley Archives
2016; Paperback; 154 pp.
www.trentvalleyarchives.com



The Reuben R. Sallows Picture Postcard Handbook, 1900-1925

MICHAEL SMITH &
LARRY MOHRING

London: Pinpoint Publications, 2016
Paperback; 310 pp.
msmith55@hurontel.on.ca

Jones and Griffis focus on Peterborough and the Kawarthas, drawing from the rich resources of the Trent Valley Archives, where Jones is the archivist (and a renowned local historian) of long standing. Smith and Mohring are avid collectors; with the assistance of Connie Keyser of the Sallows Gallery, they aim their own lens specifically at a photographer from Goderich who, in 1909, was proclaimed "a Canadian Photographic Genius"—hence the subtitle—in the widely read *Busy Man's Magazine* (later *Maclean's*). In an all too familiar occurrence, he was all but forgotten until recently. The Sallows Gallery in the Goderich Public Library (www.sallows.com), and this handbook that so benefited from its collection, are important steps toward rectifying that historical anonymity.

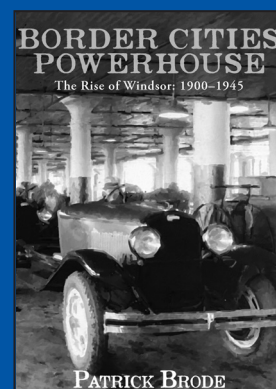
Jones and Griffis focus entirely on postcard publication and collecting in the Trent Valley, specifically Peterborough and the Kawarthas. This compelling and beautifully illustrated book features many never-before-seen colour reproductions of streetscapes, architectural landmarks, local dignitaries, schools, hospitals, and other institutions, steamboats, bridges, and locks on the Trent-Severn Waterway, and the "cottaging" environment of the Kawarthas. Like that of Smith and Mohring, this book is a guide to early 20th century local postcards, presenting 180 postcard images selected from the Archives' collection of over 1,800. There are also 30 illustrations depicting the history of photography and photo-publishing in Peterborough from before the turn of the century to 1920. Also like the

Smith and Mohring publication, this one captures a fair selection of those published during the "golden age" of the postcard, said to be between 1900 and 1914. The authors note that cheap postage (one cent!), and advances in both photographic and transportation technology—which allowed for improved image-capture and lower costs, as well as much quicker postal delivery—made publication and purchase increasingly popular after 1900. Also much like the Sallows volume, there is a brief historical sketch of the postcard and local postcard publishing firms, centred in Peterborough. There are chapters examining the town's ongoing development, especially the key thoroughfares of George and Hunter Streets, of cottage life in the Kawartha Lakes, and on development in the town of Lindsay. With this compilation of "scenes from our past," so to speak, that were consciously produced for sale, circulation, local boosterism, and at times just plain sentiment, Jones and Griffis remind us of the multilayered historical evidence contained in picture postcards.

Smith and Mohring also do an excellent job reminding us of our heritage through postcard imagery in their remarkable overview of the work of Goderich-based photographer Reuben Sallows (1855-1937). Sallows was born on a farm in Colborne township, part of a blended family of 15; after 9 children with his first wife, his widowed father remarried twice. Sallows was the eldest progeny of the second Mrs. Sallows. The three Mrs. Sallows, interestingly, were each named Sarah. He left the farm for Goderich in 1876, where he was employed by, and subsequently apprenticed to, photographer R.R. Thompson. In 1881, Thompson sold the business to Sallows. It was at this time that young Sallows introduced a series of postcards called "Views of Goderich and vicinity" in addition to his conventional portrait photography. The timing was excellent for Sallows' venture: the so-called "golden age" of postcards is considered to have been 1900 to 1914. He gradually built up his postcard business, selling his images across Canada, the United States, and Britain. The authors provide an excellent biographical sketch of Reuben Sallows, as well as a contextual introduction to postcard history in Canada and postcard publishing. The real draw, of course, is the beautiful reproductions of over 1,300 postcards, most in colour and at 2/3 size.

These two compilations will appeal greatly to postcard collectors, historians of postcards, photography, and photo-publishing, as well as those interested in the society and culture of small town Ontario in the early 20th century. In the end, however, postcards are simply fascinating, in and of themselves.

THE MAKING OF A MODERN INDUSTRIAL CITY



Border Cities Powerhouse: The Rise of Windsor, 1900-1945

PATRICK BRODE

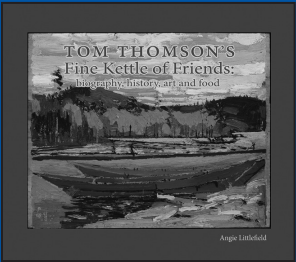
Windsor, Biblioasis, 2016
Hardcover; 331 pp.
www.biblioasis.com

This book is quite fittingly a Windsor project. The author, Patrick Brode, whose work has been featured in this column before, is a Windsor-born lawyer who has produced a number of works on legal and crime history. Most recently, he turned his attention to his home town. In this second volume of a trilogy tracing the origins and development of the city (the first, reviewed here, covers the years up to 1900), Brode once again demonstrates his meticulous research and lucid writing. He describes how these years set Windsor on a remarkable trajectory centred on the intensifying demand for inexpensive cars, as exemplified by the iconic Ford Model T. Positioned across the river from the "motor city" of Detroit, and thanks in large part to the dedication and entrepreneurial spirit of investors and manufacturers from both sides of the border, the fast-growing city of Windsor attained "powerhouse" status in less than a half-century, surpassing its ambitious neighbouring towns of Walkerville and Sandwich. Brode takes care to situate Windsor among these smaller towns, which came to be known as the Border Cities. As he demonstrates, the city and its neighbours were not only geographically connected on the Canadian side of the Detroit River, but, as Windsor's industrial growth exploded, they also became increasingly interconnected in other ways—while defying any move toward political amalgamation.

Although clearly an important historical subject in itself, the automotive industry is not the largest part of what Brode covers. He has an excellent eye for the sociocultural context of all this growth. In chapters deftly describing Windsor's ethnic and religious composition, and consequent rivalries, we see how Windsor's population in 1900 was much more

“native-born” than that of other Ontario cities; Toronto, for example, claimed a 30 percent proportion of British immigrants. The ethnic mix, however, as industry drew immigrants from overseas, became much more complex. Sadly, while the religious and cultural minorities appear to have been integrated into the city’s institutions relatively quickly, though not painlessly, the historic African-Canadian community dwindled in size and became subjected to a “Jim Crow” racism and forced segregation that marginalized them more than any other group. The author discusses the “miracle years” of development during the roaring twenties, the impact of the two world wars and the Great Depression—especially the vital role that Windsor played in production during the Second World War—and ends with the famous Ford strike that claimed headlines in the immediate postwar months of August and September 1945. All in all, this book covers the making of modern Windsor in a way that will be interesting far beyond the city limits.

TOM THOMSON AS A CULINARY ARTIST



Tom Thomson’s Fine Kettle of Friends: Biography, History, Art and Food

ANGIE LITTLEFIELD

Toronto, Marangi Editions, 2017
www.angielittlefield.com

A century after his tragic accident, and despite the number of words dedicated to unravelling “the mystery” of Tom Thomson, he remains an enigma. Angie Littlefield has published a number of works on Thomson and the Thomson family, and to this list she now adds this lovely recounting of Thomson’s culinary interests. The author has found an intriguing perspective from which to paint Thomson, one that shows him as he goes about his everyday life—away, but not distant, from the canvases that established him in Canadian art history. As were most children growing up on Ontario farms at the turn of the previous century, he had early exposure to, and participation in, the ongoing, seasonally defined, food-based rituals of planting, harvesting, cooking, and preserving, as well as hunting and fishing. He was not only adept in the catching, but also in the preparation of trout, ducks, partridge—and black squirrels. Along with a number of recipes that he might have prepared for friends, there is one is for squirrel pot pie for adventurous foodies to try.

Once he left the farm at the age of 21, as Littlefield contends, “Tom’s appreciation of fine food and his ability to produce it, thread their way through his personal narrative”. Littlefield draws on a considerable body of research from her earlier studies, as well as some undertaken for this project, and she provides a strong bibliography of the major works

on Thomson, as well as culinary and food histories. She also includes discussion of his relationships with friends and family, including a “family primer” in which he is situated in a Scottish-Canadian family as one of 10 children. She probes his childhood, in school, among siblings and friends, and at playtime. She also explores his relationship with contemporaries who are now important historical figures in their own right, most notably the important naturalist Dr. William Brody—actually his grandmother’s cousin but whom he fondly called “uncle”, and the even more famous naturalist, author of popular animal tales, and founder of the Woodcraft Indians boys’ association that became the foundation of the international scouting movement, fellow artist and Group of Seven founder J.E.H. Macdonald. Interspersed with these stories of Thomson’s private life, Littlefield provides recipes, as noted, and menus from places where he was known to dine. This is an imaginative and intriguing approach to Tom Thomson that suggests that there remains much to be discovered about ordinary, everyday Tom. In this abundantly illustrated and entertaining book, we get a glimpse into the private life that is so intriguing to historians and yet so difficult to access.

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

A note to authors: Though we are pleased to accept your submissions for review, the timeline for publication in the *Bulletin* may vary. Due to a high volume of submissions, please be patient. We will publish a review for your book as soon as we can!

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