

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Barry Penhale & Jane Gibson Accept OHS Lifetime Achievement Award

OHS Carnochan Lifetime Achievement Award presented June 15, 2019 at Tyndale University College and Seminary

The Carnochan Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an outstanding contribution to the preservation or promotion of Ontario's history over many years. The Ontario Historical Society is proud to present the 2018 Carnochan Award to Barry Penhale and Jane Gibson. For many years, through their professional and volunteer work, Barry and Jane have brought Ontario's history and heritage to the attention of countless people of this province.



Chair of the OHS Honours & Awards Committee Dr. Ian Radforth (left) presents the 2018 Carnochan Lifetime Achievement Award to Barry Penhale and Jane Gibson. Their hard work

Barry's distinguished professional life has been in the fields of journalism, broadcasting, and publishing. Beginning as a sports broadcaster, Barry later worked in television to bring awareness of Ontario places and their histories to a wide audience. His television credits include programs shown on CBC and TVO. A syndicated TV series of 32 episodes, Sketches of Our Town, showcases the historical significance of small towns and cities across Ontario. The publishing house he founded, Natural Heritage Books, now part of Dundurn Press, has published a long and impressive list of books by Canadian authors on the province's environment and history. Of particular note is the boost he gave to public appreciation of the history minority groups in Canada, especially by publishing histories of African Canadians.

Jane Gibson's professional life was in the field of education. For many years a dedicated classroom teacher here in Ontario, Jane branched out into teacher-training with stints in Montserrat and Jamaica and into

educational administration. At the former East York Board of Education, she served as the coordinator of History/Geography/Social Studies and as Coordinator of Community Services. She was responsible for the development and implementation of the Board's Multiculturalism Policy and its Anti-Racism Policy. In retirement, she has worked alongside Barry in publishing, focusing especially on works involving Canadian history.

Both Barry and Jane have spent many years doing important volunteer work promoting Ontario's past. Jane was an early member of the Urban Alliance on Race Relations. Barry spent years assisting Black athletes and performers to get fair treatment. He has done - and still does - yeoman service for the South Grey Museum where he established its ongoing Speakers Series. He has been a mainstay of the annual Owen Sound Emancipation Festival. He has developed and delivered a historically-based lecture program for seniors in two Toronto locations. And, of course, he writes regularly for the OHS Bulletin. Equally generous with her time, Jane has volunteered extensively, especially in Grey County. Her volunteerism has been recognized with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Ontario Black History Society's Harriet Tubman Award, presented to both Jane and Barry in 2016.

Barry and Jane truly have dedicated a lifetime of service to honouring Ontario's past. An excerpt from one of the many letters of support submitted with their nomination for the Carnochan Award reads: "as dedicated writers, teachers, publishers and speakers, they have created a legacy that is at once an inspiration and a call to action."

The Honours and Awards Committee is delighted to recognize Barry Penhale and Jane Gibson with the 2018 OHS Carnochan Lifetime Achievement Award

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. To learn more about the OHS's Honours and Awards Program, or to submit a nomination, please visit https://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/index. php/categories or contact the Society's offices by telephone or e-mail.