

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clendenan's Expert Work on Behalf of OHS Recognized with its Highest Honour

OHS Cruikshank Gold Medal presented to Diane Clendenan, June 15, 2019 at Tyndale University College and Seminary

The Ontario Historical Society's (OHS) Cruikshank Medal is presented to individuals who have performed with distinction on behalf of the OHS. This year, the Society is proud to recognize Diane Clendenan.

In 1977, Diane began researching her family tree and has since become one of Canada's greatest and most trusted genealogists. She has devoted over forty years to discovering, researching, and recording the burial places of our Canadian ancestors. As a dedicated historian and genealogist she has always recognized the importance of cemeteries as a unique cultural and historical asset.



Chair of the Honours & Awards Committee Dr. Ian Radforth (left) and OHS Executive Director (right) present the 2018 Cruikshank Gold Medal to Diane Clendenan. The Cruikshank Gold Medal is the Society's highest honour, recognizing those who have performed on behalf of the OHS with great distinction and selflessness. Diane has been affiliated with the OHS for more than 25 years.

Since 1995, on numerous occasions the OHS has appealed Orders by the the Province of Ontario that it was in the public interest to relocate pioneer cemeteries for real estate development. Diane agreed to testify on behalf of the OHS and was always qualified as an expert witness in Ontario's Cemeteries and Genealogy by the Province's Licence Appeal Tribunal. The quality and integrity of Diane's genealogical research and testimony on behalf of the OHS, often under intense cross-examination by lawyers representing the Province and developers, never once wavered or was threatened. Her dedicated work on many other cases, including the relocation of the burying ground at St. James Cathedral in which Diane joined the OHS in publicly demonstrating against the Anglican Diocese in downtown Toronto, has ensured that hundreds of cemeteries remain in their original location.

In 2006, Diane, with the assistance of other volunteers, began to determine how many unregistered cemeteries there were in Ontario. This intensive, meticulous and painstaking research discovered that there are over 1,600 unregistered cemeteries in Ontario. Until registered, these cemeteries are vulnerable to relocation attempts by developers. In order to address this threat to the public interest, Diane has worked to compile and submit lists of cemeteries located in communities across the Province to the Government of Ontario for registration as Co-Chair of the OHS and Ontario Genealogical Society's Unregistered Cemeteries Committee.

Always working for the public benefit, Diane has participated in many OHS cemetery workshops and has been engaged in the Society's outreach campaigns. Travelling the back roads of Ontario, she has documented and photographed countless cemeteries to ensure their protection.

Diane is a fearless heritage champion who has relentlessly defended the public interest with regards to Ontario's sacred places. Diane has also been a financial donor to the OHS while faithfully volunteering her time and skills to serve the Society's membership and her fellow citizens. Diane Clendenan is indeed a worthy recipient of the Cruikshank Gold Medal. Congratulations, Diane.

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.

-The Ontario Historical Society-

Contact: Daniel Dishaw - ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca - 416.226.9011

 @ONTARIOHISTORY  /ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY  [ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY.CA](https://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)