

OHS BULLETIN

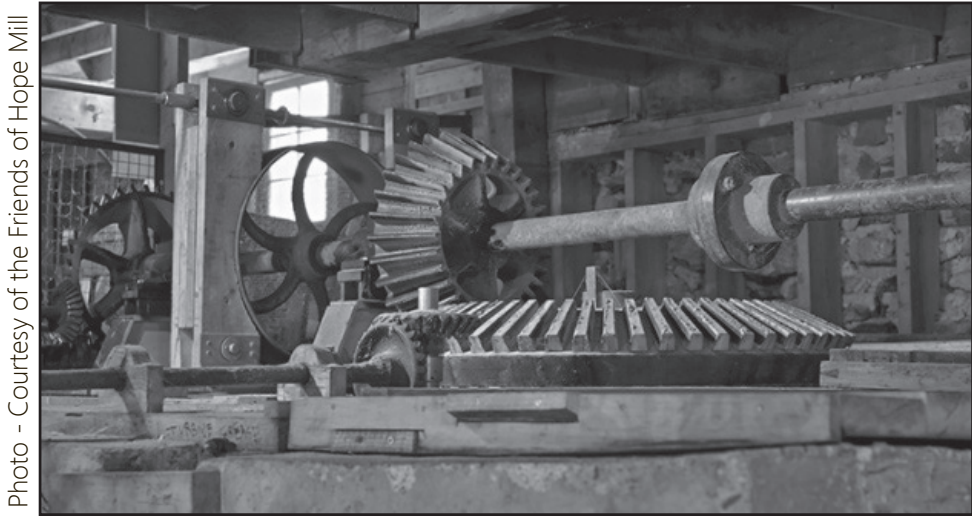
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 206

MARCH 2018

FRIENDS OF HOPE MILL: PRESERVING A HISTORIC SAWMILL

OHS AGM SET FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 23: JAPANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE



The milling equipment at Hope Mill is some of the most well-preserved machinery of its kind in Canada. Hope Mill has been used as a model for the preservation of other historic milling sites in Ontario.

Daniel Dishaw, Communications and Outreach Coordinator
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William and Jane (Stewart) Lang arrived in Otonabee in 1832 from Scotland, purchasing 200 acres of ideal dam land on the Indian River to construct a carding and fulling mill. The original mill was 41 feet by 44 feet and built of heavily mortared limestone. The mill became a vital cog in the local economy, charging six cents per pound for machine carding (straightening of raw wool) and eight cents per yard for fulling (intentionally shrinking the wool before cutting). A shingle mill was added during an expansion in 1858.

William Lang retired in 1873, leasing the mill, the farm, and the dam house to his son-in-law, Richard Hope. By 1892, Hope had transformed the carding and fulling mill into a saw mill, converting all the equipment to accommodate the new saw house. The mill runs on two dam-powered turbines that produce 75 horsepower, or 55 kilowatts. A series of belts, gears, and pulleys deliver the 75 hp to a 48-inch-diameter circular saw. A thickness planer was added to the operation during the Second World War to meet the increased demand for finished lumber.

After 130 years of family ownership and operation, the mill was sold by John Miller Hope to the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority



JOIN US SATURDAY, JUNE 23 FROM 9:30 AM–2:00 PM FOR OUR AGM AND HONOURS & AWARDS CEREMONY IN THE JAPANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE, 6 GARAMOND CT (OFF WYNFORD DRIVE), TORONTO.

9:30 AM – COFFEE SERVED

10:00 AM – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11:00 AM – KEYNOTE ADDRESS, DR. DONALD B. SMITH

11:45 AM – LUNCH SERVED

12:45 PM – OHS HONOURS AND AWARDS CEREMONY

2:00 PM – PROGRAM CONCLUDES, TOURS OF NIKKEI MORIYAMA HERITAGE CENTRE AVAILABLE.

SINCE SPACE IS LIMITED, PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE TOUR WHEN YOU RSVP.

THIS YEAR’S KEYNOTE ADDRESS

A 20TH-CENTURY EXAMPLE OF RECONCILIATION IN ONTARIO:

PAUL WALLACE AND “THE WHITE ROOTS OF PEACE”

BY: DR. DONALD B. SMITH, AUTHOR, HISTORIAN, AND PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY.

PLEASE RSVP TO OHS@ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY.CA OR 416-226-9011 BY FRIDAY, JUNE 8.

‘FRIENDS OF HOPE MILL’ CONTINUED ON PAGE 3...

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Caroline Di Cocco, President
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I want to start off by thanking everyone who made a contribution to the Ontario Historical Society in 2017. We received generous donations from people across Ontario, empowering us to continue our important work.

One of the challenges the Society has faced in recent years is the need to update our digital platform, while continuing to provide the same high-quality programs, services, and print publications that our members and subscribers have come to expect. The Society initially looked to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) as a source of funding for this initiative. We were able to secure an OTF grant in 2015 to begin this process of fulfilling the Society's mandate through technology. Initially referred to as the OHS Reach project, this work consisted of research, consultations, estimates, indexing, digitizing, and planning.

In 2016, the OHS completed this first preparation work, culminating in the creation of a new index for Ontario History, a partnership with not-for-profit scholarly publisher Erudit to bring Ontario History online, and a build plan for a new OHS digital platform (membership management system and website), prepared by Nascent Digital. The Society attempted to submit a second OTF grant application to secure funding to implement the plans made under the first grant. However, we discovered that OTF's new investment strategy did not offer any appropriate funding option for the Society's needed online platform. After extensive consultation and investigation, the Society concluded that it would need to seek private-sector funding for this initiative. Thanks to an incredibly generous donation from the Laidlaw Foundation, the OHS is now moving forward with the implementation of its new online platform.

In order to proceed with the new website build, the OHS endeavoured to design a new brand for our digital identity, something with colour that would serve to represent the OHS—and all of our members across the province. I am pleased to announce that the OHS Board of Directors has adopted a new logo for the Society. OHS staff will be introducing the updated branding when the new website goes live this summer. I want to be clear in stating that this new branding does not involve throwing away the historic OHS seal. The seal has served as the Society's sole logo since its establishment in 1888; it is both a storied piece of our history, and a significant part of our future. Nevertheless, the seal does not lend itself well to digital communications and design. As a monochromatic image with a great amount of detail, the historic seal is a challenging image to use as a graphic logo in a digital environment. It was designed for a print world, and we now live in an increasingly digital world. With a new logo and branding guide, the Society will now have a consistent visual identity across all platforms, including fresh new colours. We look forward to unveiling our new look this summer.

REMEMBERING KIM FORBES

Rob Leverty, Executive Director
rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

I was deeply saddened to learn on Thursday, January 18, 2018, that Kim Forbes had passed away at the age of 62. The OHS has lost a great friend, Sault Ste. Marie has lost a heritage champion, and our country has lost a tireless advocate for community history.

Kim Forbes gave 18 years of incredible service to the Sault Ste. Marie and 49th Field Regiment R.C.A. Historical Society (incorporated in 1962 through the OHS). Kim served as Curator/Director for the Society's Sault Ste. Marie Museum. He was a great innovator, taking on a digitization project of over 45,000 items in the museum's collection, and assisted more than a dozen other organizations with their digital initiatives, including the OHS.

Kim's love of history and genealogy, along with his amazing memory, made him the key resource in Sault Ste. Marie for information and knowledge on local history. In 2016, Kim was honoured with the Tourism Award of Excellence in recognition of his significant contributions to the development of tourism in Sault Ste. Marie.

Like so many of our dedicated museum curators, he had to be a magician to survive—constantly pulling rabbits out of his hat. Despite the challenges, he still found the time and energy to be a mentor to many young people wishing to begin a career in the heritage sector.



Photo - Daniel Dishaw

On Sunday, January 28, 2018, the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) held their annual Black History Month Kick-Off Brunch at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. OHS Director and respected heritage professional Janie Cooper-Wilson (left) was recognized with the prestigious Harriet Tubman Award for Commitment to a Purpose. OBHS Treasurer Dorothy Abbott (right) presented the award. Janie has worked tirelessly to preserve Black history in Ontario, raising awareness everywhere she goes. She was a driving force behind the massive restoration project at the Oro African Episcopal Church in Oro Medonte, and has served as the Executive Director of the SilverShoe Historical Society (cemetery preservation group) for many years. Congratulations, Janie!

Finally, I would like to turn your attention to our 130th Annual General Meeting and Honours & Awards Ceremony, scheduled for Saturday, June 23, 2018. The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC) in Toronto will be our venue. Please RSVP by June 8, 2018.

I am also excited to introduce Dr. Donald B. Smith as this year's Keynote Speaker. Donald is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Calgary and taught Canadian History from 1974 to 2009. He obtained his B.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Toronto, and his M.A. from Université Laval. His publications include three biographies, of Long Lance, Grey Owl, and Honoré Jaxon; two histories of the 19th century Mississauga First Nations, and a history of Calgary. In June 2013 he was made a member of The Order of the University of Calgary. He received the 2016 Calgary Award for Education in the Community Achievement category in June 2017. He is currently completing a book entitled *BLIND SPOT* on non-Indigenous Canadians' perspectives of the First Nations, from 1867 to the present. Donald has been an OHS member, *Ontario History* subscriber, and general supporter of the OHS for over 40 years. I am looking forward to Donald's keynote address, and to seeing all of you at this year's AGM and Honours & Awards Ceremony.

Whenever the OHS needed help or advice, we could count on Kim to chat about our challenges in confidence. He was always so generous with his time and wisdom.

Kim's dedication and friendship will be deeply missed by the OHS. He was a gentle giant who always worked for the public benefit.

He was a loving husband to Barbara Forbes for 40 years, and we send Barb our warmest thoughts and condolences, and our best wishes to all Kim's relatives, friends, and former colleagues.



Photo - Courtesy of Tourism Sault Ste. Marie

The late Kim Forbes is pictured here after accepting the 2016 Tourism Award of Excellence, recognizing an individual who has significantly impacted the development of tourism in Sault Ste. Marie.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rob Leverty, Executive Director
rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

The OHS has spanned three centuries, and members can look on its accomplishments in 2018 with pride. As the OHS celebrates its 130th 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.

Since my last report to you in mid-December, I am pleased to inform you that we have incorporated two more historical organizations through affiliation with the OHS. They are the Friends of Hope Mill and The Junction Heritage Conservation District (HCD). Congratulations to all the volunteers of both groups who worked so hard to establish these new not-for-profit corporations. It is a privilege to work with you.

The purpose of the Friends of Hope Mill is to preserve and maintain the Hope Mill (est. 1835), a water-powered sawmill on the banks of the Indian River in Lang which is located in the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan. The Friends are highly skilled volunteers seeking to advance the public's understanding and enjoyment of the history of Hope Mill by continuing to operate the mill and its museum to demonstrate water-powered technology and carpentry of the 19th century. I have seen many mills in North America and Europe and this is without a doubt one of the finest. For more information, see our feature article on page 1.

The Junction HCD was incorporated by the OHS on January 4, 2018. Located in the west end of Toronto, just north of High Park, the Junction was initially a meeting point of Indigenous trails, and then flourished at the convergence of a few major railroad lines. Today it is a vibrant neighbourhood with authentic, historic architecture. Preservation of the Junction's cultural legacy is being threatened by hyper-intense redevelopment pressures.

The Junction HCD is intended to be a microcosm at the core of the former West Toronto city that amalgamated with the City of Toronto in 1909. Their vision is to conserve the spectrum of society with industrial, commercial and public buildings, and residential properties ranging from the mansions of the gentry, to the houses of professionals and merchants, to the homes of the working class.

Since incorporation, The Junction HCD has already been chosen twice for research studies. First, Toronto City Council officially approved The Junction HCD Phase One Heritage Study—another essential step in a long process to create a heritage district. Second, as the recipient of a special collaborative project between the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Toronto Branch and Ryerson University's Urban Planning Department, a dozen third-year undergraduate students will be exploring the Junction neighbourhood and taking a closer look at its rich architectural history.

To learn more about The Junction HCD, please visit their website at www.junctionhcd.ca

Since January 2015, the OHS has incorporated 22 historical not-for-profit organizations: five in northern Ontario, three in central Ontario, three in eastern Ontario, three in the Greater Toronto Area, three in Toronto, and five in southwestern Ontario.

However, these new member organizations through incorporation do not tell the entire story. Since 2015, over sixty-five other organizations and institutions have become OHS members and/or subscribers to *Ontario History*. Our workload has dramatically increased, which is why we are working to build a new membership management system and website.

The OHS Insurance Program (est. 2008) remains very popular with the Society's membership. In the last two years alone, I have approved over sixty-four member organizations in good standing to apply for our insurance program.

The Society just successfully completed its 2017 financial audit. Last year, OHS volunteers donated approximately 12,400 hours of time to the organization in support of its activities (11,300 in 2016). Thank you to all our volunteers—we could never implement our mandate without your dedicated and highly skilled support.

We remain committed to protecting Ontario's cemeteries. The OHS/Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) Joint Unregistered Cemeteries Committee has documented and recently submitted to the Province of Ontario lists of unregistered cemeteries for Oxford County, Parry Sound District, and Peel Region. Committee Co-Chairs Marjorie Stuart and Diane Clendenan have just finished researching and compiling lists of unregistered cemeteries for Perth County, Rainy River District, and the Counties of Prescott and Peterborough. OHS and OGS want these cemeteries to be registered as soon as possible.

In the December *OHS Bulletin*, I wrote about the incorporation of the Madill Church Preservation Society (MCPS) through affiliation with OHS.



Photo - Daniel Dishaw

Tina Leslie, Chair, Board of Directors, The Junction Heritage Conservation District (HCD) meets with Rob Leverty at the John McKenzie House for a tour of the historic site (protected by a Heritage Conservation Easement). The two also met to finalize the Junction HCD's incorporation documents for affiliation with the OHS. The Junction HCD was incorporated as a not-for-profit by the OHS on January 4, 2018.

MCPS was established to prevent the demolition of the Madill Church (1873) south of Huntsville. This story generated tremendous interest and feedback. So I am pleased to report that, as of February 1, 2018, MCPS is now the proud owner of the historic church. Congratulations! The new Board of Directors is also busy submitting an application for status as a charitable organization as they seek funds to help with the restoration and maintenance of the Church. For further information, please contact their new website: <https://madillchurch.wordpress.com/contact>.

I hope you enjoy the coming spring and look forward to seeing you Saturday, June 23rd at our 130th Annual General Meeting and Honours & Awards Ceremony.

... 'FRIENDS OF HOPE MILL' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(ORCA) in 1966. The Conservation Authority made extensive repairs to the mill and operated it as a heritage demonstration site until 1993 when funding cuts forced its closure. In 2001, the Friends of Hope Mill, in cooperation with the Otonabee Region Conservation Foundation and ORCA, restored the turbines, saw house, and wood-finishing machinery. Today, the Mill continues to operate as a museum and heritage demonstration site, replicating the process of cutting and finishing lumber as it was done in pioneer times.



Photo - Rob Leverty

OHS Executive Director Rob Leverty visited Hope Mill in December 2017 for an incorporation consultation meeting. Hope Mill's Board of Directors (pictured above) incorporated through affiliation with the OHS on December 22.

The on-site museum space now features an extensive collection of 19th-century carpentry tools, including planes, chisels, scales, adzes, spokeshaves, and more. This collection was donated by the late Joseph P. Sharp of Peterborough, Ontario. The Friends of Hope Mill continue to maintain and operate the site, offering free guided tours and saw demonstrations from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., every Tuesday from late-April to mid-October. On December 22, 2017, the Friends of Hope Mill became a not-for-profit corporation through affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society. They seek to advance the public's understanding and enjoyment of Hope Mill by continuing to operate the machinery and manage the on-site woodworking museum. To learn more, visit www.hopemill.ca.

“ACCESS BEYOND THE RAMP” PART EIGHT:
CANADA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM

John Rae
thepenguin@rogers.com



Testing out a locomotive at the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

Editor’s Note: In his first seven articles for the *OHS Bulletin*, John Rae examined a variety of access issues for museums and heritage organizations. In this eighth installment, John offers his impressions from his recent visit to the recently reopened Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa.

On November 17, 2017, the Canada Science and Technology Museum reopened after a three-year closure and \$80-million makeover. The fully accessible museum offers visitors access to cherished artifacts in an environment that’s full of colour, sound, and interactive exhibits, showcased in a larger and more modern space—offering a true multisensory experience for all visitors.

“The goal was to make the new museum multisensory,” says Gabrielle Trepanier, the Museum’s Visitor Researcher. “And I am excited that the teams who developed each exhibit fully embraced this multisensory approach.”

A stroll down Artifact Alley features a dazzling array of artifacts, interactive displays, and a stage for participatory science demonstrations!

The Crazy Kitchen—a visitor favourite before the museum closed—is now back as Crazy Kitchen +, with several new activities designed to trick your senses of smell, sound, and sight. Into the Great Outdoors gives visitors the chance to discover new perspectives on how transportation technologies and the great outdoors have shaped Canadian experiences. This exhibition includes a display about technologies created for—and often by—people with physical disabilities to improve access to outdoor recreation activities like kayaking, skiing, rock climbing, and mountain biking.

The Sound By Design area showcases some of the most exciting innovations in sound technology, including a display of touchable music cylinders and music box discs dating back to the early 1900s. Additionally, in a work of sound art that explores the concept of soundscapes, visitors can trigger different sounds as they travel through the space.

Visitors can also explore a range of technologies designed for the body, from smartwatches and spy cameras to pacemakers and pet-tracking devices, in the Wearable Tech exhibition. And, of course, there are still the four old steam locomotives that were a favourite feature of the old museum, two of which can still be visited. There’s a great photo of me in one of the locomotive cabs featured at the beginning of this article.

As an Exhibition Interpretation Officer, Britt Braaten observed during my visit, “We spend so long working on our exhibitions as drawings, or computer renderings. We try to anticipate the needs of our visitors—including our visitors with disabilities—and create spaces and experiences that will maximize accessibility. But it can be difficult to go from these imaginary visitors walking through a 2D floor plan to real life. Walking around the exhibition with you was valuable for me, in making me confront the implications of the choices that we made in creating the exhibitions—both the successes, and the mistakes. I believe that this experience will have a lasting impact on how I do my job.”

Involving members from the disability community will lead to an even more accessible and inclusive experience for future visitors, and the newly reopened Canada Science and Technology Museum is an enjoyable place for the whole family to experience and learn.

For further information, visit the museum’s website at www.ingeniumcanada.org/scitech/index.php.

STEVE OTTO AWARDED ORDER OF CANADA

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

On behalf of the OHS staff and Directors, I would like to congratulate former OHS board member Steve Otto on being awarded the Order of Canada. Steve has worked tirelessly to advocate for heritage preservation in Ontario, and in Toronto specifically.

For many years (before my career in heritage preservation was anywhere near its beginning) Steve has been on the front lines—and behind the scenes—in the fight to preserve our heritage assets. Often the first name mentioned when someone asks “Who should I talk to about this?” Steve is well known for his encyclopedic knowledge of everything Toronto.

Though I had heard his name mentioned a dozen times before meeting him, I only began working with Steve in 2016. He recruited me to help out with the *Fife and Drum*, a newsletter produced by the Friends of Fort York, an organization that Steve co-founded in 1994. I helped him put together a few articles by making a few calls and combing the archives for photos and other helpful resources. In working with Steve on the *Fife and Drum* this past year, I discovered his seemingly limitless ability to turn over the right stones along every path.

Steve’s contributions to the preservation and improvement of Fort York over the years are unparalleled. He was instrumental in the reclamation of significant real estate surrounding the fort, and advised on Parks Canada’s precise delineation of the Fort York National Historic Precinct. He has since influenced the development and preservation of several other heritage sites in Toronto, including the Distillery District and Spadina House.

In addition to numerous other hats Steve has worn over the years, he served as the Head of Heritage Conservation Services at the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, as board member of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Managing Editor of the *Fife and Drum*, and a board member of the Ontario Historical Society. Steve has no doubt influenced countless projects, organizations, and individuals over the course of his impressive career. Congratulations, Steve!



On February 3rd, OHS was honoured to attend the official opening of “Celebrating Portia White...50 years on”—a rare, public exhibit for Black History Month at the Don Heights Unitarian Congregation (DHUC), Toronto. Seen here with OHS Executive Director Rob Levery are Janis Daly, Lay Chaplain at the DHUC and Sheila White, Chair of the Portia White Exhibit Committee. Portia White was the first Black Canadian classical musician to achieve an international career and fame. For further information, please visit www.portiawhite.ca.



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MUSEUM MILESTONES

Dr. John Carter
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I recently had a quick look at my beat-up copy of the Ontario Museum Association's (OMA) 1982 Directory of Ontario Museums. I still find this rather outdated volume to be of use. In it, all Ontario museums were divided into 21 categories. Number 18 was entitled "Specialized Museums." This is exactly what the lead article below is all about. Allan Symons describes his life-long passion for, and efforts in, establishing and operating the Canadian Clock Museum. Next time you are in Eastern Ontario, be sure to drop in and say hello to Allan. I think you will enjoy what he has created!

THE CANADIAN CLOCK MUSEUM

Allan Symons
enquiries@canclockmuseum.ca

This unique, federally incorporated, not-for-profit museum opened in May 2000 in the town of Deep River, Ontario, as the retirement project of Allan Symons following his twenty-seven year career as a chemistry research scientist. It all started with his own collection of about six hundred clocks.

The museum is set up in the old (1962) Calvary Pentecostal Church in the west end of town. The main Exhibit Room has more than three hundred Canadian clocks on display is located upstairs. Many examples are operating, and some strike the hour and even chime on the quarter hours. But clocks also line the walls of the stairwells near the main entrance, and there are even more clocks in the public washroom! The early pastors' families lived in a small, four-room apartment downstairs. One room is now used as a workshop, and the two bedrooms are filled with clocks in storage.

Allan's focus as Curator has been on collections expansion, conservation, exhibition (both in-museum and online), and publication of his research results on "unknown" 20th-century Canadian clock companies. To date he has published articles about four such companies in the *Watch and Clock Bulletin* of the Pennsylvania-based National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. They are: Harry Snider's two companies (Toronto, 1950–1976), Girotti Sculptured Art (St. Catharines, early 1960s–1979), Walter Clocks (Toronto, late 1930s–mid 1950s), and the Pequegnat Clock Company of Canada (Kitchener, Ontario, 1904–1941).



The Canadian Clock Museum in Deep River, Ontario.

The collections now contain more than 2,700 examples of mostly Canadian clocks that were acquired both by direct purchase and by donation (tax receipts issued). Part-time Conservator Jordan Renaud is available for any restoration work beyond Allan's abilities. There are very few watches, because only Westclox made watches in large numbers in Canada, and Canadian-made is the key emphasis of the museum.

There are hundreds of well-known Westclox alarm and wall clocks that were made in the factory of the Western Clock Company in Peterborough, Ontario. The museum also has very large collections of examples made by Harry Snider's two Toronto-based companies and The Arthur Pequegnat

Congratulations to Steve Otto, a former OHS board member, and well known Ontario researcher, architectural historian, and author. Steve was recently awarded the Order of Canada. And congratulations to Petal Furness, manager of Grey Roots in Owen Sound, who has been elected as President of the OMA. Both truly deserve these recognitions!

The Ontario museum community has lost one of its most senior members. I am sad to have to report the death of my good friend, Joan Johnston. Joan was the long time curator of the Glengarry, Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum in Williamstown. She was also an OMA councillor, an active member of the OMA Training/Education Committee, and a board member for the Ontario Heritage Foundation (now Ontario Heritage Trust). We've lost a dedicated member of our community. Condolences to her family.

Summer will soon be with us. Please send me information about what your site has planned so I can include it in future columns.



A selection of 20th-century, Canadian-made, electric advertising clocks.

Clock Company. In the past two years, the collection of rare mantel and wall clocks made in Whitby (1872–1876) and Hamilton (1876–1884) has doubled.

The Canadian 1820s–1830s shelf and tallcase clocks with wooden gears and Nova Scotia, Upper Canada, and Lower Canada labels are a special attraction.

In addition to more than four hundred clocks spanning from the early 1800s to the present time, visitors to the museum will also see and hear many non-horological artifacts, including several working old record players (Edison cylinders, thick flat records, and 78s).

Most of the more than twelve thousand visitors since the May 2000 opening have taken Allan's guided tour of the exhibits. The tour usually takes at least one hour, and some people choose to stay and linger over the impressive displays.

The Ontario Tourism-Oriented Directional Signing (TODS) on the nearby Trans-Canada Highway/Highway 17 often brings in travellers. Others come in small and large groups with people of all ages to enjoy prearranged tours. In early October, a bus out of North Bay brought forty-three people to tour the museum before continuing on to Ottawa and then Quebec.

The museum's website (www.canclockmuseum.ca) has become an important resource for information about Canadian clocks. It is used regularly by collectors and sellers, and by people who inherit or find a Canadian clock and want to learn more about it.

Since its opening, the museum has received wide recognition in print, on radio, and on television. Most recently, the magazine *Canadian Antiques & Vintage* (May/June, 2017 issue), in the two-page Collecting Museums column, reported that "As 'Canada's Only Clock Museum,' A Collector's Passion Has Become a National Treasure."

Although display and storage space are now very limited, Allan continues to look for new additions in antiques shops and malls throughout Ontario. Major online sources include eBay and Kijiji.

Not surprisingly, Allan needs to wear many hats to maintain the museum's operation: Manager, Chief Guide, Curator, Assistant Conservator, Secretary, Treasurer, Gardener, and Maintenance Man. Still ticking!

For more information, please visit www.canclockmuseum.ca.

Photo - Courtesy of the Canadian Clock Museum

Photo - Courtesy of the Canadian Clock Museum

BARRY PENHALE'S ONTARIO

TRAILBLAZERS

Barry Penhale

barry@naturalheritagebooks.com

Ontario has lost several outstanding citizens recently—among them: Paul Carroll of Goderich; Leasider Douglas Gardner; Frances Halpenny of Toronto; and Ojibway elder, Wilmer Nadjiwon of Cape Croker. All were, in their own way, pioneers, and although very different individuals, they were known for heritage and cultural interests that greatly benefitted Ontario.

A prominent educator, published author, artist, sailor, and Great Lakes authority, Paul Carroll's death has robbed the province of one of its staunchest heritage champions. His many historical interests spanned all of Huron County, with the marine history of the Port of Goderich in particular occupying countless hours right up to his passing. In June 2017, Paul was awarded the Ontario Historical Society's Carnochan Award for outstanding service to the heritage sector (pictured here on the right). He and his wife Mary were present for the Honours and Awards program at York University. At that time, I was honoured to read the award citation and to add some heartfelt personal comments concerning the man I had come to know and greatly admire throughout a friendship spanning several decades. Paul Carroll's passing has left enormous shoes to fill, and it is to be hoped that others will come forward to move ahead the important projects he so vigorously and effectively championed to the end.



Barry Penhale and Paul Carroll (right).

Sudbury-born Douglas Girdwood Gardner entered my world as a member of the group registered for classes in Ontario history at the time when I was contracted by Ryerson to prepare weekly programs for the institution's Continuing Education department. As I quickly discovered, Doug's historic interests were many, and he proved to be especially knowledgeable when it came to the history of Canadian music and the performing arts in general. Doug had a rich musical background and countless visitors to Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto will have heard him play the Glenn Gould piano in the lobby for special seniors' occasions. Most recently, and with his usual flair, Doug had become a familiar volunteer at the Gardiner Museum of Ceramics. Many people, however, will not likely have known of Doug's intimate knowledge of the history of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall. Nor might they have been aware of his many years as a theatre volunteer, a trainer of volunteers, and a presenter of numerous slide/talk sessions concerning the historical importance of his two favourite performance venues. A proud Leaside resident, Doug was one of the original members of the Discover Your Heritage group of seniors, whose programs have been my responsibility for some thirty-plus years at the Leaside Branch of the Toronto Public Library. It was Doug Gardner who was often asked to thank speakers, and his insightful comments were always a contribution to the sessions. He is greatly missed.



Janet Watt (left), Douglas Gardner, and Barbara Bellamy.

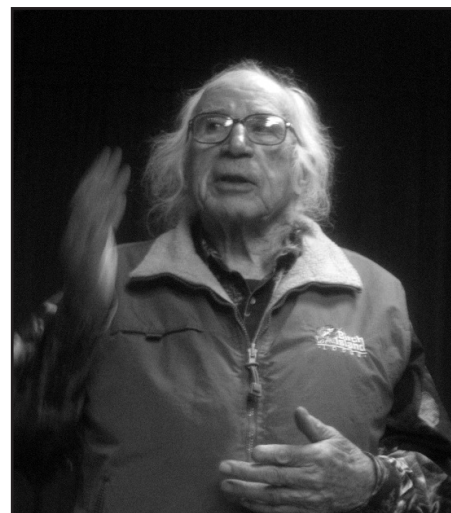
With the passing of Ottawa-born Frances Halpenny in Toronto on Christmas Day, 2017, the Canadian literary scene lost a giant. An associate fellow at Massey College, Frances, in her long and distinguished career, made an enormous contribution to Canada's cultural and intellectual heritage. Appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada (1979) and Companion (1983), she was also the recipient of the prestigious Canada Council Molson Prize, among numerous other honours

and awards. Long associated with the University of Toronto Press, she mentored many scholarly press editors while building an editorial department second to none. Perhaps her finest contribution to the world of words was achieved while general editor of the multi-volume bilingual Dictionary of Canadian Biography. Long-time CBC Radio listeners will recall her frequent appearances on air during the mid-1980s. In the January 18, 2018, edition of *The Globe and Mail*, prominent Toronto broadcaster Erica Ritter recalled her pleasure when, as host of the national program "Dayshift," her welcoming of an eclectic mix of contributors included the always gracious and erudite Frances Halpenny.



Frances Halpenny.

The death (early this January) of former Cape Croker Chief Wilmer Nadjiwon at age 96 resulted in an ongoing outpouring of mourning for one of Ontario's best-known Ojibway personalities. Nadjiwon served as Chief of the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation in the 1960s and 70s. He was also a founding member of the Union of Ontario Indians. A residential school survivor and Second World War veteran, Nadjiwon was an entrepreneurial, self-sufficient free spirit who lived life to its fullest and, as an elder, mentored Indigenous youth. Few could match him when it came to survival in the bush, and his vast knowledge of traditional Indigenous life was unrivalled. A respected craftsman, he founded The Indian Carver shop, which became a much-visited landmark on the Bruce Peninsula. His annual appearances at the Canadian National Sportsmen's Show in Toronto provided a platform for dialogue with non-natives. The lay-it-all-on-the-line telling of his life story, "warts and all," was powerfully captured in his 2012 book *Neither Wolf Nor Dog*. Nadjiwon's passing deprives Ontario of a colourful and inspiring individual whose likes we are not likely to encounter for some time.



Chief Wilmer Nadjiwon.

Without Wilmer Nadjiwon, Paul Carroll, Douglas Gardner, and Frances Halpenny, Ontario suddenly seems somewhat emptier, but their contributions will live on and by their examples we are challenged to keep up the good fight. Their unflagging dedication to the preservation of our heritage and their services to community are evident in the many existing reminders they have left behind—mileposts for the rest of us to follow.

THANK YOU JULIA MUNROE!



Since 1888, the OHS has been a non-partisan, non-governmental organization. However, the Society does work with anyone who supports our mandate to preserve and promote Ontario's history. MPP Julia Munro has always been a true friend of Ontario's history and the OHS. For the last 22 years, Julia has served as MPP for Durham-York, York North, and currently York-Simcoe. Julia will not be seeking re-election in the upcoming provincial election. Seen here is OHS Executive Director Rob Levery with Julia at her constituency office in Holland Landing. After recently discussing the issues and challenges facing the OHS in protecting Ontario's history, Rob thanked Julia for her friendship and support, wishing her well as she looks forward to the next chapter.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio

ccomac5702@rogers.com

I want to express my deepest regrets for an error on my part that resulted in the publication, under my name, of three reviews in the December issue of the *OHS Bulletin* that I did not write.

I mistakenly submitted a file of verbatim notes from online interviews about the three books discussed. After reading the books that I receive, I always search online for any information about the authors that might enhance my understanding of their background and motivation. I usually just cut and paste these into a ‘notes’ file.

I submitted my ‘notes’ file to our editor rather than my actual reviews.

I am, of course, mortified about this, especially since I did not discover my mistake until the *Bulletin* was published and circulated. I want to stress that this is entirely my mistake, and that none of the OHS staff is remotely implicated or accountable. I quite simply should have been more careful with my submission.

I also apologize sincerely to the authors and presses affected: Elaine Becker and the Oxford Historical Society; Edward Butts and James Lorimer & Company; and Jacqueline Stuart and the Aurora Historical Society.

And to the original interviewers/reviewers and their publications—in no way was I trying to pass off their fine work as my own:

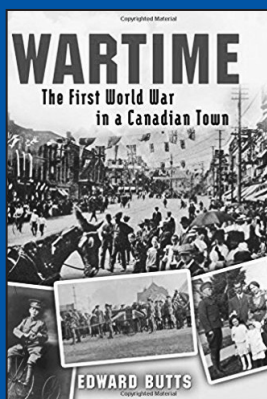
- Brock Weir, “Aurora’s forgotten stories are brought to you by the letter ‘A’ (through Z),” *The Auroran*, October 6, 2016; www.newspapers-online.com/auroran/?p=15445.

- Tony Saxon, “New book looks at what life was like in Guelph during World War I,” *Guelph Today*, Nov 2, 2017; www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/new-book-looks-at-life-was-like-in-guelph-during-world-war-i-755341

- Heather Rivers, “Defined Under Pressure by Dr. Elaine Becker explores the fascinating history of the Woodstock Fire Department,” *Woodstock Sentinel Review*, June 25, 2015; www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/2015/06/25/defined-under-pressure-by-dr-elaine-becker-explores-the-fascinating-history-of-the-woodstock-fire-department

With many thanks for your understanding, below are my own actual reviews!

LOCAL HISTORIES FROM ACROSS THE PROVINCE



Wartime: The First World War in a Canadian Town

EDWARD BUTTS

James Lorimer & Company, 2017;
Paperback; 238 pp.
www.lorimer.ca

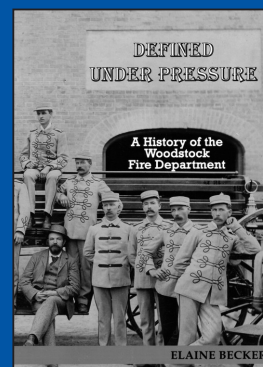
Recent centennial commemorations pertaining to the two world wars of the last century have encouraged many studies, social, political, and especially military, that examine the myriad subjects that wars—especially those of this nature and scope—contain. Although home-front histories are part of that growing catalogue, there are not, to date, many that focus on Ontario towns. Edward Butts, a much-published and respected popular historian, fills in some of that gap with his latest study of his adopted hometown, Guelph, during the Great War.

Extensively researched in local, regional, and national archives, and involving both a close reading of *The Guelph Mercury* for the period and interviews with descendants of Guelph residents who were active on either the front or home front, this book is informative, accessible, and clearly written. Here we learn about the local experience of such

national and international events as Britain’s path to and declaration of war against Germany, and Canada’s necessary “Ready, aye, ready” response; Guelph’s eager participation in the call to arms that quickly trained and outfitted the Canadian Expeditionary Force; how some of the major battles, with their shocking casualty count among the Canadians at the front, affected Guelph residents, for the many families that had sons and brothers fighting overseas and for the public’s general sense of loss and mourning; and the implications of the Conscription Act of 1917. These discussions provide much-needed insights into the ways wars impact, shape, and reshaped everyday lives in small towns an ocean away.

Particularly interesting are the author’s explorations of wartime incidents that involve Guelph, including the temporary imprisonment of a German spy in the local jail, and the infamous (locally at least) June 1918 night raid by military police on the St. Stanislaus Jesuit Novitiate, a Catholic seminary, on the search for “conscription-evaders.” Although the Military Service Act initially exempted both Catholic and Protestant divinity students, a national Protestant-fuelled campaign against Catholic seminarians was sparked by anti-conscription riots in Catholic Quebec. The strongly Anglo-Protestant Guelph citizenry supported conscription, as did the Anglo-Celtic majority across the country, splitting Canada into two linguistic-religious and adversarial camps. The ill-considered, heavy-handed and clearly anti-Catholic raid stirred further religious animosity across the country, which was only barely quelled by a 1919 Royal Commission declaring the students to have been officially exempt.

The Novitiate raid was a particular “war at home” outburst, but the larger “war at home,” as Butts details, saw a solid, consistent, and increasing dedication of women’s groups, religious and lay associations, churches and schools, men, women, and children of all ages, “doing their bit” for the war effort. The story is one that likely represents a case study of what was happening, in varying degrees, in most Ontario towns—most of which were of the same “British” and Protestant heritage as the citizens of Guelph. This is a most interesting book that aims to capture the voices of “the average citizen” as well as the voices of outstanding individuals, to show what war—in this case, a war of unprecedented duration and fury—meant to those on the home front—itsself a term that came into popular usage only with this “war to end all wars.”



Defined Under Pressure: A History of the Woodstock Fire Department

ELAINE BECKER

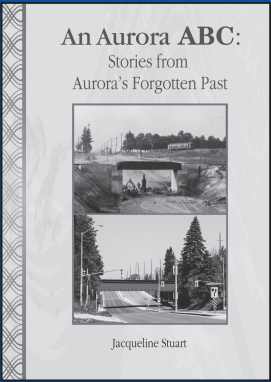
Oxford Historical Society, 2016;
Paperback; 290 pp.
info@oxhs.ca

Defined Under Pressure commemorates the 150th Anniversary of the Woodstock Fire Department, as old as Canada itself. Elaine Becker is especially interested in and well-positioned to chronicle the department’s development from its origins as a voluntary fire brigade in 1848 to the present day, thanks to a very personal connection, one even deeper than her hometown roots. The book is dedicated to her grandfather, Graham Stafford Hayes. Hayes became chief of the Woodstock Fire Department in 1946, after 26 years of service. Sadly, he died later that year, likely of an illness related to his long career in firefighting. She never knew him, but the painstaking research that she undertook for this project uncovered many of the details of his public life in service to his community. “Service,” in fact, is what this book is about. More specifically, its service carried out consistently and dutifully under the occupational pressures particular to the hazardous work of firefighting.

Becker’s own devotion to local history is demonstrated in her careful use of the local newspaper, *The Sentinel-Review*, as well as the department’s own archives, most notably its daily logs, available from 1902. Before its professionalization into an official municipal fire department in 1881, the Woodstock firefighters functioned as a mutual assistance organization, a Fire Brigade, consisting of local volunteers. Once a water and hydrant system was installed that year, a professional, full-time, paid department was created—very much in keeping with the pattern that developed across the province in the closing decades of the Victorian era.

The opening chapters effectively describe the department’s evolution from its volunteer days. The remaining, well-illustrated chapters, focus on the human side of the story. Here you’ll find detailed narratives on topics such as the firefighters’ roles and responsibilities in the community, advancing technology, fire prevention and safety campaigns and public education, and changing legislation regarding fire safety for public spaces. The appendices include an alphabetical list of every firefighter who has served since the department’s inception in 1848, as well as a chronological listing of fires

since 1848, a fascinating compendium of the hazards of everyday life for well over a century. Histories of firefighting remain thin in Canada, and Dr. Becker has uncovered many of the particulars that only a local historian with close community ties could provide, in a well-organized and readable fashion.



An Aurora ABC: Stories from Aurora's Forgotten Past

JAQUELINE STUART

Aurora Historical Society, 2016;
Paperback; 198 pp.
www.aurorahs.com

Where local history is concerned, Jacqueline Stuart is not merely an impassioned Aurora resident with a long record of active participation in the Aurora Historical Society, she was also, in fact, the local museum’s first curator. Her twenty-five years of museum work serves her well as she thoughtfully examines the town’s history, and that is immediately obvious in the style and content of this lovely book. Written in a wonderfully traditional “abecedarium” style, this book takes readers through facts, elements, biographies, and stories that are both representative of, and particular to, the rich history of the town of Aurora. What makes it especially interesting is her focus on the “forgotten” past, the very stories that often remain unknown, scarcely known, or marginalized in our history. And these, of course, are those that are often the most intriguing to learn about.

Published in association with the town’s enthusiastic historical society, the book, not surprisingly, begins with an entry for “Aurora” under the letter “A.” From “B” onward, however, the corresponding entries are often surprising and always thought-provoking, both in the brief discussions that follow as well as in their very selection. There are always certain expectations about the conventions of local history writing, but Jacqueline Stuart is adept at shaking these up. It’s difficult to put this book down because the headings themselves are so compelling. At the same time, the alphabetical ordering allows for quick dipping in and out, always a boon to those who have limited reading time or who are obliged to read “on the run.”

It is evident that the author has the kind of intellectual curiosity and “inquiring mind” that outfits historians with the particular skills necessary to get at the stories from the past beyond common knowledge, at least to the community at large. Yet, these stories are not about obscure or unimportant issues; they are subjects that shed light on the community’s sociocultural evolution since its founding and provide context for much that remains apparent in present-day Aurora, whether in the landscape, architecture, or nomenclature, to name a few. At once educational and “fun,” *An Aurora ABC* fills in what we know about the town’s history and encourages us to want to learn more.

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