



ONTARIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY *Since 1888*



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

OHS-TRINITY PARTNERSHIP

Alan Richardson, **CO-DIRECTOR, TRINITY**

Trinity was founded in 1982 and has been an active partner of the Toronto District School Board since 1984. Trinity is also proud to work with school boards across Canada. Trinity's goal is to broaden the practice of the arts in the community (particularly theatre), thus furthering the personal growth and learning capacity of individuals. Trinity also focuses on working with community groups to create the kind of communities we desire to live in.

Trinity is privileged to have been partnered with the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) in the delivery of

leadership workshops and educational programs since 2017. Trinity's Leadership Lab—which brings students together from across the GTA—is held each summer at John McKenzie House. A highlight of the summer work for the students has been the OHS staff presentation on the activities of their organization, and the function of not-for-profit organizations in Canadian society. Our Generativity Sessions, which focus on community issues and how to lead a generative life, are made up of individuals aged 15 to 80, and are held at John McKenzie House as well.

As Trinity works towards developing a practical Sense of Place for future leaders, our admiration for the work of the OHS has grown, as have the benefits of partnering with the OHS.



Shown here are students from the Trinity Leadership Lab gathering on the deck at John McKenzie House during the final day of the workshops. In cooperation with the OHS, the Trinity students work on-site for several days during the summer months, leading workshops and forming lifelong bonds. The Ontario Historical Society is proud to partner with Trinity and facilitate their important work here at John McKenzie House.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chair, Executive Committee

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Established in 1888, The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) is a not-for-profit corporation, registered charity, and publisher. The OHS is a non-government group bringing together people of all ages, all walks of life, and all cultural backgrounds interested in preserving some aspect of Ontario's history.

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Michel S. Beaulieu, **PRESIDENT**

"How easy it is for a false statement to take wings; how difficult it is to have it corrected when once told incorrectly! How impossible to make people, who have told the same story time after time, acknowledge that there could be any error in it! When it is merely a question of date or something involving no principle, it is comparatively unimportant; but when the honor of an individual, of a regiment, or a country is involved, it is a far more serious matter."

These are the opening lines from historian and educator Janet Carnochan's article, "Some Mistakes in History," that appeared in the 1915 volume of the Society's *Papers and Records* (now *Ontario History*). As many of you have read in the most recent *Bulletins*, I have been reading through every volume of our journal. What have I learned four months into this endeavour? Carnochan's thoughts are no less apt today than they were 105 years ago.

To write that a lot of things have happened since our last Annual General Meeting is a gross understatement. Yet, while it is clearly not business as usual, some fundamental things have remained the same. The role of the Ontario

Historical Society (OHS) in preserving, promoting, and protecting our province's history and heritage is more important now than ever before.

The past year witnessed the completion of a number of long-term projects, not the least of which is the modernization of our membership system and the launch of our digital archive. Incorporation meetings have been occurring throughout the province, and new not-for-profit historical organizations are continuing to incorporate through affiliation with the OHS at a historic pace.

The OHS Board set as a priority a couple of years ago to address our annual structural deficit. As outlined in the Treasurer's Report, a combination of increased and diversified revenue, a modernization of operations, and some staffing changes have essentially resulted in our ability to balance the books. However, as our core provincial operating grant is still significantly lower than it was in 1996, and no increases have occurred since 2011, the value has decreased in terms of real dollars by approximately \$125,000 due to inflation. This continues to pose a long-term challenge.

As a result, our activities have continued to draw on our reserves and to rely on the generosity of donors and members of the Society in every corner of the province. In 2019 this resulted in total endowments entrusted to the Society doubling to the highest in our history. Significantly, the Estate of Ruth E. Day has allowed for our increasing activities in Northern Ontario and a very generous gift this past year has led to the creation of a new Grassroots Public Outreach Trust Fund. Income from the Estate of Jean Burnet has also ensured that our work on cemetery defense continues unabated. Our work has also continued to be possible through the support of various levels of government. In particular, the Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries; Capital Assets, Museums and Heritage Services, City of Toronto; Real Estate Services, City of Toronto, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Finally, as Cecilia Morgan writes in her entry in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography: "Carnochan believed that historical narratives played a critically important role in creating national identity, but she was also genuinely fascinated by the past and was passionately devoted to historical investigation." As you will read in the rest of this report, the belief of Carnochan and others during her time remains steadfastly true today as evidenced by the activities of the Society, our members, and affiliates over the past year.



OHS President Michel S. Beaulieu (left) and immediate Past President Caroline Di Cocco (right) pose for a photo with the Rt. Hon. Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada from 2000 to 2017. Justice McLachlin delivered the keynote speech at the OHS Annual General Meeting, where she discussed the history and significance of the Supreme Court of Canada, as well as her own perspectives regarding the value of heritage preservation in Canada.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark Plishewsky, **TREASURER**

The Society's 2019 financial statements, audited by Akler Browning LLP, show a balance sheet that is sound, healthy, and debt free.

Total revenues from grants, memberships, subscriptions to *Ontario History*, investment income and donations amounted to \$485,307. Total revenue the previous year was \$361,756. Donations to the Society increased from \$22,679 in 2018 to \$146,803 in 2019.

Total expenses were \$509,655 for the year. The fiscal deficit of \$24,343 helped to finance the completion and launching of the Society's new online platform and membership system. These continued investments in our digital infrastructure will serve the OHS members and the general public well into the future.

In 2019, OHS volunteers donated approximately 11,200 hours of time and expertise to the Society in support of its activities. In its 2018 report, *The Value of Volunteering in Canada*, the Conference Board of Canada establishes the average value of work by a volunteer at \$27 per hour. Therefore, based on this calculation, the value of the hours contributed by OHS volunteers in 2019 is worth the equivalent of \$302,000 in donated labour.

In 2019, the Society received 23 separate gifts in-kind (1,709 publications and 1 map) for the OHS Library with a total value of \$32,625. This property consisted mainly of four book collections donated by Dorothy Duncan, Charles Garrard, Ian Radforth, and Bruce Gibson, which were independently appraised by John Marshall of Summerhill Books.

In 2011, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) altered its policies, requiring that only applicants with Institutional Eligibility could apply for the Aid to Scholarly Journals grant program. Therefore, to apply for a grant to support the Society's scholarly journal, *Ontario History*, the OHS had to first submit its application to SSHRC for Institutional Eligibility. I am pleased to report that SSHRC renewed the Society's

Institutional Eligibility status in 2019 based on its good governance and financial management, including no debts or liabilities.

Subsequently, SSHRC awarded three-year finding of \$13,500 per annum (2019-21) to the OHS which includes supplementary funding to contribute to the costs of currently hosting *Ontario History* on a Canadian not-for-profit digital content and distribution platform.

In 2019, the OHS increased its positive net assets representing a larger accumulated surplus for the Society. The OHS remains committed to its policies of fiscal discipline, strict spending controls, no debts and prudent financial management.



The OHS often welcomes visitors from local schools and camps. Shown above are kids from Willowdale-based day camp, Sunnyside Up. The camp visited the OHS at John McKenzie House three times in 2019, touring the grounds and learning about the local history.

PUBLIC OUTREACH, SERVICES, PROGRAMS

Rob Leverty, **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

NOT-FOR-PROFIT MEMBERS & INCORPORATION

Since January 2015, the OHS has incorporated thirty-nine not-for-profit historical organizations; six in northern Ontario, six in eastern Ontario, five in central Ontario, eleven in southwestern Ontario, ten in the GTA, and one provincial organization.

From January 2019 until March 31, 2020, the OHS held ten incorporation meetings in the following communities: Gorrie, Brussels, Chesley, Stratford, Brantford, Thorold, Hamilton, Plevna, Grand Valley, and Onondaga.

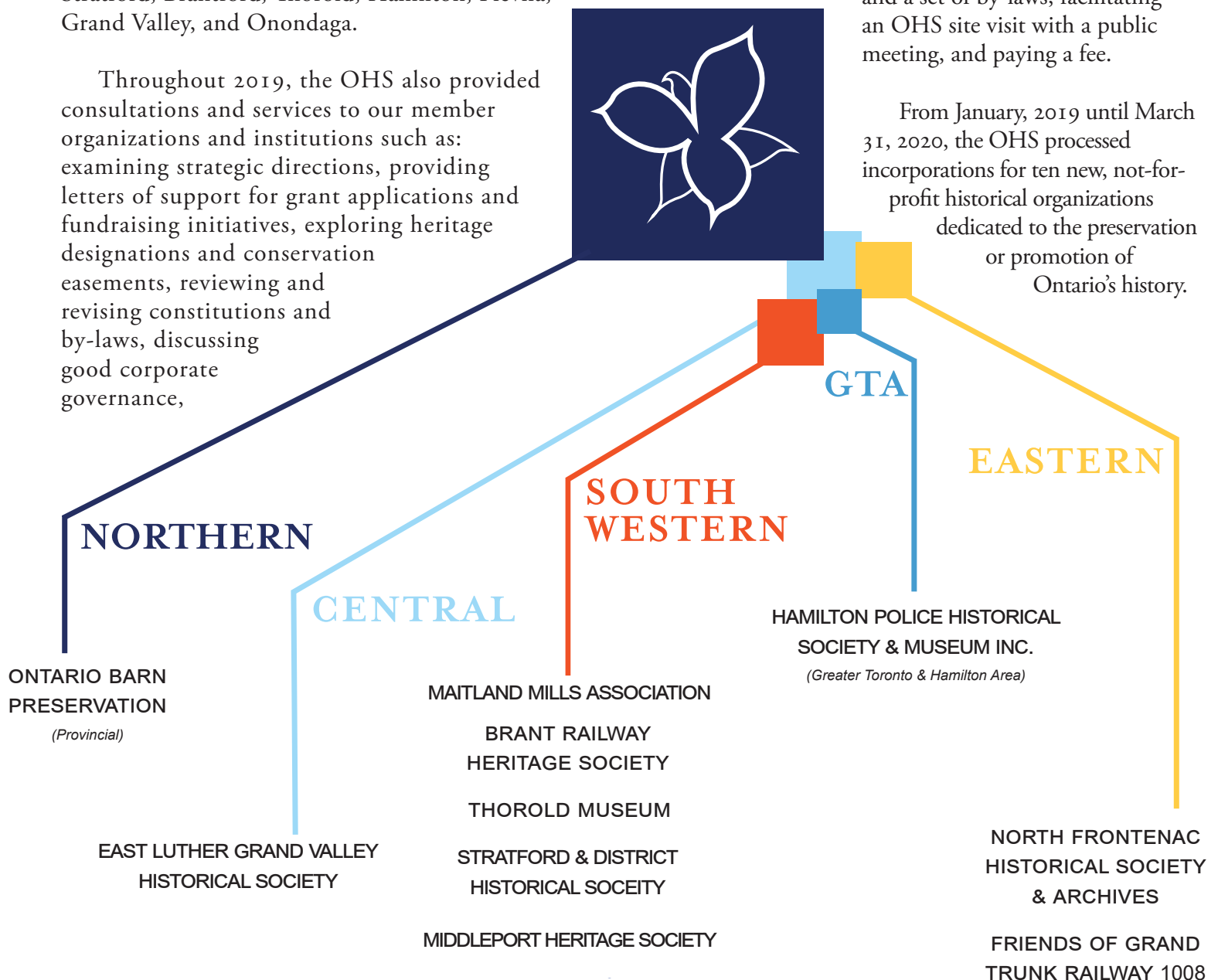
Throughout 2019, the OHS also provided consultations and services to our member organizations and institutions such as: examining strategic directions, providing letters of support for grant applications and fundraising initiatives, exploring heritage designations and conservation easements, reviewing and revising constitutions and by-laws, discussing good corporate governance,

processing insurance applications, incorporating not-for-profits through affiliation, writing letters of good standing for affiliated societies, surrendering charters, and facilitating corporate name changes.

In recent years, there has also been a dramatic increase in advising on and reviewing new applications for federal charitable tax status and assisting existing member organizations in maintaining their status as charitable organizations.

Citizens who organize to preserve and promote Ontario's history can apply to incorporate not-for-profit corporations through affiliation with the OHS. Each applicant must satisfy incorporation criteria, which includes preparing a mission statement, forming a volunteer board of directors, establishing a constitution and a set of by-laws, facilitating an OHS site visit with a public meeting, and paying a fee.

From January, 2019 until March 31, 2020, the OHS processed incorporations for ten new, not-for-profit historical organizations dedicated to the preservation or promotion of Ontario's history.

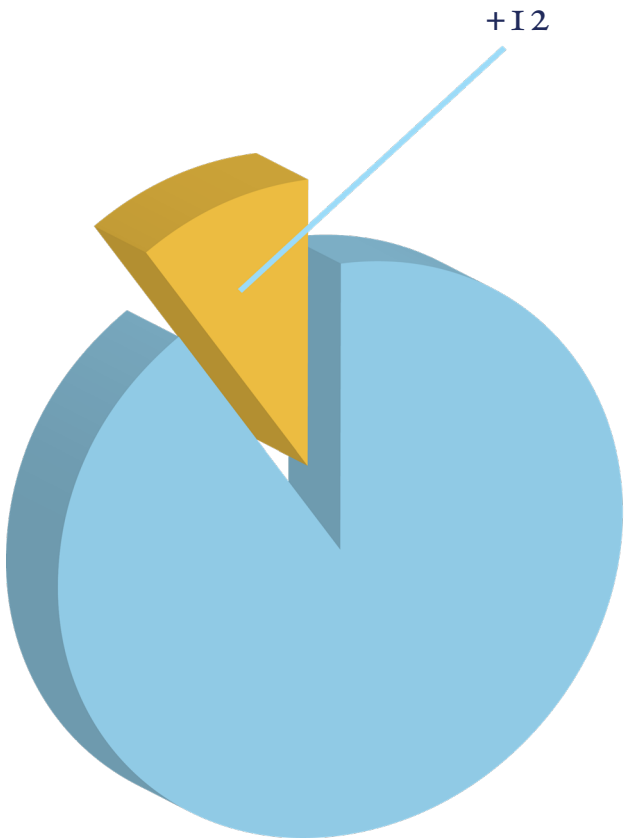


INSURANCE PROGRAM

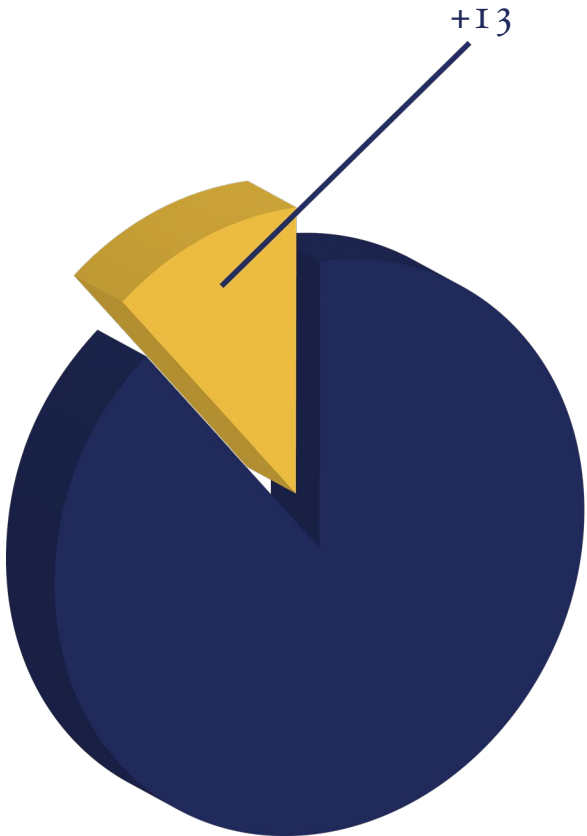
The year 2019 was another record-breaking year for the OHS Insurance Program. Established in 2008, the Society's insurance program has always been popular, as it provides vital protection for the OHS's not-for-profit, volunteer-run member organizations. This year the insurance program expanded to include applications from eligible member organizations across Canada that are affiliated with OHS member organizations based in Ontario.

Once the OHS approves a new application, the Society's insurance broker, Jones DesLauriers Insurance Management Inc., holds a thorough consultation with the applicant to ensure that each policy is tailored to the specific needs and local circumstances of the organization.

As of December 31, 2019, there were 169 historical organizations that held Directors and Officers Liability insurance policies (up 13 from 2018) and 164 organizations with Commercial General Liability insurance policies (up 12 from 2018). A total of 63 organizations now have coverage for contents and property. These new policies represent an overall growth of 8% for the year 2019.



GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE



DIRECTOR'S & OFFICER'S LIABILITY PLANS

PARKVIEW NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN

The OHS enjoyed the eleventh year of its partnership with the Parkview Neighbourhood Garden (PNG), a volunteer-run, organic market garden at John McKenzie House. It is believed to be the first instance in Toronto of housing being reclaimed for local urban agriculture. The garden is situated on the site of the John McKenzie property's former vegetable patch adjacent to the milk house and stable. The outbuildings are loaned by OHS to PNG's volunteers to store their tools and equipment.

In 2019, despite a cool and wet spring, PNG sold nearly \$2000 worth of organic herbs, berries, and vegetables. Squash, eggplant, kale, and chard sold especially well. PNG kept its modest pricing, and once again enjoyed selling to a loyal customer base. The Garden hopes to make a sizable charitable donation again this year to local food-centric charities.

A record number of volunteers got involved in 2019, including several groups of visiting volunteers from schools and companies, thanks to effective recruitment by the Garden's leadership team. Volunteers cleared out two previously unusable garden plots in the sunniest part of the garden. These areas had become overgrown with perennials and weeds. These spaces are now being used for new vegetable patches. The orchard, which had

previously been taken over by thistles and thick weeds, was cleared and cleaned up. Wood chips were then placed around the growing apple trees.

This year, PNG forged a partnership with the Canterbury Place Retirement Residence, allowing residents to take charge of planting and maintaining several of the raised beds. This has been a great opportunity for the residents to get involved with gardening activities.

PNG received a generous grant from Landscape Ontario, which allowed the team to purchase much needed soil enhancement materials and permanent signs (in four different languages) for the garden's perennial plants.

PNG celebrated its 10th anniversary of growing and selling vegetables with a party, complete with cake, decorations, and live music. A member of the PNG leadership team spoke to the guests, as did local councillor John Filion, who (in partnership with OHS) fought to establish the garden as a community space in 2008.

At the end of the season, PNG renewed its partnership with the Community Share Food Bank, ensuring regular pick-ups of all surplus produce to be distributed to the food bank and community kitchen. Produce was also donated to North York Harvest Food Bank. No edible food had to be composted.

Visitors to the Parkview Neighbourhood Garden learn about harvest timelines for the root vegetables in the fall.



CEMETERY DEFENCE

In 1995, the Society was forced to establish a trust fund to protect Ontario's cemeteries from inappropriate development. In 2019, the OHS continued the struggle to preserve and protect Ontario's cemeteries. This on-going work is made possible through financial contributions to the OHS Cemetery Defence Fund and donated time and skills from many generous expert volunteers. Throughout 2019, the OHS helped to research and answer questions in order to assist families and descendants across Ontario to protect cemeteries that were threatened by invasive real estate development and/or neglect.

In September 2016, an OHS staff member was appointed to the Cemetery, Crematorium & Municipal Advisory Committee of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario, a new not-for-profit corporation, delegated with the responsibility to administer provisions of the

*Funeral,
Burial and*

Cremation Services Act, 2002 on

behalf of the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services. Meetings of the Advisory Committee were held in 2019, with the aim to represent the consumer interests of Ontarians as regards to Cemeteries and Crematoriums. The OHS is the only member representing heritage interests on this provincial stakeholder committee.

On June 2, 2011, in a meeting with Hon. John Gerretsen, the then-Minister of Consumer Services, the OHS and OGS officially presented the Government of

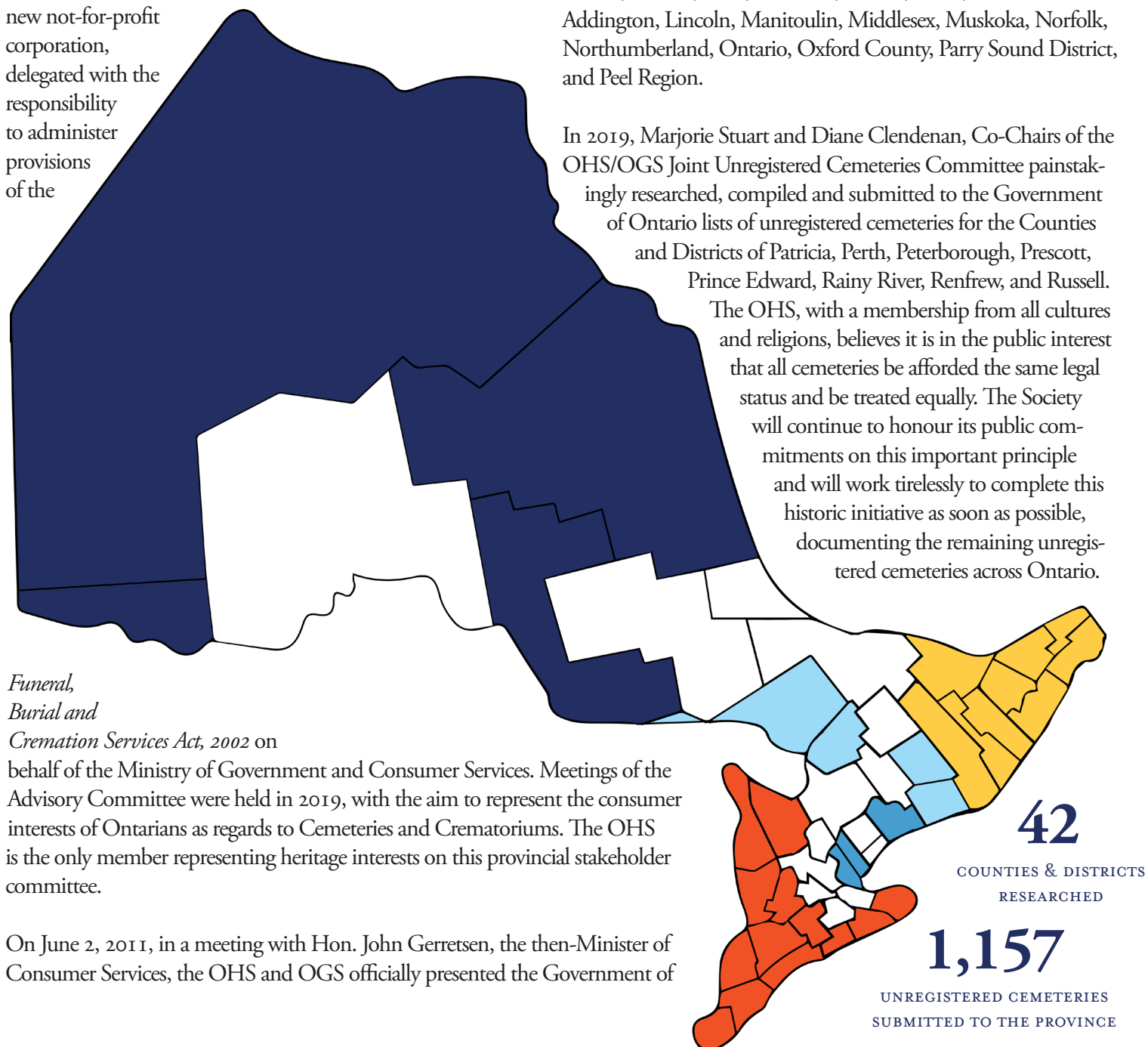
Ontario with a database of 1,535 unregistered cemeteries. The OHS receives no notification and holds no right of appeal with regard to unregistered historic cemeteries that owners seek to relocate for private interests. It is almost impossible in these cases for the OHS to intervene effectively to defend the public interest.

The Province of Ontario subsequently requested that the two societies positively identify the exact location of all these cemeteries in order to register them.

From 2012-18, the two societies have submitted lists of unregistered cemeteries to the Province of Ontario in the Regions, Districts, and Counties of Algoma, Brant, Bruce, Carleton, Cochrane, Dundas, Durham, Elgin, Essex, Frontenac, Glengarry, Grenville, Grey, Haldimand, Haliburton, Halton, Hastings, Huron, Kenora, Kent, Lambton, Lanark, Leeds, Lennox and Addington, Lincoln, Manitoulin, Middlesex, Muskoka, Norfolk, Northumberland, Ontario, Oxford County, Parry Sound District, and Peel Region.

In 2019, Marjorie Stuart and Diane Clendenan, Co-Chairs of the OHS/OGS Joint Unregistered Cemeteries Committee painstakingly researched, compiled and submitted to the Government of Ontario lists of unregistered cemeteries for the Counties and Districts of Patricia, Perth, Peterborough, Prescott, Prince Edward, Rainy River, Renfrew, and Russell.

The OHS, with a membership from all cultures and religions, believes it is in the public interest that all cemeteries be afforded the same legal status and be treated equally. The Society will continue to honour its public commitments on this important principle and will work tirelessly to complete this historic initiative as soon as possible, documenting the remaining unregistered cemeteries across Ontario.



In 2019, the Society published two new issues of *Ontario History* both in print (through the OHS) and online via Érudit, a not-for-profit digital publisher and scholarly disseminator based in Montreal. Spring and Autumn issues contained a total of nine new articles and 22 new book reviews.

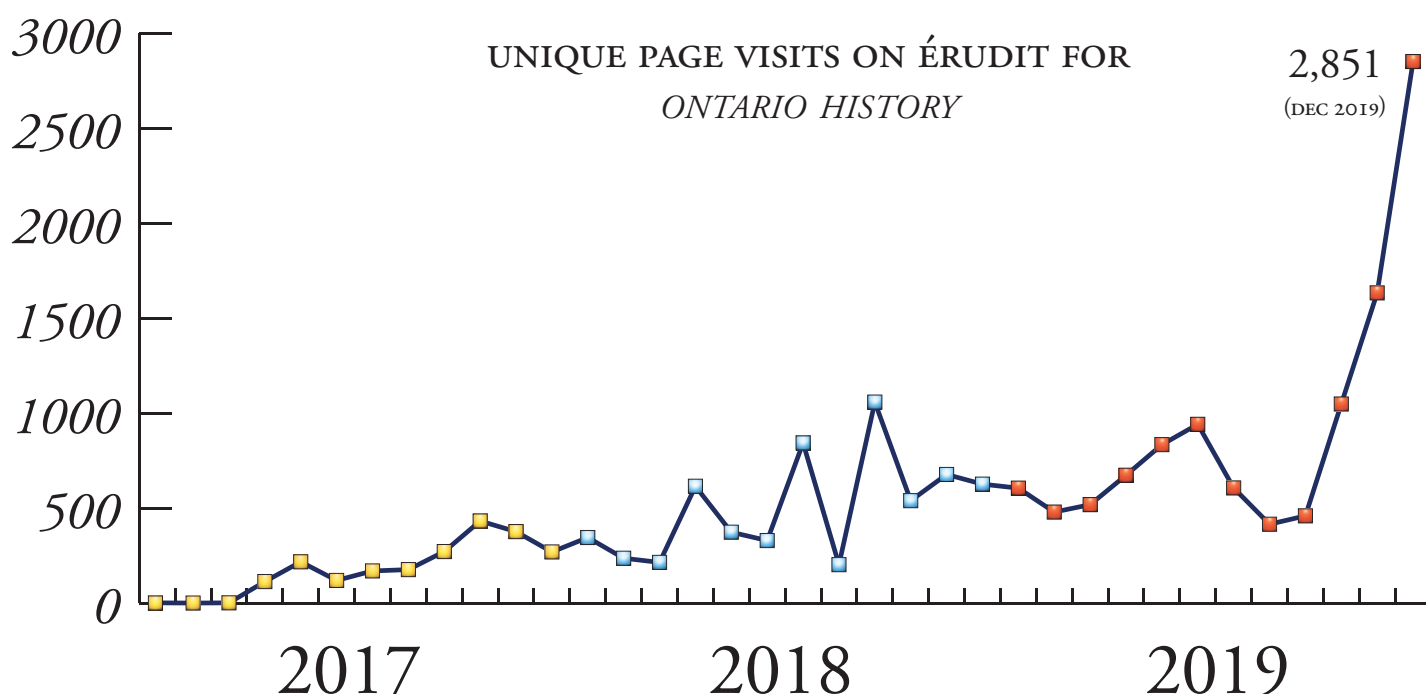
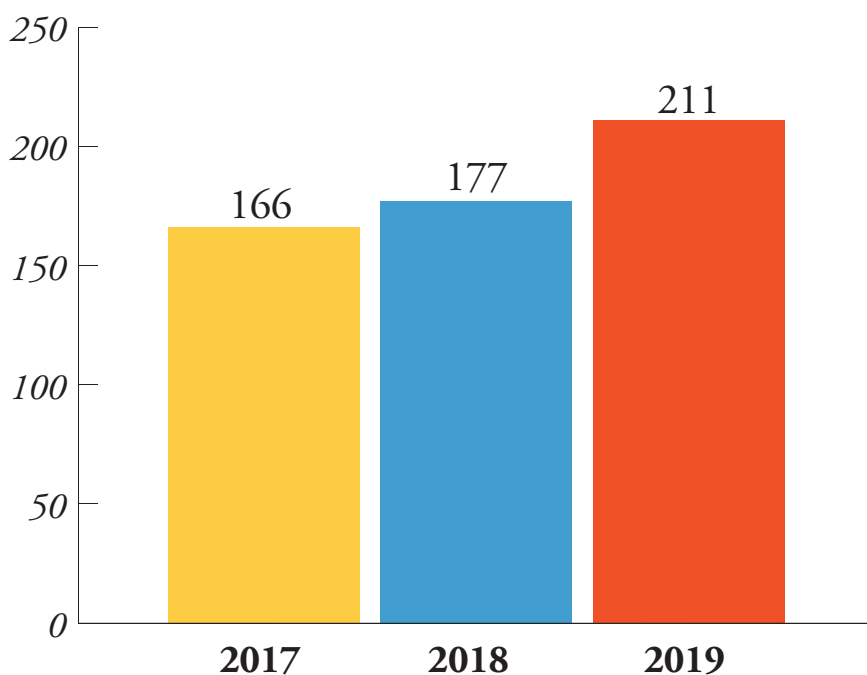
Through the Society's partnership with Érudit, *Ontario History's* global readership continued to grow, with viewers in over 55 countries around the world. In our first three years with Érudit, the journal's articles and book reviews were downloaded over 42,000 times. In 2019, our partnership with Érudit exposed the journal to over 175 academic libraries and other institutions across Canada and worldwide, a 15% increase in subscribers from 2018.

This past year, the OHS made the full text of 15 more back issues available on the Érudit platform through the

journal's delayed open access model. Starting with the 2005 Autumn issue, there are now 27 issues with free online access, comprising 157 articles and 246 book reviews.

Increased availability online has continued to attract more readers. In 2019, a total of 29,137 *Ontario History* articles and book reviews were downloaded, an average of 80 per day. Growing global interest in our journal and consequently in our province's history and heritage is indeed exciting news to celebrate.

INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIBERS TO
ONTARIO HISTORY ON ÉRUDIT



HONOURS AND AWARDS 2018–19

Established in 1967, the OHS Honours and Awards program recognizes excellence in Ontario's heritage community. Congratulations to the 2018–19 recipients.



AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

PRESIDENT'S AWARD
The Canadian Clock Museum

CARNOCHAN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Barry Penhale & Jane Gibson

DOROTHY DUNCAN PUBLIC HISTORY AWARD
Oxford Remembers Oxford's Own

CEMETERY PRESERVATION AWARD
Rev. Dr. Donna Mann

CRUIKSHANK MEDAL
Diane Clendenan

RUSSELL K. COOPER PUBLIC PROGRAMMING AWARD
Not Just Numbers

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AWARD
The Petrie Building Restoration

INDIGENOUS HISTORY AWARD
Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall

AWARDS FOR AUTHORS

HUGUENOT SOCIETY OF CANADA AWARD
Judi Rever
In Praise of Blood: The Crimes of the Rwandan Patriotic Front

ALISON PRENTICE AWARD
Tarah Brookfield
Our Voices Must Be Heard: Women and the Vote in Ontario

FRED LANDON AWARD
Steven High
One Job Town: Work, Belonging, and Betrayal in Northern Ontario

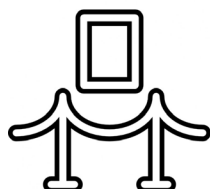
J. J. TALMAN AWARD
Edward Butts
Wartime: The First World War in a Canadian Town

RIDDELL AWARD
Mark Kuhlberg & Scott Miller
"Protection to the Sulphur-Smoke Tort-feasors": The Tragedy of Pollution in Sudbury, Ontario, the World's Nickel Capital, 1884–1927.

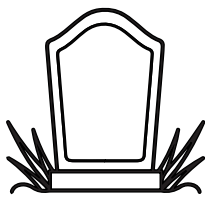
THE OHS HONOURS & AWARDS PROGRAM RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE IN



HERITAGE
CONSERVATION



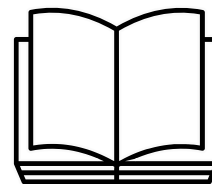
PUBLIC
HISTORY



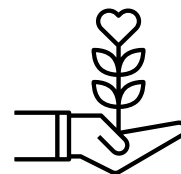
CEMETERY
PRESERVATION



PUBLIC
PROGRAMMING



RESEARCH
& WRITING



PUBLIC
SERVICE

NEW MEMBERS & SUBSCRIBERS 2019

ORGANIZATIONS & INSTITUTIONS

Brant Railway Heritage Society
Canadian Slovenian Historical Society
Friends of the Port Colborne Lighthouses
Frontenac County Schools Association
Hamilton Police Historical Society and Museum Inc.
Heritage Trees
Multicultural Business Council of Canada
Ontario Barn Preservation
Shaver Family Association
Stratford and District Historical Society 2019
Strathroy & District Historical Society
The Junkin Society
Thorold Museum
The Maitland Mills Association

INDIVIDUALS

David Beasley
Thomas Blampied
Norman T. Bragg
David Brydges
Michael Bussiere
Robert Clarke
Doug Davis
Oliver Dawson
Steven Dieter
George Duncan
Jack Felstead
Anouchka Freybe
Paul Gevaert
David Kent
Kim Kerr
Marcus Letourneau
Cecil Louis
Austin Luhtala
Erin Mander
David McLean
Harvey Medland
Gillian Milligan
Kelly Morrison
Sarah Murdoch
Michael Pawlowski
Susan Peters
Gwen Reimer
Alastair (Sandy) Robertson
Will Samis
Nora Sawyer
Jesse Smiley
Franklyn Smith
Rolande Smith
Karen Spearing
Laura Suchan
David Unger
Marla Weingarten
Paula Whitlow



OHS Communications and Outreach Coordinator Daniel Dishaw joined the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) for their annual Black History Month Kick-Off Brunch on January 27, 2019. At the brunch, Daniel met with Diana Braithwaite, Founding President of the Rella Braithwaite Black History Foundation (RBBHF), incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in 2017.

DONORS IN 2019

INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INSTITUTIONS

E.J.B. Anderson
Kenneth Armson
Anne Baillie
Carl Benn
Robert Biggs
Ellen Blaubergs
Glenn Bonnetta
Heather Broadbent
Arthur Bullen
Pamela Cain
Gabriella Colussi Arthur
Marilyn Connell
Sidney Down
George Duncan
Jane Errington
Ross Fair
Edith & Geoff Geduld
Robert Halfyard
Gil Hardy
Jan Haskings-Winner
R. Jack Hedges
John E. Henderson
Christopher Hoover
H.N.R. Jackman
Edward Janiszewski
Richard Johnston
Dorothy Johnstone
Helen & Aarne Juhola
Ronald Junkin
Linda Kelly
Patricia Kennedy
Lloyd Leonard
Richard Lucas
Allan J. Macdonell
Thomas McIlwraith
Steven McLarty Payson

Marjorie McLeod
Harvey Medland
Kelly Morrison
Peter Murphy
Naomi Norquay
Sharon O'Shea
Barry & Jane Penhale
Chris & Pat Raible
Fred Schaeffer
Robert & Kathleen Saunders

Amy Scott
Lawrence Scott
M. Helen Small
Harry Smaller
Donald Smith
Marjorie Stuart
Laura Suchan
Roger Thomas
Thorold Tronrud
Frederick Turp

Alpema Foundation
Bereskin & Parr LLP
Hockley Historic Community Hall & Church
The East York Foundation
Waterloo Historical Society
York Pioneer & Historical Society
Sheila White



Seen here at a reception presenting her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario with a surprise gift on behalf of her patronage organizations are (left to right) Nora Sawyer (Alderville First Nation), OHS Board Director and Chair, OHS Indigenous Affairs Committee; the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; Rob Levery, OHS Executive Director; and Mark Plishevsky (Oshawa), OHS Treasurer.

DONORS IN 2019

OHS NORTHERN ONTARIO TRUST FUND

Estate of Ruth E. Day

OHS CEMETERY DEFENCE TRUST FUND

Estate of Jean Burnet

OHS GRASSROOTS PUBLIC OUTREACH TRUST FUND

Estate of Ruth E. Day

SPONSORS

Ryerson University Department of History
University of Toronto Department of History
Lakehead University Department of History

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
Capital Assets, Museums & Heritage Services, City of Toronto
Real Estate Services, City of Toronto
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Bruce Gibson
Craig Leslie Mantle
David Raymont
Donald Smith
Donald W. McLeod
Dorothy Duncan
Ella Garrad
Harry Smaller
Ian Radforth
Jo-Anne Beer
Judy Graham
Kristin Ives
Martin Rainbow
Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society
Steven and Diane Clendenan
John Rae
Marjorie Stuart
Cynthia Comacchio
Steve Kressler
John Carter
Steven Biggs
Barry Penhale
Jane Gibson
Randall Reid
Anne Janhunnen
Bridgeport History Centre
Coptic Museum of Canada
Norfolk County Archives
& Eva Brook Donly Museum
Parkview Neighbourhood Garden
The East York Foundation
LD Law LLP

NOUN PROJECT ICON CREDITS

Created by Nithinan Tatah
Created by Olena Panasovska
Created by Luis Prado
Created by Shashank Singh
Created by Anhar ismail
Created by SELicon



Representatives from the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre accept the Ontario Historical Society's 2018-19 Indigenous History Award for the Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall initiative. The community-driven approach utilized by Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall is a model for other public historians looking to build respectful relationships with Indigenous communities, reflect on colonial institutions such as Residential Schools, and include more Indigenous-created content.



ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Since 1888



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Pictured above are the Friends of Hope Mill, a group of volunteers that have been working for more than twenty years to save and maintain one of Ontario's last operational water-powered sawmills. On May 31, 2019, OHS Communications and Outreach Coordinator Daniel Dishaw attended the group's celebration of their one-year anniversary of incorporation through affiliation with the OHS. Like many of the Society's incorporated affiliates, the Friends of Hope Mill began when a group of volunteers stepped forward to take responsibility for a provincial heritage asset when no one else would. Hope Mill was previously owned and operated as a heritage demonstration site by the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA). Sadly, government cuts forced ORCA to close the mill and terminate its operation in 1996. In 2001, the Friends of Hope Mill stepped in and began to restore and reinforce the aging building and its incredible machinery. Today, the mill is fully operational and even features a woodworking museum on-site. Thanks to a group of dedicated, highly-skilled volunteers, this historic site will remain as a source of public education and heritage tourism in the province. The OHS is proud to help groups like the Friends of Hope Mill as they work to save priceless assets that are important to the people of their communities and the history of Ontario.



**In 2019,
volunteers
contributed an
estimated 11,200
hours of service
in support of the
OHS, worth the
equivalent of
\$320K in donated
labour.**