

# OHS Recognizes Champlain Society's Podcast: "Witness to Yesterday/Témoignage d'hier"

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The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to present the Dorothy Duncan Public History Award to The Champlain Society for their innovative "Witness to Yesterday/Témoignage d'hier" project. The Dorothy Duncan Public History Award is presented to an outstanding public history project completed or presented in the award year.

In 2017, The Champlain Society developed the "Witness to Yesterday/Témoignage d'hier" project to serve an unmet need—a podcast that focuses on the writing of Canadian history. Champlain Society President, Patrice Dutil, and Board Member, Greg Marchildon,

united their efforts to create this program. In perfect alignment with The Champlain Society's mission, the "Witness to Yesterday/Témoignage d'hier" project includes interviews with authors and historians about their latest books, conversations with experts on key events of the past, and more. The use of podcasting as the medium, and with episodes available in both English and French, the result is a collection of discussions on Canadian history that are more accessible to a wider cross-section of the population. In fact, by 2019, the podcasts were receiving plays internationally, being enjoyed by listeners in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, South Korea, and other countries.

The podcast model also provides an immersive historical experience, allowing listeners to be transported to a different place and time, and to feel as though they are 'witnessing' the actual, historical events discussed within.

This project is also commended for its use of partnerships in production, working with the Radio and Television Arts program at Ryerson University, engaging with a wide variety of historians from various backgrounds, and a myriad of guest commentators, and

other participants. The resulting podcast discussions are informative and scholarly, as well as lively and engaging. The guests describe their access to documents and other primary sources, while focusing on artful storytelling: descriptions of those key dramatic personae, events, and, ultimately, a discussion of the significance of the topic selected.

One letter of support for the nomination reads: "Witness to Yesterday/Témoignage d'hier is richly deserving of recognition. Produced entirely by a dedicated team of volunteers, the podcast demonstrates eloquently the ideals of the Dorothy Duncan Public History Award. The steady production of these enlightening episodes over nearly three years shows a commitment to excellence and to perseverance. The results speak for themselves."

The Champlain Society is truly deserving of the Ontario Historical Society's Dorothy Duncan 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.



## Watch Patrice Dutil's Acceptance Speech



-The Ontario Historical Society-

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