

***Ontario History* Editor Dr. Thorold Tronrud Recognized with Society's Cruikshank Medal**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Ontario Historical Society's Cruikshank Medal honours an individual who has performed with distinction on behalf of the Ontario Historical Society (OHS). The 2019 recipient is Dr. Thorold (Tory) Tronrud of Thunder Bay.

A lifetime member of the Ontario Historical Society, Dr. Tronrud has been an active member of the Society for decades. For over thirty years, in his various roles within the Thunder Bay Historical Society, he was often called upon to ensure that the Society's activities included the northern portions of the province.



One of the Society's most trusted advisors, Dr. Tronrud has always been generous with his wisdom and insights. At critical moments, OHS could always rely on him to donate his time and expertise to help the Society and represent its membership.

In 2005, Dr. Tronrud became the Editor of *Ontario History* and also acts as its managing editor. His exceptional range of skills led to the revamping of the journal. It is notable that not only does he edit the journal, but he also does the layout and graphic design, roles that are often performed separately. This has resulted in substantial savings for the Society – redistributed to allow for a greater range of activities across the province – and has also expanded *Ontario History's* readership.

As of November 2020, he has been Editor for 32 issues. During that time, over 165 articles have been published, a number of which have been nominated and/or received awards. During his tenure he has also worked with academics and community groups in the publication of six special issues, covering such diverse topics as women and education, the War of 1812, the British Abolition of the Atlantic slave trade, and Ontario's environmental history.

Dr. Tronrud's broad knowledge of the needs of researchers and the journal publishing environment was also essential in the process of evaluating options for publishing *Ontario History* online. Each of the issues for which he was responsible is now available online open access at non-profit scholarly publisher Érudit (www.erudit.org/en/journals/onhistory/).

Recently retired as the Executive Director of the Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society, he is an Adjunct Professor of History at Lakehead University, continues as Editor of *Ontario History*, and undertakes research and writing on the history of Thunder Bay.

For his unflagging commitment, outstanding scholarship, and generous volunteerism to The Ontario Historical Society, the Honours and Awards Committee is proud to present the 2019 Cruikshank Medal to Dr. Thorold Tronrud.

IN ACCEPTING THE AWARD, DR. TRONRUD RESPONDED:

It is with immense gratitude that I accept the Cruikshank Medal. I realize that this award is a fairly rare occurrence for the Ontario Historical Society, so I'm double honoured to be the latest recipient.

First of all, I must thank all the hundreds of scholars who have given so generously of their time and knowledge assessing the manuscripts submitted to the journal. They do so as volunteers, without recompense. I also owe a debt of gratitude to the members of my editorial advisory committee over the years for their excellent input.

Of course, the OHS board has maintained their faith in me and I thank them for that and the staff at the OHS: Rob Leverty and Sarah McCabe in particular, have been essential to my success.

On a personal note, I'd like to express gratitude to my Grade 9 teacher at General Byng School in Winnipeg for giving me 100% in history and setting me on the path that's been my life. However, I also remember a guidance counsellor at the same school who informed me that a degree in history couldn't possibly result in a career.

And finally, I note that the citation makes reference to my expertise. This is not a word I'm entirely comfortable with. It brings to mind a talk I attended long ago at the University of Toronto given by Douglas Creighton – I know, I'm really dating myself here. Anyway, when he was introduced as an expert he responded in this way. "X", he said, refers to the unknown quantity. And a "spurt" is just a drip under pressure.

So, with that in mind, I accept the Cruikshank Medal on behalf of all those who, over the years, have made the journal Ontario History so successful.

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://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/honours-awards/> or contact the Society's offices by telephone or e-mail.

-The Ontario Historical Society-

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