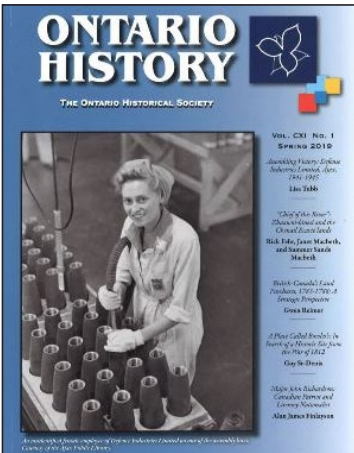




Gwen Reimer's Article on British Canada Land Purchases Recognized with OHS Riddell Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to present the 2019 OHS Riddell Award, which recognizes the best scholarly article on Ontario history published in the award year, to Gwen Reimer for her article "British-Canada's Land Purchases, 1783-1788: A Strategic Perspective," which appeared in the Society's journal *Ontario History* in the Spring 2019 issue.



The article examines in detail land cession and right-of-way purchases made by British officials from indigenous nations in the years 1783-1788 westward on the north shore Lake Ontario from near Brockville to and including Toronto, and northward to Lake Simcoe and Matchedash Bay on Lake Huron, some of the most heavily populated areas of Ontario. Reimer reviews difficult and fragmentary textual and cartographic sources, relating to the Crawford, Gunshot, Toronto and Matchedash purchases, building on the pioneer work of historian Robert J. Surtees. She argues that the land purchase negotiations and treaties must be seen as phases in a single strategic plan by British colonial authorities to secure settlement lands and safe communication routes to Lake Huron in the aftermath of the American Revolution, and that extant archival records about these treaties should be examined in their entirety, not as isolated documents about a particular cession. Even today the 1923 Williams Treaties First Nations are contesting interpretations about what happened in those crucial early years of European settlement.

The judges feel that Gwen Reimer's article is a solid contribution to the history of Upper Canada, to indigenous history, and to treaty making history in Canada. It is well written, highly analytical, logically presented, and makes excellent use of difficult primary sources.

It is the hope of the Ontario Historical Society that all Ontarians will be made more aware of the importance of the province's indigenous people to its history before and after European settlement. The Honours and Awards Committee is pleased to present the Riddell Award to Gwen Reimer.

Watch Gwen Reimer's Acceptance Speech



Founded in 1888, the Ontario Historical Society is a non-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

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