

# Annual Report

of

## The Ontario Historical Society

2000



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# President's Report

As we begin the new millennium, The Ontario Historical Society is in great condition, and fine corporate health. To paraphrase the words of the late John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what The Ontario Historical Society can do for you, but rather what can you do to help the Historical Society?" This has been the attitude motivating many Board members and staff over the years, to bring us to our leadership position.

However, although we are a high profile organization we are also fragile, and we face challenges, both internally, and externally. Externally we must continue as a non-government group to advise the government and others, in a kind and gentle way. We must express our members' feelings, fifty thousand strong from across the Province, on heritage issues in the public's interest and good.

As a result of our Clendennen Cemetery victory there is an increase in the number of requests for assistance in handling cemetery problems. The Society continues to take donations for the Cemetery Defence Fund, and more time is required to deal with these problems by staff. Nevertheless, as spiritual and civilized people we must remind ourselves and others that we stand on the shoulders of the pioneers of this province, and others who have gone before.

Our linkages with other provincial organizations and institutions have helped to strengthen our ability to protect and promote heritage in the Province, and we welcome their continued support.

The Society's reputation was enhanced in 1999, when we heard that we had inherited the family homestead of Sir Frederick Banting from Mr. Edward Banting. In a decent and orderly way we, over the past two years, have seriously and thoroughly received suggestions. Earlier this year we completed the formation of a Foundation to further justify Mr. Banting's faith in us and his desire that the aims and objectives of the Society be served. There was no endowment with the bequest so we must budget carefully, as ongoing maintenance of the buildings need financial resources.

Internally, we face the challenge of change. Dorothy's resignation in 2000, underscored the fact that in my opinion and others she is irreplaceable. For almost twenty years she has shared her wisdom and gift of outreach throughout the Province. The result is a practical template for heritage presentation, promotion, and protection. Present and future Boards can follow Dorothy's blueprint for success, and make adjustments for changing times and circumstances. Dorothy's resignation gives the Society and its three hundred affiliate member organizations throughout the Province, the opportunity to show that we as Canadians do honour our heroes.

Other Board members are changing after years of service and we thank them for caring, and giving others the opportunity for worthwhile community service. In this Annual Report you will

learn of the work that has been accomplished on your behalf. I take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for their contributions, considered expertise, advice, and willingness to take on responsibilities when requested. I thank our volunteers for being the unsung heroes and glue that holds our Society together and allows us to fulfil our Mission Statement with limited financial resources. I thank the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, and other sponsors and donors, for I believe that, working together we can make a positive difference for all the people of Ontario.

Both personally, and on behalf of the Board of Directors and members, I want to thank Dorothy Duncan and her staff, for dedicated service, wisdom and love for The Ontario Historical Society.

Finally I applaud you, our members and friends, for supporting the Society through good times and bad. Although we face old and new challenges, I close with the words from a speech given by one of my heroes, Sir Winston Churchill, "Never, never, never give up, never, never give up."

Bryan Walls  
President

# Executive Director's Report

The Ontario Historical Society ended the old millennium in 2000 and prepared for the new millennium in 2001 with a spirit of optimism, despite the many challenges the heritage community faces. The year 2000 saw new partnerships forged, existing partnerships strengthened, and new programmes, publications and services launched. With the assistance of the Government of Ontario, through Ontario 2000 and the then Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, the Society organized and hosted a three day symposium in Willowdale in April and five colloquia in Parry Sound, Sheshegan, Thunder Bay, Essex and Kingston, as well as presenting our regular programmes. Several important resources resulted from the symposium - a publication *Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario's History*, a video giving an overview of the symposium presentations and videos on specific topics. We are grateful to the speakers, to our host societies, and to Steve Shaw Productions of Oakville for the success of these initiatives.

The following pages detail our partnerships, programmes and services. Our dedicated corps of volunteers who support the Board of Directors and staff has given outstanding service in the last year and I want to thank Carol Agnew, Sandra Archer, Glen Bonnetta, John Carter, Julia Dreger, Barbara Efrat, Edith Geduld, Bev Hykel, Miriam Jackson, Barbara Kane, Hazel Kitto, Harvey Medland, Daniel O'Brien, Dennis Pollock, Penny Potter, Marjorie Stuart, Claudette Shaw, Adam Truax, Glenn Truax, Sarah Walker as well as the Board of Directors who have worked as volunteers at our events throughout the year. Our neighbours on Parkview Avenue, Dawn and Bob Martin and Jean and Bud Spinney have given us strong support with our security system.

As our members know, the Board of Directors accepted my resignation in 2000 and this will be my last Report to you. It has been a challenging and fascinating experience to serve as your Executive Director for the last 19 years. Many gifted and talented individuals have contributed, and continue to contribute, to the success of the Society and I want to pay tribute to their contributions.

Barbara Truax came to the Society in 1982 as a volunteer, took the membership and subscription records in hand and brought order out of chaos. Barbara later became our bookkeeper and joined our staff. She still works with us part time and keeps our financial records in order. Grace Matthews and Barbara Kane served as support staff for many years and still assist the Society as volunteers. Meribeth Clow, Cathy Febbraro and Lorraine Lowry joined the Society with support funding from the Ministry of Culture's Employment Programmes, while Lois Chipper joined the Society after leaving the Ministry. Susan Hughes, Rowena (Colman) Cooper, Sandra Macpherson, Patricia Wood and Janice Gibbins joined us for Internship Programmes, supported by the Ministry's Internship Programme. When the OHS and the Multicultural History Society of Ontario launched the History of Ontario's Peoples Programme in 1988 Robert Leverty became the co-ordinator and when that programme ended, was invited to stay with the Society. Through the intervening years Rob has served the Society in many capacities and is currently the Programme Co-ordinator. Rob Harris, Alain Harvey, Judy Knox, Joyce Lewis and Gabriele Scardellato joined our team to contribute their skills and knowledge for specific projects.

Colin Agnew, who has been a volunteer since 1983, joined the staff briefly in 2000 and again in 2001 to assist with our publication programme and with the Celebrating One Thousand Years initiatives. Colin is an archaeologist and has now returned to Belize to work. Cristina Perfetto, also a volunteer, became the staff co-ordinator of memberships and subscriptions in 2000 and continues in that capacity at the present time. Payal Lall joined us briefly in 2000 to prepare the *Celebrating One Thousand Years* publication and has returned this year to assist with other publications and to serve as Interim Editor of the *OHS Bulletin*. Carlos Faria, a 1999 summer student continues to work with us several days each month. Maria Lima has been our housekeeper for many years, and although she only works one day each month, manages to keep our house in perfect order.

I have served a veritable "Who's Who" in Ontario's heritage during these years as dedicated members became President of this organization: Alec Douglas, Heather Broadbent, Wesley Turner, Neil Patterson, Matthew Bray, Douglas Leighton, John Bonser, Colin Read, Beth Hanna, Jeanne Hughes, Dennis Carter-Edwards, Kenneth McLaughlin, Robert Surtees, Bruce Richard, Janet Cobban, Judith McGonigal, Rowena Cooper and Bryan Walls.

To all these people whether Board of Directors, staff, contract personnel or volunteers, and to you the membership, a very sincere vote of thanks for your co-operation and support since I joined the staff of the Society in 1982.

Thank you for having given me this unique and unforgettable experience.

Dorothy Duncan  
Executive Director

# Partners

Anderson Farm Museum, Lively  
Arnprior Historical Society  
Arts and Heritage Alliance of Thunder Bay  
Arts and Heritage Thunder Bay  
Barrie Historical Association  
Belfountain Heritage Society  
Bexley Township Historical Society  
Black Creek Pioneer Village  
Brock University  
Brockville Historical Society  
Bromley Historical Society  
Burk's Falls & District Historical Society  
Canada Customs & Revenue Agency  
Canada's National History Society  
Canadian Canal Society  
Canadian Museum of Civilization  
Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants  
Centennial Museum, Sheshegan  
CFB Aerospace Defence Museum  
City of Thunder Bay Archives  
City of Toronto  
Clark House Museum  
Commanda General Store Museum  
Council of Inland Waterways International  
The C.S. Wilson Centre  
East Gwillimbury Historical Society  
Essex County Branch Ontario Archaeological Society  
Essex County Historical Society  
Fairfield Homestead Heritage Association  
Fenelon Falls Historical Society  
Founders Museum and Pioneer Village, Thunder Bay  
Friends of Muskoka Pioneer Village  
Georgina Historical Society  
Greater Harvey Historical Society  
Greenville Christian College  
Hastings County Museum  
Heritage Renfrew  
Heritage Toronto  
Hincks-Dellcrest Centre  
The Huguenot Society of Canada

Huron College, London  
John R. Park Homestead, Harrow  
Kagawong Historical Society  
King's College, University of Western Ontario  
Kingston Historical Society  
Kingston Public Library  
Laidlaw Heritage Village  
Lakehead Social History Institute  
Lakehead University  
Lanark County Genealogical Society  
Laurentian University  
London & Southwestern Ontario Branch, United Empire Loyalist Association  
Magnetawan Historical Museum  
Manvers Historical Society  
Massey Area Museum  
McMaster University  
Memorial University, Newfoundland  
Millbrook & Cavan Historical Society  
Mississaugas of The New Credit First Nation  
The Museum of Northern History, The Sir Harry Oakes Chateau, Kirkland Lake  
North Bay Area Museum  
North York Historical Society  
Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Centre  
Northwestern Secondary School, Stratford  
The Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee  
Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies  
Parks Canada's Underground Railway Consultative Committee  
Pickering Township Historical Society  
Powassan & Area Historical Society  
Queen's University  
Rainy River First Nation  
Rolph Buchanan Wylie & McKay Historical Society  
Ross Township Historical Society  
Royal Military College, Kingston  
School of Canadian Studies, Carleton University  
Seeds of Diversity Canada  
The Sheffield Park Black History & Cultural Museum  
Smith Township Historical Society  
Southwestern Ontario Heritage Council  
Strong Sundridge and Joly Agricultural Society

Sturgeon River House Museum  
Talbot Settlement Heritage Society  
Thousand Islands Chapter, Save Ontario's Shipwrecks  
Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society  
Thunder Bay Military Museum  
Thunder Bay Public Library  
Thunder Bay Regional Arts Council  
Timber Train and The Canadian Ecology Centre  
Tourism Thunder Bay  
The Town of Northern Manitoulin and the Islands  
Trent University  
University of Guelph  
University of Leipzig  
University of Toronto  
University of Waterloo  
Voyageur Heritage Network  
Walpole River First Nation  
Wasauksing First Nation  
West Parry Sound & District Museum  
West Toronto Junction Historical Society  
Whitefish River First Nation  
Whitestone Historical Society  
Wilfred Laurier University  
Windsor's Community Museum  
Woodside National Historic Site  
The York Region District Board of Education



## Programmes, Services and Fundraising Events - 2000

| <i>Date</i>       | <i>Event</i>  | <i>Location</i> |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|
| January 5         | Meeting - Preservation Massey Buildings                                   | Toronto         |
| January 11        | Lecture - Governor Simcoe Branch, U.E.L                                   | Toronto         |
| January 19        | Meeting - Toronto Branch, OAS   | Toronto         |
| January 25        | Meeting - Metro Museums   | Toronto         |
| January 26        | Workshop - Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About an Historical Society | Fenelon Falls   |
| January 28        | Meeting - Hosted Parks Canada   | Willowdale      |
| February 2        | 2 Meetings - Future of Banting Estate?                                    | Alliston        |
| February 8        | Meeting - Hosted Canadian Heritage  | Willowdale      |
| February 11       | Meeting - Preservation Cummer House                                       | Willowdale      |
| February 14       | Grants Review - Cultural Careers Council                                  | Toronto         |
| February 16       | Meeting - Ontario Hospital Cemetery                                       | Etobicoke       |
| February 18,19,20 | Special Event - Heritage Showcase   | Scarborough     |
| February 18,19,20 | Conference - Hosted provincial historical societies                       | Willowdale      |
| February 19       | Special Event - Heritage Showcase Donated prizes                          | Waterloo        |
| February 22       | Reception - Provincial Budget   | Toronto         |
| February 26       | Exhibit - Book table, Seedy Saturday, Black Creek Pioneer Village         | Toronto         |
| February 29       | Workshop - York Region Board of Education                                 | Richmond Hill   |
| February 30       | Lecture - Stratford Chefs School  | Stratford       |
| March 5           | Lecture - Room with a View, Heritage Toronto                              | Toronto         |

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Event</i>   | <i>Location</i> |
|-------------|--|-----------------|
| March 6     | Meeting - Hosted Ontario Heritage Alliance                 | Willowdale      |
| March 11    | Meeting - Whitestone Historical Society                    | Trout Creek     |
| March 11    | Meeting - Gurd & Area Historical Corporation               | Commanda        |
| March 18    | Lecture - Amalgamation Seminar                             | Ottawa          |
| March 22    | Meeting - Toronto Historical Association                   | Toronto         |
| March 23    | Ontario Hospital Cemetery                                  | Etobicoke       |
| March 24    | Lecture - MCCR Workshop                                    | Sudbury         |
| March 25    | Seminar - Fund Raising                                     | Sudbury         |
| March 30    | Meeting - Old Durham Road Cemetery Association             | Collingwood     |
| April 1     | Annual General Meeting, Gurd & Area Historical Corporation | Commanda        |
| April 1     | Book Table, York Region Branch, OGS                        | Richmond Hill   |
| April 3     | Meeting - OHS Volunteers                                   | Willowdale      |
| April 4     | Meeting - Metro Museum Alliance                            | Toronto         |
| April 6     | Meeting - Tattle Creek Historical Society                  | Toronto         |
| April 7, 8  | Meeting - Voyageur Heritage Network                        | Sturgeon Falls  |
| April 8     | Workshop - Customer Service                                | Sturgeon Falls  |
| April 8     | Meeting - Hosted Society of Mayflower Descendants          | Willowdale      |
| April 9     | Meeting - Maynooth Historical Society                      | Maynooth        |
| April 12    | Meeting - Hosted Parks Canada                              | Willowdale      |

| <i>Date</i>      | <i>Event</i>  | <i>Location</i> |
|------------------|---|-----------------|
| April 14, 15, 16 | One Thousand Years of Ontario's History Symposium   | Willowdale      |
| April 18         | Meeting - Trillium Foundation   | Willowdale      |
| April 25         | Fundraiser - Weekenders Fashion Show  | Willowdale      |
| April 28         | Presentation Award to Haileybury  | Haileybury      |
| April 29         | Lecture - Northern Ontario History Conference   | Cobalt          |
| May 3            | Meeting - Culture Critic and Staff  | Toronto         |
| May 6            | OHS Annual General Meeting  | Willowdale      |
| May 6            | Meeting - Awards Presentation, OHS  | Willowdale      |
| May 9            | Presentation - William LeSurre Award  | Smith's Falls   |
| May 10           | Workshop - Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About an Historical Society                     | Cobden          |
| May 18           | Open House - International Museums Day  | Willowdale      |
| May 25           | Meeting - Toronto Historical Association  | Toronto         |
| May 27           | Open House - Doors Open Toronto and Book Sale   | Willowdale      |
| May 28           | Open House - Doors Open Toronto and Book Sale   | Willowdale      |
| June 2           | Meeting - Mastro Ristorante representative to arrange Launch of Buon Appetito! on September 8 | Toronto         |
| June 2           | Meeting - McCullough Cemetery   | Halton          |
| June 6           | Meeting - Citizens of Old Town  | Toronto         |
| June 6           | Meeting - McCullough Cemetery   | Halton          |

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Event</i>   | <i>Location</i> |
|-------------|--|-----------------|
| June 9      | Meeting - Steve Shaw Productions   | Oakville        |
| June 9      | Rental - Birthday Party in Coach House                                       | Willowdale      |
| June 11     | Plaque Unveiling, Rose Planting Cummer Cemetery<br>re Martin Snider, U.E.    | Willowdale      |
| June 13     | Meeting - Harvey Medland re Tombstone Tales                                  | Willowdale      |
| June 14     | Meeting - Steve Shaw Productions   | Oakville        |
| June 14     | Interviews - Applicants for Summer Experience                                | Willowdale      |
| June 18     | Picnic - Banting Farm  | Alliston        |
| June 19     | Meeting - Ontario Heritage Alliance  | Willowdale      |
| June 20     | Workshop - Muskoka Pioneer Village, Interpreting an<br>Historic Site         | Huntsville      |
| June 21     | Workshop - Everything You Ever Wanted to Know<br>About an Historical Society | Burk's Falls    |
| June 24     | Meeting Ontario Heritage Act   | Willowdale      |
| June 25     | Rental Revenue Canada  | Willowdale      |
| June 26     | Meeting - Lanark County Genealogical Society                                 | Toronto         |
| July 1      | Street Sale - Parkview Avenue  | Willowdale      |
| July 1      | Barbeque - Hosted Parkview residents   | Willowdale      |
| July 5      | Meeting - Dempsey Store  | Willowdale      |
| July 7      | Summer Camp - Young Ontario Programme  | Downsview       |

| <i>Date</i>  | <i>Event</i>   | <i>Location</i> |
|--------------|--|-----------------|
| July 7, 8, 9 | Rental Canada's National History Society for judging best history teachers in Canada | Willowdale      |
| July 10      | Meeting - Hosted Ontario Heritage Alliance   | Willowdale      |
| July 10      | Meeting - Culture Critic and staff   | Toronto         |
| July 11      | Meeting - Toronto Museum Alliance  | Toronto         |
| July 12      | Meeting - Coboconk Historical Society  | Coboconk        |
| July 14      | Summer Camp - Young Ontario Blacksmith Programme                                     | Downsview       |
| July 18      | Meeting - Don Valley Brickworks  | Toronto         |
| July 24      | Meeting - Ontario Heritage Act   | Willowdale      |
| July 25      | Rental Revenue Canada  | Willowdale      |
| August 10    | Meeting - Ontario Heritage Act   | Toronto         |
| August 23    | Meeting - Dempsey Store  | Willowdale      |
| August 25    | Rental Parks Canada  | Willowdale      |
| August 28    | Meeting - Ontario Heritage Act   | Willowdale      |
| August 29    | Workshop - Board of Directors Muskoka Steamship and Historical Society               | Gravenhurst     |
| August 31    | Meeting - re Banting Estate  | Alliston        |
| September 7  | Rental Parks Canada  | Willowdale      |
| September 8  | Book Launch - Buon Appetito!   | Toronto         |
| September 10 | Programme - Whitestone Historical Society  | Whitestone      |

| <i>Date</i>      | <i>Event</i>                                      | <i>Location</i>  |
|------------------|---|------------------|
| September 11     | Meeting - Dempsey Store                           | Willowdale       |
| September 13     | Fundraiser - Hosted North York Historical Society | Willowdale       |
| September 13     | Meeting - Museum Standards                        | Sudbury          |
| September 14     | Programme- Barrie Historical Society              | Barrie           |
| September 16     | Book Table Black Creek Pioneer Village Festival   | Toronto          |
| September 17     | Sale - Black Creek Pioneer Village                | Toronto          |
| September 18     | Meeting - Museum Standards                        | Thunder Bay      |
| September 19     | Meeting - Dempsey Store                           | Willowdale       |
| September 20     | Meeting - Museum Standards                        | Dryden           |
| September 21     | Meeting - Dempsey Store                           | Willowdale       |
| September 22, 23 | Colloquim - One Thousand Years                    | Parry Sound      |
| September 24     | Book Table - Word on the Street                   | Toronto          |
| September 25     | Meeting - Museum Standards                        | Sault Ste. Marie |
| September 26     | Meeting - Toronto Historical Association          | Toronto          |
| September 27     | Meeting - Museum Standards                        | Dryden           |
| October 3        | Meeting - Museum Standards                        | Ottawa           |
| October 5        | Meeting - Museum Standards                        | Belleville       |
| October 10       | Meeting - Museum Standards                        | Toronto          |
| October 10       | Rental - Parks Canada                             | Willowdale       |

| <i>Date</i>    | <i>Event</i>   | <i>Location</i>     |
|----------------|--|---------------------|
| October 11     | Book Launch - Tombstone Tales                          | Willowdale          |
| October 11     | Programme - Oriole-York Mills Outreach                 | Willowdale          |
| October 12     | Rental - Hincks-Dellcrest Centre                       | Willowdale          |
| October 13     | Rental - Parks Canada                                  | Willowdale          |
| October 13     | Meeting - Michael's Bay Historical Society             | Manitoulin Island   |
| October 14     | Rental - Birthday Party Coach House                    | Willowdale          |
| October 14     | Colloquim - Celebrating 1000 Years                     | Manitoulin Island   |
| October 14, 15 | Book table Global Genealogy Seminar                    | Milton              |
| October 19     | Presentation CW Jeffry's Dinner                        | Toronto             |
| October 25     | Lecture - National Historic Site seminar               | Woodstock           |
| October 26     | Rental Parks Canada                                    | Willowdale          |
| October 27, 28 | Colloquim - One Thousand Years                         | Thunder Bay         |
| October 30     | Open House - Don Valley Brickworks Archaeological Site | Toronto             |
| October 31     | Treats for visiting Hallowe'en spirits                 | Willowdale          |
| November 1     | Open House - "Take a student to work day"              | Willowdale & Guelph |
| November 1     | Lecture University of Guelph                           | Guelph              |
| November 1     | Meeting - Museum Standards                             | St. Catharines      |
| November 2     | Meeting - Museum Standards                             | Kitchener-Waterloo  |

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Event</i>                                   | <i>Location</i> |
|-------------|--|-----------------|
| November 7  | Meeting - Museum Standards                     | Hamilton        |
| November 7  | Meeting - Rental Parks Canada                  | Willowdale      |
| November 8  | Colloquim - Celebrating 1000 Years             | Essex           |
| November 12 | Banting Luncheon                               | Alliston        |
| November 14 | Fundraiser - Weekenders fashion Show           | Willowdale      |
| November 15 | Colloquim - Celebrating 1000 Years             | Kingston        |
| November 16 | Meeting - City of Toronto official plan        | Willowdale      |
| November 17 | Meeting - Ontario Hospital Cemetery            | Etobicoke       |
| November 22 | Workshop - City of Toronto grants              | Willowdale      |
| November 26 | Fundraiser - Cook Book Caper                   | Willowdale      |
| November 29 | Seminar - Amalgamation                         | Kitchener       |
| November 30 | Luncheon - Women's Canadian Historical Society | Willowdale      |
| December 1  | Rental - Parks Canada                          | Willowdale      |
| December 3  | Lecture - Parkwood Estate                      | Oshawa          |
| December 4  | Meeting - Future Archives of Ontario           | Toronto         |
| December 5  | Meeting - Hosted Friends Dempsey's Store       | Willowdale      |
| December 7  | Meeting - Toronto Official Plan                | Willowdale      |
| December 8  | Presentation - Collection to Archives Ontario  | Toronto         |
| December 9  | Rental - Huguenot Society of Canada            | Willowdale      |



# Educational Programmes

In addition to all the educational activities associated with “Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario’s History”, The Ontario Historical Society conducted numerous workshops and seminars across the Province of Ontario.

One of the most popular workshops in 2000 was “Everything you ever wanted to know about an historical society but were afraid to ask!” This workshop was held in Fenelon Falls, Burk’s Falls and Cobden, Ontario. Interested individuals and members of the following organizations and institutions attended these three workshops: Fenelon Falls Historical Society, Barrie Historical Association, East Gwillimbury Historical Society, Smith Township Historical Society, Manvers Historical Society, Laidlaw Heritage Village, The Ridge Schoolhouse, Georgina Historical Society, Belfountain Heritage Society, Millbrook & Cavan Historical Society, Greater Harvey Historical Society, Bexley Township Historical Society, Burk’s Falls & District Historical Society, Whitestone Historical Society, Magnetawan Historical Museum, Strong Sundridge and Joly Agricultural Society, Powassan & Area Historical Society, Clark House Museum, West Parry Sound & District Museum, Ross Township Historical Society, Arnprior Historical Society, Bromley Historical Society, Lanark County Genealogical Society and the Rolph Buchanan Wylie & McKay Historical Society.

Over 40 teachers attended the Heritage Fair Professional Development Session that the OHS presented for the York Region District School Board and The CRB Foundation.

At the first National Conference of Provincial and Territorial Historical Societies, sponsored by Canada’s National History Society, the OHS presented “Discovering Your Community” and hosted a reception at the John McKenzie House.

The OHS participated again in “Seedy Saturday” which was sponsored by Black Creek Pioneer Village and Seeds of Diversity Canada

As part of the celebration of Black History Month, the OHS participated in a community event that highlighted local black history displays at the C.S. Wilson Community Centre in Collingwood. The Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee and the Sheffield Park Black History & Cultural Museum were also partners in the community programme.

On May 27-28, 2000, the OHS hosted “Doors Open” in partnership with Heritage Toronto. OHS staff and volunteers conducted historical tours at the John McKenzie House.

The Board of Directors of the Muskoka Steamship and Historical Society asked the OHS to give a professional development seminar on the roles and responsibilities of directors who serve on the board of a non-profit corporation.

In partnership with the Voyageur Heritage Network, the OHS conducted a workshop entitled "Customer Service" at the Musee Sturgeon River House Museum.

The OHS participated in:

Heritage Showcases in Scarborough and Waterloo. Our partners for those events were the Toronto Historical Association and the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation.

For the Friends of Muskoka Pioneer Village, the OHS presented a professional development workshop entitled "A Search for Truth: Interpreting the Past". The staff and volunteers who work at Muskoka Heritage Place in Huntsville attended the workshop.

Rob Leverty  
Programme Co-ordinator

# Fund Raising

Fund raising for The Ontario Historical Society in 2000 included several events. With the assistance of generous donors and energetic and enthusiastic volunteers and staff, most of whom also fall into the "generous donor" category - our programme successfully added to the finances of the Society.

Fund raising events that were held through the year include:

- ♣ Italian dinner to launch *Buon appetito! Italian Foodways in Ontario*
- ♣ Cookbook Caper and Afternoon tea
- ♣ Launch of *One Thousand Years of Onatrio's History*
- ♣ Two Fashion Shows with supposrt of Weekenders Fashions
- ♣ DOORS OPEN TORONTO! and giant Book Sale
- ♣ July 1 Street Sale on Parkview Avenue

The result of our fund raising efforts in 2000 combined with donations from our members and supporters amounted to over \$35,000.00 which goes towards supporting OHS events and programmes.

The Society is indebted to, and grateful for, its many donors and also for the friends (staff and volunteers) who have given countless hours and unstinting interest, drive and effeciency to make all fund raising projects successful.

Jeaane Hughes and Frank Bartoszek  
Co-chairs, Fund Raising

## Local Societies

The following local historical societies were granted affiliated status with The Ontario Historical Society (leading to incorporation in the Province of Ontario as a non profit corporation) in the calendar year 2000:

Citizens for the Old Town  
Friends of Crysler's Farm Battlefield  
Friends of the Educational Archives & Heritage Centre of Hamilton Wentworth  
Lanark County Genealogical Society  
Michael's Bay Historical Society  
Ross Township Historical Society  
The Sheddon Area Historical Society  
Smooth Rock Falls Historical Society  
Taddlewood Heritage Association  
Thousand Islands River Heritage Society  
Upper Ottawa Valley Genealogical Group  
The Whitestone Historical Society

Jean Cole and Mary Simonds,  
Co-chairs, Local Societies

## Memberships and Subscriptions

The Ontario Historical Society welcomed 94 new members in the year 2000, and many lapsed members have re-joined the Society as well.

In addition, the Society welcomed 5 new subscribers to *Ontario History*.

Cristina Perfetto  
Memberships/Subscriptions

# Honours And Awards

The Honours and Awards Committee has announced the following winners for the year 2000:

- ♦ Scadding Award of Excellence: Ajax Historical Board.
- ♦ Joseph Brant Award: *Moravians in Upper Canada: The Diary of the Indian Mission of Fairfield on the Thames, 1792-1813*, by Linda Sabathy-Judd.
- ♦ Fred Landon Award: *The Fossmill Story: Life in a Railway Lumbering Village on the Edge of Algonquin Park*, by Doug and Paul Mackey.
- ♦ Alison Prentice Award: *Married Women and Property Law in Victorian Ontario*, by Lori Chambers.
- ♦ J.J. Talman Award: *Assisting Emigration to Upper Canada, The Petworth Project, 1832-1837*, by Wendy Cameron and Mary McDougall Maude.
- ♦ Riddell Award: no award to be given.
- ♦ B. Napier Simpson Jr. Award of Merit: no award to be given.
- ♦ Dorothy Duncan Award: Ojibwe Cultural Foundation, Manitulin Island.
- ♦ Cruikshank Gold medal: no award to be given.
- ♦ Carnochan Award: no award to be given.
- ♦ President's Award: no award to be given.
- ♦ Museum Award of Excellence in Community Programming: Battlefield House Museum at Stoney Creek.
- ♦ Russell K. Cooper Living History Site Award: Dundurn National Historic Site, Hamilton.

The awards will be presented on May 5 at 3 p.m. at the John McKenzie House, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale.

The next deadline for nominations is October 31, 2001.

Janet Trimble  
Chair, Honours and Awards

# Museums

The Museums Committee of The Ontario Historical Society monitored a number of situations this year.

One concern that members of the OHS brought to the Committee centred on the way the Province of Ontario's museum operating grants were managed in 2000. On the one hand, the province increased the number of museums that received grants, which the OHS applauds. On the other hand, the province unfortunately did not increase the amount of funding for museums as a whole. Therefore the rest of the museums in Ontario that received grants were provided with less money than they had expected. Furthermore, the province did not tell museums about this change until very late in the year, so most institutions could not undertake extra fundraising to make up the shortfall before the end of their budget year. In addition, the lateness in sending out grants made it difficult for many institutions to operate effectively or avoid acquiring bank loans and interest charges that whittled down their already-stretched budgets. The Committee is concerned about the province's approach to issuing grants, and sincerely hopes that funding will be sent out earlier and that the pool of money will increase at least enough to allow new museums to be added without decreasing the funding for existing institutions (although increases equal to the rate of inflation ought also to be a minimum funding goal).

In addition, the Committee is troubled over the great reduction of funding for museums in general. The most dramatic example of the impact of this problem is the closing in 2001 of the Pier, the City of Toronto's large new waterfront museum. Shocking as this closure may be, it is only the most visible representation of a widespread assault on almost all of the province's museum resources. Throughout Ontario, museums have been cutting their acquisition, preservation, research, exhibition, and interpretive activities due to a serious loss of funding over the last number of years. While some of the lost revenue has been recovered through increased revenue generation activities, these activities in some cases have accelerated the degradation of our museum resources because they have consumed time and effort that ought to have been devoted to core operations. In some places, the imperative to generate revenue has led to the further physical deterioration of our irreplaceable heritage resources because some activities have been insensitive to the imperatives of good conservation and other museological fundamentals. One major result of the massive funding crisis for museums - which seems to be a peculiarly Canadian problem compared to other major western industrial countries - is that an enormous percentage of our finite and irreplaceable artefact and other heritage resources are being compromised in terms of their inherent integrity and historical utility, if not lost altogether.

One of the other sad consequences of the great reduction in public funding for museums of recent years is that the public increasingly is being denied access to its past. This regularly occurs physically, such as through reduced hours or through closing public areas to accommodate revenue generation enterprises, or through removing exhibits and other presentations from the public view without replacing them. The public also is denied access to its past intellectually. This occurs because the quality of history being communicated in a great percentage of our museums is deteriorating as a result of reduced staff training and research, loss of expert personnel, shifting programming from meaningful activities to 'profitable' ones, and other similar reasons. Beyond denying the public access to its past, museums risk losing the support of the population as they become less attractive as destinations because of an accelerating obsolescence and deterioration induced by funding problems. Given the inherent importance of history to the health of any society, the public sector's willingness to allow these threats to our museums to continue is completely bewildering. Allowing this to happen does not even make economic sense because it has been proved conclusively that a healthy museum infrastructure contributes far more to the economy than it costs. Yet, here in Ontario, we are allowing our museum and other cultural tourism resources to decline, while our competitors in Quebec, New York, and elsewhere are improving theirs.

Throughout the province, museum staff, volunteers, and other supporters do their best to serve the public. Yet most museums in Ontario are suffering greatly through reduced public funding, and in many cases seem to be losing the battle. Good and vibrant museums are important. They inspire the imagination, they protect our material heritage so that we can study and enjoy it and, in the process, they allow us to understand our past and ourselves. Beyond that, they contribute far more to the economic health of communities than they cost. The current situation in Ontario is nothing short of scandalous.

Carl Benn, Chair  
Museums Committee

# Ontario History

Two issues of the Ontario Historical Society's journal *Ontario History* were published in the year 2000 and together they comprise volume 92 in the journal's history. Each issue was made up of four articles (and lengthy book review sections) and the Spring issue of the year was also a special one devoted to Native-Canadian history. This was guest-edited by Dr. Dean Jacobs, director of Nin. Da. Waab.Jig/Walpole Island Heritage Centre, and was titled "Continuity and the Unbroken Chain: Issues in the Aboriginal History of Ontario". It is the first in the journal's long history to have been edited by a Native Canadian. The Autumn 2000 issue of *Ontario History* published four very different articles that ranged widely in both time and subject matter. The latter included images of masculinity, women in the law, Emancipation Day celebrations, and the history of the peopling of northeastern Ontario. This issue also was a significant stepping-stone in the journal's transition to a biannual format in that it more-or-less marked the end of commitments that had been made while it was still being published as a quarterly.

A second important change was realized in this volume in that it was the first to be printed in a trim size that measures six inches by nine inches. This change was in keeping with decisions made after discussions with The OHS Board of Directors through 1999 and it brought the journal's print format into line with other, similar publications.

The Editorial Advisory Committee for the journal for 2000 was made up of ten members: Linda Ambrose, Jeanne Beck, Nancy Christie, Cynthia Comacchio, Laurie Leclair, Jan Noel, Carmela Patrias, Ian Radforth and Randall White. All members are to be thanked for their dedication to the journal and to their work on its behalf and a special note of thanks is due to the three members of the committee - Sharon Cook, Dean Jacobs and Patricia Jasen - who completed their terms last year. Jim Clemens continued as the journal's book review editor and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his ability to find willing and competent readers for the very broad range of volumes that are reviewed in each issue.

Dr. Gabriele Scardellato  
Editor, *Ontario History*



# Publications

The year 2000 marked the completion of four new works published by The Ontario Historical Society. *Buon Appetito! Italian Foodways in Ontario* was launched in September with many of the speakers from the Symposium (held in 1999) in attendance to autograph their papers. *Tombstone Tales from Ontario Cemeteries* by Harvey Medland is a soft-cover book launched in October 2000. *Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario's History*, the proceedings of the Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario's History Symposium held in April 2000, was completed along with the accompanying video and was ready for launch in January 2001. Finally, the fund-raising "how-to" booklet, *This Little Piggy Went to Market and Came Back with a Full Basket* by Alison Norman, one of our Summer Employment students, was the third publication completed in 2000.

*Tombstone Tales* is a book about many interesting and, in many cases, little known people who shaped Ontario's history. The researcher and writer, Harvey Medland, donated his time and royalties to The Ontario Historical Society. This colourful book is now in its second printing.

*Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario's History* is a 343 page soft-cover book containing papers contributed by more than 40 authors. Appropriate to the millennium year, the papers cover the last thousand years beginning with the history of the peoples of the First Nations to the arrival of newcomers to Ontario today - the people and events that formed Ontario as we know it at the beginning of the 21st century.

The publications of the OHS are given high profile and are widely distributed throughout Ontario. The OHS staff and volunteers set up book displays and sell publications when they present workshops or attend meetings in all parts of the province.

Jo Marie Powers, Chair,  
Publications Committee

# Preservation

The year 2000 was pockmarked with preservation issues, most of which were handled with alacrity and skill by The Ontario Historical Society staff and with the efficiency displayed in previous years. Our compliments to Dorothy Duncan and Rob Leverty, who with help from Catherine Bray (our legal advisor) advised on a number of local preservation issues. We will report on a few cases brought to our attention.

While the twin shields of Designation and Heritage Easement continue to provide their limited muscle for preservation, the speculative forces of land development and construction prosper in Ontario. Fiscal and tax support measures for preservation remain mainly non-existent or tenuous at best. In the City of Toronto a heritage tax back grant programme is a possibility. Federal and Provincial input is currently not a reality.

The current Government of Ontario does not seem to be interested in a review of the Ontario Heritage Act. The OHS has been in discussion with opposition critics to ensure that our position is known. Work on a draft of a proposed new Heritage Act initiated by the heritage community is well underway.

## Cemeteries and Burial Grounds

The Clendennen Cemetery decision won just two years ago was expected to lead to a new era of protection in Ontario. It assisted the OHS in thwarting development proposals to close and move both the St. Augustine Cemetery in Essex County and the McCullough Cemetery in the Town of Halton Hills. However, a notice of intention to close part of St. James' Cemetery, St. James Cathedral, downtown Toronto was filed in January of 2000. Heritage versus Developers has new depth as the Church elders fight over 3000+ 19th century gravesites, many under the asphalt parking lot versus a replaced Parish House plus a hi-rise condo with underground parking. Shades of Trollope in the 21st century!

## Dempsey Store (250 Beecroft Road, North York):

Dempsey Store, a designated building, under a Site Specific By-law is under threat being changed from community heritage use to private commercial day care use. The OHS objected to the change of use at public meetings and subsequent denial of public access for ten plus a ten-year option at \$1.00 a year. Friends of Dempsey Store, now a committee of the North York Historical Society is appealing a Committee of Adjustment ruling to the OMB. The proposed institutional use is not in keeping with the clear intent of the Official Plan (City); using parkland provided as density exchange with developers is a well-accepted remedy to prevent loss of heritage buildings and sites. The OHS Bulletin, Issue 126, October 2000, *What we really need is a good detective*, Dorothy Duncan, Executive Director addressed this issue.

Concourse Building (100 Adelaide Street West, Toronto)

Despite efforts to designate the Art Deco Concourse Building in the heart of Toronto it is now awaiting demolition subject to Oxford Properties future plans. The J.E.H. MacDonald's colour decorations will likely be "saved". The project included "facadism" which seems to be the destiny of much of Ontario's heritage.

Mutchmor Public School (Ottawa)

A perceived threat to a designated heritage school building was averted when a new use for the building was negotiated. Strategy of adaptive reuse came to the rescue.

B. Napier Simpson Jr. Award of Merit

Our failure this year to find a worthy candidate for this award may reflect the deterioration of municipal support for the L.A.C.A.C process across the Province. Amalgamation seems to have seriously eroded the local input. In Toronto, for example, the six LACACs have become one (Toronto Preservation Board) and six panels with staff support reduced.

Geoff Geduld and John Witham,  
Co-Chairs, Preservation Committee

# Board of Directors

## Officers

*President* - Bryan Walls, John Freeman Walls Historic Site and Underground Railway Museum, Windsor

*First Vice-President* - Frank Bartoszek, Toronto, Co-Chair Fundraising Committee

*Second Vice-President and Secretary* - Lydia Ross Alexander, Kirkland Lake

*Treasurer* - James M. Clemens, Burlington and Book Review Editor, *Ontario History*

*Past President* - Jeanne Hughes, Richmond Hill, Chair Nominating Committee and Co-Chair Fund Raising Committee

## Directors

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Jean Cole, writer-historian, Indian River, Co-Chair Local Societies Committee

Geoffrey Geduld, North York Historical Society, Co-Chair Preservation Committee

Jo Marie Powers, Guelph, Chair Publications Committee

Mary Simonds, Cobourg, Co-Chair Local Societies Committee

Jan Trimble, University Western Ontario, Chair Honours and Awards Committee

John Witham, Parks Canada, Co-chair Preservation Committee

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*Executive Director* - Dorothy Duncan

*Financial Secretary* - Barbara Truax

*Membership/Subscriptions* - Cristina Perfetto

*Programme Co-ordinator* - Robert Levery

*Editor, OHS Bulletin* - Lorraine Lowry

*Editor, Ontario History* - Gabriele Scardellato

*Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario's History* - Colin Agnew and Payal Lall

*Summer Experience Programme 2000* - Angela Keyes and Alison Norman

*Grounds, Gardens* - Carlos Faria

*Housekeeper* - Maria Lima

**Legal Advisor** - Catherine Bray, Borden, Ladner, Gervais LLP, Toronto

**Auditors** - KPMG LLP Chartered Accountants, Willowdale

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Jan Trimble, London  
Mary Simonds, Cobourg  
Gabriele Scardellato, Toronto  
Carl Benn, Toronto  
Jean Cole, Indian River

## Nominating

Jeanne Hughes, Richmond Hill  
Bryan Walls, Windsor  
Frank Bartoszek, Toronto  
Lydia Ross Alexander, Kirkland Lake  
Gerald Boyce, Belleville

## Local Societies

Jean Cole  
Mary Simonds

## Preservation

Geoffrey Geduld  
John Witham

## Museums

Carl Benn, City of Toronto Museum Services  
Elizabeth Hunter, Brant County Museum, Brantford  
Sally Warren, Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives, Peterborough  
John Carter, Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, Toronto  
Janet Cobban, John R. Park Homestead, Essex County and Windsor's Community Museum

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