

The Ontario Historical Society **Annual Report** **2005**





The Ontario Historical Society

Annual Report

2005

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Cover images

Top: Penny Potter (left) and Jeanne Hughes (right) pose with Dr. Michael Bliss at the OHS History Book Sale in September 2005. Penny and Jeanne worked very hard to organize the entire fundraising event.

Middle: Harpist Jean Malyon provided beautiful music at the 2005 Heritage Day reception.

Bottom: Heritage Day 2005 (left to right): Marcel Martel, Secretary, OHS Board of Directors; David Zimmer, MPP Willowdale; and Brian Osborne, President, OHS Board of Directors.

Photos Sheila Creighton

President's Report

The President of The Ontario Historical Society is but the transient figurehead of an institution whose many years of service to the Province at large is well recognized and well established. But while there is a significant institutional momentum, there is always the need to ensure that the Society adjusts to new norms and practices.

To this end, your Board has reviewed old practices and implemented significant changes in several areas: guidelines for Board members; the creation of a Human Resources committee; and refining the terms of reference for the Awards Committee. Moreover, while these developments seek to ensure efficient and responsible governance, the Board also sought to better understand the future role of a heritage organization such as ours. To this end, a strategy session in the fall of 2005 allowed us to brainstorm what we have accomplished to date, what we need to do better, and to consider what our membership expects of us. The survey circulated to the membership will be a valuable tool to assist your new President and Board in considering these matters. Do respond to it.



OHS President Brian Osborne (right) talks with guest speaker Ian E. Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, at the OHS AGM and Honours & Awards presentation in Kingston, May 2005. Photo Sheila Creighton



OHS President Brian Osborne (right) reads a proclamation at Kingston's "First Canada Day" celebrated at Kingston Brewing Company. Lieut. Governor James Bartleman (left) and Kingston's Mayor Harvey Rosen (seated) and John Coleman, Parks Canada, playing the role of Lord Sydenham, listen. Photo Randy Genois

But the Society is more than the President and its Board. The day-to-day operation of OHS rests with a superb set of colleagues at McKenzie House. Our Executive Director, Patricia Neal, is a consummate professional who has won the respect and high regard of all in the heritage field. I am indebted to her tireless efforts on all of our behalf and, in particular, the constant support she has given me. In the same vein, Sheila Creighton, Robert Leverty, Christina Perfetto, and Natasha Urlic work as an efficient team that has impressed us all because of its willing efficiency, often under stressful circumstances.

Two people merit particular comment. Sheila Creighton, together with her regular contributors such as Marjorie Stuart and the book review team of Chris and Pat Raible, have ensured the excellence of our Society newsletter, the *OHS Bulletin*, which performs that invaluable function of disseminating news and information about developments and events of interest to all members and Affiliates. Similarly, Tory Tronrud, the new editor of *Ontario History*, has brought a quiet, yet authoritative, professionalism to the production of our flagship journal that aims at

both scholarly respect and public appeal: not an easy task. Thank you all.

There are so many events and activities that signal the vitality of the Society: the well choreographed Heritage Day that is becoming an annual event at the John McKenzie House; our regular book sales and, in particular, the special one this year prompted by Professor Michael Bliss' generosity in donating much of his personal library to the Society; and then there are the visits by our Executive Director and Board members to advise prospective and established Affiliated Societies on various matters of governance, procedures, or specialized skills.

I regret however, that I am unable to hand over the leadership of the Society to my successor with the contentious issue of the Banting property resolved, a matter that has perplexed OHS long before most of us were members of the Board.



At the History Book Sale in September 2005, Dr. Michael Bliss (left) talks with OHS President Brian Osborne. Behind, Rob Leverty, OHS Director, Programs and Preservation, speaks with Brad Rudachyk (far right) a heritage consultant and member of the Simcoe County Historical Society. Photo Sheila Creighton

Throughout the last few years, the OHS has striven to find a way to respect the terms of Edward Knight Banting's generous bequest: to honour the memory of his uncle, Sir Frederick

Banting, and to be true to the mission of the Society.

Finally, I wish to close my report by stating how proud I am to have been allowed to serve as President of The Ontario Historical Society, and how grateful I am for the support of the OHS Board, Staff, and membership at large over the last two years.

Brian S. Osborne
President



Brian Osborne, OHS President, dressed as a military officer circa 1783, plays the role of narrator in Augusta Ceconni's opera "Molly Brant" performed at Fairfield House in Amherstview. Photo Andrew Minigan, Fairfield House

Executive Director's Report

The year 2005 in review... Our annual Heritage Day reception at the John McKenzie House on February 21st was another fun, well-attended, event. More than 125 friends, volunteers, donors, and heritage partners joined us for our third annual celebration of Ontario's heritage. David Zimmer, MPP Willowdale, participated in the event and brought greetings from Premier Dalton McGuinty and Minister of Culture Madeleine Meilleur. Guests were treated to music and refreshments while taking advantage of the opportunity to forge new partners and get re-acquainted with old friends.

Certainly the big news in 2005 was the passing of Bill 60 – Ontario's new heritage legislation. Heritage groups across the province worked tirelessly to see this legislation through. Lincoln Alexander, chair of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and many representatives of heritage organizations from across the province, including the OHS, were in the gallery of the legislature when the vote was taken. Congratulations to Minister of Culture Madeleine Meilleur on her efforts to see this legislation through.

The John McKenzie House, home of the OHS, was profiled in the award-winning series *Structures*, produced by Rogers Television. Focusing on Toronto's dynamic historical buildings, *Structures* is produced with the assistance of The Ontario Heritage Foundation. Filming took place at the McKenzie House late fall 2004.

The 117th Annual General Meeting of The Ontario Historical Society took place in Kingston at Fort Frontenac in May. More than 100 members from eastern, southwestern, central and northern Ontario made the trip to Kingston. Some added an extra day or two to visit area sites. The presentation of our 2005 Honours & Awards

took place in the afternoon followed by a wine and cheese reception. A new award category, the Donald Grant Creighton Award for the best biography published within the last three years was added in 2005. There are now fourteen awards to choose from including awards for individuals, businesses and organizations as well as book awards. Nomination forms for our annual awards program are always available on



*Seen here, left to right are: John Sabeau, OHS Board Member and Honours and Awards Committee Chair; Patricia Neal, Executive Director of the OHS; Martin Friedland, winner of the OHS's 2005 J. J. Talman award; and Joseph Martin, OHS Board Second Vice-President. Martin Friedland was presented his award at the Albany Club, Toronto in November 2005. He won for his book *The University of Toronto: A History*. Published by University of Toronto Press.*

our website. The OHS opened its doors to the public during *Doors Open Toronto* during the weekend of May 28th and 29th. More than 600 visitors toured the John McKenzie House and browsed the books donated for our annual book sale. Revenues from this year's fundraiser were up 25% from the year before. My thanks and appreciation go out to Penny Potter and Jeanne Hughes who work year-round in preparation for this annual fundraising event.

In June, the Board of Directors adopted the OHS Director's & Officer's Liability Insurance Program.



Many happy book hunters, including students, collectors, and dealers look over several thousand titles for sale at \$3 each. Photo Sheila Creighton

This program offered participating affiliated societies with a low-cost option for Directors & Officers coverage. 40 societies (approximately 14% of all affiliates) were needed to initiate the program. Information on this and the Society's comprehensive commercial liability insurance program, including application forms, were mailed out in late summer. Unfortunately, the program was cancelled later in the year due to lack of interest.

Through the assistance of the Ministry of Culture's Summer Experience Program we were able to complete several large projects. Barton Wong, a graduate of the University of Toronto, returned to the OHS in summer 2005 to conduct an accessibility audit. Barton's report identifies some of the barriers to OHS programs and facilities that prevent persons with disabilities from participating fully and includes recommendations for improving access. David Zarnett, a student at Queen's University, compiled a database of academic programs at the post-secondary level that museums or historical societies could use to recruit potential co-op students. Stephanie Guo, a student at University of Toronto Schools,

assisted our Membership Coordinator in updating our membership records and worked on our publications. I would like to thank Barton, David and Stephanie for their dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm that they brought to their work last summer.

The Accessibility Directorate of Ontario, through the Ministry of Citizenship, awarded the OHS a grant in 2004 to produce an Information and Resource Tool Kit designed to make Ontario's heritage and culture accessible to people with disabilities. Public information workshops advising museum workers and others in the heritage community with programming ideas were held throughout the year in Sudbury, Fort Frances, and Chatham.

Three very special OHS volunteers were awarded Ontario Volunteer Service Awards by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration in 2005. Past President Lydia Ross Alexander, Past President Jeanne Hughes, and former Board member Penny Potter were recognized for their active commitment to the OHS over many years of service. We are very fortunate to have Lydia, Jeanne and Penny help us out, as we could



Jeanne Hughes (left) receives her OHS Cruikshank Medal from OHS board member Dorie Billich at the Black Creek Pioneer Village education staff luncheon in September.



Cruikshank Medal winner, Penny Potter. Penny was honoured for her years of dedication volunteering for the OHS. Congratulations Penny! Photo Sheila Creighton

not accomplish as much as we do without their assistance. Congratulations and thank you!

Building on the success of the very popular Fascinating Ontario heritage tourism guide sponsored by the OHS and published in the *Toronto Star* in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture in 2004, the OHS began plans for a special, four-page supplement to the *OHS Bulletin* that will feature heritage tourism activities taking place across the province in summer 2006. Affiliated societies are again invited to participate in this opportunity at no cost.

In late fall, Kemayla Sharp joined our staff while undertaking her field placement for the Arts Administration – Cultural Management program at Humber College. The program is designed to

provide students with the specialized knowledge and skills required to work in the cultural sector. Kemayla, a graduate from the University of Guelph with a degree in Art History, assisted the Board of Directors with statistical data on our membership. We wish Kemayla well in her future work.

In addition to the above activities and events, the OHS continued to participate in meetings, consultations, workshops and fundraising events. We also have worked closely with several local historical societies in areas of governance, finance and fundraising. It's been a very busy, but rewarding, year for a dedicated team. Thank you Rob, Christina, Natasha, and Sheila! And thanks also to Kemayla, Stephanie, David and Barton.

Patricia K. Neal
Executive Director



OHS 2005 summer students in the backyard of the John McKenzie House. They are from left to right: Barton Wong, Stephanie Guo, and David Zarnett.

Photo Sheila Creighton

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2005

There is little change in the financial position of the Society in 2005. There is a small deficit in the net Assets. It is planned to eliminate this deficit and strengthen the Balance Sheet in the coming year.

The operations of The Ontario Historical Society were well managed with a good control of costs that were kept within the funding and other income. The operations of the society showed a surplus of \$21,774. However after deducting costs related to the OHS Foundation that managed the Banting property, there was a deficit of \$567.

Total revenue for the year 2005 was \$412,596 compared to \$632,909, the previous year. In 2004, two one-time grants, EnAbling Change and Cultural Tourism Marketing Fund (CTMF), were the main reasons for lower grant amounts in 2005. The CTMF grant also generated advertising revenue included in other revenue. Donations in 2004 included in-kind sponsorship donations for the Heritage Tourism supplement produced in the *Toronto Star* which explains why amounts are lower in 2005. The operating grant for 2005 remained the same amount as last year. Program expenses were kept at the funding levels available.

There was a net deficit for *Ontario History* of \$6,747 in 2005 compared to a deficit of \$12,096 for 2004. In 2005 Society received a grant from the Social Sciences & Research Council for \$19,192. Interest earned from the \$100,000 endowment is credited to *Ontario History*.

It is the policy of the Board to direct donations and other funding towards the purposes for which they are received.

Naresh Khoshla
Treasurer



Now the OHS offices at 34 Parkview Avenue in Willowdale, the John McKenzie House, originally a farm, is seen here in the early 1900s.

Membership

Dear members and affiliated members, as your membership coordinator, I take this opportunity to say thank you for renewing your membership and for your generous donations to The Ontario Historical Society during the year 2005.

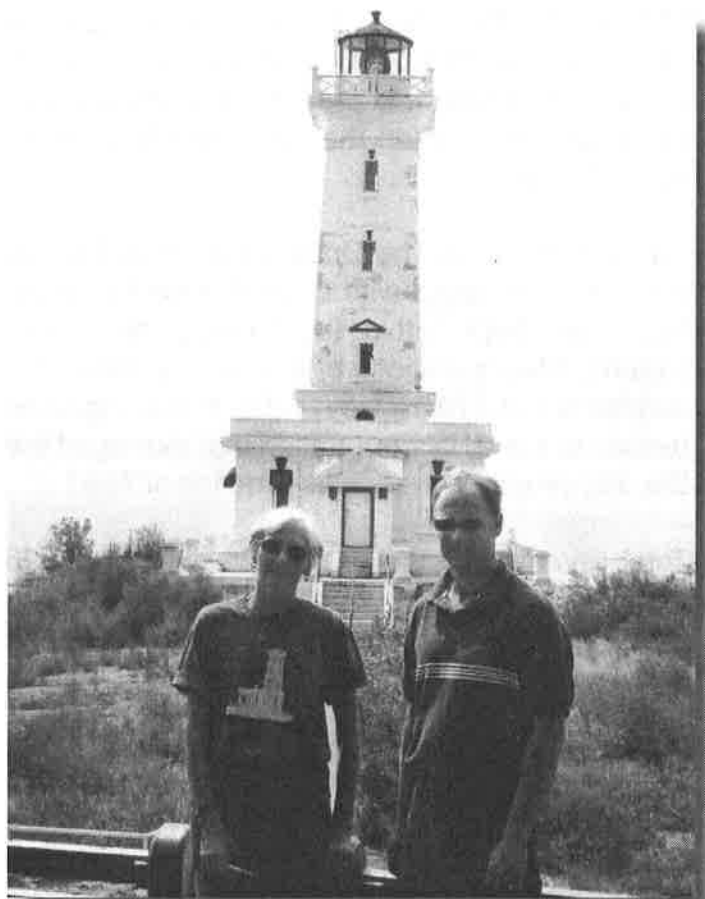
I would like to welcome our 89 new members and hope that during the coming year you will be able to participate in our special events and workshops.

New Affiliates in 2005 were:

Historical Toy and Doll Society of Southwestern Ontario; Kirkfield and District Historical Society; Friends of St. Marys Museum; Point Abino Lighthouse Preservation Society; Port Maitland "On the Grand" Historical Association.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy your membership benefits, and I look forward to assisting you throughout the coming year. Please contact me with any membership, donation, or publication requests.

Christina Perfetto
Membership Coordinator
members@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca



Welcome to the Point Abino Lightstation Preservation Society – A New OHS Affiliate. Charlene Nigh (left), President of Point Abino Lightstation Preservation Society, which is now incorporated in the Province of Ontario through affiliation with the OHS, will continue to support the preservation of this unique lighthouse and the keeper's dwelling. Charlene is seen here with Sean Hutton, Supervisor, Facilities, Leisure Services & Cemeteries for the Town of Fort Erie which now owns this national historic site. Photo Rob Levery

Christine Perfetto, OHS Membership Coordinator, cuts the cake at the annual Heritage Day reception in February. Photo Sheila Creighton

Communications

The year 2005 was another very busy one for communications with the OHS. Our first main event of the year was Heritage Day 2005. Our third annual reception held in February was a great success. Although it again snowed, that didn't stop a large crowd from attending. People really enjoyed themselves. We had harpist Jean Malyon playing; the wine was provided by Willow Springs Winery, and the catering was beautifully done by Sue Pie, of Pye Dough Inc.

In 2005, with the assistance of Natasha Urlic, we produced many publicity emails in the form of pdfs, a preferred format by most now. Thank you Natasha for your continued support of publicity emailings and your skill with databases, as well as organizing incoming publicity mail. Many flyers, invitations, and handouts were produced for various events hosted by the OHS. These were emailed, mailed and put on the website. Media releases were issued for a variety of events including: the Annual Book Sale, Heritage Day, Honours & Awards, and Cookbook Caper. Thanks to Christina Perfetto for her help with mailing lists, addresses and other member-related information. Thank you to co-op student



Sheila Creighton (left), OHS Communications Director/Editor, visited the Friends of St. Marys Museum in July to attend a meeting and give them information about the OHS. The Friends of St. Marys Museum became an OHS Affiliate in 2005. Photo Mary Smith

Stephanie Guo for creating some attractive event flyers.

The OHS website was maintained in 2005 by volunteer Lydia Alexander. Thank you Lydia for your skill and efforts with the OHS website. Lydia, our "web curator" has done a marvelous job of updating the site and has a real aptitude for web work. I really appreciate her being part of the communications team.

In February I had the opportunity to do a presentation about the production of the *OHS Bulletin* for a group of people at the Simcoe County Museum, all interested or involved in newsletter production. It was interesting to see the varied newsletters and techniques, but also to get a chance to talk about the *OHS Bulletin* production, writing, photography, submissions, and of course, audience.

Another project that was not my usual work included assisting with the production of two issues of *Ontario History*. Together with Brian Osborne, I helped edit and assemble the autumn 2004 and



Elizabeth Gjerek and Norm Thomas of Harmony Printing Ltd., enjoying themselves at the annual Heritage Day reception. Thank you to Liz, Norm and Harmony for their continued excellent work on the OHS Bulletin and other OHS printing needs. Photo Sheila Creighton

spring 2005 issues. What a huge amount of work – especially dealing with fact checking, editing, image preparation, writing styles, and proofing. Working with Brian Osborne proofing in person and on the phone with a headset and a fine tooth comb was a great experience.

In May, the AGM and Honours and Awards presentation held in Kingston, was a well-attended, enjoyable weekend. I took many photographs for the *Bulletin* and website of the festivities.

The History Book Sale in September was another big event this year. Many people were delighted by the bargains they found and the publicity that was done to different target audiences paid off with the good attendance and sales.

The *OHS Bulletin*, the main communications tool of the OHS published five issues in 2005 (Issues 148 – 152: February, May, Summer, September and December). It continues to enjoy support and interest from the heritage community in all regions of Ontario. Our members regularly send in their event notices, story ideas, photographs, and other information. We attracted some new advertisers, and many of the “regulars” continued to advertise. Thank you to all the regular contributors: Brian Osborne; Patricia Neal; Pat & Chris Raible for their interesting and informative column *From the Bookshelf*; Marjory Stuart for her popular *Cemetery News*; Rob Levery for the many great photographs; and Tory Tronrud, the new Editor of *Ontario History* for his regular updates. The *OHS Bulletin* is distributed to our members but also at workshops, programs and events. The newsletter is also posted on our website.

This year the *OHS Bulletin* featured stories and photographs from a wide variety of sources. Many really attractive archival images appeared in its

pages. Several articles were printed about the preservation of various historic buildings. Many exhibits were featured. The column *Researchers' Requests* received several postings and lots of interesting projects across the province were featured.

Work began in December on redesigning the *OHS Bulletin* to make it more accesible. The first new look was printed in February 2006. Plans were made in 2005 to print and distribute a special extra four-page pullout section highlighting summer heritage events across the province. This will be published in June 2006 as part of the Summer *OHS Bulletin*.

Thank you to everyone who helped in 2005 with OHS Communications.

Sheila Creighton
Communications Director/Editor



Thank you to Christina Perfetto, Membership Coordinator (left); Brian Osborne, President; and Natasha Urlic, Office Coordinator (right) for all their *Bulletin* and communications-related assistance in 2005.

Photo Sheila Creighton

Ontario History Editor's Report

Despite recent changes in the appearance of *Ontario History* (OH), the articles are still at the heart of the journal. As in the past, OH remains open to a variety of contributors, including professionals and amateurs. My aim, as editor, has been to ensure the journal covers the breadth of the province geographically and thematically with articles that are accessible to a wide range of readers.

Two strong issues were published in 2005. Guest edited by Sheila Creighton, Brian Osborne, and Edwin Rowse, with contributions from by John Blumenson, Douglas Brown, Jennifer McKendry, Stephen Otto and Edward Smith, the spring 2005 issue of OH featured five excellent articles on architects and architecture in Ontario. The autumn 2005 issue included contributions from two historical geographers (Tom McIlwraith and Mark Hummer) on the architecture of rural cemeteries; an established rural historian (Douglas McCalla) on the intriguing subject of early gun usage; a new scholar (Robert Kossuth) on the establishment of an early parks system in London; and a retired historian (Royce MacGillivray) on the interesting lives of six Glengarrrians.

As the autumn issue made apparent, there have been changes to *Ontario History*. The previous OH, with its smaller size, mostly white cover, and straightforward presentation, had a certain elegance, but I felt it was time for a new approach

to design. Inside, the new OH uses a general typeface that is finer but larger and more readable. The headlines are much bolder, and the page size is slightly larger to take advantage of a greater use of images. With a larger page comes two columns and footnotes rather than endnotes – why, some 20 years ago, most journals abandoned footnotes defies explanation. The book reviews have a stronger presence, something review editor, Dr. Tom McIlwraith, and I felt was desirable. The new cover harkens back to an earlier design of some 30 to 40 years ago but with an updated look that adds more colour and a greater emphasis on images.

Also new to the autumn issue was a feature entitled Archival Sources. Submitted by archivists, this section contains brief descriptions of new or underused collections of records (or “fonds”) in several of the province’s archives. These entries are of interest to the general reader, but were primarily intended to stimulate research, and early indications are good. One university professor has already recommended several of the fonds to his graduate students for potential theses. It has been my hope that these changes have made for a more visually appealing and readable journal. The feedback I’ve received from subscribers so far has been quite positive.

Thorold “Tory” Tronrud
Editor

ONTARIO
HISTORY



Museums Committee

How time flies when you're having fun! I can't believe my three-year term as Chair of the Museums Committee has come to an end. A very heartfelt thanks to my enthusiastic and talented committee members – Mary Baruth, Acting Manager of Cultural Affairs City of Windsor; Janet Carlile, Curator/Director Arnprior & District Museum; Susan Neale, Museum Coordinator at the Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives; Robin Ormerod, Director Museum of Northern History at Sir Harry Oakes Chateau; and Wendy Whitfield, Manager of Heritage and Culture at the County of Haldimand – for making my involvement with the Museums Committee such an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Equally important to the Committee's success was the ever-helpful and talented OHS staff; thank you so much for all your support!

This past year, in partnership with York Region Public Health, a session of the safe food handling course "PROTON" was organized especially for historical society members and museum workers on September 30th 2005 in Richmond Hill. Through this course, participants gained valuable knowledge for the planning and delivery of special events involving food services. Participants also could earn the safe food handler certificate which is recognized throughout the food services industry and lasts for 5 years.

Through the assistance of a summer student, a draft Guide to Post-Secondary Education Field Placement Hosting Opportunities for Museum Professionals was developed. Once finalized, this document will provide a one-stop shopping reference for museums and other heritage organizations interested in recruiting student labour for special projects or to expand operations.

The Museums Committee also assisted with the OHS project: Making Ontario's Heritage Accessible for People with Disabilities Workshops and Tool Kit. Museums throughout the province are eagerly looking forward to receiving the Tool Kit once finalized and translated. Museum professionals greatly appreciated the OHS' initiative in compiling such an exhaustive and useful reference tool as well as in facilitating the opportunity to share professional experiences related to enhancing accessibility.

Dorie Billich
Museums Chair



*Seen here at Heritage Day 2005 are, left to right: Dorie Billich of Whitchurch Stouffville Museum, Julie Testa and Grant McLeod of Willow Springs Winery.
Photo Sheila Creighton*

Honours & Awards

Winners for 2005, awarded in 2006

| Award | Winner | Book Title |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alison Prentice Award | Laura Brandon | <i>Pegi by Herself: The Life of Pegi Nicol MacLeod</i> |
| B. Napier Simpson Jr. Award of Merit | Windsor Heritage Committee | |
| Carnochan Award | Marie Smale of Chatham, Ontario | |
| Donald Grant Creighton Award | A. Donald MacLeod | <i>W. Stanford Reid: An Evangelical Calvinist in the Academy</i> |
| Cruikshank Medal | Professor Fred H. Armstrong | |
| Dorothy Duncan Award | Greater Harvey Historical Society | |
| Fred Landon Award | John Honsberger | <i>Osgoode Hall: An Illustrated History</i> |
| J.J. Talman Award | Guy St-Denis | <i>Tecumseh's Bones</i> |
| Joseph Brant Award | Not awarded in 2006 | |
| Museum Award of Excellence in Community Programming | The Ontario Provincial Police Museum, Orillia | |
| President's Award | Dr. L.R. ("Red") Wilson | |
| Riddell Award | Dr. Christabelle Sethna | "The University of Toronto Health Service, Oral Contraception, and Student Demand for Birth Control, 1960-1970" |
| Russell K. Cooper Award | Not awarded in 2006 | |
| Scadding Award of Excellence | Not awarded in 2006 | |

Education Programs and Preservation

In 2005, the OHS was invited by both old and new heritage partners across Ontario to present numerous educational programs and to help preserve our history.

The OHS continued its project Making Ontario's Heritage Accessible to People with Disabilities (2004-2006) in partnership with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario, Ministry of Community and Social Services. The Provincial Advisory Committee, the OHS' Field Advisory Committee and the OHS Museums Committee reviewed and provided feedback on various drafts of the Accessibility Information and Resource Tool Kit.



In May, the OHS held in Fort Frances the second of five workshops across the Province entitled Making Ontario's Heritage Accessible for People with Disabilities. Seen here (left to right) are: Alicia Edano, Ontario Accessibility Directorate; Jamie Boulton, Regional Services, Ministry of Culture; Pam Hawley, Fort Frances Museum; Dr. John Carter, Ministry of Culture; Faye Platt, Town of Fort Frances, and Bill Liggins who gave a presentation entitled "Vision Loss." And a special Thank you to Pam Hawley, Curator, Fort Frances Museum, who worked hard to make this a successful workshop. Photo Rob Leverty

The OHS held three heritage accessibility workshops with the support of the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario in Sudbury at the Older Adult Centre, in Fort Frances at the Fort Frances Volunteer Bureau, and in Chatham at the Chatham Cultural Centre. Our partners for these accessibility workshops included the following organizations and institutions: The Voyageur Heritage Network; City of Greater

Sudbury Heritage Museums; City of Greater Sudbury Accessibility Awareness Committee; Sunset Country Museum Network; Fort Frances Museum; Town of Fort Frances Accessibility Awareness Committee; Southwestern Ontario Heritage Council; Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Chatham-Kent Museum. These workshops attracted historical societies, museums, libraries, archives,



At the Chatham Cultural Centre, the OHS held the third of five workshops across the Province entitled Making Ontario's Heritage Accessible for People with Disabilities. Seen here (left to right) are some of the workshop speakers: Lisa Raffoul with Ensemble, Community Living Essex County, and representing the Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee are Rick Frances, Marg Eberle and Ralph Roels. Photo Rob Leverty



Alison Norman presented Bushladies and Children of the Forest – Cultural Exchange in Upper Canada at the John McKenzie House. Seen here left to right are: Dave Marlowe, Alison Norman; Ninette Gyrody, and Kathleen Fry. Photo Rob Leverty

genealogical societies, municipal heritage committees, accessibility consultants, pioneer villages, art galleries, cultural centres, regional consultants from the Ministry of Culture, Citizenship & Immigration and Tourism, municipal accessibility advisory committees and people with disabilities.

In 2005, at the John McKenzie House, the OHS again hosted *Doors Open Toronto* in partnership with the Culture Division, City of Toronto. OHS staff and volunteers conducted tours and managed a book sale. In September 2005, the OHS held a special History Book Sale thanks to a generous donation of history books by Dr. Michael Bliss. In November 2005, the OHS and the Culinary Historians of Ontario held the Annual Cookbook Caper. The OHS also presented Bushladies and Children of the Forest – Cultural Exchange in Upper Canada at the John McKenzie House in Willowdale.



In September the OHS participated in the Pontypool Jewish Reunion, organized and funded by the Manvers Township Historical Society (MTHS). Katherine Wray, President of the MTHS is seen here with the Founders Stone, originally housed in the former Synagogue in Pontypool. It will be permanently displayed in the designated grain elevator in Pontypool. Photo Rob Levery

In the spring 2005, the OHS worked with the Manvers Township Historical Society to preserve and protect the Pontypool Grain Elevator built in 1918. Then in September, the OHS participated in a Homecoming Honouring the Contributions of the former Pontypool Jewish Community. This special event which was organized and funded by the Manvers Township Historical Society, attracted over 700 people from across North America.

The OHS, Mackenzie House Museum (City of Toronto) and Natural Heritage Books proudly presented the 2nd Annual Celebration of African-Canadian History in Print. This special event had readings by authors and poets. The OHS also participated with the Grey County Archives, Bruce-Grey Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) and Durham Chamber of Commerce in the 4th Annual Grey County Black History Event – Freedom Fighters: The Anti-Slavery Movement.



At the 2nd Annual - A Celebration of African-Canadian History in Print, standing left to right are: Barry Penhale, Publisher, Natural Heritage Books; Thelma Carey Thompson, artist & author; Dr. George Elliott Clarke, author & poet; Peter Jallall, poet; "Spider" Jones, author & broadcaster; William Humber, author & sports historian. Seated, left to right: Rosemary Sadler, author & President, The Ontario Black History Society; and Kelly Nesbitt, Program Officer, Mackenzie House Museum. Photo Rob Levery

The OHS gave the keynote address at the UEL Heritage Centre and Park's Annual Legacy Dinner. Later in 2005, the OHS acted as a reference for a successful application by the UEL Bay of Quinte Branch for a Trillium Grant.

The OHS assisted numerous heritage organizations dedicated to protecting historical sites in Ontario to incorporate in the Province through affiliation with the OHS. For example, both the Point Abino Lightstation Preservation Society which is preserving a unique lighthouse and keeper's dwelling, and the Port Maitland "On the Grand" Historical Association which is restoring LOCK 27, built in 1846, thereby creating a transportation link between the Grand River and the Welland Canal, affiliated with the OHS in 2005.

The OHS again participated in the Gibson House Museum's Arts and Heritage Camp. Six different teams of summer campers had treasure hunts through Willowdale and ultimately found the treasure chest at the John McKenzie House.



Pictured is one of the camp groups in front of the OHS headquarters where campers were greeted and presented with their treasure chest and Canadian flags. Photo Rob Levery

The OHS co-sponsored the 25th Anniversary Celebrations of the Voyageur Heritage Network

at the Centennial Museum of Shewaugandah, Manitoulin Island. The OHS was also responsible for organizing the special guest speakers for this important event.



The Voyageur Heritage Network celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2005. Guest speakers were (left) Esther Osche, Lands Manager, Whitefish River First Nation, and Elda Burt, Manitoulin Island historian. Photo Rob Levery

The OHS was invited by the Ontario Ministry of Culture, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the Ontario Association of Cemetery and Funeral Professionals to give a presentation at their Historic Cemetery Stewardship Seminar in Chatham. The OHS helped steer to completion the restoration of the once abandoned Empey Hill Cemetery near Napanee. The OHS was the guest speaker at the Pickering Museum Village Foundation's Annual General Meeting. The OHS presentation Ontario's Cemeteries – The Struggle for the Public Interest at this event also dealt with the concerns in the Pickering area about the imminent development of the Federal Airport Lands and real estate pressures within and outside the Province's Greenbelt.

The Hamilton Branch of the OGS invited the OHS to give a cemetery presentation to their members. The OHS worked closely with the OGS in responding to applications to close and move cemeteries in Ancaster, Palgrave, Mississauga, Brampton and Peterborough. At the request



Fall 2005, the OHS visited one of its affiliates – The MacTier Railroad Heritage Society. Seen here, left to right: Ed Salai, Treasurer; Pat Purdon, President; and Betty Brannen, Vice-President. Photo Rob Leverty

of a member and donor, the OHS visited and worked to rectify the damage to the Harrison-Hewgill Cemetery in the City of Brampton where a work crew bulldozed tons of frozen earth onto this pioneer cemetery. The OHS worked closely with Jim Brownell, MPP Stormont-Dundas-Charlottenburgh who tabled Bill 25 – an Act to preserve the gravesites of former Premiers of Ontario. The Ipperwash Inquiry also invited the OHS to participate in a consultation on Aboriginal

Burial and other Sacred Sites in Ontario.

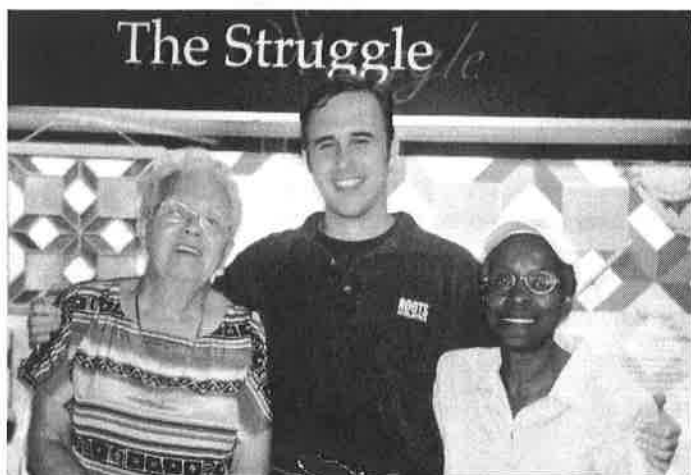
The OHS responded to numerous and diverse requests from our member organizations for assistance in preserving and protecting their local history. In 2005, the OHS was invited to conduct site visits and consultations by the UEL Loyalist Centre in Adolphustown, Gore Bay Museum, Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee, Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society, MacTier Railroad Heritage Society, Sheffield Park Black History Museum, descendants of Cooley-Hatt Cemetery, Heritage Pathways, Beaver Valley Heritage Society, Manvers Township Historical Society, Sunset Country Museum Network, Voyageur Heritage Network and the King Township Historical Society.

Rob Leverty

Director, Programs and Preservation



After four years of restoration, the once abandoned Empey Hill Cemetery took its place in the limelight as a feature site in Doors Open 2005 for Napanee. Seen here are Janelle and Ken Tulloch at the unveiling of a plaque donated by the Lennox & Addington Historical Society and Ontario Heritage Trust. Ken and Janelle spent countless hours defending and restoring Empey Hill Cemetery. Photo Adam Bramburger, The Napanee Beaver



In 2005, the OHS visited our affiliates, The Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society, and was given a tour of its new exhibit Black Mecca: The Story of Chatham's Black Community by (left to right): Gwen Robinson, Daniel Milne, and Mildred Jackson. Photo Rob Leverty

Programs, Services & Events 2005

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 06-Jan | Meeting with Ministry of Culture Representative | Willowdale |
| 12-Jan | Heritage Celebration/Black Creek Pioneer Village | Downsview |
| 19-Jan | Workshop - Bush Ladies in Upper Canada | Willowdale |
| 20-Jan | Meeting with Provincial Archivist | Toronto |
| 20-Jan | Audit Committee Meeting | Willowdale |
| 21-Jan | OHS Fdn Meeting with New Tecumseth | Willowdale |
| 31-Jan | Bill 118 - Public Hearings/Queen's Park | Toronto |
| 01-Feb | Bill 118 - Public Hearings/Queen's Park | Toronto |
| 01-Feb | Meeting with UofT Co-op placement | Willowdale |
| 02-Feb | Affiliate meeting - Hist. Toy and Doll Soc. of SW ON | Chatham |
| 02-Feb | Meeting of OHS Foundation teleconference | various |
| 07-Feb | Pre-budget consultations | Toronto |
| 11-Feb | Meeting - Ontario Accessibility Directorate | Toronto |
| 12-Feb | Site Visit - Harrison Cemetery | Brampton |
| 14-Feb | Meeting with corporate sponsor | Toronto |
| 15-Feb | Audit Committee Meeting | Willowdale |
| 17-Feb | Meeting with Mackenzie House Museum | Toronto |
| 18-Feb | OHS Fdn Meeting | Willowdale |
| 18-Feb | A&F Committee Meeting | Willowdale |
| 19-Feb | Workshop - Newsletter publication | Simcoe County |
| 19-Feb | OHS Board of Directors Meeting | Willowdale |
| 20-Feb | Toronto Postcard Club Show, Humber College | Toronto |
| 20-Feb | Meeting - Hamilton Workers Arts/Heritage Centre | Hamilton |
| 20-Feb | Presentation - OGS Hamilton Branch | Hamilton |
| 20-Feb | Site Visit - Cooley-Hatt Cemetery | Ancaster |
| 21-Feb | Heritage Day Reception | Willowdale |
| 23-Feb | Rental Enquiries | Willowdale |
| 25-Feb | EnAbling Change Steering Committee | Toronto |
| 26-Feb | Sacred Spaces Heritage Day Tour - KHS | Kingston |
| 28-Feb | Book Launch/OGS Toronto & Toronto Archives | Toronto |
| 07-Mar | Presentation - York University | Downsview |
| 09-Mar | Meeting - Ontario Accessibility Directorate | Toronto |
| 11-Mar | Meeting with Deputy Minister and OHS Foundation | Toronto |
| 15-Mar | Meeting of OHS Foundation teleconference | various |
| 18-Mar | Meeting with Deputy Minister and OHS Foundation | Toronto |
| 23-Mar | Memory Project Initiative - Dominion Institute | Toronto |
| 23-Mar | Meeting of OHS Foundation teleconference | various |
| 30-Mar | CollaborAction Forum sur l'avenir du patrimoine franco-ontarien | Toronto |
| 31-Mar | Museums Committee Meeting teleconference | various |
| 31-Mar | Spadina House - Toronto culture meeting | Toronto |
| 01-Apr | Meeting with Ministry of Culture Representative | Toronto |
| 04-Apr | Disability Legislation debate Queen's Park | Toronto |
| 04-Apr | Museums partnership network | Newmarket |
| 05-Apr | Disability Legislation debate Queen's Park | Toronto |
| 05-Apr | Meeting with new Affiliate Society | Kirkfield |
| 06-Apr | Meeting with Accessibility Directorate | Toronto |
| 07-Apr | Centennial College Inst. For Cultural & Heritage Studies | Scarborough |
| 12-Apr | Nominations Committee Teleconference | various |
| 15-Apr | Meeting with Voyageur Heritage Network | Sudbury |
| 15-Apr | Meeting of OHS Foundation | Alliston |
| 16-Apr | Accessibility Workshop | Sudbury |

Programs, Services & Events 2005

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| 20-Apr | Audit Committee Meeting | Willowdale |
| 23-Apr | 4th Annual Grey Co. Black History event | Durham |
| 23-Apr | Presentation at OGS Halton Peel Colloquium 2005 | Oakville |
| 25-Apr | Meeting of OHS Foundation teleconference | various |
| 27-Apr | Canadian Diabetes Association fundraiser | Willowdale |
| 02-May | Meeting with Heritage Partner - Gibson House Museum | Willowdale |
| 04-May | Meeting with Natural Heritage Books/museums | Willowdale |
| 04-May | Meeting with Accessibility Directorate | Toronto |
| 06-May | A&F Committee Meeting | Kingston |
| 07-May | OHS Board of Directors Meeting | Kingston |
| 07-May | OHS AGM | Kingston |
| 07-May | OHS Honours & Awards Presentation | Kingston |
| 08-May | Heritage walking tour | Kingston |
| 09-May | Meeting of York Region Museum Association | Aurora |
| 10-May | Meeting with affiliate - Manvers Twp Historical Society | Pontypool |
| 11-May | Meeting with Mackenzie House Museum | Toronto |
| 14-May | Peterborough Historical Society Presentation | Peterborough |
| 17-May | Workshop - EnAbling Change | Fort Frances |
| 18-May | Meeting with Regional Museum Network | Fort Frances |
| 19-May | Meeting with Museum representatives | Fort Frances |
| 20-May | Ontario Heritage Fair | Stoney Creek |
| 28-May | Doors Open Toronto/Annual Book Sale | Willowdale |
| 29-May | Doors Open Toronto/Annual Book Sale | Willowdale |
| 01-Jun | Meeting with Pickering Village Museum Foundation | Pickering |
| 02-Jun | Meeting at Mackenzie House Museum - Black History Assn | Toronto |
| 03-Jun | A&F Committee Meeting | Willowdale |
| 04-Jun | Meeting of OHS Foundation | Willowdale |
| 04-Jun | OHS Board of Directors Meeting | Willowdale |
| 06-Jun | Meeting with Affiliate - Unionville Historical Society AGM | Unionville |
| 06-Jun | Meeting with regional representatives | Grey County |
| 07-Jun | OHF plaque unveiling T-D Centre | Toronto |
| 07-Jun | Meeting of Casa Loma Advisory Committee | Toronto |
| 08-Jun | Meeting with King Twp Historical Society | Willowdale |
| 09-Jun | Meeting with Niagara Escarpment Commission | Milton |
| 11-Jun | Lake Simcoe Heritage Faire | Georgina |
| 14-Jun | Meeting with Toronto UEL | Toronto |
| 14-Jun | Meeting with Accessibility Directorate | Toronto |
| 15-Jun | First Capital Day | Kingston |
| 15-Jun | 2nd Annual Celebration of African Cdn Writers | Toronto |
| 16-Jun | Fundraising Subcommittee Meeting | Willowdale |
| 18-Jun | Meeting with Affiliate - Bay of Quinte U.E.L. | Belleville |
| 19-Jun | St. Alban's Church, UEL Anniversary | Kingston |
| 22-Jun | City of Toronto Act Consultations | Toronto |
| 22-24 Jun | AAO Conference University of Sudbury | Sudbury |
| 23-Jun | Presentation to Pickering Village Museum Foundation | Pickering |
| 24-Jun | Whitchurch Stouffville Museum meeting | Vandorf |
| 28-Jun | Workshop - EnAbling Change | Chatham |
| 07-Jul | Cemetery preservation meeting | Toronto |
| 08-Jul | City Hall meeting | Toronto |
| 11-Jul | Black History Meeting | Priceville |
| 12-Jul | University of Toronto consultations | Toronto |

Programs, Services & Events 2005

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|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 15-Jul | Gibson House Museum Treasure Hunt Activity | Willowdale |
| 18-Jul | Meeting with Affiliate - St. Marys Museum | St. Marys |
| 20-Jul | Meeting & Site Tour - Town of Brighton | Northumberland |
| 21-Jul | Meeting at Mackenzie House Museum - Black History Assn | Toronto |
| 22-Jul | OHSF Board meeting | Willowdale |
| 22-Jul | Gibson House Museum Treasure Hunt Activity | Willowdale |
| 28-Jul | Book Sale Fundraising Committee meeting | Willowdale |
| 29-Jul | Gibson House Museum Treasure Hunt Activity | Willowdale |
| 30-Jul | Fairfield House Presentation | Bath |
| 02-Aug | Meeting with Vaughan Twp Historical Society | Maple |
| 03-Aug | Meeting with Scugog Twp Museum, Min of Culture, CAO | Port Perry |
| 03-Aug | Meeting with Accessibility Directorate | Toronto |
| 05-Aug | Centennial College Inst. For Cultural & Heritage Studies | Scarborough |
| 08-Aug | Meeting with Affiliate - Point Abino Lightstation Pres. Soc. | Point Abino |
| 17-Aug | Audit Committee Meeting | Willowdale |
| 18-Aug | Meeting with Community Heritage Ontario | Willowdale |
| 24-Aug | Planned Giving Workshop | Toronto |
| 29-Aug | Whitchurch Stouffville Museum meeting | Vandorf |
| 31-Aug | Meeting with Deputy Minister and OHS Foundation | Toronto |
| 12-Sep | Meeting with Beaver Valley Heritage Society | Thornbury |
| 13-Sep | Meeting with new Affiliate Society | Bruce Mines |
| 13-Sep | OHS Foundation Teleconference | various |
| 14-Sep | Celebrating Jewish History - Manvers Twp H.S. | Pontypool |
| 15-Sep | OHS Foundation Meeting | Markham |
| 17-Sep | History Book Sale Fundraiser | Willowdale |
| 19-Sep | Meeting with Affiliated Society | Etobicoke |
| 20-Sep | Hastings Historical Society Presentation | Hastings |
| 21-Sep | Mackenzie House Museum Meeting | Toronto |
| 23-Sep | Meeting of OHS Foundation | Willowdale |
| 23-Sep | A&F Committee Meeting | Willowdale |
| 23-Sep | OHS Board of Directors Meeting | Willowdale |
| 24, 25 Sep | Board Strategic Planning Workshop | Willowdale |
| 26-Sep | Elderhostel Presentation | Kingston |
| 27-Sep | York Region Accessibility Meeting | Aurora |
| 27-Sep | Pittsburgh Historical Society Presentation | Pittsburgh |
| 28-Sep | BCPV Alumni Lunch and Presentation of OHS Cruikshank | Toronto |
| 30-Sep | Proton - Food Handling Safety Course sponsored by OHS | Richmond Hill |
| 03-Oct | York Region Tourism Conference | Aurora |
| 04-Oct | Meeting with Heritage Partner - Ontario Genealogical Society | Toronto |
| 05-Oct | Toronto Dominion Bank 150th Anniversary Reception Speech | Thunder Bay |
| 06-Oct | Port Maitland Historical Society meeting | Port Maitland |
| 06-Oct | Humber College Arts Mgmt meeting | Willowdale |
| 12-Oct | Audit Committee Meeting | Willowdale |
| 18-Oct | Natural Heritage Books at Market Gallery | Toronto |
| 20-Oct | MacTier Heritage Railway Society | MacTier |
| 20-Oct | Heritage Planners meeting | Kingston |
| 20-Oct | Audit Committee Meeting | Willowdale |
| 21-Oct | Gore Bay Museum Site Visit | Gore Bay |
| 22-Oct | Manitoulin Island Museum 25th Anniversary | Sheguindah |
| 26-Oct | UEL Heritage Centre Presentation | Adolphustown |
| 01-Nov | Cemetery Information Session with Registrar & Min of Culture | Toronto |

Programs, Services & Events 2005

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|--------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 04-Nov | Honours & Awards Presentation to M Friedland | Toronto |
| 04-Nov | A&F Committee Meeting | Willowdale |
| 05-Nov | Meeting of OHS Foundation | Willowdale |
| 05-Nov | OHS Board of Directors Meeting | Willowdale |
| 07-Nov | Chatham Kent Black History Society Meeting | Chatham |
| 08-Nov | Cemetery Preservation Workshop | Chatham |
| 08-Nov | Remembrance Day Commemoration | Port Perry |
| 12-Nov | Grey Co. Association for Better Planning Meeting | Markdale |
| 15-Nov | Co-op Program Meeting | Willowdale |
| 16-Nov | Museums Committee Meeting | Willowdale |
| 17-Nov | UofT Arts Mgmt Program Mock Interviews | Scarborough |
| 20-Nov | Cookbook Caper Fundraiser | Willowdale |
| 21-Nov | Sheffield Park Black History Museum Accessibility | Collingwood |
| 23-Nov | York Region Accessibility Meeting | Newmarket |
| 29-Nov | Meeting with J Brownell MPP | Toronto |
| 29-Nov | Pickering Historical Society Presentation | Pickering |
| 30-Nov | Meeting with Ont Genealogical Society | Toronto |
| 30-Nov | Meeting with Provincial Archivist | Toronto |
| 02-Dec | Meeting with Beaver Valley Heritage Society | Thornbury |
| 05-Dec | Women's Canadian Historical Society Luncheon | Willowdale |
| 08-Dec | Meeting of OHS Foundation | Willowdale |
| 08-Dec | Ipperwash Inquiry - Aboriginal Burial Site Consultation | Toronto |
| 15-Dec | MacTier Heritage Railway Society | Toronto |

OHS Board of Directors 2005/06

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Brian Osborne, Kingston | President |
| Chris Oslund, Haileybury | Vice-President |
| Joe Martin, Toronto | Second Vice-President |
| Naresh Khosla, Toronto | Treasurer |
| Jean Murray Cole, Indian River | Past President |
| Dorie Billich, Stouffville | Secretary/Museums Chair |
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| Jack Cecillon, Pickering | Director |
| Cynthia Comacchio, Guelph | Director |
| Karolyn Smardz Frost, Collingwood | Director |
| Edwin Rowse, Toronto | Director |
| John Sabeau, Pickering | Director |
| Ken Turner, Kingsville | Director |

