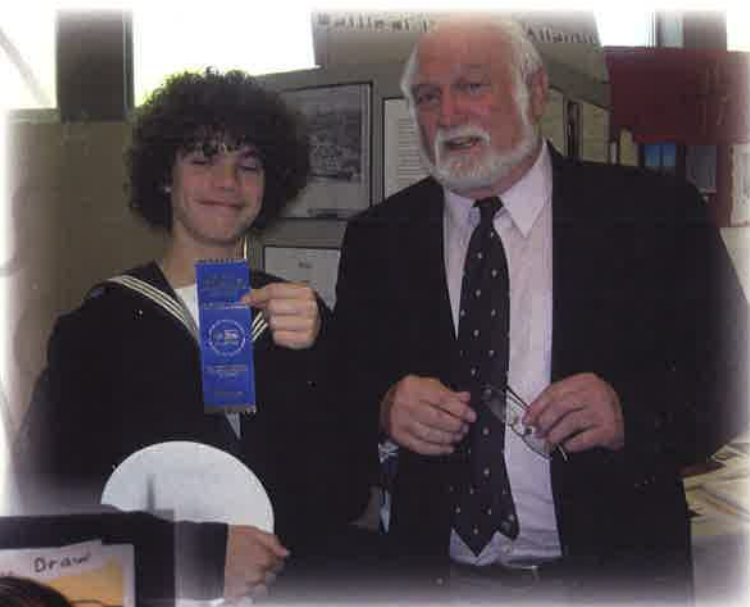


# The Ontario Historical Society Annual Report 2007



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*Front Cover Photographs  
(Top to Bottom)*

*Dr. Brian Osborne, Past President, OHS presents Sam from the Kingston Historica Fair with the OHS participation ribbon at the 2007 Ontario Provincial Historica Fair held at the Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa. The Ontario Historica Heritage Fairs Association incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in March 2007.  
Photo OHHFA*

*Pictured are (left to right) Riley and Krysten Gates who are helping the MacTier Railroad Heritage Society (MRHS) by selling gift items and tickets for a fundraising event. In 2007, the OHS visited the Board of Directors of MRHS to discuss the development of a new railroad museum in MacTier. In North Bay, October 2007, MRHS and OHS presented in partnership with The Voyageur Heritage Network and Discovery North Bay a workshop entitled, "Eating on the Rails."  
Photo Rob Levery*

*Every year the Culinary Historians of Ontario (CHO) assist the OHS with the Cookbook Caper fundraiser by pricing books and sponsoring an afternoon tea. Seen here are (left to right) Donna Crossan, Assistant Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, U of T and wife of David Zimmer, MPP (Willowdale); Mr. Zimmer (also Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General); Fiona Lucas, President, CHO; and Liz Driver, CHO Past President. Fiona is holding her book *Hearth and Home: Women and the Art of Open-Hearth Cooking* (2006), which won the Silver Prize in the English Canadian Food Culture Category of the 10th annual Canadian Culinary Book Awards organized by the University of Guelph and Cuisine Canada.  
Photo Rob Levery*

*Back Cover Photographs  
(Top to Bottom)*

*Singer/songwriter Mike Ford, playing the Six String Nation Guitar, entertained the audience at the OHS's 2007 Heritage Day celebrations at the John McKenzie House. The event was well-attended and people enjoyed learning about this fascinating guitar which is constructed using pieces of Canadian history.  
Photo Sheila Creighton*

*The OHS participated in the 8th Annual Doors Open Toronto held on Saturday, May 26, and Sunday, May 27, 2007. Both days were constantly busy with over 400 guests, including families from Ottawa, Goderich, Cambridge, and Owen Sound, visiting the historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale. The success of this event depended on the wonderful people who volunteered their time to give tours. Thank you (left to right) to former OHS employee Barbara Kane; OHS Executive Assistant Risa Kusumoto; former OHS 2006 Summer Student Carol Ma, and OHS Office Manager and Membership Coordinator Christina Perfetto.  
Photo Rob Levery*

*The OHS really appreciates our volunteers! The Cookbook Caper fundraiser featured a delightful and delicious afternoon tea sponsored by the Culinary Historians of Ontario. Captured with teapots in hand are (left to right) Rosemary Kovac, Mya Sangster, and Joan Derblich. Thank you for your generous donation and support!  
Photo Rob Levery*

*Seen here are some of the Clendennen descendants at the rededication ceremony of the Clendennen pioneer cemetery and unveiling of a plaque to honour John and Magdalene Clendennen and their descendants. The ceremony, which took place on November 10th, 2007, honours one of Markham's earliest pioneer families who settled in the area in the 1790s.  
Photo Rob Levery*



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe that my term as President of the OHS is drawing to a close. I have truly enjoyed the time I've served on the Board and I'm proud of our many accomplishments.

The Society has navigated through a difficult period the past couple of years. When I joined the Board in May of 2002, discussions and negotiations were underway with the Town of New Tecumseth in an effort to resolve the disposition of the Banting Homestead. These discussions continued throughout my tenure with the Board. We had to make some very difficult decisions along the way, decisions that were not always popular and often misunderstood. To say the least, we experienced some trying times as a Board.

Our decision to file an objection to the municipality's designation of the Banting Homestead was probably one of our more difficult

decisions. How could we object to a municipal heritage designation and remain true to our mandate? The Conservation Review Board Report acknowledged that the OHS, as the leading volunteer provincial historical organization, was in an "awkward position". They understood our dilemma in trying to define the appropriate essence of the property that would preserve Banting's legacy while at the same time trying to balance the ongoing financial strain the Society was incurring as a steward of the property.

The Society learned some valuable lessons in our first property management endeavour. No doubt, the pressures of urban development and the preservation of historical properties will continue to be a challenge for numerous communities and historical societies throughout the Province.

On a positive note, the Town of New Tecumseth has made a strong commitment to ensure that the Banting Homestead is

preserved for future generations. They entered into an agreement of Purchase and Sale with The Ontario Historical Society Foundation for the property in January, 2008 and have been working towards raising the necessary funds to restore the house and outbuildings.

With this final resolution to the disposition of the Banting Homestead, the Society can now re-focus its efforts to enhance our existing programs and the services that we offer our members and affiliated societies. We have dedicated staff that work diligently with societies throughout the province to assist them in addressing their concerns and needs.

In closing, I wish to thank the Board, staff and members of the Society for their support during the past two years with special thanks to Past President Brian Osborne for his assistance and sage advice during my term.

**Chris Oslund**  
President



*Seen here at the OHS Honours & Awards Ceremony in 2007 at Brock University, are (left to right) the recipients of the Dorothy Duncan Award, Laurence Grant and Leta West, Tyrconnell Heritage Society; Mayor of the City of Thorold, Henry D'Angela; and OHS President, Chris Oslund. The Dorothy Duncan Award is presented to a not-for-profit organization for outstanding service to its region – Congratulations Tyrconnell Heritage Society for all your hard work with the Backus-Page House and preserving the natural history and culture of the Talbot Settlement.*

*Photo Carlos Ferguson*







## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

What a year! The Ontario Historical Society was busier than ever in 2007, with some remarkable accomplishments made on the part of the Board of Directors, the staff at John McKenzie House, our cadre of affiliated and member societies, and our committed group of volunteers.

In 2007, OHS Executive Director, Karolyn Smardz Frost attended the farewell ceremonies for our Honourary Patron, the Honourable James K. Bartleman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario at a ceremony held at Toronto's Sutton Place Hotel, August 23, 2007. Premier Dalton McGuinty announced the new James Bartleman Awards for Aboriginal Youth Creative Writing. These will recognize excellence on the part of Aboriginal youth in short story and poetry writing. The OHS also welcomed our new Honourary Patron, the Honourable David Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, who was sworn in on September 5, 2007. The Ontario Historical Society has the special privilege of being the organization with the longest-standing patronage relationship (since 1899) with the Lieutenant Governor's office, and that by several decades!

We also welcomed a new Minister of Culture, the Honourable Aileen Carroll, whose concern for and commitment to heritage preservation are well known. The OHS is very much looking forward to working with Ms. Carroll over the years ahead as we continue with our mission – 119 years old this year – to preserve and protect the heritage of this province, and to promote heritage education in order to ensure that future generations know and understand the value of the fragile legacy we have inherited

from past generations. We are very much assisted in our work by our Ministry of Culture Advisor, Kate Oxley and would like to thank her for all her efforts.

The John McKenzie House hosted a number of well-attended events in 2007. The first was the OHS Annual Heritage Day Reception on February 19. More than 75 people came to enjoy folk musician Mike Ford's spirited performance of original songs about Canadian history. He played the Six String Nation Guitar, built by luthier George Rizanyi and including bits of wood, bone and other materials taken from historical artifacts that evoke Canada's wealth of heritage resources. CBC's Jowi Taylor was on hand to present the story of the Six String Nation Guitar. MPP David Zimmer spoke eloquently of the OHS's crucial role in heritage preservation and education. MPP David Zimmer, always a friend and supporter of the OHS, also held his annual St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser at the John McKenzie House on March 27.



*Mike Ford plays the Six String Nation Guitar at Heritage Day held at the John McKenzie House. This unique piece of Canadiana was conceived by CBC's Jowi Taylor. Photo Sheila Creighton*

On May 26-27, 2007, over 400 people visited the John McKenzie House as part of the *Doors Open Toronto* event sponsored by the City of Toronto Culture Division. Visitors are encouraged to examine more than 150 historically-significant buildings in the city. Later on in the year, The Ontario Historical Society Board of Directors hosted a joint dinner meeting with Fraser Dunford, Executive Director and the Board of Directors of the Ontario Genealogical Society. The purpose was to encourage closer ties between the two organizations, which have worked together so successfully in cemetery commemoration and preservation across the province. A joint conference between OGS and OHS is in the planning stages. Similar discussions were initiated with Marie Lalonde, Executive Director of the Ontario Museums Association, and it has been suggested that a joint conference in 2012 in honour of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War of 1812 may be a possibility.

Long-time OHS supporter Kirk Howard and The Dundurn Group of publishers sponsored a new series of events at the John McKenzie House in 2007. This was the Dundurn Literary Series, highlighting new books on Ontario's history and providing a venue for them to read and sign their volumes. The first, entitled "Reading Ontario's Past," took place on October 4 and the second, "Traditions," was held December 4, 2007. Barry Penhale of Natural Heritage Books was his usual eloquent and engaging self as Master of Ceremonies on both occasions.

The journal *Ontario History*, which is in its 99<sup>th</sup> year (!) and the *OHS Bulletin* continue to be two highly significant publications for the





## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

dissemination of both scholarship and up-to-the-minute information about our provincial heritage to the people of Ontario, and beyond. Tory Tronrud is in his second year as editor of *Ontario History*, and we all celebrate both his editorial efforts and the journal's bright new look. Thanks, too, to Thomas McIlwraith for all the hard work editing the book reviews that appear in each issue. Pat and Chris Raible have continued their wonderful volunteer efforts as editors of the Book Review section of the *OHS Bulletin*, and we all appreciate the huge amount of work involved.

The 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade in the British Empire was celebrated throughout 2007, and The Ontario Historical Society undertook a number of important initiatives to highlight Ontario's African Canadian past. The Honourable Mike Colle, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration appointed the OHS Executive Director to the Bicentenary Commission chaired by Ontario's Fairness Commissioner, the Honourable Jean Augustine. And, for the first time, an issue of *Ontario History* (our 99<sup>th</sup> volume!) was entirely dedicated to the proud heritage of Black Ontarians. The issue is into its third printing, and is selling briskly as a stand-alone volume made up of articles representing new research and cutting-edge scholarship in this fascinating field.

In 2007, the OHS also reintroduced The Ontario Historical Society's Annual Conference, a much-missed event that had not taken place in more than a decade. Entitled "Forging Freedom: A Conference in Honour of the Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic

Slave Trade," this was held in cooperation with the Ontario Black History Society June 22-23 at Brock University in St. Catharines with the support of our friends at the St. Catharines Museum, the Niagara Museums, the Historical Society of St. Catharines, and the City of St. Catharines. It was partially funded by a Community Builders Grant from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. Opened by the Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of Tourism and Recreation, participants were welcomed by Brian McMullan, Mayor of St. Catharines; Dr. Rosemary Hale, Dean of Humanities at Brock University; and John Burtiak, President of the Historical Society of St. Catharines, as well as our own OHS President, Chris Oslund. OHS Past President Dr. Bryan Walls gave a moving opening address on the importance of commemorating Ontario's African Canadian past, and Dr. Fred Armstrong, also a Past President and winner of the 2006 Cruikshank Medal, spoke on the scholarship of Fred Landon. Landon, another former Chair, published a series of landmark articles between 1919 and 1974 on the subject of Black history, many of them in the journal *Ontario History*. He was also in 1923 a founder of the Ontario branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People.

More than 110 people attended Forging Freedom, which received a good deal of local press (thanks to Lesa Francis who arranged the publicity). Participants were treated to lectures by such noted scholars in the field as Afua Cooper, Rosemary Sadlier and Karolyn Smardz Frost, with the keynote address by Kate Clifford Larson of Simmons College, Boston. She spoke on Harriet Tubman who lived for a time at St.

Catharines, and actor/playwright/educator Leslie McCurdy presented her riveting one-woman show, "The Spirit of Harriet Tubman." Bryan and Shannon Prince of the Buxton Museum accompanied by pianist Stephen Holowitz and the stunningly talented vocalist Denise Pelley brought down the house with their "The Road to Freedom," which is centred around letters by fugitive slaves who once found refuge in Canada. We were especially grateful to volunteers Carlos Ferguson and Andy Stockdill, who took such wonderful photographs of the event.



*Noted Black history scholar and writer Afua Cooper at the OHS Conference, 2007.*  
Photo Carlos Ferguson

The Annual Meeting of the OHS took place on the morning of June 23, 2007, with the appointment of three new members. The OHS Board of Directors welcomed Robert Leech, Jennifer Riel and Brad Rudachyk, and offered a very special "thank you" for their many services to past Directors Edwin Rowse and Joseph Martin. The OHS Annual Honours and Awards Ceremony was held on that same afternoon. Awards were presented by Henry D'Angela, Mayor of





## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Thorold, Honours and Awards Committee Chair John Sabean, and Director Cynthia Comacchio. Among the several important honours presented was a President's Letter of Commendation for Lydia Ross Alexander, a Past President of OHS who volunteered for several years as OHS Website Coordinator. The Cruikshank Medal, which is presented to individuals who have performed with distinction on behalf of OHS, was awarded to Past President Dr. Bryan Walls.

Later in the year, the OHS received a "Roots of Freedom" grant by the Bicentenary Committee of the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. The purpose was to produce a website in commemoration of the abolition of the Atlantic slave trade, as well as a book of Fred Landon's Black history articles. The website, entitled *Forging Freedom*, will post the scholarly papers from the conference, and include associated curriculum materials designed for use by elementary, middle, and secondary school students. The volume, *Ontario's African-Canadian Heritage: Collected Writings by Fred Landon, 1919-1974*, is being edited by Fred Armstrong, Bryan Walls, Hilary Bates Neary and Karolyn Smardz Frost, and will be available from The Dundurn Group in December 2008.

Another achievement of 2007 was that long-term efforts to establish an affordable insurance plan for OHS affiliate and member societies came to fruition. Building on the work of past-Executive Director Patricia Neal, this was finally accomplished in late 2007. Both Directors & Officers insurance and Liability insurance are now available at remarkably low rates to affiliate and member societies, as long as

they remain in good standing with the OHS.

Speaking of affiliates, 2007 was a bumper year for new affiliations with The Ontario Historical Society. Our hard-working Deputy Executive Director Robert Levery busily criss-crossed the province holding meetings and information sessions with would-be affiliates. He also gave or participated in a series of important workshops in Thorold, North Bay, Markdale, Parry Sound and Elliot Lake, and conducted information sessions in locations across Ontario, particularly referencing the new OHS publication *Accessible Heritage An Accessibility Tool Kit For Ontario's Heritage Organizations and Institutions*. This was a project begun several years ago under the auspices of Ontario's Accessibility Directorate, and provides heritage groups and other operators of historic sites with suggestions for making their locations and program more accessible to variously-challenged visitors. Rob's very well-respected work on cemetery preservation, especially that conducted in cooperation with our sister organization, the Ontario Genealogical Society, is absolutely crucial to saving this much-endangered resource. We all applaud Rob's efforts and those of Committee Chair Ken Turner, for continuing to work towards saving the cemeteries so evocative of Ontario's past for the sake of the future.

The OHS celebrates the hard work of its entire staff. The Executive Director worked with the Chair of the Human Resources Committee, Ken Turner, to develop new and regularized employment policies for full and part-time staff at The Ontario Historical Society

offices and these have now been implemented.

Special mention must be made of Christina Perfetto. Both Office Manager and Membership Coordinator, it is her cheerful voice that most members hear on the phone when they call. It is also Christina who so ably manages the finances of the OHS on a day-to-day basis, in cooperation with our Treasurer, Naresh Khosla, and it is she who manages most of the hospitality arrangements for visitors and rentals at the John McKenzie House. Thank you Christina!

In 2007 we also said goodbye to some wonderful people, including our long-time Communications Director/Editor, Sheila Creighton whose wonderful talents and pleasant personality we all miss. Andrea Izzo, a former summer student, stepped into the breach and continues to serve as editor of the *OHS Bulletin* and OHS Website, as well as doing yeoman service in organizing the 2007 Annual Conference. Risa Kusumoto, and Keting Cao, our summer students, were a wonderful help, with Risa contributing her artistic talents for the production of decorations and published materials, as well helping Andrea Izzo with registration. Keting undertook a very important project in 2007 as well; she updated and reorganized more than 350 affiliate and member society files, and created a database system for their ongoing monitoring. Good work Keting!

The Board of Directors has been very active in 2007. Our President, Chris Oslund, and The Ontario Historical Society Foundation have laboured long and hard to resolve the long-standing issues





## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

surrounding the Edward Knight Banting Estate. The Conservation Review Board in September met and designated the entire 100 acre farm as being of heritage significance. The report suggested that all levels of government - federal, provincial, and municipal - should co-operate in stewardship of the land. By December, 2007, all the hard work of the OHSF had borne fruit and an agreement was reached with the Town of Alliston for the sale of the Banting property.

Likewise, the Board has been working towards developing a Strategic Plan. New board member Bob Leech is a planning expert, and helped lead the Board in the

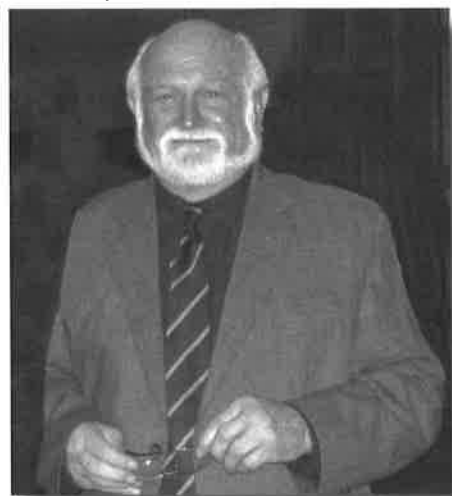
Strategic Planning workshop at the September 23, 2007, Board of Directors Meeting. More on this in 2008!

The Museums Committee chaired by Director Susan Neale has continued to provide advisory and advocacy support for museums throughout Ontario. One project undertaken in 2007 was to recognize those local museums that were founded during Canada's centenary year of 1967. Of course, they all celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversaries in 2007, and these are listed on page 6 of the September 2007 issue of the *OHS Bulletin*. Another important project undertaken in 2007 was to examine the OHS Constitution and suggest revisions to bring our guiding document up to date in respect to our mission. The Museums Committee has drafted a report suggesting that the original mandate of the OHS to collect artifacts is no longer either feasible or desirable, given the existence of dozens of community museums across the province. Recommendations in this respect will be coming forward in 2008.

For Executive Director Karolyn Smardz Frost, the entire year culminated on December 13 with her receiving The Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction for her book, *I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad* (New York: Farrar Straus & Giroux & Toronto: Thomas Allen Publishers, 2007). The volume began with an archaeological dig in downtown Toronto in 1985, and represents more than 20 years of intensive research in both Canada and the US. This is the first time that a book highlighting Canada's proud African Canadian past has won this most prestigious of awards.

Our Board of Directors, too, received important honours in 2007. Second Vice-President John Sabeau was presented the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship in honour of his work on more than 30 causes. He received the award from Lieutenant Governor James Bartleman in a moving ceremony at the Ontario Legislature on January 25, 2007. On June 30, 2007, Past President Brian Osborne celebrated the success of his many years of hard work to have the Rideau Canal recognized when the announcement came of its designation as a World Heritage Site. In November of 2007, Brian was also awarded the Camsell Medal for Outstanding Service by the Royal Canadian Geographic Society.

**Karolyn Smardz Frost, PhD**  
Executive Director



*Congratulations OHS Past President Brian Osborne, Professor Emeritus, Queen's University for your award of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society's Camsell Medal for Outstanding Service; for the success you had in the designation of the Rideau Canal as a World Heritage Site; your Kingston Historical Society Service Award; and your Honourary Life Member award from the Pittsburgh Historical Society. Well Done!*



*In April, First Vice-President Ken Turner and Yvonne Harrison, attended a book signing of Karolyn Smardz Frost's *I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad* at the Buxton National Historic Site and Museum.*







## TREASURER'S REPORT

Total revenue for 2007 was \$407,668 compared to \$434,229 for 2006. Revenue was lower in respect of government grants, membership fees and donations. There was no change in the Provincial operating grant, however 2006 revenues included more one time grants than 2007. Program expenses at \$95,725 were well below those for last year as expenditures were restricted for lack of funds.

The *Ontario History* publications showed a healthy surplus in 2007.

The operations show a deficit of \$134,387 for 2007, compared with a deficit of \$39,246 for 2006. The increased deficit was due to higher cost of salaries and benefits and operations and losses of the OHS Foundation. The OHS Foundation

shows a loss of \$52,996. The Foundation incurred high costs for maintaining the Edward Knight Banting Homestead and legal expenses related to its designation as a Heritage site. The directed donations and annual rental income derived from the farmland surrounding the Homestead is not sufficient to defray taxes, insurance, routine maintenance and repairs to the buildings.

The 100 acres of property housing the Edward Banting Homestead together with other buildings and cultivated lands was designated protected property under the Ontario Heritage Act following recommendations of the Conservation Review Board. The properties are stated to have cultural value as the birthplace,

childhood home and family farm of Frederick Banting. The Society entered into an agreement with the Town of New Tecumseth to sell the Banting property for \$600,000. The sale proceeds will be received over three years at \$200,000 per year.

The large deficit in 2007 has weakened the financial position of the Society. The Board is taking measures to improve the financial position. Costs have been reduced. Steps are being taken to commence fundraising and increase members' fees. As stated above the Society has entered into an agreement to dispose of the Banting property. The funds from the sale will strengthen the balance sheet of the Society.

**Naresh Khosla**  
Treasurer

## MEMBERSHIP

Dear members, subscribers, donors, and volunteers,

It was my great pleasure to continue to serve our members and represent the Society at public events during the year, including: Toronto Postcard Show; Heritage Day; *Doors Open Toronto*; Cookbook Caper; Women's Canadian Historical Society Christmas luncheon; the Oakville book launch; the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Miller Tavern and fundraiser for the North York Historical Society; and the OHS Conference, AGM, and Honours and Awards Ceremony in St. Catharines.

I bid a warm welcome to our 75 new members that have joined The Ontario Historical Society during 2007!

To all our members, donors and volunteers, thank you for your membership renewals, generous donations, and participation in our events. We do need your help and your participation to continue our work, and in preserving our past.

Your support of the OHS through membership allows us to continue to offer our programs and services to our members across Ontario at very reasonable rates.

If you have any concerns, or you need our assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes to all for this coming year.

**Christina Perfetto**  
Office Manager & Membership  
Coordinator



*Ontario Historical Society staff members Christina Perfetto and Rob Levery, along with North York Historical Society Director (and former OHS staff member) Barbara Kane (centre), supported the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Miller Tavern (formerly the Jolly Miller) in North York on October 16, 2007. This memorable party was also a very successful fundraiser for the North York Historical Society thanks to the generous support of the Miller Tavern.*





## COMMUNICATIONS

The *OHS Bulletin* saw another successful year in 2007 under editors Sheila Creighton, Dierdre Millin and Andrea Izzo. The five issues published (Numbers 158 through 162: February, April, June, September, and December) communicated to our membership general information about happenings in Ontario's public history, highlighted the ongoing events of The Ontario Historical Society, and publicized upcoming events and exhibits of our members. Almost 2000 copies of the *Bulletin* are published with each issue – but through libraries, websites, organizations and affiliated societies, it receives a much higher readership, and as such, it remains the primary communication medium for the Society. If you would like to submit an article or event listing, please feel free to do so, with high resolution photographs, to [izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

Without the contributions of our guest writers and editors, the *OHS Bulletin* would not be possible. The OHS is very grateful to Chris and Pat Raible for producing *From the Bookshelf*; Marjorie Stuart for *Cemetery News*; Chris Oslund for his President's Report; Karolyn Smardz Frost for the Executive Director's Report; and Rob Leverty for keeping us informed on the OHS's efforts across the province through interesting articles and wonderful photographs. Harmony Printing in Toronto continues to impress the OHS with their helpful and supportive staff – congratulations to long-time representative Norm Thomas on his recent retirement.

During the week of July 23, Andrea Izzo and Risa Kusumoto were fortunate to attend a week-long basic web design course at the Toronto School of Art. This informative class gave lessons on basic HTML

skills which have been applied to the OHS website to promote events and workshops on the main page, as well as update some outdated information. This, in turn helps us to better communicate with our members as well as non-members and promote our activities to a different audience. Please feel free to visit the website often and email me any suggestions or questions regarding the website or the *OHS Bulletin*.

2007 was, without a doubt, a challenging year for the OHS Communications team, but these obstacles were met with enthusiasm and with an eagerness to learn. In turn, we hope to take what we have learned and apply this knowledge to the challenges ahead for a successful and fruitful 2008.

**Andrea Izzo**

Communications Assistant/Editor

## BRILLIANT IDEAS COMMITTEE

The Brilliant Ideas Committee was formed in the fall to plan new fundraising strategies for the OHS. Named to the committee were Orland French, Chair, and members Naresh Khosla, Jennifer Riel and Robert Leech.

The concept of the committee arose out of the need for the OHS to raise more cash for its ongoing operations. To do that, it needed a group dedicated to coming up with Brilliant Ideas to encourage financial support for the organization. While the name may seem somewhat whimsical, its goal is deadly serious.

After some initial discussion about the role of the committee, we concluded that the Brilliant Ideas Committee should act as strategizers. Fundraising should be left to a special fundraising committee, or a

hired fundraising company and/or staff.

But in order to raise funds, we had to have something new to sell to donors and members. So the first thing we did was hold a brainstorming session among OHS directors. Out of this came a flood of ideas to promote the OHS, provide new services to provide to our members, and encourage the study of history. Some of these can be executed by staff, others will require the involvement and commitment of individual board members.

At a meeting in December, the BIC outlined the planning process, which was: Develop a list of OHS Stakeholders; Pair our existing list of Brilliant Ideas with the relevant stakeholders, and; Revisit the

stakeholder list, one by one, as an impetus to brainstorm yet more brilliant ideas for each stakeholder group.

However, it was noted that the OHS should also embrace the overall objective of speaking up as a lobbyist and activist organization on behalf of our individual members and local societies. We could lobby government and big business, supporting good proposals and critiquing bad ones.

As we moved into 2008, we began to approach fundraisers who could provide advice on how to raise money for our significant provincial organization.

**Orland French**

Chair,

Brilliant Ideas Committee





## MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

In 2007, The Ontario Historical Society's Museums Committee focussed on work in the following areas:

### Heritage Institutions Celebrate 40th Anniversary: 1967-2007

*OHS Bulletin* September 2007, Issue #161: Partners in Celebration – Ontario Heritage Institutions Celebrate their 40th Year.

### Review of OHS Constitution

Developed a "Collections Policy" for the OHS, which is currently under review by OHS staff and the Board of Directors.

### The Russell K. Cooper Living History Site Award

The winner of the 2007 RKC Award is Lang Pioneer Village.

This living history site, during its 40 years in operation, has provided more than half a million visitors with the opportunity to experience first hand the rural history of

Peterborough County. The quality and diversity of Lang Pioneer Village museum's heritage-based programs are the direct result of the dedicated efforts of staff and hundreds of volunteers. Lang's impressive repertoire of programming includes education programs for 6,000 school children annually; special events; day camps; outreach and speakers' programs, as well as regular demonstrations in a wide range of traditional crafts and activities including: carpentry, blacksmithing, spinning, rug hooking, broom making, and rope making. An operating grist mill, shingle mill and steam engine help to further enhance the picture of early rural Ontario life.

During the last several years, Lang Pioneer Village has undertaken an exciting initiative in site development. A four-phase fundraising campaign, Building our Future from the Fabric of our Past, has involved the community through partnerships and donations with the goal to completing the Samuel Lowry

Weaver's Shop and Interpretive Centre, a unique interpretive display and education facility. Using the skills and enthusiasm of special interest groups, historians, craftsmen and educators, staff have undertaken extensive research; enabled the skilled restoration of an original, locally-used Jacquard Loom from the Lang collection; contracted the design and build of a working replica Jacquard Loom; and are developing comprehensive interpretive and education programs for the Centre. This project strives to make Lang Pioneer Village one of the best sites in North America to view and study the Jacquard Loom and thus to continue to attract and enthrall visitors to Peterborough County for years to come.

The OHS Museums Committee members are: Mary Baruth, Dorie Billich, Janet Carlile, Susan Neale, and Lorraine O'Byrne.

**Susan Neale**  
Chair,  
Museums Committee

## OHS AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

An Act to incorporate The Ontario Historical Society (Assented to 1st April, 1899), Section 10, states: "Any historical or pioneer society hereafter becoming affiliated with the said society under the constitution and by-laws of the latter in that behalf, shall thereby become incorporated by the name under which it shall become affiliated, and with all the powers and privileges conferred by this Act upon the Ontario Historical Society." Any such organization may receive the benefits conferred by this clause by applying for affiliation to the Society and being granted the affiliation by resolution of the Executive Committee of the OHS.

In 2007, there were seven heritage organizations that incorporated in the Province of Ontario as Not-for-Profit Corporations through Affiliation with the OHS. The new OHS Affiliated Societies are:

### **Société Historique du Nouvel-Ontario**

La Société a pour buts d'étudier et de faire connaître l'histoire de l'Ontario, particulièrement celle de la région du Nouvel-Ontario et des Franco-Ontariens; d'intéresser les chercheurs et le public à l'histoire régionale; de veiller à la conservation de toutes les catégories des documents écrits et non écrits.

The purpose of the Historical Society

is to study and to make known the history of Ontario, particularly the region of Nouvel-Ontario and of Franco-Ontarians; to interest researchers and the public-at-large in regional history; to look after and ensure the conservation of all categories of written and unwritten documents.

### **Green Bay Heritage Cemetery Association**

The purpose of this Association is to bring together those persons who have ancestors interred in Green Bay Cemetery and those persons who are interested in the

*Continued on page 10*





The Spring 2007 issue of *Ontario History* proved to be one of our most successful. Entitled *Forging Freedom: In Honour of the Bicentenary of the British Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade*, the issue featured seven excellent articles covering a wide spectrum of topics on the subject of Black history in Ontario. So strong were sales that a second printing was

required before a year had passed. I owe a vote of appreciation to Dr. Karolyn Smardz Frost for bringing her expertise to the topic as guest editor.

Autumn 2007 reverted to the usual format. Articles spanned much of the province geographically and a wide variety of topics, from

religion, filmmaking, and canal building, to the development of Upper Canadian democracy.

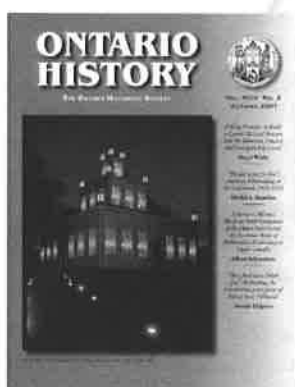
Both issues highlighted several new and exciting archival collections now available to researchers thanks to the Elgin County Archives, the City of Toronto Archives, Grey County Archives, Northstar Cultural Community Centre, and the Archives of Ontario.

Thanks as well to our Book Review Editor, Tom McIlwraith for his usual superb choice of reviews and to the members of the journal's Editorial Advisory Committee for their good advice and frequent willingness to help.

**Tory Tronrud**  
Editor,  
*Ontario History*



Spring 2007 Ontario History



Fall 2007 Ontario History

## OHS AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

*Continued from page 9*

preservation of the heritage of Bedford Township, Frontenac.

### Trafalgar Township Historical Society

The purpose of this Historical Society is to preserve the agricultural history and the heritage of the north Oakville community that was known as Trafalgar Township.

### Essex and Community Historical Research Society

The purpose of this Historical Research Society is to research, document and preserve the history of the Town of Essex and communities within Essex County.

### Ontario Historical Heritage Fairs Association

The purpose of this Association is to promote public awareness and understanding of Canadian and Ontario history through facilitation and management of province-wide Heritage Fairs.

### The SilverShoe Historical Society

The purpose of this Historical Society is to research, locate, restore, preserve, protect, honour, and embrace the final resting places of our ancestors who sought refuge and a new beginning in the wilderness of Ontario.

### The Anderson Farm Museum and Heritage Society

The purpose of this museum and Heritage Society is to bring together people interested in the diverse historical heritage of the Anderson

Farm Museum and other farms; to research, retain, preserve and present historical data pertaining to the City of Greater Sudbury and surrounding area.

During 2007, the OHS gave advice and presentations to our Affiliated Societies on a wide variety of issues including income tax, applications for charitable status, changing the name of an organization, opening bank accounts, fundraising and grant proposals, redrafting of bylaws, distribution of assets on dissolution, insurance, and general governance matters. The OHS also provided letters of support and acted as a reference on various grant applications submitted by our Affiliates.

**Brad Rudachyk**  
Chair, OHS Committee for  
Affiliated Societies







## HONOURS AND AWARDS

### Honours and Awards Winners for 2007, awarded in 2008

#### Awards for Non-Profit Organizations

Scadding Award	Not awarded in 2008
Museum Award of Excellence	Not awarded in 2008
B. Napier Simpson Jr. Award	Not awarded in 2008
Dorothy Duncan Award	Innisfil Public Library
Russell K. Cooper Award	Lang Pioneer Village

#### Award for Business

President's Award	Corporation of Wellington County
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#### Awards for Service

Cruikshank Medal	Dr. Brian Osborne
Carnochan Award	Dr. Gilbert Stelter
Certificate of Merit	Joyce O'Halloran
Certificate of Merit	Paula Niall

#### Awards for Authors

Brant Award	Elizabeth Jane Errington, for <i>Emigrant Worlds and Transatlantic Communities</i> , McGill-Queens University Press
Fred Landon Award	Margaret Derry, for <i>Killarney</i> , Poplar Lane Press
Alison Prentice Award	Lori Chambers, for <i>Misconceptions</i> , U of T Press
J.J. Talman Award	Dimitry Anastakis, for <i>Auto Pact</i> , U of T Press
Riddell Award	Ross Fair, for "Theirs was a deeper purpose", <i>Canadian Historical Review</i>
Donald Grant Creighton Award	Alexander John Watson, for <i>Marginal Man ... Harold Innis</i> , U of T Press
Special Merit Book Award	Karolyn Smardz Frost, for <i>I've Got a Home in Glory Land</i> , Thomas Allen Publishers





## CEMETERY PRESERVATION

In 2007 there were some tremendous accomplishments to celebrate in preserving Ontario's Cemeteries.

In May the Ontario Registrar for Cemeteries made an unprecedented decision in favour of preserving an historic cemetery in Peterborough.

Subsection 8 (2) of the *Cemeteries Act (Revised)* states "The Registrar (for Cemeteries) may order a cemetery closed if the closing is in the *public interest*." To close a cemetery means to dig up and relocate all human remains. Unfortunately, the Ontario Legislature has been unwilling to define the *public interest* and therefore, the OHS has for almost 14 years been engaged in a constant struggle to define the *public interest*.

In March 2006, the OHS wrote the Registrar stating that "Further to a site visit and a review of relevant documents, the OHS has concluded that the removal of human remains from and the partial closing of Confederation Square Cemetery, Peterborough's only burial ground between 1825-1851, is not in the *public interest*." On May 25 2007, following the receipt of many submissions, the Registrar released his decision "that closing a part of Confederation Square Cemetery for the purpose of erecting a monument is not in the *public interest*. For this reason the application for an order for the partial closure of the cemetery is denied."

Under subsection 10 (b) of the *Cemeteries Act (Revised)*, any person with an interest may appeal a refusal to order a cemetery closed to the Licence Appeal Tribunal (LAT). Subsequently, the City of Peterborough appealed the order of the Registrar to LAT.

The Registrar's order is an historic decision in that it was the first time since the *Cemeteries Act* 1992 was enacted that the Province of Ontario had ruled in support of the OHS's position in defense of the *public interest*. OHS members will remember that on several occasions the OHS has appealed to the LAT various Provincial orders to close and move cemeteries in the *public interest*. These were all lengthy and very costly public hearings. As recently as June 2006, the OHS in partnership with the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) even had to defend our appeal rights at the LAT against a Provincial motion to deny them.

In the summer and autumn of 2007, the OHS worked closely behind the scenes with our local partner, Citizens for the Protection and Preservation of the Pioneer Cemetery (CPPPC) and other interested parties, to try and resolve this case. These efforts have so far failed to satisfy the City of Peterborough and therefore, LAT has ordered an appeal hearing to commence on September 2, 2008 at the City Hall in Peterborough.

This appeal hearing will be unique in that it is the first case involving an application to relocate a cemetery designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The Confederation Square Cemetery was designated in 1983 under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Although there are over 6,500 known cemeteries across Ontario, less than 150 have been designated for protection as properties of cultural heritage value or interest.

The OHS is now working closely with Counsel, the Attorney General's Office, to prepare for the appeal hearing. Supporters and donors of

cemetery preservation can celebrate that the Province of Ontario has joined the OHS in defending the *public interest*.

In 2006, OHS agreed to support the Private Member's Bill 25 of Jim Brownell (MPP, Stormont-Dundas-Charlottenburgh) entitled, "An Act to preserve the gravesites of former Premiers of Ontario". OHS helped to publicize Mr. Brownell's tour highlighting the former Ontario Premiers' burial sites. In June 2007, the Legislature adjourned before enacting Bill 25. However, on August 9, 2007, the OHS joined The Hon. Caroline Di Cocco, Minister of Culture and Jim Brownell to celebrate the announcement that the Government of Ontario will honour Ontario's deceased premiers by permanently marking their gravesites with flags and commemorative plaques. This program is to be implemented and administered by the Ontario Heritage Trust. In his speech, Rob Leverty, OHS, congratulated Minister Di Cocco and Brownell stating "In our struggle for the public interest, the OHS and our partners across Ontario can and will build on this historic initiative to protect and preserve the gravesites of all our fellow citizens in their original locations."

Saturday, November 10th, 2007 was a lovely sunny day. It is usually bleak and cold, but for the Clendennen family and the OHS it was a triumphant day. Over fifty people gathered for the rededication of this pioneer cemetery and unveiling of a plaque to honour John and Magdalene Clendennen and their descendants. They were one of the Town of Markham's earliest families. The Clendennens settled their land in the late 1790s and their property remained in the family until 1950.





## CEMETERY PRESERVATION

Harold Clendennen, along with his brother, Gordon, and sister, Muriel Reesor, were joined by nieces, nephews, and numerous cousins. Members of the heritage community from all over the Greater Toronto Area attended this historic event.

In 1995 the Town of Markham and the property developer asked the Ontario Registrar of Cemeteries to order that it was in the public interest for this pioneer cemetery to be officially closed and moved. The OHS and the OGS joined forces to appeal the Provincial decision to the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal. The appeal hearing took place in Toronto from November 27, 1995, until July 30, 1997, and it was the first time such a case had ever been heard in the Province of Ontario. It took nineteen months for the Tribunal's three Hearing Officers to write and release their decision. In February 1999, the Tribunal ruled in favour of the OHS and OGS appeal declaring that it was not in the public interest to close and move Clendennen Cemetery. This was a landmark ruling.

Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti spoke about the importance of the Town's rich history. He mentioned the struggle to save the Clendennen cemetery and said that there had been a dramatic change in attitude towards preservation of Markham's many pioneer cemeteries and pledged that there would never be another closure issue. Harold Clendennen then spoke briefly and from his heart when he thanked the OHS and OGS and in particular certain individuals who had stood by the family in the struggle to preserve Clendennen Cemetery. He repeated what he had said on the witness stand ten years ago:

"A cemetery is a cemetery forever and forever." For the Clendennen family and their many friends this was a fine tribute and ending to what could have been a dark page in Ontario's history.

A memorable rededication ceremony of the Clendennen Family Cemetery then took place and the historical plaque to commemorate the restoration of this cemetery was unveiled. Later in the afternoon, there was a reception held at the Markham Museum. A decade ago, the Town of Markham, with the Province of Ontario and the developer, fiercely fought against the OHS and OGS and the descendants. Now the Town of Markham has officially joined us in the struggle for the public interest. Marjorie Stuart wrote in the *OHS Bulletin*, "This was a great day for the original and authentic history of Ontario."



*Harold Clendennen takes a moment to share a few words with 'Cemetery News' editor Marjorie Stuart. Photo Don Hinchley, Vice President, OGS*

2007 has been again a very busy year for the OHS concerning cemetery protection with far greater demands and requests than resources. The *OHS Cemetery News* column, for example, remains very popular but the number of articles submitted far exceeds the space available for each publication. OHS continued to help

families and descendants who have relatives buried in pioneer cemeteries threatened by development such as the Cooley-Hatt Cemetery in Ancaster. The one issue that created more public outcry than any other was the destruction of the memorial wall containing the grave markers in the Gladstone Baptist Cemetery in Thames Centre. As a result of local television and national newspapers covering this issue, the OHS was very busy responding to this issue. The Ontario Government ordered the municipality to recover as many damaged tombstones as possible from the local dump.

OHS/OGS are continuing their Province wide campaign to determine how many cemeteries are not registered with the Province of Ontario and therefore are legally highly vulnerable. There has been a long and continuous exchange of information with the 30 branches of OGS and historical societies across Ontario. Thanks to OHS/OGS members Diane and Steve Clendenan, Marjorie Stuart, Anna Clapp, Phyllis Bowen and Marie Burk who have donated their expertise and countless hours to this historic initiative. They have now determined that over 1600 known cemeteries are not registered.

Our cemetery preservation work depends on donations to the Cemetery Defence Fund and all the time and effort donated by our dedicated volunteers and expert witnesses. I would also like to thank the current President of OGS and a member of OHS, Bob Crawford, for his invaluable guidance, encouragement and support in 2007.

### **Ken Turner**

Chair, OHS Cemetery Preservation Committee





## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

April 09, 2008

Chris Oslund  
President  
The Ontario Historical Society  
34 Parkview Avenue  
Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2

Dear Chris,

*While preparing the next general meeting of the VOYAGEUR HERITAGE NETWORK, I was struck with the extensive participation of the Ontario Historical Society and its staff in the delivery of the Network's programming schedule.*

*OHS will be presenting, within the context of our May meeting, in Blind River, Living History: A Basket Making Workshop. Last year, OHS presented to our members and to the people within our network, two workshops: The Heritage of Ontario's Cemeteries in Elliot Lake and Eating on the Rails in North Bay. These workshops are representative of the commitment of OHS to assist museums in Northern Ontario in their mandate to interpret the unique history of their communities and to offer to the people of Northern Ontario a greater sense of place and pride in their heritage.*

*I wish to offer my thanks to you and to your society for your province wide leadership and, as a native of Northern Ontario, my thanks from the people of the north.*

Yours truly,

David Lafleur  
President  
Voyageur Heritage Network

In 2007, the OHS was invited by both old and new heritage partners across Ontario to present numerous educational programs and provide services to help preserve our history.

During the winter the OHS held public meetings on incorporation in the Town of Essex and Oakville. The OHS participated in two public consultations on the impact of proposed development on the future of the Gibson House Museum. The

Society supported a fundraiser for the Tollkeeper's Cottage at the City of Toronto Archives. A workshop was given on the preservation and heritage designation of cemeteries to the Halton-Peel Branch of OGS at the Public Library, City of Brampton. The John McKenzie House hosted two large events with Heritage Day in February and a St. Patrick's Day Evening. On March 30, 2007, the OHS gave a presentation at the workshop in London for the Central Ontario Network for Black History.

On April 5, 2007 the OHS attended the debate at the Legislature on a resolution to commemorate the War of 1812.



*After attending the debate on her resolution in the Ontario Legislature, Rob Levery, OHS, is seen here with Julia Munro, York North MPP. OHS supported Mrs. Munro's motion on the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration. Photo Courtesy of Judith Baird*

The OHS was the guest speaker at the April meeting of the Waterloo Branch, OGS, in Kitchener. On April 18th, the OHS gave the featured address to the Annual General Meeting of the Manvers Township Historical Society in Pontypool.

On April 26th, the OHS participated in the Ministry of Culture's "Municipal Heritage Planning" workshop in Parry Sound. The OHS then attended both the executive and spring meeting of the Voyageur Heritage Network (VHN) in northern Ontario. The next day OHS in partnership with the VHN and The Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum (ELNMM) presented the workshop "The Heritage of Ontario Cemeteries." The ELNMM is also in the midst of compiling a new book in memory of the Elliot Lake miners, entitled *Miners' Memorial: Memories from the Heart*. OHS was then honoured to attend the Day of Mourning & Dedication of The Elliot Lake Miners Memorial. The Memorial was designed and constructed by Laura Breetvelt-Brown who grew up in Elliot Lake and is now living in Ottawa.

In May the Bruce-Grey Branch, OGS invited OHS to give its popular presentation "Ontario's Cemeteries – The Struggle for the Public Interest" at the Bruce County Museum in Southampton. The OHS then held a public meeting and site visit in Clearview Township for citizens interested in incorporating the SilverShoe Historical Society. The OHS participated in the 8th Annual Doors Open Toronto held on Saturday, May 26, and Sunday, May 27, 2007. Both days were constantly busy with over 400 guests, including families from Ottawa,







## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Goderich, Cambridge, and Owen Sound, visiting the historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale. This successful event depended on dedicated volunteers who donated their time to give tours.

On May 28th OHS spoke at the OPP Museum in Orillia, joining OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino and special guests to celebrate the opening of the new face of the museum, *From Generation to Generation What Museums Do!* The opening marked the installation of two awards presented to The OPP Museum by the OHS and the Ontario Museum Association for the Museum's temporary exhibit, *The OPP's Best Friend: Celebrating 40 years of the OPP Canine Unit.*



*At the OPP Museum, (left to right) Actor John LeClair representing the OPP's "Living Past"; S/Sgt Wayne Jacklin, OPP Canine Unit Coordinator; Mr. Rob Leverty, Deputy Executive Director, OHS; Mme. Marie Lalonde, Executive Director, OMA; OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino. Photo Jeanie Tummon*

On June 11th, OHS gave a presentation to the Board of Directors of the East Durham Historical Society in Port Hope. The OHS then attended the launch of *Places of Worship in West Toronto* at Glendon College, York University. This new website ([www.glendon.yorku.ca/placesofworship](http://www.glendon.yorku.ca/placesofworship)) was compiled by Gabriele Scardellato, (former Editor & Managing Editor, 1999-2003 - *Ontario History*) and

Roberto Perin who have produced a guide to all public places of worship recorded in the west side of the old City of Toronto. The two-year survey revealed the great variety of religious traditions and experiences in Toronto and the extraordinary ethnocultural diversity of Toronto.

The OHS participated in the Ontario Provincial Historica Fair in Ottawa and presented the OHS participation ribbon at the public showcase of projects held at the Library and Archives Canada. On June 18, 2007, the OHS attended an Accessibility Open House hosted by the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility of the City of St. Catharines, meeting groups from the Niagara Region.

On June 22-23, 2007, the OHS held its AGM and Annual Conference "Forging Freedom: Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade" at Brock University in St. Catharines. At the conclusion of this very successful conference, OHS held its Honours and Awards Ceremony.

During the summer, OHS had a site visit to Confederation Square, a designated cemetery, in Peterborough and held extensive consultations with members of the Citizens for Protection of the Pioneer Cemetery. The OHS had a site visit and held a strategic planning session for the Board of Directors of the MacTier Railroad Heritage Society (MRHS) to discuss the development of a new railroad museum in MacTier. OHS also joined MRHS' youth volunteers who were helping the OHS affiliate by selling gift items and tickets for a fundraising event.

In early August, the OHS was invited by the Minister of Culture



*Seen here are heritage groups in Cornwall, Aug. 07 for the announcement of the protection of the Premiers of Ontario gravesites a program that will be administered by the Ontario Heritage Trust. Rob Leverty, (centre) OHS Deputy Executive Director has supported and helped promote this important initiative. Photo Office of Jim Brownell, MPP*

to attend her announcement on the protection of the gravesites of the Premiers of Ontario at the Quinn's Inn in Cornwall. OHS then joined Jim Brownell (MPP, Stormont-Dundas-Charlottenburgh), the Ontario Heritage Trust and local heritage groups in visiting heritage sites and sacred places in the region. The OHS also had a site tour and meeting with the Cornwall Museum and Historical Society. The OHS and the Huguenot Society of Canada (HSC) had numerous discussions on the establishment of a new Award in honour of the membership of the HSC. OHS also held a consultation and information session for a new heritage society in the City of Mississauga.

The OHS continued its project Making Ontario's Heritage Accessible to People with Disabilities (2004-2008) in partnership with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario, Ministry of Community and Social Services. The OHS submitted a final draft of the Accessibility Information and Resource Tool Kit to the Accessibility Directorate of





## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Ontario for approval by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. In support of this province-wide initiative, the OHS in partnership with The Museums of Niagara Association and Niagara Region, held the workshop Making Ontario's Heritage Accessible for People with Disabilities. This event, hosted by the Regional Municipality of Niagara, was fully booked including museums, historical societies, municipal heritage committees and representatives from various Accessibility Advisory Committees across Niagara.



*The workshop in Niagara was fully booked including participants such as (left to right) Bob Halfyard, Ontario Genealogical Society, Niagara Peninsula Branch; Ada Summers, Salem Chapel B.M.E. Church; and Wilma Morrison, Nathaniel Dett Memorial Chapel B.M.E. Church and the Norval Johnson Heritage Centre. Photo Rob Leverty*

In October, in partnership with the Dundurn Group, OHS held the first Evening Literary Series "Reading Ontario's Past" at the John McKenzie House. OHS supported the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Miller Tavern (formerly the Jolly Miller) in North York on October 16, 2007. This memorable event was also a very successful fundraiser for the North York Historical Society thanks to the generous support of the Miller Tavern. Later in the month, in partnership with The Voyageur Heritage Network, The MacTier Railroad Heritage Society and The

Northern Ontario Railroad Museum & Heritage Centre, and hosted by Discovery North Bay, the OHS presented the workshop "Eating on the Rails." There has been a resurgence of interest in Ontario's railway history reflected in the large registration for this event.

In early November, the OHS held a consultation with the Executive of the Norfolk Historical Society (NHS), an OHS affiliate. Then the OHS gave a presentation to over sixty members of the NHS on updating and revising their constitution and bylaws. On November 26, 1929, NHS became incorporated through affiliation with the OHS.

On November 8th, the Oshawa Historical Society, an OHS affiliate, celebrated 50 years of preserving Oshawa's history with a special dinner at the Oshawa Shrine Club. The Oshawa Historical Society was joined by one of Oshawa's most famous citizens, Ed Broadbent, who gave the keynote speech "Democratic Development Abroad: What Can Be Done?" The OHS was honoured to attend this very



*The Oshawa Historical Society was joined by one of Oshawa's most famous citizens, Ed Broadbent, who is seen here with (right) Stoney Kudel, President, Oshawa Historical Society. Formed in 1957 by a group of citizens, the Oshawa Historical Society incorporated in 1965 through affiliation with the OHS. Photo Rob Leverty*

special celebration. The next day the OHS participated in the dedication of the Clendennen Cemetery in Markham followed by a reception at the Markham Museum. The OHS attended the Annual Conference of the Christian Farmers of Ontario entitled "Our Natural Heritage." On Sunday, November 25th, the Culinary Historians of Ontario (CHO) again assisted the OHS with the Cookbook Caper fundraiser, by pricing books and sponsoring a delicious afternoon tea. In the spring, the OHS held a successful fundraiser for the CHO with a lecture by Elizabeth Baird. The OHS and CHO continue to develop a partnership that appeals to members from both societies and the general public.

The OHS finished 2007 with a hectic schedule. At the Oakville Town Hall, the OHS attended the launch of the local history book *Oakville Street Names & Landmarks* by David Ashe & Joyce Burnell published by Burnell Creighton Publishing. The Society held the annual luncheon for our volunteers and the Women's Canadian Historical Society. It participated in an ethnic diversity conference at Black Creek Pioneer Village and responded to numerous requests to incorporate through affiliation with the OHS. Throughout 2007, various heritage organizations, that are members of the OHS, asked the Society to act as a reference for grant applications. For example, the OHS was interviewed by the Trillium Foundation for funding proposals by the Dawn Historical Society and the Markham Historical Society. The OHS also wrote many letters of support for members planning projects in 2008.

**Rob Leverty**  
Deputy Executive Director





## PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND EVENTS 2007

2-Jan	OHS/OGS - Cemetery Appeal - Georgetown	15-Feb	Jamaica Gleaner - Black History Month Interview - Toronto
8-Jan	Final Arguments - Licence Appeal Tribunal - Toronto	17-Feb	OHS Board of Directors Meeting - Willowdale
9-Jan	OHS Website Meeting - Toronto	18-Feb	Toronto Postcard Show - Toronto
10-Jan	CMAS* Board meeting - Burke's Book Store - Toronto	19-Feb	Heritage Day Reception, John McKenzie House - Willowdale
11-Jan	Toronto Heritage Preservation Consultative Meeting - Fort York - Toronto	21-Feb	Metro Toronto Reference Library - Black History Month Talk - Toronto
11-Jan	Meeting - Paul Johnston Planners - Toronto	22-Feb	St. Lawrence Hall - Black History Month Talk & Book Launch - Toronto
12-Jan	Celebrating Heritage Grant Meeting - Toronto	22-Feb	Meeting - Accessibility Directorate of Ontario - Toronto
13-Jan	OHS Board of Directors Meeting - Willowdale	25-Feb	Invited Lecture - City Hall Guides - Kingston
15-Jan	Trillium Grant Information Session - Toronto	23-Feb	Ministry of Culture - Meeting re: Funding - Toronto
16-Jan	Department of Canadian Heritage - CAHSP Grant Meeting - Toronto	24-Feb	CBC Radio - Black History Month Interview - Toronto
17-Jan	Heritage Toronto Meeting - Toronto	26-Feb	Radio Interview - "Night Calls" - Black History Month
17-Jan	Ontario Heritage Trust Meeting - Toronto	27-Feb	Presentation - Pittsburgh Historical Society - Barriefield
18-Jan	Public meeting for OHS Affiliation Application - Town of Essex	27-Feb	CBC Radio - Black History Month Interview - Toronto
18-Jan	Meeting - John R. Park Homestead - Harrow	28-Feb	Public meeting - Future of Gibson House Museum - Willowdale
19-Jan	Cemetery Tour - Essex County	7-Mar	Meeting - North York Historical Society - North York
24-Jan	Celebrating Heritage Grant Meeting - Pickering	13-Mar	Roger's Cable - Black History Interview - Toronto
25-Jan	Volunteer Ontario Awards, Ontario Legislature - Director, John Sabean - Toronto	13-Mar	CHIN Radio - Black History Interview - Toronto
28-Jan	Workshop at OGS Halton Peel Branch - Brampton	14-Mar	Meeting - North York Historical Society - North York
30-Jan	Public meeting for OHS Affiliation Application - Oakville	17-Mar	St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser - John McKenzie House - Willowdale
30-Jan	Affiliation Meeting - Historica Foundation - Toronto	18-Mar	Public Talk - Merrickville Historical Society - Merrickville
30-Jan	Black History Lecture - East York Historical Society - East York	20-Mar	Ministry of Culture Meeting - Toronto
1-Feb	OHS Website Meeting - Toronto	21-Mar	Public Talk - Kingston Historical Society/Kingston Arts Council - Kingston
6-Feb	OHS and Provincial Archival Consultants Meeting - Toronto	21-Mar	Ontario Archaeological Society Meeting - Toronto
7-Feb	Heritage Toronto Meeting - Toronto	21-Mar	Queen's Park - Racism & Bicentennial Meeting - Toronto
7-Feb	<i>Toronto Star</i> - Black History Month Interview - Toronto	24-Mar	OHS Board of Directors Meeting - Willowdale
8-Feb	CBC Radio - Black History Month Interview - Toronto	24-Mar	Affiliation - Trafalgar Twp. Historical Society - Toronto
7-Feb	Ministry of Culture Meeting - Toronto	24-Mar	Affiliation - Essex & Community Research H.S. - Toronto
9-Feb	Agricultural Workshop - Markdale	24-Mar	Affiliation - Ontario Historica Heritage Fairs Assoc. - Toronto
12-Feb	Heritage Toronto Meeting - Toronto	24-Mar	Affiliation - Green Bay Heritage Cemetery Assoc. - Toronto
13-Feb	Velocity Magazine - Interview - Toronto	28-Mar	Dundurn Press Meeting re: Reading Series - Toronto
13-Feb	Black History Lecture - Pickering Historical Society - Pickering	28-Mar	Gibson House Museum - Public Meeting - Willowdale
13-Feb	Invited Public Lecture - Nipissing University - North Bay	28-Mar	Toronto Historical Society - Black History Lecture - Toronto
14-Feb	Black History Talk with Minister of Citizenship & Immigration - Toronto	29-Mar	Central Ontario Network for Black History - Round Table - London





## PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND EVENTS 2007

30-Mar	Societe d' Histoire d' Ontario - Meeting - Toronto	14-May	Harriet Tubman Institute - York University - Meeting - Toronto
30-Mar	Ontario Heritage Alliance AGM - Toronto	15-May	Speaker - Simcoe County Historical Society AGM - Barrie
30-Mar	Tollkeepers Cottage Fundraiser Toronto Archives - Toronto	16-May	Meeting re: Tombstone Preservation - Toronto
2-Apr	John McKenzie House - Talk - Toronto	17-May	Brampton Historical Society - Black History Lecture - Brampton
5-Apr	War 1812 Commemoration Resolution, Queen's Park - Toronto	18-May	Ruth Avenue Anglican Church - Black History Lecture - Brampton
10-Apr	Public Talk - Pickering Historical Society - Pickering	22-May	Bruce-Grey OGS Presentation - Southampton
11-Apr	North York Historical Society - Black History Lecture - North York	23-May	Affiliation - SilverShoe History Committee - Clearview Twp.
12-Apr	Ministry of Government Services Meeting - Toronto	24-May	Oakville Cultural Heritage Manager - Meeting - Oakville
16-Apr	York University - Harriet Tubman Institute - Meeting - Toronto	25-May	Historical Society of St. Catharines Presentation re Conference - St. Catharines
16-Apr	Oshawa Historical Society - Black History Talk - Oshawa	26-27 May	<i>Doors Open Toronto</i> (8th annual) - John McKenzie House - Willowdale
16-Apr	Waterloo OGS Presentation - Kitchener	28-May	OPP Provincial Museum Exhibit Opening - Orillia
17-Apr	Georgian Bay Today - Interview - Bicentennial & Book	31-May	Brock University Meeting re: Conference - St. Catharines
17-Apr	CKLN Radio - Interview	1-3 June	OGS Annual Conference & AGM - Ottawa
18-Apr	OHS Website Meeting - Toronto	4-Jun	Niagara-on-the-Lake Heritage Event - Niagara
18-Apr	Manvers Twp. H.S. AGM & Presentation - Pontypool	6-Jun	Harriet Tubman Institute - York University - Meeting - Toronto
26-Apr	Toronto District School Board - Historica Fair Workshop - Scarborough	11-Jun	East Durham H.S. Board of Directors - Presentation - Port Hope
26-Apr	Municipal Heritage Planning Workshop - Parry Sound	12-Jun	Societe d' Histoire d' Ontario - Meeting - Toronto
27-Apr	Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration - Bicentennial meeting - Toronto	12-Jun	<i>Places of Worship in West Toronto</i> - Launch - York University - Toronto
27-Apr	Elliot Lake Nuclear & Mining Museum Meeting - Elliot Lake	14-Jun	Brock University - OHS Conference Meeting - St. Catharines
27-Apr	Executive Meeting - Voyageur Heritage Network - Elliot Lake	16-Jun	OHS Museums Committee - 40th Anniversary Centennial Event - Arnprior
28-Apr	OHS Workshop - Elliot Lake	18-Jun	Accessibility Open House - Niagara Region - Thorold
28-Apr	Dedication of Elliot Lake Miners Memorial - Elliot Lake	18-Jun	Niagara Regional Headquarters - Meeting - Thorold
28-Apr	Public Talk - Ontario Welsh Society - Kingston	19-Jun	Radio York - Interview - Toronto
30-Apr	Ontario Archives - Groundbreaking Ceremony - York University - Toronto	22-Jun	OHS Board of Directors Meeting - Thorold
1-May	OHS Conference - Brock University - Meeting - St. Catharines	22-23-Jun	OHS Annual Conference & AGM - St. Catharines
2-May	St. Catharines Museum - OHS Conference Meeting - St. Catharines	23-Jun	OHS Honours and Awards Ceremony - St. Catharines
3-May	Radio Interview - "John Duffy Show"	27-Jun	Lecture - Queen's University Biology Station Lectures - Chaffey's Lock
3-May	Montgomery's Inn - Book Launch - Toronto	5-Jul	Consultation with Citizens for Protection of the Pioneer Cemetery - Peterborough
5-May	OHS Board of Directors Meeting - Willowdale	10-Jul	Harriet Tubman Institute - York University - Meeting - Toronto
7-May	Audit Committee Meeting - Willowdale	11-Jul	OMA Meeting - Joint Projects - Toronto
10-May	Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration - Bicentennial Meeting - Toronto	12-Jul	Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration - Bicentennial meeting - Toronto
11-May	"Walking in My Mother's Shoes" Celebration - Black History Talk - Port Carling		
12-May	Peterborough Canoe Museum - Book Launch - Peterborough		







## PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND EVENTS 2007

16-Jul	Ministry of Culture - re: Funding - Toronto	19-Sep	Oakville Center for The Performing Arts - Black History Lecture - Oakville
17-Jul	UTSC Co-op Program - Meeting - Toronto	20-Sep	Audit Committee - Meeting - Willowdale
18-Jul	Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration - Bicentennial Event - Toronto	21-Sep	Reception & Dinner OHS/OGS Board Directors - Willowdale
19-Jul	OHS - Preserve Toronto's Archaeological Sites Today - Meeting - Toronto	22-23-Sep	OHS Board of Directors Meeting - Willowdale
21-Jul	Affiliation - SilverShoe Historical Society - New Lowell	22-Sep	Affiliation - SilverShoe Historical Society - Willowdale
23-27 Jul	Web Design/HTML Course - Toronto School of Art - Toronto	22-Sep	Affiliation - Anderson Farm Museum Heritage Soc. - Willowdale
23-Jul	Harriet Tubman Institute - York University - Meeting - Toronto	22-Sep	Affiliation - Société historique du Nouvel-Ontario - Willowdale
24-Jul	Heritage Toronto Awards - Meeting - Toronto	24-25 Sep	City of Toronto - Inspection McKenzie House - Willowdale
25-Jul	Marcus Gavey Event - Meeting - Toronto	26-Sep	Harriet Tubman Institute - York University - Meeting - Toronto
24-25 Jul	Consultation with MacTier Railway Heritage Society - Affiliate - MacTier	27-Sep	Public Talk - Elderhostel - Jones Falls
27-Jul	OHS Bulletin - Meeting - Creemore	30-Sep	Speaker - AGM Kingston Canoe and Outdoor Club - Kingston
27-Jul	Hugenot Society of Canada - Honours & Awards - Toronto	30-Sep	Public Talk - Marine Museum of the Great Lakes - Kingston
30-Jul	Audit Committee Meeting - teleconference - Willowdale	1-3 Oct	Conference of the National Historic Sites Alliance for Ontario - Chaffey's Lock
30-Jul	Harriet Tubman Institute - York University - Meeting - Toronto	4-Oct	Lecture - Annual Archives Lecture, Queen's University - Kingston
1-Aug	Affiliation Meeting - Mississauga Heritage Society - Mississauga	4-Oct	"Save the United Church Archives" - Meeting Toronto
3-Aug	SilverShoe Historical Society - UGRR Cyclists Welcome - Collingwood	4-Oct	Dundurn Literary Series, John McKenzie House - Willowdale
5-Aug	Emancipation Festival - Black History Lecture - Owen Sound	11-Oct	Speaker - Canadian Club - Kingston
8-Aug	Cornwall Museum & Historical Society - Cornwall	11-Oct	W.L. Mackenzie House Book Launch - Chris Raible - Toronto
9-Aug	Government of Ontario - Premiers' Gravesites - Cornwall	12-Oct	Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration - Bicentennial Meeting - Toronto
9-Aug	Ontario Heritage Trust - Heritage Site Visits - Stormont & Glengarry	15-Oct	Toronto Heritage Awards (attended) - Toronto
17-18 Aug	Marcus Garvey Day Celebrations - Black History Talks - Toronto	16-Oct	Speaker - Ottawa Women's Canadian Club - Ottawa
21-Aug	Ministry of Culture - Meeting - Toronto	16-Oct	Public Talk - Gananoque Historical Society - Gananoque
24-Aug	Conference - CSAE Summit - Collingwood	16-Oct	Leaside Library - Black History Lecture - Toronto
27-Aug	Societe' d'Histoire d'Ontario - Meeting - Toronto	16-Oct	Gryphon Theatre Annual Gala - Black History Keynote - Barrie
27-28 Aug	John McKenzie House - Basement Clean-up - Willowdale	16-Oct	North York Historical Society Fundraiser - North York
29-Aug	Ministry of Culture - Meeting - Toronto	17-Oct	Speaker - Probus Club of Kingston - Kingston
30-Aug	Ontario Genealogical Society - Meeting - Willowdale	18-Oct	Leaside United Church - Black History Lecture - Toronto
4-Sep	Lecture - Queen's University Archives Public Lecture Series - Kingston	18-Oct	Innisfil Public Library - Black History Lecture - Cookstown
11-Sep	Ontario Heritage Connection - Meeting - Toronto	18-Oct	Incorporation Meeting for Friends of the OPP Provincial Museum - Orillia
12-Sep	Archaeological Heritage of Toronto - Meeting - Toronto	19-Oct	Voyageur Heritage Network - Executive Meeting - North Bay
17-Sep	Niagara Regional Headquarters - Meeting - Thorold	20-Oct	Voyageur Heritage Network AGM - North Bay
18-Sep	Making Ontario's Heritage Accessible Workshop - Thorold	20-Oct	Discovery North Bay - Workshop - North Bay





## PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND EVENTS 2007

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|--------|--|---------|--|
| 23-Oct | Radio Interview - "Live Owen Sound" - Owen Sound                           | 30-Nov  | Women's Canadian Historical Society Luncheon - Willowdale                      |
| 24-Oct | OMA Conference (attended) - Toronto  | 30-Nov  | Presentation and Round Table Chair - Rideau 2007 Symposium - Kingston          |
| 25-Oct | OMA Conference (attended) - Toronto  | 1-Dec   | OHS Board of Directors Meeting - Willowdale                                    |
| 26-Oct | Radio Interview - CBC - Toronto  | 3-Dec   | Consultation with Essex & Community Research Historical Society - Essex County |
| 26-Oct | BMO Historica Foundation - National Event - Ottawa                         | 4-Dec   | "Save the United Church Archives" - Meeting - Toronto                          |
| 29-Oct | Trillium Foundation Grant - Meeting - Toronto                              | 4-Dec   | Trafalgar Township H.S. Consultation - Oakville                                |
| 29-Oct | Radio Interview - Kitchener  | 4-Dec   | Dundurn Literary Series - John McKenzie House - Willowdale                     |
| 29-Oct | TTC Heritage - Meeting - Toronto   | 4-Dec   | Meeting with Citizens for Protection of the Pioneer Cemetery - Peterborough    |
| 30-Oct | "Save the United Church Archives" - Meeting - Toronto                      | 5-Dec   | Brookview Middle School - Bicentenary - Black History - Toronto                |
| 30-Oct | Lecture - Pittsburgh Historical Society - Barriefield                      | 5-Dec   | Workshop Planning with Timber Village Museum - Blind River                     |
| 3-Nov  | Speaker - Ontario Archaeological Association - Kingston                    | 6-Dec   | CARE Nurses - Rental - Willowdale  |
| 6-Nov  | Radio Interview - CBC - Toronto  | 6-Dec   | Trillium Grant Meeting - Toronto   |
| 6-Nov  | Archives of Ontario - Meeting - Toronto                                    | 7-Dec   | Television Interview - A-Channel - London                                      |
| 7-Nov  | Norfolk Historical Society - Presentation - Simcoe                         | 7-Dec   | "Roots of Freedom" Grant - Landon Book Project - Meeting - London              |
| 8-Nov  | University Women's Club - Black History Lecture - Toronto                  | 7-Dec   | Radio Interview - CKUT - Chatham   |
| 8-Nov  | 50th Anniversary Oshawa Historical Society - Oshawa                        | 7-8-Dec | "Promised Land Project" - Meeting - Chatham                                    |
| 9-Nov  | Rededication Clendennen Cemetery - Markham                                 | 7-8-Dec | Research and Consultation for Gladstone Cemetery - Thames                      |
| 9-Nov  | Reception Markham Museum - Markham   | 8-Dec   | Newspaper Interview - Chatham  |
| 12-Nov | St. Christopher's House Scholarship Fund - Black History Lecture - Toronto | 10-Dec  | MCI Bicentenary Reception - Keynote Address - Toronto                          |
| 14-Nov | Christian Farmers of Ontario - Natural Heritage - Cambridge                | 12-Dec  | Library and Archives Canada - Black History Reading - Ottawa                   |
| 17-Nov | Governor General's Award for OHS ED Announced - Montreal                   | 13-Dec  | OHS ED Receives Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction - Ottawa              |
| 19-Nov | Book launch - David Ashe & Joyce Burnell - Oakville                        | 13-Dec  | Affiliation Consultation for O'Hara Mill Homestead - Belleville                |
| 20-Nov | Opera House - Black History Lecture - Gravenhurst                          | 14-Dec  | Workshop Planning with Fort Frances Museum - Fort Frances                      |
| 21-Nov | "Fresh Air" - CBC - Interview - Toronto                                    | 16-Dec  | Trillium Grant Consultation for Markham Historical Society - Markham           |
| 21-Nov | York Radio "Between the Covers" - Interview - Toronto                      | 19-Dec  | "Roots of Freedom" - Landon Book Meeting - London                              |
| 22-Nov | Radio Interview Classical 96.3 - Interview - Toronto                       | 20-Dec  | OGS Newsletter - Honours & Awards - Toronto                                    |
| 22-Nov | Ryerson "George Brown Day" 40th Anniversary- Keynote - Toronto             | 21-Dec  | Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration Bicentenary Meeting - Toronto            |
| 22-Nov | Burlington Public Library - Black History Lecture - Burlington             |         |  |
| 23-Nov | Committee For Race Relations - Black History Lecture - Peterborough        |         |  |
| 23-Nov | Trillium Foundation Grant - Meeting - Toronto                              |         |  |
| 25-Nov | Cookbook Caper Fundraiser - Willowdale                                     |         |  |
| 28-Nov | Ethnic Diversity in Toronto Workshop - Black Creek - Downsview             |         |  |
| 29-Nov | Radio Interview - CHOS - Owen Sound  |         |  |
| 29-Nov | "Roots of Freedom" Grant - Landon Book Project - Meeting - London          |         |  |



## 2007/2008 OHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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