



# OHS Riddell Award Presented to Owen Temby for “Control and Suppression in Sarnia’s Chemical Valley during the 1960s”

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The Ontario Historical Society is delighted to present the 2020 Riddell Award, which honours the best article in the field of Ontario history, to Owen Temby for his article [“Control and Suppression in Sarnia’s Chemical Valley during the 1960s,”](#) published in *Enterprise & Society*.

Noted for its prosperity during the 1960s thanks mainly to its petrochemical industry, Sarnia was the Ontario city with the dirtiest air. Temby tells the disturbing story of how Sarnia’s business elites and public officials suppressed voices saying that local air pollution posed a serious threat to health. The local political culture, enormously influenced by executives from Chemical Valley, enforced inaction on air pollution. Taking its cue from chemical industry strategies developed elsewhere in North America, the Sarnia industry sought to avoid oversight and regulation by controlling the data on pollution, presenting itself as a good citizen interested in emissions reduction, and moving quickly to discredit critics. This clearly written article brings attention to courageous local individuals who tried to address air pollution in a period before any green movement, and shows how tough their job was made by entrenched interests.

The Honours and Awards Committee is pleased to honour Owen Temby.

## Watch Owen Temby’s Acceptance Speech



Founded in 1888, the Ontario Historical Society is a not-for-profit corporation and registered charity dedicated to the preservation and celebration of Ontario’s history for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. To learn more about the OHS’s Honours and Awards Program, or to submit a nomination, please visit <https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/honours-awards/> or contact the Society’s offices by telephone or e-mail.

-The Ontario Historical Society-

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