

OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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AUGUST 2019

2018 ORDER OF THE NORTH PRESENTED BY OHS AFFILIATE, JACK MUNROE HIST.SOC.

OHS HONOURS AND AWARDS PROGRAM RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE ACROSS PROVINCE

Photo - Peter Landers



On June 1, the Order of the North ceremony was held for Dr. William Henry Drummond at the Paul Penna Cobalt Public Library. It was given on behalf of the Jack Monroe Historical Society of Elk City. From left to right are: Cobalt Mayor George Othmer; MPP John Vanthof; MP Anthony Rota; Jack Monroe Historical Society of Elk City Treasurer Myrna Hayes; Spring Pulse Poetry Festival Artistic Director David Brydges; and Jack Monroe Historical Society of Elk City Secretary George Lefebvre

George Lefebvre,
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A presentation ceremony for the Order of the North was held at the Paul Penna Library in Cobalt on June 1. The recipient of the 2018 Order was renowned poet and humanitarian, Dr William Henry Drummond, who died while serving the miners of the Cobalt silver mines in 1907.

The ceremony was held during the Spring Pulse Poetry Festival, an annual event in Cobalt. The Jack Munroe Historical Society of Elk City created the Order of the North as a means of honouring worthy recipients.

The Jack Munroe Historical Society of Elk City was incorporated through affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society in 2009.

Nominations for the 2019 recipient of the Order of the North are now open, with nomination forms and additional information available by contacting the Jack Munroe Historical Society of Elk City at 705-678-2237 or Secretary, George Lefebvre at 705-648-8298. Email: elklake@ntl.sympatico.ca or shasonje@gmail.com.



Photo - Daniel Dishaw

Honours and Awards winners gather for a group photo at the 131st Annual General Meeting of the OHS, held at Tyndale University College and Seminary.

Daniel Dishaw, Communications and Outreach Coordinator
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The 2018 OHS Honours and Awards winners represent an incredible mix of talents, skills, interests, and vocations. As some of our readers will know, the OHS retooled its award categories this year to ensure that we were recognizing all aspects of heritage preservation and promotion in Ontario, from the grassroots to the scholarly. Our awards now recognize excellence in authorship and research, heritage conservation, public history, cemetery preservation, public programming, public service, and individual merit, as well as the promotion and preservation of Indigenous history in Ontario.

This year, the Society recognized groups and individuals from across Ontario. A few of those individuals have worked closely with OHS staff and members for decades. Diane Clendenan, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the OHS as a genealogist and researcher, was awarded the Cruikshank Gold Medal for outstanding service to the OHS and its membership. Barry Penhale and Jane Gibson, well-known to readers of this publication, were recognized with the Society's Carnochan Lifetime Achievement Award. For many years, through their professional and volunteer work, Barry and Jane have brought Ontario's history and heritage to the attention of countless people of this province.

The Canadian Clock Museum in Deep River Ontario received the 2018 President's Award, recognizing an outstanding contribution to the preservation and promotion of Ontario's history. The museum was opened by Allan Symons in 2000 and now features over 3,000 clocks.

The first OHS Public History Award was presented to Oxford Remembers Oxford's Own, a truly impressive collaborative project that spanned five years and involved eight different museums, archives, and community groups. The project raised awareness of the past achievements and sacrifices made by Oxford's citizens, both on the home front and on the war front during World War I.

'HONOURS AND AWARDS' CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...

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The Ontario Historical Society
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CANADA



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Michel Beaulieu, President
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Hello. Bonjour. Boozhoo.

As I sit down next to Lake Superior to write my first message for the *Bulletin*, it has been just over a month since my election as your President at the 131st Annual General Meeting held at Tyndale University College and Seminary in Toronto. I am still in awe.

For much of my life, the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) has played an important role in the development of who I am as a historian and also how I have viewed our province. Admittedly, as a young child I had no idea about the Society. However, some of my fondest memories surround elementary school trips or my parents packing my sister and I up and taking us to, what I now know, were OHS affiliated societies, and member organizations and institutions.

Following a suggestion by my parents, my misspent adolescence (at least the secondary school years) were spent volunteering at what was then the Region of Peel Museum (part of the Peel Heritage Complex). As a historian, I am always amazed at how one's perspective can be different than others. Most likely unknown to them, some of my most pivotal life-changing conversations came from the opportunity to work and talk with then-curator Bill Barber, exhibit designer Janice Calvert, and archivist Rowena Cooper (herself a former OHS President).

Aside from learning more than I think anyone needs to about William Perkins Bull, I was introduced by them and others to both the OHS and the important role that community and volunteerism play in society. These lessons followed me to Thunder Bay as an undergraduate student and were further reinforced by members of the Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society. While my interests may have switched from Buffy's Corners to the Lakehead, my experiences served to reinforce the importance of the collective history of Ontario that the OHS seeks to preserve, promote, and protect.

As you know, the OHS Board of Directors is an all-volunteer board of dedicated individuals from across the province. Personally, and on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank and extend best wishes to former President, now Past President, Caroline Di Cocco, and acknowledge her many contributions and dedication to the preservation and promotion of Ontario's rich history and heritage. It has also been a pleasure working with departing Board members Ross Fair (Toronto), Carolyn King (Hagersville), Ian Radforth (Toronto), and Joe Stafford (Kingston). I would like to welcome new Board members Laura Suchan (Oshawa), Eric L. Payseur (Ottawa), and Nora Sawyer (Alderville First Nation). Congratulations as well to all of our award winners this year. You can read more about them on page 1 of this *Bulletin*.

Just before this past year's Annual General Meeting, Executive Director Rob Leverty and I had a very positive meeting about the important role of the Society and the contributions made by the thousands of volunteers across



Photo - Daniel Dishaw

OHS President Michel S. Beaulieu (left) and immediate Past President Caroline Di Cocco (right) pose for a photo with the Rt. Hon. Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada from 2000 to 2017. Justice McLachlin delivered the keynote speech at the OHS Annual General Meeting, where she discussed the history and significance of the Supreme Court of Canada, as well as her own perspectives regarding the value of heritage preservation in Canada. In discussing the importance of knowing and protecting our history, Justice McLachlin asked: "How can we make good decisions for the future of our community or our country if we don't understand what drives us; what are our values, what is important to us, what do we reject, and what do we accept?" She continued: "I think we need history today more than ever before because we live in a time of exponential change [...] If history is our identity, it is also our future." Noting the significance of organizations like the OHS and our members, Justice McLachlin concluded her address with the following acknowledgment: "I applaud you, who care about our history, for working to preserve the memories of the past and, through this, helping us understand who we are as individuals, as Canadians, as citizens of the world." *Please keep an eye on the OHS website in the coming weeks for the full video of Justice McLachlin's speech.*

the province with the then Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, the Hon. Michael Tibollo and his staff. Since then the Hon. Lisa MacLeod has taken over the portfolio. I look forward to continuing to work with her and the Government of Ontario on behalf of our over 800 affiliated societies, member organizations, and member institutions. All of us have played a key role in the cultural sector's \$25 billion contribution to the economy, a growth of 23% since 2010, and one that has outpaced the growth of some of Ontario's largest sectors.

Finally, and most of all, I look forward to interacting with many of you. I have already had a chance to visit Rossport, Ontario, thanks to a gracious invitation by Maria Phipps and a group of dedicated volunteers looking to preserve and promote the history of the Gunilda. I spent a wonderful Friday afternoon listening to a discussion about the Gunilda, watching the National Film Board of Canada's 1997 film *Drowning in Dreams*, and the subsequent Q&A session with the film's director, Tim Southam. While there I also had the opportunity to talk to members of the Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior and the Friends of Battle Island Lighthouse.

All my best. —Michel

Leave a Legacy of Heritage Preservation

For more information about the benefits of making a bequest or becoming an OHS donor, please contact:

Rob Leverty, Executive Director
The Ontario Historical Society

rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca
416-226-9011



All inquiries will be kept confidential

We deeply appreciate previous legacy bequests from:

Estate of Jean Burnet
Estate of Helen Marie Smibert
Estate of Eber Pollard
Estate of Mary C. J. Campanella
Estate of Ruth E. Day
Estate of Helen Marguerite Barons



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rob Leverty, Executive Director
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I want to devote this report to the disturbing issue of property taxes being levied against our member organizations across Ontario.

In March 2019, a historical organization in northern Ontario (which the OHS incorporated in 2003) was suddenly levied with outstanding property taxes of \$47,167 for the years 2017 and 2018 by their township. The Township notice reads "[...] please ensure that all tax arrears are paid by April 19, 2019[...] should the account remain unpaid after April 19, 2019, no further notice will be provided prior to the Municipality commencing any collection action it deems appropriate on this account."

This organization established a community museum in a local historic church in 2006 and has owned and operated it ever since without being levied any property taxes. On May 7, 2019, the OHS wrote a letter to the Township in support of our member organization, insisting that the Council "reinstate the property tax exemption for your community museum [...] and waive the 2017, 2018, and 2019 property taxes, interest, and penalties."

I confidentially consulted widely with member organizations across Ontario before writing the local municipality. Thank you so much to all of you for speaking to me about your concerns and challenges concerning property taxes and how they impact your local organization. Your information will always remain confidential.

I learned a great deal from all of you and that there is clearly no consistency on how our member organizations are treated province-wide. The OHS has had its own challenges with unsustainable property taxes suddenly being levied on historic buildings that the Society occupied, and it was my responsibility over the years to navigate this sensitive file. This is a serious issue with crippling financial implications. In addressing this matter, I reported to the OHS Board of Directors and I am pleased to inform you that at the June 15, 2019, Board meeting, the following motion was unanimously approved:

"Given that in the Province of Ontario, since municipal amalgamation in 1998 and the financial crisis of 2008, all levels of government (including agencies such as Conservation Authorities), as well as the private sector and religious institutions, have divested themselves and downloaded Ontario's and Canada's unique and valuable heritage assets onto the not-for-profit sector; And that an unprecedented number of not-for-profit organizations have been established by The Ontario Historical Society to assume the stewardship and financial responsibility of Ontario's heritage buildings and assets in communities across Ontario; And that these historical organizations which now own, lease, or rent these heritage assets in order to preserve and promote them for the public benefit are suddenly levied and burdened with property taxes; The OHS respectfully requests that the Province of Ontario immediately enact the following legislation and/or regulations:



Photo - Daniel Dishaw

Pictured above are the Friends of Hope Mill, a group of volunteers that have been working for more than twenty years to save and maintain one of Ontario's last operational water-powered sawmills. On May 31, 2019, OHS Communications and Outreach Coordinator Daniel Dishaw attended the group's celebration of their one-year anniversary of incorporation through affiliation with the OHS. Like many of the Society's incorporated affiliates, the Friends of Hope Mill began when a group of volunteers stepped forward to take responsibility for a provincial heritage asset when no one else would. Hope Mill was previously owned and operated as a heritage demonstration site by the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA). Sadly, government cuts forced ORCA to close the mill and terminate its operation in 1996. In 2001, the Friends of Hope Mill stepped in and began to restore and reinforce the aging building and its incredible machinery. Today, the mill is fully operational and even features a woodworking museum on-site. Guided tours and demonstrations of the turbine-powered sawmill are held every Tuesday from late-April to mid-October. Thanks to a group of dedicated, highly-skilled volunteers, this historic site will remain as a source of public education and heritage tourism in the province. The OHS is proud to help groups like the Friends of Hope Mill as they work to save priceless assets that are important to the people of their communities and the history of Ontario.

Not-for-profit organizations that are members in Good Standing with The Ontario Historical Society and own, lease, or rent buildings and properties that are used for historical purposes and the public benefit such as museums, archives, churches, cemeteries, lighthouses, libraries, train stations, grain elevators, mills, heritage centres, and the headquarters of historical organizations be exempt from all property taxes."

I would deeply appreciate it if you could let me know if this issue affects your historical organization, whether you support our motion, and—in confidence—share how taxes are levied against properties that your group owns, leases, or rents. As of writing this report, the conflict over property taxes levied against our member organization that owns and operates a community museum remains unresolved.

CEMETERY NEWS

Editor's Note: Thank you so much to Marjorie Stuart for being Editor of the Cemetery News column since its inception in July 1994! Marjorie is now passing that responsibility over to new OHS Board Member, Laura Suchan. Marjorie now wants to devote all her volunteer work to the OHS/OGS Unregistered Cemeteries Committee and the completion of that historic initiative.

Laura Suchan, Oshawa Museum
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I just returned from the Association for Gravestone Studies Conference in Boiling Springs, North Carolina, where almost 100 representatives from museums, universities, cemeteries, and graveyard enthusiasts gathered to share ideas, projects, and cemetery news from across North America. Although most of the attendees were Americans, we all share many of the same difficulties in ensuring our historic cemeteries are protected and preserved. Along those lines, I am following the proposed changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* through Bill 108, and the *More Homes, More Choices Act*, which received Royal Assent on June 6, 2019. Both Architectural Conservancy Ontario and Osler Hoskin Harcourt LLP have prepared detailed analyses of what the amendments will mean to the Ontario Heritage Act. The papers are available online and are worth a read. It is unclear how these changes will affect our historic cemeteries moving forward and I hope to provide an update in a future column.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the team at Woodland Cemetery in London, Ontario for the work they are doing to bring the stories of the cemetery to light through their Facebook and blog posts. The conservators and the public historian summer staff have produced a number of interesting posts detailing their projects. I love seeing a cemetery produce educational content as a means of showing the importance of historic cemeteries and promoting appreciation for these resources.

OHS WELCOMES NEW MINISTER OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND SPORT



Hon. Lisa MacLeod was appointed Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport on June 20, 2019. The OHS is pleased to welcome Minister MacLeod to her new position and looks forward to working with her. The Hon. Lisa MacLeod was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 2006 as the representative for Nepean. Welcome, Minister MacLeod!

NEWS FROM OHS BOARD MEMBERS



"If we, as First Nations, don't get a marker on the ground today, we will be lost forever."

—Carolyn King, former Chief, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) and former OHS Board Director (2010–2019)

At the 131st Annual General Meeting on June 15, 2019, Carolyn King (right) officially presents the OHS "The Moccasin Identifier" Kit to new OHS Board Director, Nora Sawyer, former Chief, Alderville First Nation, and Rob Levery, OHS Executive Director. As part of the Society's contributions to Truth and Reconciliation, the OHS is a proud partner of "The Moccasin Identifier" project. Thank you Carolyn for your years of dedicated service on the OHS Board of Directors, and for generously sharing your wisdom and guidance to the Society. We also warmly welcome Nora, who was elected by the OHS membership at the recent AGM to serve on the OHS Board of Directors.



On July 13, the York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities paid a visit to Bethel Union Pioneer Cemetery in Clearview, Ontario. OHS Board Director Janie Cooper-Wilson helped guide the group through the pioneer cemetery, as Rudi Quammie Williams and Ginelle Skerrit co-hosted the group tour. The cemetery was designated by Clearview Township in 2015 as a historical site of provincial significance. That designation was thanks to many years of restoration and advocacy undertaken by the SilverShoe Historical Society, of which Janie Cooper-Wilson is the Founding Executive Director.

The SilverShoe Historical Society was incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in 2007. Janie Cooper-Wilson joined the OHS Board of Directors in 2016 and is the Co-Chair of the Ontario Historical Society's Cemeteries and Preservation Committee.

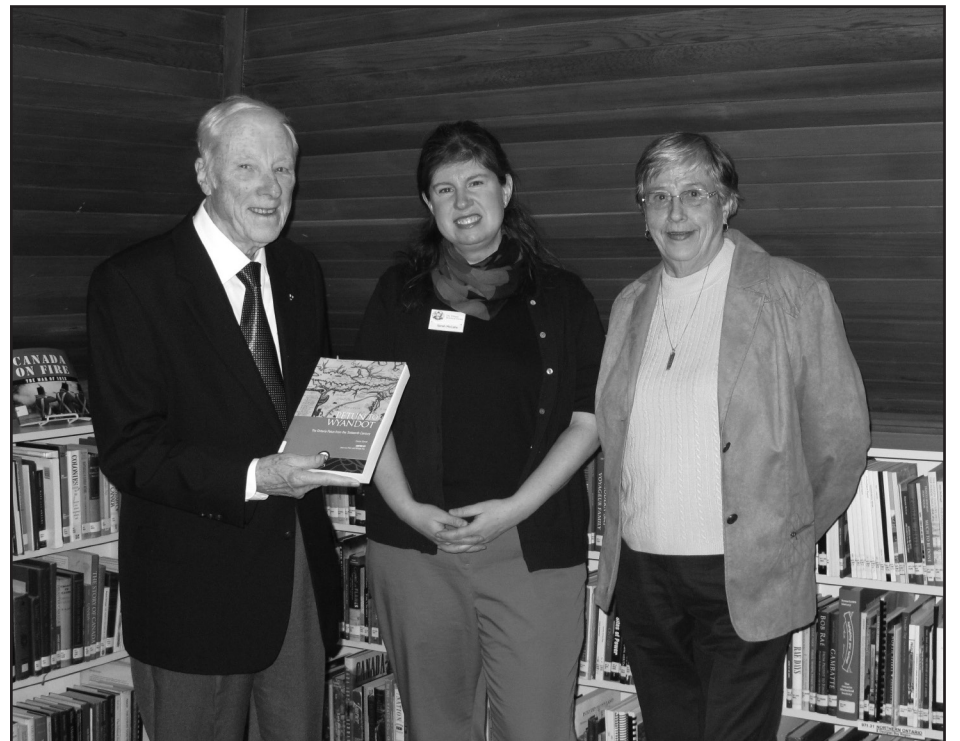
OHS TRIBUTES



Julia Munro

June 30, 1942 – June 12, 2019

A champion of Ontario's history and a true and trusted friend of OHS, we will always remember our many important conversations with Julia over the years and her words of encouragement and wisdom coupled with a delightful sense of humour. Always gracious, a person of the highest integrity, Julia is the longest-serving female legislator in Ontario's history to serve at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Julia is seen here in December 2017 at her constituency office in Holland Landing with OHS Executive Director Rob Levery after a meeting to discuss the issues and challenges facing the OHS in protecting Ontario's history.



Charles Garrad

June 8, 1930 – May 30, 2019

Charlie was a heritage giant on whose shoulders so many now stand. A Life Member, donor, and enthusiastic supporter of the OHS, we will miss Charlie's biting wit and deep wisdom, which he so graciously shared with OHS staff for many decades. In 2018, Charlie generously donated over 400 Ontario history-related publications to the OHS from his lifetime's collection, the majority on archaeology and Indigenous peoples. Seen here in the OHS Library in 2015, Charlie (left) holds his newly published book, "Petun to Wyandot: The Ontario Petun from the Sixteenth Century," while OHS Project Manager and Librarian Sarah McCabe (centre) and Charlie's wife, Ella Garrad (right) look on.

MUSEUM MILESTONES

Dr. John Carter
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Ontario is fortunate to have numerous National Historic Sites throughout the province. This column's lead article, written by curator Emily Jolliffe, focuses on the Billy Bishop Home and Museum in Owen Sound. Find out what this site is all about by reading Emily's piece, and then make a visit when you are next in Grey County.

The Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum in Kitchener will be featuring a new exhibit from June 28, 2019, to January 5, 2020. Entitled "Going Places: Past, Present and Future," it showcases how the people of the Waterloo Region have been actively involved in movements by water, railroad, and air throughout its history. The exhibit includes immersive experiences and artifacts that will surprise and delight visitors. It transports the audience through time and into the future. As the Region evolved, local modes of

BILLY BISHOP HOME AND MUSEUM, A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Emily Jolliffe, Curator, Billy Bishop Museum
billybishop.org

World famous First World War flying ace, William Avery Bishop, is a Canadian icon and hero. His legacy, chiefly remembered through airports and stamps, is an important one that we should not lose to time. His childhood home, built in 1884 in Owen Sound, Ontario, has been preserved just for this purpose: to ensure his life and legacy is remembered, and to serve and educate the community as well as tourists who venture to Owen Sound.

Billy Bishop is credited with 73 confirmed kills, one of the highest scoring aces of the First World War, second only to Manfred von Richthofen, aka The Red Baron, who was credited with 80 kills. It is important to remember that the airplane itself was brand new at the outbreak of the First World War—we had already weaponized flight! Made out of wood and canvas, these graceful and delicate devices seemed to cling to flight in miraculous fashion. Most would only reach speeds of around 60 to 80 km/h, slower than our cars travel on most highways, making this type of battle a personal affair. Often referred to as the Knights of the Sky, these pilots operated on a type of honour system akin to that of a medieval joust. Pilots could be seen flying low over their fallen enemies and laying flowers from their craft on the wreckage of a foe. Life was precarious and each flight could be the last, the life expectancy of a young pilot being around 15 minutes for his first flight and then slowly rising if he survived each encounter with the enemy. Billy was so famous for his bravery and skill that the Canadian government pulled him from the sky to put him on a recruiting tour. His loss would have been a huge blow to the morale of our Allied Forces.

At the Billy Bishop Home and Museum, we strive to keep Billy's life relevant to future generations of Canadians. We work closely with local veterans and have a wonderful program, Honouring Our Local Veterans, an annual event that takes place at the end of October and honours Grey and Bruce County men and women who served in

transportation adapted to meet people's needs, and "Going Places" explores these changes. This evolution of transportation systems is closely linked to the growth of the Waterloo Region itself. Roads, railways, and public transit were as important to local residents in the early 1800s as they are today. Go see this new exhibit!

On June 4, the City of Sault Ste. Marie had the MS Norgoma moved from its long-time berth at the Roberts Bondar Dock to the Algoma Steel Dock. This floating museum will no longer be accessible to the public. This move comes after some controversy when the city seized the vessel from its board of directors, and had two tugboats tow her to the new location. At this juncture, the fate of the MS Norgoma remains unknown.

Kenn Norman, chair of the Fashion History Museum, has been elected as chair of the Waterloo-Wellington Museum Network. Helena Ball has left the Homer Watson House & Gallery in Kitchener. Virginia Eichhorn has departed from the Tom Thompson Art Gallery in Owen Sound. David Huff is currently the Acting Director at that site. After more than 35 years working at museums in Burlington, Barbara Teatero will be retiring in September. As the current Director of Museums for the City of Burlington, Barbara recently oversaw the major upgrade and redevelopment of the Joseph Brant Museum. Thanks for your long time contribution to the Ontario museum profession, and enjoy your well-deserved retirement!



Photo - Billy Bishop Home and Museum

The Billy Bishop Home and Museum is located at 808 2nd Avenue East in Owen Sound, Ontario.

the armed forces. 2019 marks our 19th year of Honouring Our Local Veterans, having honoured over 250 men and women, telling their stories to the community, and showing our appreciation for their dedication to the Canadian people and way of life.

The museum is working in partnership with the The Orlinski Museum & Archives of the Polish Armed Forces, generously sponsored by the Polish Combatants' Association, Branch No. 2, London, to host an exhibit that examines the community impact of a Polish Regiment that was stationed in Owen Sound. The soldiers were stationed there for about a year in 1941–42, after the government was forced into exile when Germany invaded. There is a tree on the Bruce Trail that is living proof of these soldiers' presence in the community, who carved on it in Polish, "Poland is not yet lost" ("Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła") is signed, "A Solider". The Polish Consul General in Toronto has been to visit the famous tree and there has been a plaque dedicated to the historical connection between Owen Sound and the Polish soldiers during the Second World War in Peace Park since November 23, 2018. This exhibit is on until April 2020.

The Museum is also offering a series of Victorian Teas each month, to highlight Victorian and Edwardian traditions that the Bishop Home would have seen in Billy's life and times here. The teas are a local hit and have been sold out in the past, so we are doing monthly features to keep up with demand! Our next tea will be in February for Valentine's Day and will include lots of festive goodies and will be served in the Bishop family dining room by the family's household maid in full costume.

New this year was our Billy Bishop Heritage Festival, held on June 15, which included colourful local booths as well as our usual ceremony for Veterans Commemoration and our Victorian Ice Cream Social; it was a fun day of community festivities! There are lots of fun things to do around the Museum, and on its front lawn and in its back garden as well, so be sure to come down and check out all of the activities!

We are always looking for volunteers, people who are willing to donate their valuable time to help out as a daily attendant or for our special events. The Museum is open to the public Tuesday through Friday, from noon until 4 p.m., so please come down and check out our exhibits. You can visit us on Facebook or billybishop.org for our events and programming. Here's to an exciting and educational 2019!



Photo - Billy Bishop Home and Museum

Billy Bishop leans against the wing of his plane.

BARRY PENHALE'S ONTARIO

MUSICAL HISTORY: ONTARIO STYLE

Barry Penhale

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Today I am combining my interests in history and music by recognizing a trio of Ontario songs and those individuals who produced familiar melodies still very danceable and playable years after they were first penned. The love of a young pupil in his classroom prompted teacher George Washington Johnson to write a touching poem dedicated to the object of his affection, Maggie Clark, shortly before their marriage in 1864. Two years later his “love-poem” became the extremely well-known lyrics to a romantic ballad that became immensely popular almost overnight! That song so frequently performed and recorded was the enduring “When You and I Were Young, Maggie.” Today an Ontario Heritage Foundation plaque commemorating the memorable song it produced can be found on the grounds of Maggie Clark’s childhood home in the vicinity of Mount Hope. Visitors to the Hamilton Civic Airport may wish to take a few minutes to visit the plaque site on the Nebo Road, east of Highway 6.

Bruce Ruggles, following many years in private radio, taught broadcasting courses at the community college level in North Bay, Ontario. Our friendship went back to early school days and it was Bruce, while working at CKOX radio in Woodstock, who alerted me to a staff position opening. Thus began my own entry into private radio. As a disc jockey, Bruce was every music library’s most frequent user. Wherever he was employed, he likely aired more music than



Frank Sinatra, Ruth Lowe, and Tommy Dorsey.

any other contemporary Ontario broadcaster. A huge fan of the then off-the-wall bandleader, Spike Jones, Ruggles preferred to spin discs that fell into the novelty camp as well as up-tempo recordings. The memory takes us to a remarkable Canadian song Bruce played and played — we will never know how often. Though recorded on many different labels, it was the rendition by Les Paul and Mary Ford of “The World Is Waiting for the Sunrise” that wowed my DJ friend, leading to around-the-clock airplay. The multi-track recording, a Les Paul invention, was ahead of its time.

Written in Toronto in 1916, “The World Is Waiting for the Sunrise” (music Ernest Seitz, lyrics Gene Lockhart) became a huge hit with remarkable longevity. The collaboration between the two young Canadians came about when actor Lockhart reached out to Seitz to assist with the writing of songs for a musical he was planning. Their friendship had been forged earlier, the result of visits Lockhart made to the Seitz family cottage at Roche’s Point on Lake Simcoe. Their jam sessions around the Seitz family piano became the talk of the cottage community. Lockhart, honourably discharged from the Canadian army at the end of the First World War, was the older of the two, with a background as a singer and dancer. On the road at age seven, he developed musical tastes influenced by the vaudeville touring shows of the day. Ernest Seitz also had an early introduction

to music but ragtime and the like were not his main interest. When, at four years of age in 1896, he performed “The Bluebells of Scotland” in concert, Toronto critics raved about the gifted young pianist now firmly on the local scene. His promising musical career, constantly the source of discussion between his parents, was fully launched. Piano studies at the Conservatory of Music resulted in more lavish praise, with one instructor predicting that “This boy promises to be one of the great pianists of the age.” This excerpt from a lengthy, complimentary letter was not lost on his devoted parents. Ernie’s father, J.J. Seitz promptly took the steps necessary to have his son’s hands insured for the staggering sum of one million dollars.

“The World Is Waiting for the Sunrise” has been recorded countless times by such varied artists as Bing Crosby, Oscar Peterson, Fritz Kreisler, Willie Nelson, Benny Goodman, Ben Heppner, and Mary Lou Fallis. Composer Ernest Seitz was to enjoy a career as one of Canada’s finest concert pianists before successful involvement in the business world led to a gradual withdrawal from the world of music. Lyricist Gene Lockhart, a Broadway and movie star, was to become one of the finest and most recognizable character actors of his generation, appearing in over 300 films. He remains perhaps best known for his role as Judge Harper in the perennial Christmas season favourite, *Miracle On 34th Street*. His daughter, the actress June Lockhart, played the role of the mother on the popular *Lassie* TV series.



An autographed photo of Ruth Lowe.

Singer Frank Sinatra began his ascent to stardom as vocalist with the popular Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. Throughout his long, extraordinary career, the famed crooner became known for impeccable taste in the songs he chose to sing and record. He knew he had a huge hit upon discovering and recording “I’ll Never Smile Again” by Toronto’s Ruth Lowe. He was to smartly follow it with yet another song by Lowe, “Put Your Dreams Away (for Another Day),” which served him well as his signature tune for some time. The song was played at Sinatra’s funeral, selected by the family as part of the final farewell. Whenever it was possible at a performance, Sinatra made sure that his pal Ruth was seated out front and recognized. Write me another “smile” song he would say, whenever they were together.



Ernest Seitz.

Ruth Lowe was an attractive, charming woman totally without airs, as I was to discover when during the 1970s she accepted an invitation to come to the CBC Radio building on Jarvis Street in Toronto. We met in the office of veteran producer Art Crighton to discuss an interview for a radio series I was co-hosting with the ever so capable Jan Tennant. The gracious Ms. Lowe not only agreed to be interviewed but delighted us when she also offered to come back with a never-before-aired recording of “I’ll Never Smile Again,” a treasured collectible from her active composing years. What a privilege to broadcast the never-released recording by a superb studio orchestra for the one and likely only time, which was conducted by another gifted Torontonian, arranger/conductor Percy Faith, who himself was to go on to international prominence. Needless to say, Art and yours truly were ecstatic and all these years later I frequently recall the generosity of the very talented Ruth Lowe — her song “I’ll Never Smile Again” remains a personal favourite, an exquisite composition that has earned a place of much-deserved prominence within the world of Canadian musical history.

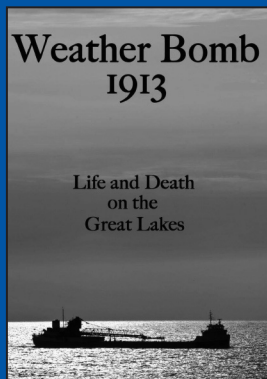


Eugene Lockhart.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio
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Its hard to believe that we are approaching summer's end! And what a summer in Ontario, no stranger to heat and humidity, currently breaking new records...which just means that we all have a perfect excuse to sit back in a shady spot, at "the cottage" or "the camp" depending on where in Ontario you live, or near some lovely body of water that is temporarily warm enough to dive into. A cool drink and a good book, three of which are suggested here, will make for a perfect August breather.



Weather Bomb 1913: Life and Death on the Great Lakes.

BRUCE KEMP

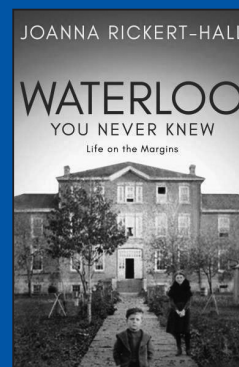
Merrickville: Waypoint Press, 2019.
Paperback; 283 pp.
www.amazon.ca

The 1913 hurricane that devastated communities surrounding the Great Lakes, bringing in its wake the destruction of property, the loss of ships, and significant casualties, is deeply embedded in the region's collective memory. Author Bruce Kemp dedicated 40 years to researching this "act of God." The richly detailed book packs a dramatic punch made all the more so because it is, as such stories are customarily described, "based on actual events." In this case, of course, Kemp is also a journalist and a prolific local historian, so his telling of the story analyzes the "actual events" rather than merely using them as a "true" starting point. As he states in the preface, he was concerned from the outset to "let those who were there tell the story in their own voices." The dialogue that he recreates in the prologue, "The Face of the Witch," most of it representing Captain McConkey's ideas and actions, is imagined but convincing. This approach adds an immediacy to the events of a century ago and really draws the reader into a tragic story about the human and environmental effects of a historic weather event.

The "weather bomb" of the title refers to the so-called "white hurricane" that hit the Great Lakes with unprecedented (and still unmatched) ferocity over four days—November 7–11, 1913—brought about by the impact of two conjoined storms. The outcome was at least 256 deaths, as twelve big ships went down with all hands aboard. Those who did not sink to the bottom with their ship, like the S.S. Regina's captain Edward McConkey, drowned and were swept to shore or simply froze to death on lifeboats. Kemp notes that there were likely more casualties, since some of the reported deaths were not accounted for by names on the ships' individual registers. To date, only six of the ships have been recovered.

The author's objectives are straightforward: he aims to identify the weather and sea conditions that gave rise to the disaster, the sociopolitical context that shaped public responses at the time, and the storm's repercussions, locally, provincially and nationally. In addition, he makes what he classifies as "educated guesses" as to the fate of two ships, the S.S. Regina and S.S. Charles S. Price, to allow for "a reasonable answer to the mystery" of what befell them on November 9, 1913.

While he concedes that these "guesses" might be "totally wrong," Kemp is a seasoned sailor, scuba-diver, and travel writer as well as a careful researcher and historian, which positions him to put forward plausible theories about the events of that terrible night. He spent ten years studying charts with other divers to locate the wreck of the Regina at the bottom of Lake Huron, visiting the location when it was found. The idea for this book began percolating in the mid-1970s, when he became interested in wreck-diving, which he compares to "visiting a battlefield after the fight and before the broken equipment of war was cleared away." His long-held fascination with the Great Lakes fueled a self-proclaimed obsession with the storm, which led him to pursue an increasingly wide net of contacts—with survivors and descendents of the Regina's captain, Edward McConkey—as well as digging in local archives, in repositories of weather and navigation information and lore, among meteorologists and mariners, and in newspaper accounts at the time and for years afterward. Along with these more traditional historical sources, the author is able to provide significant personal insights from his own wreck-diving experiences. The result is an eminently readable and compelling account of what remains, in many ways, a historical mystery.



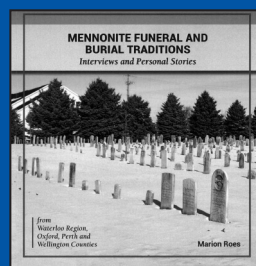
Waterloo You Never Knew: Life on the Margins

JOANNA RICKERT-HALL

Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2019.
Paperback; 200 pp.
www.dundurn.com

Who could fail to be intrigued by a book that opens with "You might say the dead talk to me." Joanna Rickert-Hall is well-versed in local history research, and in public history through her work with Waterloo Region historic sites, and also boasts graduate degrees in anthropology and history. Her lifelong interest in Waterloo's history underscores her scholarly credentials, as is evident in her engagement with current interdisciplinary methods and the debates regarding colonialism, representation, and marginality, which she brings to bear in this book. These, along with necessary historical context, are considered in an accessible and highly readable manner. Most of all, the author is a storyteller. She has sought to "dig into strange places," to recover stories that "have often been obscured or forgotten because of their marginality." These are the stories of what we might call "ordinary people," many of them consciously and deliberately relegated to the margins of society—and consequently history—by their contemporaries, who defined them in terms of class, race, gender, and ability, and found them "undeserving" of public respect, attention, assistance, or even basic human rights. Her stories are many and varied. She talks about the hard lives of the original Black settlers of Waterloo County, who, having made their way to "freedom" by means of the Underground Railroad, found themselves tolerated (not consistently) but otherwise often isolated and even shunned by mainstream "white" society. Among the saddest of the stories recounted are those of the so-called "inmates" of the Waterloo House of Industry and Refuge, opened in 1869. This was a society that only grudgingly provided for those without family and incapable of providing for themselves. A minimalist and mostly voluntarist social welfare network made hard work the basis of "deserving" status—even for children, the elderly, the mentally ill, and the physically disabled. The most subordinate of all people, the children in need, were especially vulnerable to suffering abuse, as recollections of those institutionalized in Hespeler's notorious Coombe Orphanage reveal.

But Rickert-Hall also includes stories of those outside of "the mainstream" who nonetheless worked within it to their own advantage. "Bodysnatchers," such as the infamous Dr. Friedrich Christ, made money by [illegally] supplying medical schools with subjects for dissection, a lucrative sideline in late Victorian and early 20th century days. He also possibly murdered two wives with strychnine, before committing suicide himself. We also learn about the "charmers" or "brauchers" (in the Pennsylvania German dialect of the local Mennonite community), such as Christian Eby, who claimed an ability to "heal" all nature of ailments, and earned both money and status in doing so. And there is also discussion of the post Great War interest in spiritualism—with Waterloo painter Homer Watson and, of course, Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, foremost among the adherents to seances and crystal balls. Local psychics, such as nurse Vera Ernst McNichol, as recently as the 1970s, not only helped to "find" things for people but also helped with police investigations. Interspersed with these recovered histories of the marginalized are the author's pointed reminders of how much remains the same, regardless of all the rapid and intensive changes that have marked the past century and continue to do so. She has succeeded admirably in "bringing back" the forgotten whose stories deserve to be known and remembered—because they are ultimately our stories too.



Mennonite Funeral and Burial Traditions: Interviews and Personal Stories

MARION ROES

St. Jacobs: St. Jacobs Printery, 2019.
Paperback; 96 pp.
Order from mlroes@sympatico.ca

Like Joanna Rickert-Hall, Marion Roes has a considerable list of publications on the sociocultural history of Waterloo Region. In this well-crafted book, she contributes a local perspective to the surprisingly sparse literature on Canadian funeral customs. Like many historians who ultimately tell their own story through their research into the past, the author came to her interest in

'FROM THE BOOKSHELF' CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...

The Indigenous History Award was presented to Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall, a community-engaged exhibit making the story of Indian Residential Schools in Canada accessible to all, especially the story of the Shingwauk School and its Survivors. Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall incorporates decades of historical research and archival material illustrating the lived experience at Residential Schools. It includes Residential School Survivor testimony in the form of oral history narratives and digital photo stations, allowing for the continuous addition of new historical and contemporary images. One of the leading forces on this project was Susie Jones, an elected member of the Walpole Island First Nation Board of Education, a former member of the Lambton Kent District School Board, and a Residential School Survivor. Susie was at the 131st AGM of the OHS and delivered an acceptance speech when the award was presented. It is with great sadness that I write of Susie's passing on July 13, 2019. She was an incredible individual and an indispensable resource to countless people across this province. She will be greatly missed by many.

The Society recognized Daniel Panneton and the Toronto Ward Museum with the Russell K. Cooper Public Programming Award for Not Just Numbers: Representation in the Canadian Census. The Not Just Numbers program uses a broad array of primary sources collected from several repositories through original research to engage participants in a critical discussion about representation and power in the historical record. The program advocated for the value of critical historical research skills and aimed to expose participants to primary resources that they may not have otherwise known about. In 2018, with the support of special funding, Not Just Numbers designed an Educator's Edition. This additional element will allow teachers to use the Not Just Numbers program in their classrooms.

Rev. Dr. Donna Mann was recognized for her extraordinary efforts to restore, preserve, and maintain the West Bentinck Presbyterian Cemetery, located in the Township of West Grey. Rev. Mann's fearless endeavours over more than two decades to bring about public awareness of the site were not in vain. Through her dedicated and highly competent leadership, the site was rededicated on June 28, 2015, and the dignity of West Bentinck Presbyterian Cemetery restored.

The first-ever OHS Heritage Conservation Award was presented to Kirk Howard and Peregrine Wood for their lead in the Tyrcathlen Partnership, which undertook the Petrie Building Restoration in Guelph, Ontario. Built in 1882, the Petrie Building is the last machine-stamped metal-clad building in Canada. Prior to the restoration, the structure was labelled as one of the National Trust's top-ten most endangered buildings. The project has been the recipient of a number of awards to date, including the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario's Peter Stokes Restoration Award, which recognizes the exemplary restoration of a significant heritage structure. Truly an exceptional example of conservation and community organization!

The Society also recognized six authors of four books and one co-authored scholarly article. Judi Rever's *In Praise of Blood: Crimes of the Rwandan Patriotic Front* won the Huguenot Society of Canada Award. Tarah Brookfield's *Our Voices Must Be Heard: Women and the Vote in Ontario* won the Alison Prentice Award. Steven High's *One Job Town: Work, Belonging, and Betrayal in Northern Ontario* won the Fred Landon Award. Edward Butts' *Wartime: The First World War in a Canadian Town* won the J.J. Talman Award. Mark Kuhlberg and Scott Miller's article in the *Canadian Historical Review*, "'Protection to Sulphite Smoke Tort-feasors': The Tragedy of Pollution in Sudbury, Ontario, the World's Nickel Capital, 1884–1927," won the Riddell Award. For more information about these exceptional publications and their authors, please visit the OHS website at ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/past-recipients. Congratulations to all of our 2018 OHS Award winners!



Robert J. Burns, Ph.D.

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On June 27, 2019, the OHS held a table for Multiculturalism Day at the Gibson House Museum in Willowdale. OHS Project Manager and Librarian Sarah McCabe greeted guests, exploring Willowdale's history with local residents.

...‘FROM THE BOOKSHELF’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7...

Mennonite funeral and burial traditions by means of her own family history. Her great-grandfather, Christian Dreisinger, established Dreisinger Furniture and Undertaking in Elmira in 1904. An excellent companion to her earlier publication about the Dreisinger funeral vehicles (2013, also reviewed in this column), this book fills in fascinating details about the practices that Waterloo Region Mennonites developed from Old World traditions. The invaluable materials from diary excerpts and oral histories that she presents, mostly from those chronicling or remembering past bereavements, and also from those employed in delivering funeral services, demonstrate how the community adapted these to a modernizing Ontario, while retaining the customs they personally found meaningful, including those involving food and clothing. The author capably interweaves her own recollections as a community member with interviews that capture what are probably among the most poignant moments in the lives of all individuals and communities: those involving the final good-bye. Included are a map indicating the Waterloo Region Mennonite communities discussed, as well as an ample number of photographs, both historic and contemporary—and even an appendix describing “The Table of Our Mennonite Past,” through different (though also similar) personal recollections of Swiss, Russian, and Amish culinary traditions. This is a valuable addition to the fields of local/regional history, Ontario Mennonite history, and the larger category of Canadian sociocultural history.

The *OHS Bulletin* is the newsletter of the Ontario Historical Society (OHS).

October issue copy deadline: **Friday, September 20, 2019.**

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Membership is open to all individuals and societies interested in the history of Ontario. The *OHS Bulletin* is sent free of charge to all members of the OHS. The OHS's biannual scholarly journal, *Ontario History*, is available to members for an additional \$31.50 per year; member organizations,

institutions and non-member individuals for \$42.00; and to non-member organizations and institutions for \$52.50. Membership inquiries should be directed to Cristina Perfetto at members@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

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