

# OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 212

OCTOBER 2019

## HONOURS AND AWARDS NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

**Daniel Dishaw**, OHS Communications & Outreach Coordinator  
ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Last year, the OHS updated its award categories to be more inclusive to a variety of organizations, projects, and individuals. While the Awards for Authors remain the same as in previous years, we have updated our Awards for Outstanding Achievement. Details and eligibility parameters for the new/updated categories can be found in the brochure included with this *Bulletin*.

To nominate, please visit [ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca). Alternatively, you can **fill out the brochure included in this *Bulletin*** and send it (along with all supporting materials) to 34 Parkview Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M2N 3Y2. Supporting materials may also be emailed to [ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

*The following awards are open for nomination this year:*

### OHS PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Recognizing an outstanding contribution to the preservation or promotion of Ontario's history.

### CARNOCHAN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognizing a lifetime of achievement in heritage preservation and public history.

### RUSSELL K. COOPER PUBLIC PROGRAMMING AWARD

Recognizing a programming initiative that has brought greater public awareness to an aspect of Ontario's history in the past three years.

### DOROTHY DUNCAN PUBLIC HISTORY AWARD

Recognizing an outstanding public history project completed in the award year.

### HERITAGE CONSERVATION AWARD

Recognizing an exceptional contribution towards the conservation, preservation, or restoration of a built-heritage or natural-heritage site in Ontario.

### INDIGENOUS HISTORY AWARD

Recognizing significant contributions toward the promotion or preservation of Indigenous history or heritage in Ontario.

### CEMETERY PRESERVATION AWARD

Awarded to an individual or a not-for-profit heritage organization for having demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the preservation and protection of cemeteries in Ontario.

'HONOURS AND AWARDS NOMINATIONS' CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...

## IN THIS ISSUE

HONOURS AND AWARDS NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN	1
OHS LAUNCHES NEW MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM	1
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	2
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	3
THE LAST POST FUND	4
MUSEUM MILESTONES	5
THE FASHION HISTORY MUSEUM	5
BARRY PENHALE'S ONTARIO	6
FROM THE BOOKSHELF	7



ONTARIO  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY Since 1888

[OHS@ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY.CA](mailto:OHS@ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY.CA)

[ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY.CA](http://ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY.CA)

[/ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY](https://www.facebook.com/ontariohistoricalsociety)

[@ONTARIOHISTORY](https://twitter.com/ONTARIOHISTORY)



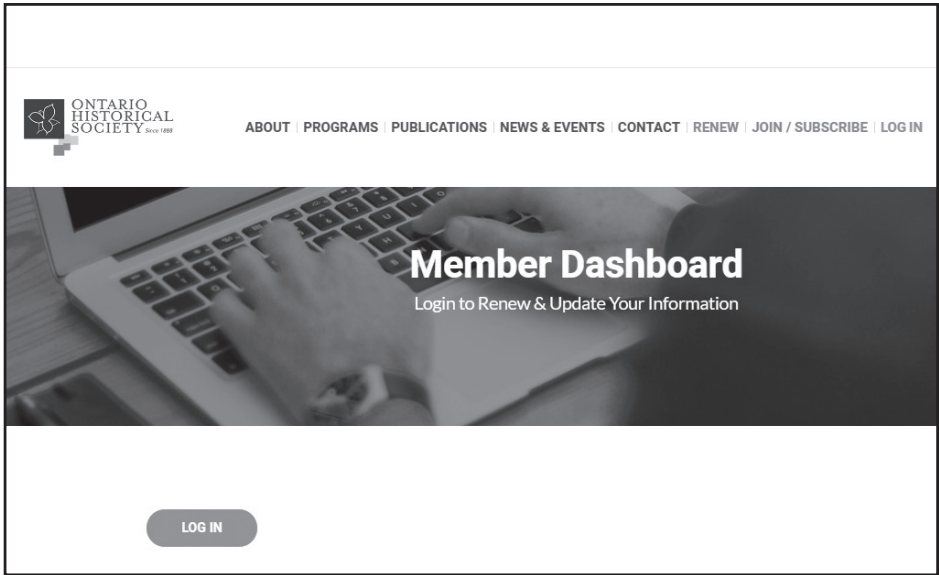
## OHS LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM

**Sarah McCabe**, OHS Project Manager and Librarian  
smccabe@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

As part of the OHS's ongoing efforts to modernize and provide accessible and up-to-date service to our membership, the OHS is excited to announce the launch of our new online membership system.

OHS members and *Ontario History* subscribers may now log in at any time to update their mailing address and other contact information, and to renew by credit card; cheques by mail are also still accepted.

For the first time, all organizations that incorporated through affiliation with the OHS may securely log in to their OHS accounts to see their corporate documents (constitution, Ontario corporation number, bylaws, etc.), which the OHS preserves as part of our legal obligation and core mandate to support our affiliated groups.



To access your membership information on the Ontario Historical Society's website, click on the LOG IN tab at the top of the main page and follow the LOG IN button on the Member Dashboard page.

Instead of a letter in the mail, members and journal subscribers with an email address will receive an email 30 days in advance of the renewal date with a link to pay by credit card through our secure payment system. A reminder email will be sent seven days after the renewal date if no payment has been received.

To begin, go to our website ([www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)) and click LOG IN at the top right to reach the Member Dashboard. Click the blue LOG IN button there and follow the instructions to (re)set your password. Try it today! Please let us know if you have any questions.

The OHS thanks everyone who donated towards our new online platform and membership system, especially the Laidlaw Foundation. Thank you for your continuing support of the OHS as we go through these changes to try and serve you better. We are excited to continue to support the people and organizations of our province doing the work to protect and promote the history of all Ontarians.

The Ontario Historical Society  
34 Parkview Avenue  
Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2  
CANADA





## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Michel Beaulieu, President  
michel.beaulieu@lakeheadu.ca

Hello. Bonjour. Boozhoo.

First, I hope all of you have been enjoying the fall and taking advantage of visiting the many outdoor historical and heritage sites around the province before they close and/or winter sets in. Since our last edition of the *Bulletin*, we have been receiving a lot of great feedback regarding Justice McLachlin's keynote address, recently posted on our website. Many of you have remarked that her message is one of great importance for all of us working in the heritage sector. If you have not yet done so, I encourage you all to visit our website and watch her speech.

In the weeks to come, the Society will also be posting video footage from our Honours and Awards Ceremony. Paul Morralee, Managing Director of OHS Affiliate, the Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior, has lent us his skills and expertise in documenting this past year's AGM and Honours and Awards Ceremony. Paul is a professional videographer and communications specialist, and has done excellent work in compiling and editing the video footage for all to enjoy. The acceptance speeches delivered by our award winners were truly inspiring. Our heritage champions spoke of the hard work and dedication required for achieving their goals, while also commenting on the importance of heritage preservation in contemporary Ontario. Please keep an eye on the OHS website for the launch of these video clips, which will also be posted to the OHS YouTube channel shortly.

In this issue of the *Bulletin*, you will find the 2019 OHS Honours and Awards nomination brochure. Our awards program was established in 1967 to honour and recognize excellence in research, writing, and heritage preservation/promotion in the province of Ontario. Please help us continue that important tradition by nominating excellence in your community, or by sharing the details of our awards program with colleagues, friends, and family. You can submit the attached brochure and a nomination package by mail, or visit our website to submit a digital nomination package. Thank you for supporting our awards program and helping us recognize our heritage champions from across Ontario!

The OHS is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new membership management system. Members can now log in and manage their membership in a paperless system. All renewals and updates may now be done online. We will still be accepting cheques by mail for those who wish to continue renewing by post. You can read more about the new system on Page 1 of this *Bulletin*. The OHS would like to thank everyone who donated in support of our new online platform and



OHS recently attended the 2019 AGM of the Canadian Friends Historical Association (CFHA) at Friends House, Toronto. Seen here (left) is Gord Thompson, Chair, CFHA and (right) Rob Leverty, Executive Director, OHS with CFHA's new part-time staff members Allana Mayer and Chris Landry. Congratulations and welcome to both Allana, Digital Archivist and Chris, Organization Secretary. The mission of CFHA is the preservation and communication of the ongoing history and faith of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada and their contribution to the Canadian experience. CFHA incorporated through affiliation with OHS in 2009. Enquiries can be forwarded to [secretary@cfha.info](mailto:secretary@cfha.info).

membership system. I want to specifically thank the Laidlaw Foundation for their generous support of this new platform.

Finally, the Society continues to work on the preservation and maintenance of the historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale. In partnership with the City of Toronto, heritage masons have begun work on the stone foundation around the verandah, and have taken steps to ensure that the structural integrity of the house is preserved for generations to come. John McKenzie House represents a significant part of Willowdale's history, and the OHS remains committed to making the building and its adjacent lands accessible for all to enjoy.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Ontario Historical Society.

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](mailto: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  
rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Since my last report, I am pleased to inform you that the OHS has incorporated three more historical organizations through affiliation with the Society. These new not-for-profit corporations are located in Brant County, the City of Hamilton, and the City of Thorold.

It has again been a great honour and privilege to work with all the volunteers who donated their time and skills in partnership with us to establish and incorporate these grassroots, community-based organizations. I am now going to let the three founding Presidents tell you about their new mandates to preserve and promote their local history for all Ontarians.

### **Brant Railway Heritage Society** Incorporated July 29, 2019 Founding President Ken Chrysler

The Brant Railway Heritage Society (BRHS) is dedicated to the preservation of Brant County and Brantford railway history.

We are a group of over 40 members from many communities in and around Brant, including Brantford, Paris, St George, Mount Pleasant, and surrounding areas. Since our incorporation through affiliation with the OHS in July, our membership base has continued to grow, and support from locals is expanding as well.

The BRHS has set the goal of complete and faithful restoration of Lake Erie and Northern Railway's Mount Pleasant Station for use as the nucleus and central focal point of a museum dedicated to preserving the history of railways throughout our region.

The station is currently derelict and in need of extensive restoration in order to save it. The County of Brant is also on board to assist us with nearby site selection and preparation for our museum. Our proposed museum would consist of the restored station itself, containing: function rooms for displays, meeting rooms, a gift shop, a library and archives, and the museum offices. Outside the station we plan to install an attractive garden environment with benches and storyboard displays, perhaps with an auxiliary building such as a hand car shed and some track.

Ongoing articles and newsletters, essays and interactive maps will eventually be offered on the BRHS website. We have also begun to produce documentary-style videos, written articles and books about Brant's rail history. We are excited about the positive response we are getting from the community and are moving forward with our fundraising efforts to achieve our mandate. For further information, please contact: Kenchrysler@yahoo.ca.

### **Thorold Museum** Incorporated September 16, 2019 Founding President Randy Barnes

In order to be effective, a museum, regardless of its size, content, or configuration, must not only present something of the heritage of the community it serves, but reflect its character as well.

The City of Thorold, in Niagara, has had a long, varied, and significant history. Archaeological evidence has identified some of its first "citizens" as nomadic hunters dating from 8,000 years ago! Niagara subsequently became home to the Iroquoian-speaking Attiwandaronk (Neutrals), with Thorold being the site of one of that Nation's main capitals. When the first Europeans began arriving in the late 18th century—Loyalists fleeing the American Revolution—the Beaver Dams area of Thorold became the first permanent settlement in the township, expanding upon the already extensive Indigenous infrastructure of roads, agriculture, and general land use.

The 19th and early 20th centuries saw the construction of four Welland canals, with Thorold, "where the ships climb the mountain", serving as their hub. Consequently, Thorold became a thriving centre for industry, commerce, and transportation. Like many communities, the 1980s saw the beginning of a gradual erosion of this economic foundation. Thorold, however, with its characteristic toughness, determination, and vision, refused to simply fade into obscurity and began the process of reinventing itself as a tourism, recreation, and heritage destination. As a milestone in this ongoing process, Thorold was the recent recipient of the prestigious and coveted Prince of Wales Prize for Municipal Heritage Leadership. The City was being internationally acknowledged "for recogni(zing) the power that heritage has to revitalize and transform communities" (quote from Prince Charles).

Like the Community which it serves, the recent incorporation of Thorold Museum represents a similar willingness and determination to change. Formed in 1894, the Thorold & Beaverdams Historical Society had been carefully collecting, preserving, and promoting Thorold's history for 125 years. Aware of the changing demands within the community however, it was decided that Thorold's needs would best be served through a bold restructuring, which



On Sunday, October 6th the OHS was honoured to attend the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Hockley Church (1869) and the 125th Anniversary of the Community Hall (1894). The Hockley Historic Community Hall and Church (HHCH&C) was incorporated through affiliation with the OHS on April 5, 2018 and shortly thereafter took ownership and became stewards of these two historic buildings in Dufferin County. Seen here with the HHCH&C Board of Directors are (centre) Tom Darlow, Chair, HHCH&C, holding the OHS special certificate recognizing the double milestone anniversaries with Rob Leverty, OHS Executive Director, who was the guest speaker. Congratulations to HHCH&C for organizing such a successful and memorable occasion and ensuring that these historic community assets will serve the public interest for future generations. For information, email: [info@hockleyvillage.com](mailto:info@hockleyvillage.com) or visit [www.hockleyvillage.com](http://www.hockleyvillage.com)

would see the Historical Society's responsibilities for the collection assumed by a new organization.

As an independent entity, operating out of Lock 7, the new Thorold Museum will carry on the Historical Society's traditional mandate of preservation and promotion, while being better equipped for marketing its efforts, liaising with the City and various heritage partners, and, most importantly, raising and directing the funding necessary for making the collection more accessible in the digital age.

Having already achieved much to be proud of, this incorporation and our partnership with the OHS will be critical in allowing the Museum to grow and move forward with the community it serves. Good things are happening in Thorold, but don't take our word for it. Come and see for yourself! For further information, contact [radb20@hotmail.com](mailto:radb20@hotmail.com).

### **Hamilton Police Historical Society and Museum** Incorporated September 16, 2019 Founding President David Kerkhof

The Hamilton Police Service is one of the oldest Police Services in Canada, almost as old as modern policing itself, as established by Sir Robert Peel in 1829. The formation and incorporation of the Hamilton Police Historical Society and Museum will allow us to research and preserve not only the long history of policing in the City of Hamilton, but also its former municipalities and police departments where much of the history had been lost through amalgamation, annexation, or disbandment.

Former attempts by the Hamilton Police Service to maintain a museum through public funding have not met with success. But a society made of dedicated volunteers, independent of government, with the ability to privately raise funds will make our museum that much more sustainable. It is our mission to tell the stories of Hamilton's greater policing history as a contribution to the community's history as a whole.

Sir Robert Peel's 7th Principle of Law Enforcement states that: "Police, at all times, should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence."

It is to this end that we tell of the history of this community, to honour our past, to celebrate achievements, to learn from past mistakes, and to honour those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep the community safe. For further information, contact [hpshistorian@gmail.com](mailto:hpshistorian@gmail.com).

OHS remains dedicated to the Society's core mandate and unique legal responsibilities granted by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 1899. As the only non-government entity in North America with the legal authority to incorporate historical organizations, we know that our Special OHS Act, enacted 120 years ago, is a vital tool that is more relevant than ever in the fight to preserve and promote our diverse and rich history in communities across Ontario.

In conclusion, I am pleased to report to our membership and the general public that since January 2015, in service to our fellow citizens, the OHS has incorporated 35 new not-for-profit historical organizations: six in northern Ontario, four in eastern Ontario, four in central Ontario, ten in southwestern Ontario, ten in the GTA, and one provincial not-for-profit corporation.



# THE LAST POST FUND: HISTORY AT THE SERVICE OF OUR VETERANS

**Justine McIntyre**, Communications Officer, Last Post Fund  
jmcintyre@lastpost.ca

The Last Post Fund is a national not-for-profit organization whose mission is to ensure that no Veteran is denied a dignified funeral and burial, as well as a military headstone, due to lack of funds at the their time of death. Founded in 1909 by Arthur Hair, the Last Post Fund was set up as a charitable organization in response to a lack of such services for war Veterans, many of whom lived out their lives in poverty.

One such unfortunate man, Trooper James Daly, was brought in from the streets of Montréal on a cold December night in 1908; succumbing to hypothermia and malnutrition, his remains were unclaimed and his body taken to the city morgue for disposal. Arthur Hair, the head orderly at the hospital where Trooper Daly had died, was shocked to discover British military discharge papers in the man’s pocket. Deploing the lack of consideration of the British Empire for its Veterans and resolving that the situation not be repeated, he set out to establish the Last Post Fund.



The Honorable J. Michel Doyon Lieutenant Governor of Québec inspects the colours of the Royal Canadian Legion accompanied by Sergeant of Arms Anthony Bruce and Last Post Fund National President Lieutenant-Colonel Raymond Mikkola, CD (Retired) at the National Field of Honour in Pointe-Claire, Québec.

In the words of founder Arthur Hair, “To honour and protect in death seems but a small return to those who have protected their country in life.” To date, the Last Post Fund has provided a dignified funeral and burial for over 150,000 Veterans from Canada and Allied countries.

The Last Post Fund Unmarked Grave Program is of particular interest to both professional and amateur historians. Members and volunteers of the Last Post Fund Ontario, as well as other branches across the country, are of great assistance in helping to find and identify unmarked Veterans’ graves. Since the inception of the Unmarked Grave Program in 1996, the graves of 5,908 Veterans have been properly marked across the country.



Last Post Fund National President Lieutenant-Colonel Raymond Mikkola, CD (Retired) lays a wreath in commemoration of fallen soldiers at the National Field of Honour in Pointe-Claire, Québec.

In March of this year, Last Post Fund launched the Indigenous Unmarked Graves Program specifically to help commemorate and honour Indigenous Veterans throughout Canada, in the spirit of reconciliation. This program arose from the Last Post Fund obtaining a list from amateur historian Yann Castelnot cataloguing 18,830 Indigenous Veterans born in Canada, who fought in WW1, WW2, and the Korean War—some of whom may lie in unmarked graves.

The Last Post Fund works collaboratively with Indigenous communities to find and mark the unmarked graves of Indigenous Veterans, and to offer families the possibility of adding the traditional name of the Veteran to an existing headstone. Research for this program will be carried out in partnership with Indigenous researchers from within the communities, with the support of the Indigenous Project Coordinator at the Last Post Fund National Office.



Military headstones adored with wreaths at the Last Post Fund Mount Royal Cemetery in Montréal, Québec.

The Last Post Fund supports other initiatives aimed at keeping the memory of Canadian Veterans alive. These include the Last Post Fund’s own military cemetery, the National Field of Honour in Pointe-Claire, Québec, as well as other local Fields of Honour across Canada.

Every year on the first weekend in June, commemorative ceremonies are held on the shore of the St. Lawrence River in Montréal, at the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges and Mount-Royal cemeteries, and at the National Field of Honour in Pointe-Claire, Québec.

If you are interested in participating as a researcher in our Unmarked Grave or Indigenous programs, or have an interest in military commemoration, please contact Col Geordie Elms MSM, CD (Ret’d), President of the Last Post Fund Ontario Branch at 905-517-3563 or send an email to the Last Post Fund National Office at info@lastpost.ca. If you have a family member or loved one with a history of military service and are in need of financial assistance for funeral or burial, you can speak with one of our counsellors who will advise you on our program requirements: 1-800-465-7113.

## ...‘HONOURS AND AWARDS NOMINATIONS’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

*Awards for Authors:*

### JOSEPH BRANT AWARD

Honouring the best book on multicultural history in Ontario published in the past three years.

### FRED LANDON AWARD

Honouring the best book on local or regional history in Ontario published in the past three years.

### ALISON PRENTICE AWARD

Honouring the best book on women’s history in Ontario published in the past three years.

### JJ TALMAN AWARD

Honouring the best book on Ontario’s social, economic, political, or cultural history published in the past three years.

### RIDDELL AWARD

Honouring the best scholarly article on Ontario’s history published in 2018.

### DONALD GRANT CREIGHTON AWARD

Honouring the best book of biography or autobiography highlighting life in Ontario, past or present, published in the past three years.

### HUGUENOT SOCIETY OF CANADA AWARD

Honouring the best book or substantial article published in Ontario in the past three years which has brought public awareness to the principles of freedom of conscience and freedom of thought.



## MUSEUM MILESTONES

**Dr. John Carter**  
drjohncarter@bell.net

People often ask about how many museums there are in Ontario. Answers are usually imprecise. In 2013, OHS Executive Assistant Heather Anderson and I began to compile a list of not-for-profit museums across the province. Our research produced a list totalling 154 sites. Kenn Norman's lead article about the Fashion History Museum in Hespeler, Ontario, is a great example to pull from the list and learn more about. Read all about the Fashion Museum below.

It's been busy at Castle Kilbride in Baden, Ontario. In April and August, a film crew of 125 was in town. They filmed interior and exterior scenes at Castle Kilbride, which were included in this season's popular CBC show *Anne with an E*. Castle Kilbride became the house for Aunt Sophie and Anne. This footage was featured in the second episode of the current season. Castle Kilbride was opened to the public in September of 1994, and is proudly celebrating 25 years, its silver anniversary. Congratulations on this achievement!

THEMUSEUM in downtown Kitchener recently offered an innovative public program related to the federal election. A Dialogue on Arts and Culture was held there. Local federal candidates from the ridings of Kitchener

Centre, Kitchener Conestoga, and Waterloo, shared their visions for arts and culture in the Region of Waterloo. This event was moderated by Craig Norris of CBC Kitchener. The evening allowed candidates to speak for a predetermined time from the stage, and then they joined the public audience for an opportunity for in-depth discussion. A great way to encourage interest in the election and in voting!

Ontario Barn Preservation (OBP), one of the most recent heritage groups incorporated through the OHS, is looking for your input. If you have stories, remembrances, or images relating to your barns and farmsteads, please send this information to [info@ontariobarnpreservation.com](mailto:info@ontariobarnpreservation.com). This material will be held on file for future reference by researchers and those interested in Ontario's agricultural heritage.

The John R. Park Homestead recently held a very successful launch for my book *The Perils and Pitfalls of the Steamer Ploughboy*. The sales have been brisk and the book is now into its second printing. I've donated the publication to the museum. All the proceeds will go toward funding the future maintenance and operations of this living history site, which is located on the shores of Lake Erie, near Colchester. For further information, please contact curator Kris Ives at [jrph@erca.org](mailto:jrph@erca.org) or 519-738-2029.

Museum Windsor will be featuring, its new exhibit Cipher/Decipher, developed by Ingenium in cooperation with Communications Security Establishment (CSE). It allows visitors to view an authentic Second World War Enigma cipher machine and a wide selection of historic encryption artifacts. Visitors will be able to scramble and unscramble their own messages using a cipher wheel, and other hands-on and digital experiences will be offered to the visiting public. This exhibit will be on display until January 2, 2020.

## THE FASHION HISTORY MUSEUM

**Kenn Norman**, Chair, Fashion History Museum  
<http://www.fashionhistorymuseum.com/>

When founders Jonathan Walford and Kenn Norman talked about the possibility of creating a museum of costume someday, neither considered it would be more than a small-scale retirement project. Jonathan was a long-time collector of antique and vintage clothing and had worked in the museum field since he was a teenager in the 1970s. In the 1990s, he was the curator of the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto while the new museum on Bloor Street was being built. Meanwhile, Kenn was working as the Director of Finance for Orchestras Canada, learning how to leverage every dollar that came into the not-for-profit organization.

After moving to the Niagara Peninsula in 1999, the two freelanced in the museum field, consulting, creating travelling exhibitions, and doing appraisals, research, and various writing jobs. In 2004, Kenn chose the creation of the museum as a project for a leadership course he was taking. By the end of the year the Fashion History Museum (FHM) was legally registered and the name of the website reserved. The word "fashion" was purposefully chosen to reflect a new approach in the museum field instead of "costume", which had been the more commonly used term. A five-year plan was developed, starting with developing a strategic plan with the help of expert advice from friends and colleagues in the fields of arts funding, marketing, education, and business.

In 2008 the first board convened to bring the museum into reality. After being federally incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation, the museum was granted charitable status by the Canadian government in March 2009, and the Fashion History Museum officially became a full-fledged reality. With the museum now able to give tax receipts, donations began to come in. The debut exhibition featuring highlights from the collection of the Fashion History Museum was held in August 2009 at the Guelph Civic Museum.

The next goal was to find the right location for a home for the FHM. Early meetings with Casa Loma in Toronto repeatedly fell through, and after considering alternative locations, from Victoria BC to Niagara Falls, it was determined the Waterloo Region was the best fit. Just over an hour from Toronto, the area was historically home to a thriving textile and clothing industry, and in the present day, nearly a million people live in the area which flanks the 401, Ontario's tourism artery.

A pilot gallery in Cambridge during the summer of 2013 brought in over 7,600 visitors in just five months, and an exhibition done in conjunction with



View of the museum's exterior.

the Waterloo Region Museum the following year attracted over 26,000 visitors in eight months.

In November 2014, the old post office in the former town of Hespeler was rented. The building's owner became a strategic partner in the museum, offering reduced rent for the duration of a five-year lease. The building was also renovated over the next two years to suit the museum's needs as a public facility.

Since then, the biggest challenges for the museum have been to find consistent funding from all four levels of government (municipal, regional, provincial, and federal), encouraging them to invest in the museum as a cultural asset and educational resource as well as an economic driver through tourism.

It was a different world when the museum was founded in 2004. In the fifteen years since, the integration of technology into our daily lives has made it challenging for museums and galleries to remain relevant when so much information is available online at your fingertips, for free. However, what remains steadfast for the FHM is their core purpose: to collect, preserve, research, and share their special collection.

The growth of social media has been leveraged to grow the museum over the past fifteen years (Facebook was born the same year as the Fashion History Museum). Today, they divide their limited financial resources to share the collection and research centre with visitors through both virtual as well as physical experiences. The demand for 24/7 access means that the FHM continues to satisfy knowledge-seekers outside of the hours the gallery is open to the public.

Rising to the challenge of how to connect to their broader audience, they developed an online FHM presence that has gained thousands of loyal followers. Weekly postings on Facebook featuring items from their vaults is just one of the many ways they share their holdings with over 10,000 regular followers. Curator Jonathan Walford also has a personal blog with over 90,000 annual visits. There are also thousands following on Instagram, Twitter, and Pinterest.

The calibre of their collections and quality of exhibition work seen through social media has been so successful that the FHM was invited to become one of 63 international cultural institutions to contribute to the launch of the Google Cultural Institute's digital platform, showcasing the art and history of fashion. With a projected twenty million annual visitors to the Google Cultural Institute, the FHM is reaching an audience well beyond the dreams of the founders so many years ago.

The feature exhibition for 2019 during their anniversary year is Made in France, which explores the influence of Paris and couture on the world of fashion today. Drawing visitors from across the Waterloo Region and beyond to their Cambridge home, it has been a showcase of some of the best in their collection. Programming this year has included their first Artist in Residence, Robert Haven, a Paris-trained embroidery specialist who recreated one of their 1920s beaded dresses from the collection that was too fragile to display, giving an up close and personal experience of how fashion is created.

What's next? The Fashion History Museum is looking to set down deeper roots and is exploring the possibility of buying the former Hespeler Post Office as their permanent home.

Visit our website at: [www.fashionhistorymuseum.com](http://www.fashionhistorymuseum.com).



## BARRY PENHALE'S ONTARIO

### RECALLING BRUCE HODGINS

Barry Penhale

barry@naturalheritagebooks.com

With the passing of Trent University Professor Emeritus Bruce Hodgins on August 8, 2019, Ontario lost an important Canadian whose concerns and achievements constitute a remarkable legacy. The well-liked Peterborough historian will be particularly missed in outdoor circles and remembered by the many Indigenous friends he made throughout a long adventure-filled lifetime. Until his retirement in 1996, Hodgins, as a professor of history and Canadian studies, inspired countless students, many of whom made life-altering career choices based on his teachings and professional example as a mentor to many. During his extremely productive years at Trent, Hodgins was closely identified with Native Studies and even a quick review reminds us of the many ways in which he put his reputation on the line as he increasingly took a stand and aligned himself with Indigenous leaders on the long-entrenched contentious issues facing traditional Native lifestyles.



Bruce Hodgins at Trent Wanapitei Colloquium, September 22, 2017.

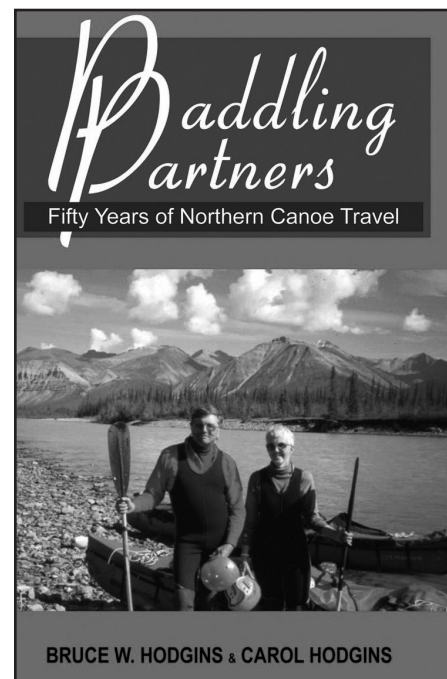
Following Hodgins's death, Canadian filmmaker James Cullingham, in a moving tribute to the man he greatly admired as his mentor, professor, employer, and friend, stated: "... Bruce Hodgins was no armchair academic. When Indigenous issues came to the fore in his own backyard, he stood up and spoke out." The backyard referred to was Lake Temagami, some 400 kilometres north of Toronto. This is an area Bruce Hodgins knew better than most as a result of his many decades of intimate association with the Wanapitei Wilderness Centre (known fondly to many as Camp Wanapitei), which his parents, Stanley and Laura Belle Hodgins, had purchased in 1956. Many of Bruce's memories of Lake Temagami appear in the book *Paddling Partners* (Natural Heritage/Dundurn, 2008). Here, much can be gleaned about one couple's devotion to northern Ontario. We learn that in August 1957 (future wife Carol's first time at Wanapitei and the year before they married) Bruce and Carol led a co-ed canoe trip with responsibility for a cluster of eager youthful paddlers with scant canoeing experience. It was the beginning of countless more arduous trips ahead, as the two ultimately paddled more of Canada together than any other husband-and-wife team.

A past president of the Ontario Recreational Canoeing Association, Hodgins authored several books and articles on the history of the Canadian North. No recall of this noted Canadian historian's work would be complete without mentioning two exceedingly important books, staples on countless bookshelves. *Nastawgan: The Canadian North by Canoe & Snowshoe* with a foreword by the prominent northern canoeist, Eric W. Morse, was published in 1985 by the independent press Betelgeuse Books and co-edited by Bruce Hodgins and Margaret Hobbs. In 1986 the Canadian Historical Association awarded the book with the Certificate of Merit for the best book published on the regional history of Canada's North. Upon reading this very special volume once again, I was reminded that this absolute gem of a book with its collection of historical essays continues to stand out like no other in the field of northern literature. Among

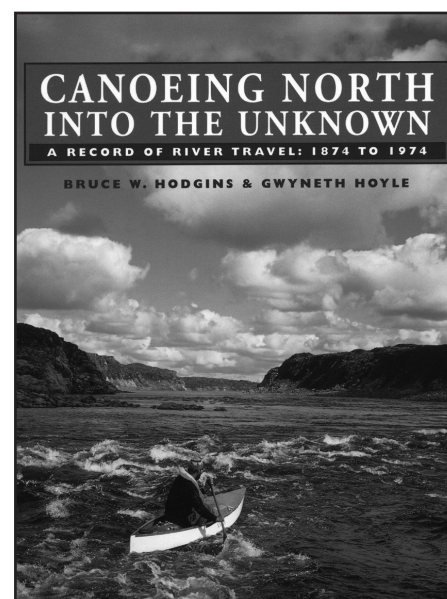
Bruce's own contributions to the book is a chapter reminding readers of the role canoeing literature has had in our understanding of the past. It is in sections such as this where the late historian's knowledge and keenness for his topic truly come across. As for the book's title, *Nastawgan* is an Anishinabai word meaning "the way or route one must take to get through the country."

In preparing this article, I am, as a publisher, reminded of another book. Without question, *Canoeing North into the Unknown*, falls into an exclusive camp. This rare exhaustive record of accounts of northern travel by canoe is the combined work of Hodgins and Gwyneth Hoyle, and another splendid Peterborough canoeist and historical researcher. I shall always feel it was most deserving when the co-authors learned of the results of a poll conducted by a prominent canoeing magazine that placed *Canoeing North into the Unknown* among the top 100 books on canoeing! Bruce was also a biographer, with published books on John Sandfield Macdonald, Ontario's first premier, and Charles Paradis, the colonizing French Canadian missionary. It was Father Paradis (1848–1926) who established a farm on Lake Temagami, which in 1931 became the site of today's Camp Wanapitei.

Any look at Bruce Hodgins's numerous contributions to our understanding of Canada absolutely must cite above all else his tireless efforts to clarify and enhance our knowledge of Indigenous peoples. The master canoeist personally and intimately knew the Indigenous trails and waterways of northern Ontario. We shall never know for sure how many miles he paddled or the number of portages he made, especially within the Temagami region. What is on record are the countless times the academic-activist stood up for his Indigenous neighbours on Lake Temagami. Upon learning of the passing of Bruce Hodgins, former Chief Gary Potts wrote to Cullingham: "He [Bruce] persisted and persisted to get us all in the same room and the same table. And when Bruce was not able to influence the Ontario Government to stop building the Red Squirrel Road—Pine Torch Road extension—he turned Camp Wanapitei over to the Teme-Augama Anishinabai for base camp,—stood with us and was arrested with us—Carol was at his side!"



Cover of *Paddling Partners: Fifty Years of Northern Canoe Travel*.



Cover of *Canoeing North Into the Unknown: A Record of River Travel: 1874 to 1974*.



Bruce and Carol Hodgins.

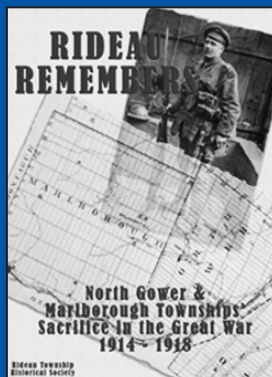
Cullingham wrote: "Bruce told me that seeing the Teme-Augama Anishinabai flag flying outside the Wanapitei dining hall during the blockade was his Wanapitei proudest moment." To countless admirers, including this writer, Bruce Hodgins will be remembered as an exceptional Canadian and a warrior [for social justice].



## FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio  
ccomac5702@rogers.com

It's close to Thanksgiving as I write: trees are showing off their glorious colours, sunflowers are nodding in breezes turning brisk, and dusk comes ever earlier. I love this time of year, not least because it is also known among writers and publishers—and readers of course!—as “book season.” Many would argue that every season is book season, and I would be among them. Here are some entertaining and informative books about Ontario history to get us going on this particular autumn session—and a happy belated Thanksgiving holiday to all our members and *Bulletin* readers!

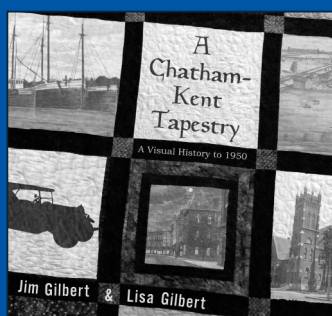


### *Rideau Remembers: North Gower & Marlborough Townships' Sacrifice in the Great War, 1914-1918*

OWEN COOKE, DAVE BULLOCK, ROD BRAZIER,  
STUART CLARKSON, SUSAN MCKELLAR,  
GEORGINA TUPPER AND RUTH WRIGHT

Ottawa: Rideau Township Historical Society,  
2018. Paperback: 227 pp.  
Contact [ruthbrianwright@gmail.com](mailto:ruthbrianwright@gmail.com)

A solid team effort, *Rideau Remembers* is more than a chronicle of enlistment from North Gower and Marlborough townships, and of home front efforts, important though it is to ensure that those who sacrificed at home and overseas during the “war to end all wars” are known to history. Their careful research, individually and collectively, reveals the constant and unrelenting pressure that small-town Ontarians must have experienced to gather funds, food, and clothing for the soldiers and the victims of war in Europe, while dealing with their own losses—of local manpower and family members—and the necessary sacrifices that had to be made daily in the name of victory. Their work once again confirms the vital role of women, especially in such key organizations as the rural-based Women’s Institutes, in setting in motion and sustaining the homefront campaigns. Moreover, the authors have chosen to focus on the personal stories of the 45 men and one nursing sister who volunteered for the Canadian Expeditionary Force and made the ultimate sacrifice. Their stories are rich and poignant, grounded in letters from the front sent home to loved ones. As always, readers will be struck by their courage under fire, fueled as it so often was by their driving desire to return home. The story of Nursing Sister Jessie Mabel McDiarmid especially stands out, and not just because hers is the only woman’s story: 35 when she enlisted, she served in England and France, and died aboard the medical ship Llandovery Castle in the war’s last summer when it was struck by a German submarine on its return to England. Stories such as those “remembered” in this book underline the very human costs of the Great War, so keenly felt in so many families back home.



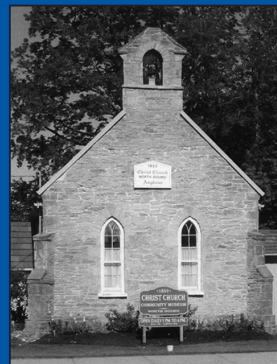
### *A Chatham-Kent Tapestry: A Visual History to 1950*

JIM GILBERT AND LISA GILBERT

Windsor: Biblioasis, 2018.  
Paperback: 199 pp.  
[www.biblioasis.com](http://www.biblioasis.com)

The “little press that could,” Windsor-based Biblioasis, has once again produced a lovely and intriguing history by local historians, broadcasters, and authors Jim and Lisa Gilbert in their artfully woven *A Chatham-Kent Tapestry*. The story is presented through select photographs that simultaneously grasp the reader’s attention and deftly link together deftly to form a visual narrative of the region to the mid-twentieth century. Their own store of knowledge as life-long residents was enhanced and enlarged by means of careful research and consultation with community historians. They have immersed themselves in local museum and archival collections in their search for these images, as well as what has been preserved of the Chatham Daily News’ store of photographic negatives. The result is a many-faceted and colourful collection that reflects the everyday—and most fascinating—bits of the community’s

history rather than the great “historic” moments that really are not that challenging to uncover.

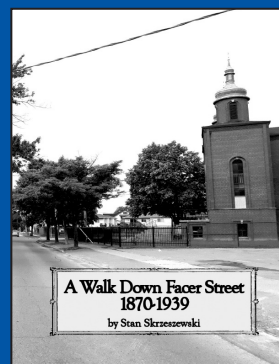


### *Lakefield's Christ Church Cemetery and Its Continuing Legacy, 1853-1886*

ELWOOD JONES WITH STAN MACLEAN

Peterborough: Trent Valley Archives,  
2018. Paperback: 45 pp.  
[www.trentvalleyarchives.com](http://www.trentvalleyarchives.com)

Trent Valley archivist and local historian Elwood Jones is certainly prolific in his local history work, and a number of his publications have been reviewed in this column. With Stan MacLean, he has set his keen historical sights on the town of Lakefield’s Christ Church Cemetery during the roughly thirty year span before the village council decreed against interments within its boundaries. Although the authors are primarily interested in the cemetery, they provide a necessary historical sketch of the Anglican church itself. A striking limestone Gothic Revival structure erected on the west side of Queen Street in the mid-1850s, the church’s building campaign was led by a local landowner and Canada Company official, the well-known and influential Samuel Strickland. In 1858, the church and burial ground were duly consecrated by authority of the Lord Bishop of Toronto, the Rt. Rev. John Strachan. Interestingly, while the church still graces the main shopping district of contemporary Lakefield, it proved too small to contain the rapidly growing population within its first decade, necessitating the construction of St. John the Baptist Church on the opposite side of the street. It is now a community museum. The authors have thoroughly mined the parish register, which lists every funeral service held from the Church and its successor along with such valuable historical details as age, occupation, next of kin, cause of death, and even, at times, comments on the individual’s situation at the time of death. They also discuss the changing conditions of monuments in the burial grounds, where 120 church members of all ages and stations found their final repose between 1854 and 1886, when the village council decreed against interments made within the village boundaries. This is a fascinating record that will be very helpful to genealogists and local historians alike.



### *A Walk Down Facer Street, 1870-1939*

STAN SKRZESZEWSKI

Niagara Falls: Grey Borders Books,  
2018. Paperback: 132 pp.  
[greybordersbooks.jigsy.com/bookstore](http://greybordersbooks.jigsy.com/bookstore)

Retired librarian, writer, local historian, philosopher, and entrepreneur (as well as poet): these are some of the many hats that Stan Skrzyszewski has donned, according to the biography on his publisher’s website. He is also, most importantly for our purposes, a longtime resident of St. Catharines, with a particular affection for and affinity with the Facer Street that is the subject of both his first collection of poetry (*Facer Street Poems*, Grey Borders Books, 2016) and this historically focused volume. In his 2016 anthology, he tells us that the multi-ethnic Facer Street community “is not pretty, not sweet smelling,” but “It is defined by neighbourhood/A sense of belonging/Of this being yours/A place which made you happy.” That very personal, soulful perspective is contextualized in this second volume, most particularly in his introduction. We learn that the Facer Street district is “not well documented in the history of the City of St. Catharines.” European settlement in the area dates from the 1870s, first in the establishment of farms and orchards and then, thanks to the city’s strategic geographic location, in the rapid development of industry and the consequent growth of St. Catharines along with other early regional villages and towns. Named for Lewis Facer, whose farm it once contained, the community received an influx of Europeans in the heyday of Laurier’s aggressive immigration campaign that saw several millions arrive before the Great War slammed the gates shut. Construction of the Third Welland Canal at the turn of the century cut the district off from the town, which could henceforth be accessed only by the Niagara Street swing bridge. The result, as he describes and as his poems evoke, was the development of a multiethnic working-class community with a distinct identity that quickly came to be known as “the foreign corner.” In this rendering of a lively community’s history, Skrzyszewski imaginatively depicts the streetscape as a “place of hopes and dreams,” a way-station for the recently arrived and the marginalized. He captures their world as they might well have experienced it during the formative nation-building years, through the Great War and the Great Depression, until the eve of the Second World War—a turning point for nation, city, and Facer Street and its people alike.





Dr. Bette Mildred Stephenson  
1924–2019

The OHS is deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Bette Stephenson on August 19, 2019. Her history reflects an outstanding and remarkable legacy of public service for the people of Ontario. The OHS was honoured in 2015 when Dr. Stephenson visited us and said that she “wanted to come and see the John McKenzie House again, as I came here many times as a young child...it is still beautiful...it is so important your organization saved this, as everything else in the area (Willowdale) has been destroyed.”



On October 17, 2019, OHS Executive Director Rob Levery represented the OHS at the 14th Annual Meeting of the National Council of the National Trust for Canada in Winnipeg. The National Council meeting provides a forum for provincial and territorial historical organizations to learn from their peers about what is happening across Canada. Seen here are all the participants after sharing their successes and challenges and exchanging ideas on effective action strategies. The OHS deeply appreciates all the work and leadership undertaken by Natalie Bull, Executive Director of the National Trust (and her colleagues) for organizing this important meeting.



### Robert J. Burns, Ph.D.

Heritage Resources Consultant

- Historical Research Analysis
- Heritage Impact Statements
- Corporate and Advertising History
- Heritage Product Marketing Research

“*Delivering the Past*”

drjrburns@rogers.com  
www.deliveringthepast.ca

“*The Baptist Parsonage*” (est. 1855)  
46249 Sparta Line, P.O. Box 84  
Sparta, Ontario N0L 2H0  
Tel/Fax: 519-775-2613



The OHS recently attended a special event, Standing Up for the First Nations: Nahnebahwequa at the University of Toronto, Mississauga. Seen here (left to right) are Veronica King-Jamieson, Councillor, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN); Garry Sault, Elder, MCFN; and Donald B. Smith, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Calgary.

Veronica is holding *The First 10,000 Years: Mississauga*, published by the Mississauga Heritage Foundation. Don delivered the keynote address: Nahnebahwequa (1824–1863) 'The Upright Woman', during her formative years at the Old Credit Mission."

A member of the OHS and a subscriber to our scholarly journal, *Ontario History* for over four decades, Dr. Smith’s publications include three biographies (Long Lance, Grey Owl, and Honoré Jaxon), two histories on the 19th century Mississauga First Nations, and a history of Calgary. Don has just finished a very important manuscript, now under consideration by the University of Toronto Press, entitled “*SEEN BUT NOT SEEN*” - *Influential Canadians and the First Nations from the 1840s to today*. The OHS plans to host the book launch at the John McKenzie House upon its publication.

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

December issue copy deadline:  
**Friday, November 15, 2019.**

Reproduction of any content must be acknowledged as such:  
“Reprinted from the *OHS Bulletin*, (issue & date) published by the OHS.” All photo credits and bylines must be retained.

Views expressed by contributors and advertisers are not necessarily those of the OHS. The Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries.

Types of membership in the Society are: Individual \$45, Institution/ Organization \$50, Life \$500.

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.

Inquiries about submissions and advertising: Daniel Dishaw, Editor, *OHS Bulletin*, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2 416-226-9011 ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

**The Ontario Historical Society  
Current Board of Directors:**

**Executive:**  
Michel Beaulieu, President  
Serge Ducharme, First Vice President  
Kris Ives, Second Vice President  
Caroline Di Cocco, Past President  
Mark Plishewsky, Treasurer  
Allan Macdonell, Secretary  
**Directors:** Gabriella Colussi Arthur, Janie Cooper-Wilson, Jan Haskings-Winner, Eric Payseur, Nora Sawyer, Laura Suchan.

OHS Executive Director: Rob Levery  
*Ontario History* Editor: Tory Tronrud

**THANK YOU  
DONORS!**

Robert Halfyard  
Richard Johnston  
Hockley Community Hall & Church  
Thomas McIlwraith  
Ronald Junkin  
Frederick Turp  
Kenneth Armson  
Fred Schaeffer  
E.J.B. Anderson  
Thorold Tronrud  
John E. Henderson  
Peter Murphy  
Helen & Aarne Juhola  
Steven & Diane Clendenan  
Martin Rainbow  
H.N.R. Jackman

**WELCOME NEW  
MEMBERS!**

*Since August 2019*  
Norman T. Bragg  
Anouchka Freybe  
Kim Kerr  
Erin Mander  
David McLean  
Sarah Murdoch  
Alastair (Sandy) Robertson  
Jesse Smiley  
Karen Spearing  
Paula Whitlow  
Maggie Wilson  
The Junkin Society  
Canadian Slovenian Historical Society  
Brant Railway Heritage Society  
University of Toronto  
The Thorold Museum (2019)  
Hamilton Police Historical Society and Museum