

OHS BULLETIN

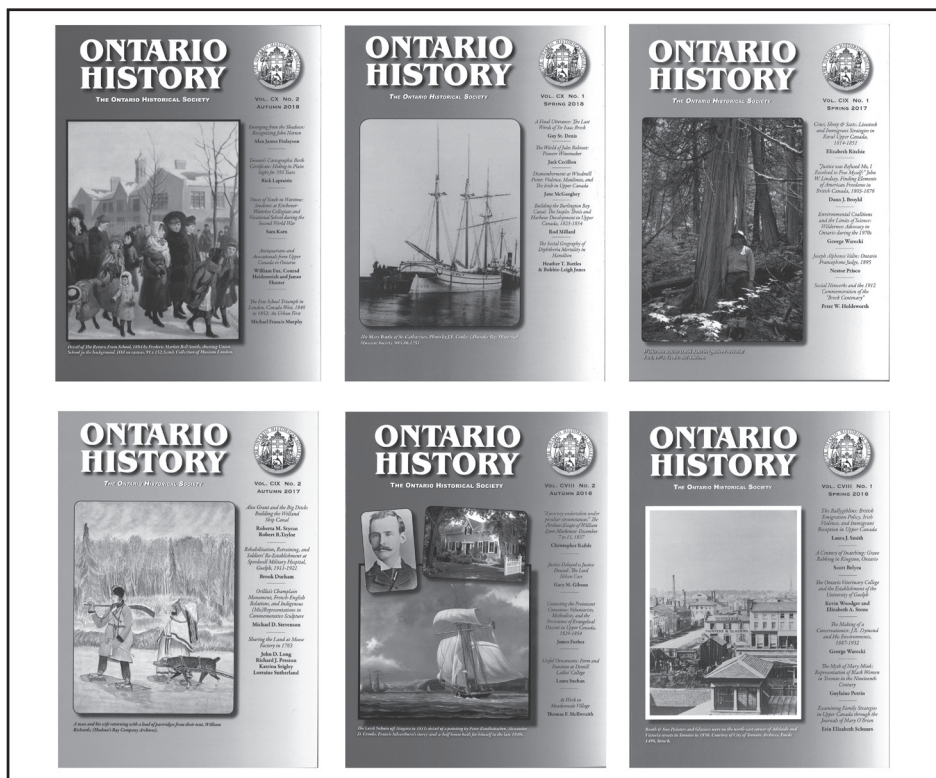
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 213

MARCH 2020

ONTARIO HISTORY: EARLY & RECENT ISSUES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

OHS AGM SET FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 20: KOREAN CANADIAN CULTURAL ASSOC.



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

The back issues of *Papers and Records* from 1899 through 1915 are now up on the OHS website for all to enjoy. These 13 issues, which have entered the public domain, contain over 2,000 pages of rare documentary sources for the history of the province. Please visit: ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/back-issues/.

In addition, the OHS has taken advantage of grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Laidlaw Foundation, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and generous donations from members of the Society, to make issues of *Ontario History* from Spring 2005 onwards available online. Please visit not-for-profit digital scholarly publisher Érudit to view 27 issues available open access (excepting the most recent 12 months, which are under Érudit institutional subscription): erudit.org/en/journals/onhistory/.

OHS staff are hard at work preparing a new highly-anticipated special member benefit. In the coming months, the valuable archive of 236 *Ontario History* back issues from 1916 to Spring 2005 will be made available online for research and private study for individual and lifetime members of the Society. Not a member? Please considering joining today to take advantage of access to the single largest collection of articles about the history of the province.

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The Korean Canadian Cultural Association is located at 1133 Leslie St. in North York, ON.

JOIN US SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1:00 PM–4:30 PM FOR OUR 132nd AGM AND HONOURS & AWARDS CEREMONY IN THE KOREAN CANADIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, AT 1133 LESLIE ST., NORTH YORK, ON. CANADA M3C 2J6.

12:45–1:00 PM — ARRIVE

1:00 PM — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1:45 PM — REFRESHMENT BREAK

2:00 PM — KEYNOTE ADDRESS: DR. TIM COOK

2:45 PM — OHS HONOURS & AWARDS CEREMONY

4:30 PM — PROGRAM CONCLUDES

THIS YEAR'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY: DR. TIM COOK, CANADIAN HISTORIAN & AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR

"THE RISE, FALL, AND RISE AGAIN OF CANADIAN PUBLIC HISTORY"

PLEASE RSVP TO OHS@ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY.CA
OR 416-226-9011 BY FRIDAY, MAY 29.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Michel Beaulieu, President
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Hello. Bonjour. Boozhoo.

"THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY herewith presents to its members the first volume of what it is hoped will be a long list of valuable records and papers." With these words, the Society launched its *Papers and Records* in 1899, today *Ontario History*. In addition to a copy of our Act of Incorporation, that first issue contained a number of papers and records intended to "show in a general way the scope of what our Society has in view by way of publication." It was with fascination that, amongst other contributions in that first volume, I read the registers of Rev. John Langhorn and Rev. Robert McDowall, poured over a genealogical discussion of the descendants of Joseph Brant, and perused the Cameron Rolls of 1816.

Why, you may be thinking, am I reading materials that have been discussed and debated by members and the wider historical community ever the since they first appeared? A lot of us set lofty goals at the beginning of each year. My resolution for 2020 is to read every issue of our journal to better understand how the writing of our province's history has evolved and, perhaps most importantly, for the sheer pleasure of getting to know our collective past.

Am I biting off more than I can chew? The Association of Psychology Newfoundland and Labrador would argue that, yes, probably. In a recent study, they found that 80 percent of people will fail in their resolutions within the first six weeks as they are too lofty (setting out to read over 2,600 articles and book reviews probably qualifies). They suggest that a good way to meet your goals is to share them. So, that is what I am doing. What better way to make sure I accomplish my resolution than to let our affiliates and members know!

It is also an opportunity to challenge all of you to join me and immerse yourself in over a century of our province's history during the next 12 months. Over the past six years, Society staff have been working hard with your Board of Directors to make *Papers and Records/Ontario History* more accessible. As you will read elsewhere in this Bulletin, I am happy to report that all of the back issues of from 1899 to 1915 are now publicly accessible on the Society's website!

In the coming months, issues from 1916 to the spring 2005 issue will also be made available to individual and lifetime members of the Society. Issues published since the Spring 2005 issue are accessible immediately through the Érudit platform, directly or through links from the Society's website. All of this has been made possible through grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Laidlaw Foundation, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and generous donations from members of the Society.



Photo - Courtesy of Lawrence Kerr Media

The OHS was pleased to celebrate another successful Black History Month in February. The Society is proud to say that our members held fantastic programs and events all across the province, which OHS Staff and affiliates were honoured to attend. On Sunday, February 16th, the OHS participated in a Black History Month event held at the Heritage Community Church in Collingwood. Sponsored by the Sheffield Park Black History & Cultural Museum (SPBH&CM), this well attended event featured a special presentation by The Honourable Dr. Jean Augustine. Seen here (left to right) are: Sylvia and Carolyn Wilson, Directors and Co-owners, SPBH&CM; Nathan Segal, Owen Sound Emancipation Festival; The Honourable Dr. Jean Augustine and Rob Leverty, OHS.

Keeping with the theme of digital access, the Society's website also now features a new Ebook Store where we are offering selected titles for digital download as PDFs. OHS members receive a 30% discount. Check it out at ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/store/.

The Society is also working on making an elibrary that will be accessible through the website exclusively for OHS members. Once completed, it will feature a wide selection of the Society's publications for individual use such as Annual Reports, cookbooks, and various publications on museums, crafts, and industries that have contributed to shaping the character of our province.

Of course, in my view, there is no substitute for sitting down and reading a physical book or journal. As members, you have access to the Reference Library located on the second floor of the old coach house at John McKenzie House. The library holds over 5,500 titles covering all aspects and regions of our province's history. Give the staff a call, arrange for a visit, and then sit back, relax, immerse yourself, and learn more about preserving, promoting, and protecting our shared history!

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
rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

In the 2019 summer edition of the *OHS Bulletin*, I first reported on the serious impact of property taxes levied against historical organizations incorporated by OHS. At risk is the sustainability of current and future affiliated societies that own or lease heritage properties across Ontario. I am devoting this column to our most recent action on this matter.

The following is a letter written to The Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance, outlining the Ontario Historical Society's request that the Government of Ontario include in its 2020 Budget that "not-for-profit organizations incorporated through affiliation with The Ontario Historical Society under its Special Act, 1899, be exempt from property taxes, and that exemption remain as long as those members continue in Good Standing with The Ontario Historical Society."

Dear Minister Phillips,

On January 23, 2020, I gave an oral presentation in Kitchener-Waterloo to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs on behalf of the Ontario Historical Society (OHS), regarding the 2020 Pre-Budget Consultations. This is our written submission.

The OHS was founded in 1888 by eight local historical societies, and is a provincial non-government, not-for-profit corporation and registered charity with a mandate to preserve and promote Ontario's history.

Since 1888, the OHS has received honorary patronage from all Lieutenant Governors of Ontario. In 1899, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario granted the OHS the unique legal authority, with related responsibilities, to incorporate historical organizations in the Province of Ontario through affiliation with the OHS (see attached OHS Act, 1899, Sections 10 & 12).

The OHS is the only non-government, not-for-profit corporation in North America with the legal authority to incorporate historical organizations.

The New Financial Challenge

Since municipal amalgamation in Ontario in the late 1990s and the financial crisis of 2008, all levels of government (including government agencies such as Conservation Authorities), as well as the private sector and religious institutions, have divested themselves of Ontario and Canada's unique and valuable heritage assets, off-loading them onto the not-for-profit sector.

In response to this crisis, the OHS has been invited by our fellow citizens in communities across the province to establish and incorporate an unprecedented number of volunteer not-for-profit organizations to assume the stewardship and financial responsibility of Ontario's heritage properties. These invaluable national and provincial heritage properties include lighthouses, museums, archives, train stations, churches, cemeteries, grain elevators, historic community halls, and mills (see attached OHS list of 36 incorporated organizations since 2015).

These new volunteer not-for-profit corporations have taken on, many in perpetuity, enormous financial responsibilities for protecting heritage properties including insurance (e.g. directors & officers, general liability, and property & contents insurance policies), annual maintenance and repairs, and long-term capital expenditures for restoration.

Historical organizations that have assumed ownership or long-term lease agreements in order to restore and safeguard our heritage properties for the public benefit are suddenly being levied and burdened with unsustainable property taxes.

Property tax policy in Ontario has not reflected this new reality of volunteer not-for-profits rapidly accepting the main role and financial responsibility for protecting and promoting these historical assets that are vital for community health, economic development, and tourism in a knowledge-based economy (see attachment for seven Supporting Letters). *Please see tinyurl.com/rmxn2r9.*

As economic developers, the Government of Ontario and OHS cannot afford to ignore the significant financial potential that comes from Ontario's cultural and built heritage. Since the 2008 financial crisis, where many saw only liability, the OHS and its grassroots membership saw opportunity and therefore used our unique authority to legally establish local volunteer control of Ontario's priceless heritage assets. This has made the OHS Act, 1899, more relevant today than it has ever been.

We know through experience that unless not-for-profits incorporated by OHS assume stewardship and defend the public interest, Ontario's heritage legacies will be lost forever.

We believe that the Government of Ontario has an important role to play in creating a financial incentive to help our members realize their economic

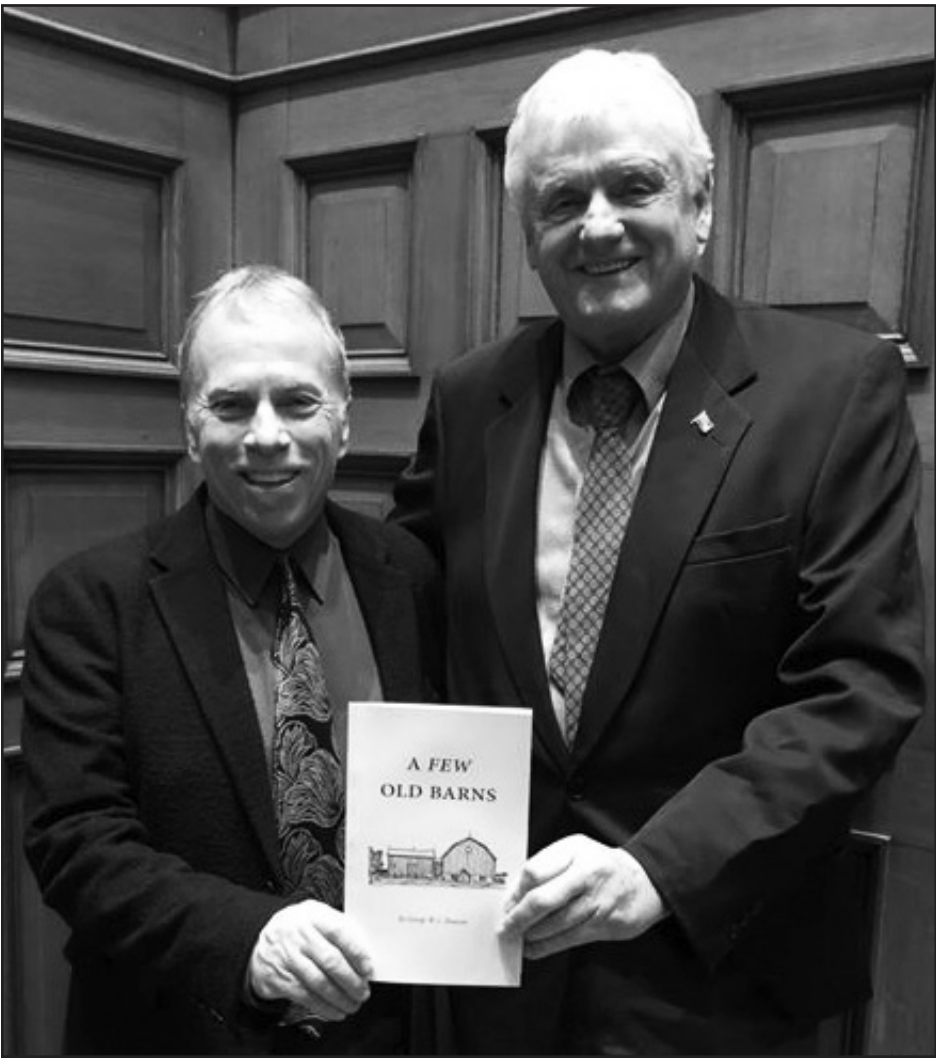


Photo - Courtesy of Mike Lofquist

OHS has proudly published the revised 2019 edition of *A Few Old Barns*. Seen here at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario is Rob Leverty promoting the new edition with Toby Barrett, MPP (Haldimand-Norfolk) and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Written and illustrated by George W. J. Duncan, *A Few Old Barns* addresses a significant provincial issue: our rapidly vanishing agricultural history and architectural heritage.

and community goals. That economic incentive is a property tax policy that reflects the new and rapidly growing reality that stewardship of our heritage assets has shifted dramatically to our volunteer, community-based historical organizations.

Exempting community not-for-profit historical organizations from property taxes will ensure that precious dollars raised by volunteers go directly to maintenance and future capital expenditures, to hiring summer students, and to public education events such as Doors Open Ontario. Property tax exemption will help ensure that our province's unique heritage assets be maintained, restored, and re-adapted in ways that build Ontario's economy through tourism, local trades employment, skills training, and community betterment.

The Next Recession

Our member organizations are still dealing with the economic fallout from the 2008 financial crisis. Prudent economic planning requires preparing for the next recession and the subsequent sudden off-loading of more of our heritage assets onto the not-for-profit sector. We know that our fellow citizens will now be severely deterred from establishing not-for-profits knowing that as volunteer organizations they will also now be burdened with the worry and expense of property taxes.

Therefore, the OHS respectfully requests that the Government of Ontario include in its 2020 Budget that "not-for-profit organizations incorporated through affiliation with The Ontario Historical Society be exempt from property taxes, and that exemption remain as long as those members continue in Good Standing with The Ontario Historical Society."

Yours sincerely,
Rob Leverty
Executive Director
The Ontario Historical Society



Robert J. Burns, Ph.D.
Heritage Resources Consultant

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

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THE RED ROCK MILL WHISTLE A RESTORATION SUCCESS STORY

Brian Davis, President, Red Rock Historical Society
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The idea was first discussed in 2012 during the planning stages of the Red Rock Marina Interpretive Centre. Then, five years later when our Archives Manager Marilyn Young revisited the idea with former resident Fran Halter during a visit here in August 2017. That September, the Red Rock Historical Society (RRHS) decided to begin investigating the possibility of getting the whistle restored to its original condition and put on display. I approached Red Rock Mayor Gary Nelson with the restoration proposal, which was met with great interest and support. While these discussions were taking place, the pulp and paper mill buildings were being demolished, and the whereabouts and condition of the whistle were still unknown. It was soon discovered that local resident, Paddy McGuire had retrieved it. The whistle was then stored at the Public Works garage before restoration and fabrication could begin.

Photo – Courtesy of Brian Davis



Lake Sulphite Construction, 1937

Things moved very slowly in early 2018, as there was no funding in place for the restoration. Fortunately, in July 2018, Fran Halter and her siblings Alan and Nancy decided to get involved. It was their decision to make the restoration a memorial project, dedicated to their parents Jack and Ethel Halter. They offered to fund the refinishing of the whistle and the fabrication of a memorial plaque. Their generosity ensured that this exciting project could be completed.

In early October 2018, the whistle was delivered to Dale Hupe of Hupe Manufacturing in Kaministiquia near Thunder Bay. According to Dale, there were as many as 12 coats of paint that had to be removed. His apprentice had a eureka moment while carefully removing the bottom layer of paint when he declared that it was “made of gold”! Dale knew then that the paint removal process had to be done with great care and attention so as not to mark the original brass. He also decided that he would not do any further sanding or removal of blemishes but would

Photo – Courtesy of Brian Davis



The dedication ceremony took place on July 1, 2019, where the fully restored steam whistle was unveiled in its new permanent location at the Red Rock Marina Interpretive Centre. Left to Right are: Mayor Gary Nelson, Dale Hupe, Fran Halter, Community Economic Officer Ashley Davis, Alan Halter, and Brian Davis.

leave the whistle in its original state and then use his special anodized powder coating process to protect the metal. What you see is the beautiful result of his many hours of personal commitment to this project. The first stage of paint removal took over 55 hours to complete, and that’s when he said they stopped counting. The memorial plaque (and its base) were also made by Dale. We also owe a huge thank you to Al Groves of the Interpretive Centre staff for the doing such an incredible job constructing and securing the base, as well as mounting the whistle and plaque in their new home.

It was while the Brompton Pulp and Paper Company was still running the mill that the whistle was installed—most likely in 1943 or 1944. The whistle, as many remember, sounded at 8 AM, 12 PM, 1 PM, 5 PM,



Photo - Courtesy of Brian Davis

The whistle before restoration began.

and finally at 9 PM. The whistle was also used to alert mill workers and townspeople of fires, whether they were at the the mill or in town. The whistle would indicate the need to evacuate in any case of emergency. The iconic sound of the mill whistle, as it echoed off the nearby cliffs, is a distant memory. The original sound of the whistle is impossible to replicate exactly without very high-pressure steam, but we have come very close using a digital sound.

We know that the whistle was made by the James Morrison Brass Mfg. Co. in Toronto, and there are numbers cast on the top that may help us track down the exact date of production.

The Mill Whistle Restoration Memorial Project would not have been possible without the cooperation, dedication, and generosity of the following people (as well as those already mentioned in this article):

- Randall Anderson of Evolution AV, who provided and installed the sound reproduction equipment.
- Red Rock Public Works and Interpretive Centre staff.
- Red Rock Legion Branch #226, who made a donation to the RRHS towards the sound equipment.
- Township of Red Rock, Mayor Nelson and Council, who partnered with the RRHS to fund the sound equipment and provided many hours of in-kind service.
- Red Rock Historical Society, for their commitment to preserving the history of the Town for future generations to enjoy.



Photo – Courtesy of Brian Davis

A plaque was made to honour Jack and Ethel Halter at the Red Rock Marina Interpretive Centre .

MUSEUM MILESTONES

Dr. John Carter
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The lead story in this issue comes from the most southerly heritage village and exhibit gallery museum in Ontario, the Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village (CTMHV). When I worked as curator at the John R. Park Homestead (Ontario's most southerly living history site), many would ask if it was near London. I always chuckled at this, as I knew it was at least another hour and a half by car. For those who are geographically challenged, have a look at an Ontario map. You will see that the part of the province in which both sites are located, is actually south of Detroit. When the weather improves, make a spring trip to Essex County. There are all sorts of museums and historic sites to visit in that region, such as the CTMHV, the Park House, the Amherstburg Freedom Museum, Fort Malden National Historic Site, the John R. Park Homestead, the Kingsville Military Museum, and the Pelee Island Heritage Centre. On this journey, you should also take advantage of the numerous wineries and roadside fruit stands that this area is famous for. A trip is certainly worth the time and effort.

Many long-time museum workers have either retired or departed from positions at Ontario museums across the province. Belated notice of these changes include: Carl MacDonald at the Beachville Museum; Ian Bowering at the Cornwall Museum; Jane Foster at the Lennox and Addington Museum; Ian Kerr-Wilson at Hamilton Museums; and Bob Tremain, who spent 39 years in various positions for Lambton County Museums. These long-time colleagues will be missed.

More recent retirements include: Richard Feltoe at the Redpath Sugar Museum (see a wonderful feature article about Richard in the December 29 issue of the *Toronto Star*); Rod Sawyer, who spent 29 years at the Ministry of Culture, cheerfully dealing with the needs of library clients; and Dr. Tory Tronrud, at the Thunder Bay Museum. Good news for OHS members: Tory will continue to do his superlative editing of *Ontario History*. Congratulations to all who have retired or moved on to other ventures and opportunities.

I am sad to announce the passing of Dr. George F. Macdonald on January 22, 2020. He was a visionary Canadian museologist, archaeologist, and anthropologist, and held senior positions at the Canadian Museum of Civilization (now the Canadian Museum of History) in Hull, Quebec, the Victoria Museum in Melbourne, Australia, the Burke Museum in Seattle, and the Bill Reid Centre in Vancouver. He made an exceptional contribution to the museum business, and sincere condolences are sent to his family.

CANADIAN TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM: FROM CAR CLUB TO COMMUNITY HUB

Lisa Wacheski, Curator & Manager of Education,
Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village
curator@ctmhv.com

History and technology are what you will find when you come across a unique property located in the heart of Essex County. Just waiting to be discovered is the Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village, one of the most interesting tourist attractions in Canada South, located just minutes from the U.S. border.

The Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village (CTMHV) has evolved from a private Car Collector Club, established in downtown Windsor, Ontario in 1954, to a community hub and education facility. In its beginnings, the club, known as the Historic Vehicle Society of Ontario, found its membership constantly expanding; by the 1970s, the need to move to a larger property became a priority.

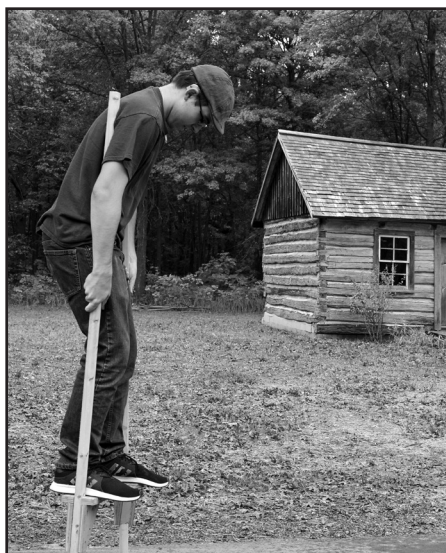
Currently sitting on a 100-acre property, the 25,000 square foot museum showcases different modes of transportation, including an 1893 internal combustion, horse-less carriage. You will see classics, hot rods, cabriolets, open touring models, early brass era autos, roadsters, convertibles, hard tops, pickup trucks, tractors, wagons, motorcycles, and bicycles, including penny farthings. You will see original and fully restored hallmark vehicles from the 19th and 20th centuries, including horse-drawn wagons and a 1992 Dodge Viper. Henry Ford, the Wright Brothers, Malcolm Bricklin, and the Dodge Brothers are among the ingenious contributors to the vast collection of automotive history on display. Guided tours provide a fascinating insights, offering a peek through decades of the motor industry.

The museum also features homage displays featuring bygone local hot spots such as the Checker Flag Raceway, the famous Hi Ho Drive In diner, and the Windsor Motorcycles store.

There is even an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Museum, possibly the only one of its kind in Canada. Featuring a rotating collection of over ten historic ambulances, the EMS museum includes sirens, lights, uniforms, switchboards, and hundreds of medical artifacts. There is even a hands-on, children's corner.



Children from a summer day camp program at the Heritage Village are making old-fashioned, hand-churned ice cream and playing with pioneer toys.



Connor Summerlin trying out the stilts near the 1835 Boudreau Cabin. Connor is one of over 50 volunteers who donate roughly 10K volunteer hours every year.

The property includes a quaint historic village surrounded by natural wooded areas, featuring over 20 authentic pioneer buildings, which have all been relocated from various towns throughout Essex County and one 1835 log cabin that was moved from Raleigh Township in Kent County. A historic interpreter will take you on a journey back in time as you visit the 1840 General Store, 1907 Edwardian School House, 1892 Doctor's Office, 1874 Town Hall, 1954 Train Station, several 1800s log cabins, and so much more. In fact, the previous homes of two notable historic figures are also found in the village. The home that naturalist Jack Miner built for his own immediate family sits high in its glory at the end of the tour route, filled with family artifacts and historic memories. Former Minister of Agriculture, under the Pierre Trudeau government, Eugene Whelan's family home (a log cabin built in 1843), which he lived in until the age of 35, is also located in Heritage Village. Interestingly, the home arrived hidden by white aluminum siding.

New to the village are a Victor phonograph and record store exhibit, currently housed in the 1874 Town Hall, a controversial exhibit about a lady named Esther Banks, who may or may not have been the daughter of General Isaac Brock, and a vintage Print Shop, which is currently being developed. The museum hopes to add a pioneer blacksmith shop in the future. Fundraising has begun to restore the exterior of the 1885 Bethel United Church now that the roof has been replaced. It is the hope of the executive that funding will be raised to cover the courtyard of the transportation museum in order to maximize space and add a fifth salon to house the excess of vehicles currently in storage.

Thousands of volunteer hours put in by local history, automotive, and education buffs ensure that history can be preserved for the education and interpretation of present and future generations. Volunteers continue to contribute over 10,000 hours of their time annually. Every year, over 40,000 visitors from all over the world visit the museum, and 10,000 school children take part in educational programs that enhance their classroom learning.

In addition to the museum and village, the CTMHV hosts many fundraising shows and events throughout the year that are open to the public. These events include car shows, flea markets, military and sports shows, and an annual murder mystery.

As a registered charity and not-for-profit organization, dedicated volunteers, members, and staff continuously support the organization's development and growth as a valued community hub. The Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village welcomes everyone and treats all visitors like family. Once you visit, you will always want to come back.



An inside look at Salon C of the Canadian Transportation Museum. It shows the Hi Ho Drive In display, the CKLW Radio display, and some incredible classic cars, including a 1959 Cadillac.

BARRY PENHALE'S ONTARIO

WATERLOO COUNTY'S MODEST VISIONARY

Barry Penhale

barry@naturalheritagebooks.com

When speaking to the audience gathered at Tyndal University for the annual OHS Honours & Awards ceremony, I reiterated what has long been known to many. Namely that I believe in heroes. Especially those men and women, often modest in nature, who have during their time contributed enormously to the betterment of Ontario and Canada. Historically speaking, I have, over many decades, assembled my own personal list of heroes and worthy, still largely unrecognized individual, made it on the list over 30 years ago when a broadcast project found me doing research in the invaluable Grace Schmidt Room in the Kitchener Public Library. Most unexpectedly and indeed fortuitously, I came across what turned out to be an exciting find in the form of old newspaper articles, which had long been cached away in a local history folder. Fortunately, some dedicated librarian with an appreciation of the accomplishments of an exceptional Waterloo native son, earned my own thanks that day by introducing me to D.B. (Daniel) Detweiler.

Photo – Penhale Collection, source Ontario Hydro Archives.



Taken in 1907, this photo shows a Toronto Niagara Power Company crew erecting poles for a 12,000-volt line.

The Detweiler name is well known in Waterloo County, beginning with Jacob Detweiler Sr., the head of a pioneering family that put the imposing Allegheny Mountains behind them when they set out on the long trek from Pennsylvania to Canada in 1822, ultimately settling near Blair, Ontario. In 1845, Jacob's son, also Jacob, cleared the site for a one-room log cabin built of squared logs. Here he raised a family and farmed almost 200 acres. This historic building was to remain in Detweiler hands until 1886. Fortunately, its historical significance was recognized and though long-neglected and vacant, the Detweiler cabin was the object of countless hours of restoration work in the early 1970s under the supervision of Mel Moffatt and a crew of workmen at Doon Pioneer Village. Many thanks are due for the encouragement and support from caring neighbours, local heritage preservationists, and Detweiler descendants. The Caryndale Congregation of the Swedenborgian Church made the historic log house available to the Ontario Pioneer Community Foundation, with the official opening of the restored Detweiler house taking place at Doon Pioneer Village on June 19, 1975.

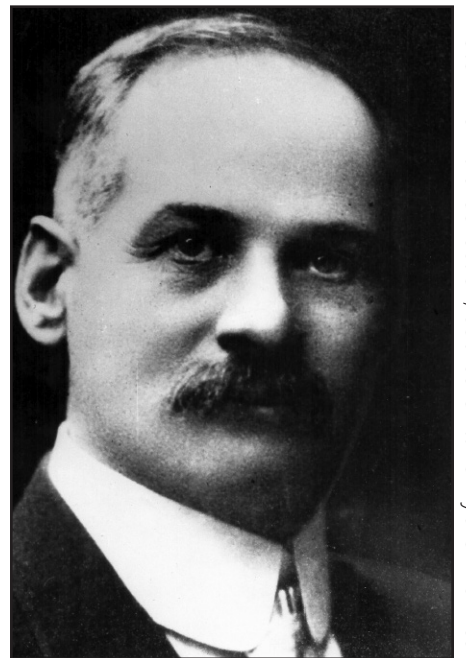
Learning about D.B. Detweiler was at times a bit of detective work offset by those occasions when plain good luck reared its welcome head. An important early discovery occurred when my wife Jane and I came across a cairn at an intersection in Roseville, honouring that community's noted son. The well-worn cairn dedicated at his birthplace on October 24, 1935, bears the inscription, "The Committee of One" and Detweiler's dates of birth and death. Intrigued to know more, I was directed to the close-at-hand adjoining farm properties of Bessie and George Hope. As it turned out, many visits would follow, as we quickly developed a special relationship with the delightful brother and sister. There were hardly any local families (Detweilers included) that Bessie and George had not known personally. From them we learned how the famous Canadian painter, Homer Watson (a Detweiler family friend) had joined with others on a particularly raw day to attend the memorial cairn dedication at Roseville. Watson's own passing not long afterward, we were informed, was generally attributed to the effects from his having bravely endured the penetrating chill of that late autumn day in 1935.

Bessie Hope's deteriorating home became ever so familiar to us as a result of countless memorable visits, but it was not until George's passing that she invited me to enter her late brother's farmhouse, to peruse some of his fascinating collection of books, letters, and papers and take whatever was of interest to me. By that time, Bessie had come to appreciate my Detweiler interests and knew that her brother and I had developed a special bond. For the record, I chose not to plunder what proved to be a sizeable depository representing the interests of one individual's long and most likely lonely lifetime. Only a few books, letters, and newspaper clippings left the old farmhouse in my possession—largely materials that would enhance my increasing interest in Detweiler and newfound interest in botanist John Goldie and artist Homer Watson. For sentimental reasons, a tweed peak cap that George had often worn was added to my new treasures.

When Bessie passed on the contents of her home and that of George's went up for auction in Paris, Ontario, in what auctioneers described as "one of the most anticipated sales of the decade." Little-known paintings by Homer Watson and at least one painting by a member of the Group of Seven, along with antique household effects and vintage farm equipment, went on sale, vigorously bid on by dealers, collectors, and the curious. A lot of Waterloo County history changed hands that day.

As a step-on-historian occasionally exploring Ontario through bus trips, I have often made a point of sharing my appreciation for certain historical figures. Being one of my favourite personalities, Daniel Detweiler is often the object of my commentaries. The son of Reverend Enoch Detweiler and Abigail Bechtel, Pennsylvania Dutch Mennonites, Daniel entered this world on April 10, 1860. As a young man, he took his leave of Roseville to work as a button salesman in Berlin (today's Kitchener) and, following other positions, he ultimately became president of Algoma Power Company. Any review of Detweiler's life makes it abundantly clear that he was bright, modest, hardworking, and greatly concerned for his fellow citizenry. He was also one of Ontario's true visionaries in his time. Perhaps more than any other individual, and, with due respect to Adam Beck of Baden and Elias Snider of St. Jacob's (both of whom had political aspirations and priorities), D.B. Detweiler in my view is the real "Father of Ontario hydro." His foresight and constant desire to make life better for all Ontario residents found him ahead of others in paving the way for the benefits he attached to early hydro electricity. We will never know the mileage racked up by Detweiler, as he cycled vast tracts of largely rural Ontario to inform people—especially farm families—that the end of drudgery lay close at hand with the impending arrival of hydro. Such Herculean efforts and commitment resulted in his becoming fondly and widely known as "The Committee of One." In time both Beck and Snider were to serve as chairs of Ontario Power Commission—the Hydro One we know today. Detweiler had no such aspirations and, besides, he was already on to other ways to serve his fellow Ontarians as an early proponent of the development of the St. Lawrence Waterway. That is its own separate chapter—perhaps for another time.

During his day, D.B. Detweiler was a force to be reckoned with—albeit a humble one. He was on hand in 1910 to witness the lights being turned on in Berlin—ahead of all other communities—an event made possible by lines strung from Niagara Falls. And also made possible through the vision and selfless activities of the quiet "get-on-with-it" Daniel Detweiler. He died in his birth month on April 18, 1919, and rests at First Mennonite Cemetery in Kitchener.



Daniel B. Detweiler (1860–1919).



Affectionally known as "Adam Beck's travelling circus", this early truck, laden with assorted labour-saving devices, crisscrossed southern Ontario selling the idea of subscribing to hydro. Detweiler always maintained that "it

EDITOR'S CORRECTION: In the October edition of this publication, two photo credits were mistakenly omitted by the editor: Ben Wolfe, for the photo of Bruce Hodgins, and James Cullingham for the photo of Bruce and Carol Hodgins. Thank you both for granting the OHS permission to print your photographs!

Photo – Penhale Collection, source Ontario Hydro Archives

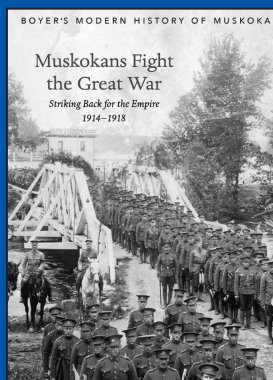
Photo – B.P. Collection, Source Ontario Hydro Archives.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio
ccomac5702@rogers.com

A belated but heartfelt Happy New Year to all OHS members and *Bulletin* readers! As we end the first month of the first year of a new decade, we might wonder whether our notorious winter has passed us by. That's hardly likely. But what we lack for snow, at least to date, we can make up in a lively roster of recent local history publications. At this point, I would like to issue an invitation to OHS members and authors: please send in your books so I can invite *Bulletin* readers to explore and enjoy them. After years of working mightily to make my way through great heaps of wonderful histories, I suddenly find myself getting to the bottom of the pile. If possible, mail the books directly to me so I can review them for a subsequent *Bulletin* without having to wait for them to be re-shipped, and also (not insignificantly) to spare OHS the expense of re-shipping. And I would be happy to return them to contributors to spare you the expense of passing them on. Just indicate that you would like this and where to send the book. Please note that I am happy to receive electronic copies at my email address, noted above.

My address is:
Dr. Cynthia Comacchio
Department of History
Dr. Alvin Woods Bldg, Wilfrid Laurier University
75 University Ave. W.
Waterloo, ON N2L 3C5

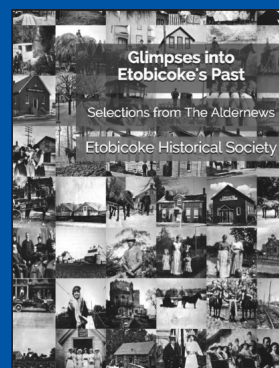


Muskokans Fight the Great War: Striking Back for the Empire, 1914-1918

J. PATRICK BOYER

Bracebridge: Muskoka Books, 2019.
Paperback: 335 pp.
muskokabooks.ca

Patrick Boyer, a devoted Muskokan and a seasoned local historian, has published widely on various aspects of the region's past. In this, the inaugural book in his proposed series ("Boyer's Modern History of Muskoka"), he sets himself a high standard to follow. His painstaking research in the local archives and newspaper collections with which he is thoroughly familiar is filled out with reference to other local histories and an impressive catalogue of publications, both scholarly and popular, as demonstrated in an extensive bibliography and resource list. He has drawn judiciously from the photographic record. He intersperses these photographs throughout the text in a manner that does not simply illustrate, but also permits their analysis as documentary evidence, an approach that encourages close reading. The narrative itself is clear and compelling. Like so many other regions populated largely by farmers and resource workers in small towns, Muskoka in 1914 was already on the verge of socioeconomic transformation with the increasing pace of industrialization and urbanization across Ontario. As the author points out in his introduction, the region's geographic position just north of the province's, and increasingly the nation's, urban-industrial heartland gave it a unique role: Muskoka served as "a hinge between hinterland beliefs and customs and the metropolitan values and expectations of people in southern Ontario and northern tier American states" (xvii). Moreover, its location and landscape made it a widely known resort area that drew international tourists and summer residents of all ranks. As such, his view of Muskoka as "an especially fascinating case study" for examining the effects and impacts of a world-historic event is strongly supported. The opening chapter immediately demonstrates this: we find Prime Minister Robert Borden on holiday, relaxing, enjoying the scenery and the fine July weather, only to be called abruptly back to Ottawa as European affairs became increasingly ominous. This buoyant chronicle of a region's war is neatly laid out in thematic chapters that examine the major components of the local response and how "the war at home" played out. Boyer considers recruitment, war production, fund-raising campaigns—especially the participation of women and children—how the region raised its own 122nd Battalion, the local troop's experiences with the Canadian Expeditionary Force at the front, larger political concerns in Canada, including the 1917 Conscription Crisis, and demobilization. Because there is scant historical writing on their local details, his chapters on the wholehearted response by Indigenous communities, both to fighting and home front support, and on espionage and "enemy alien" anxieties, are especially welcome. All in all, this is a first-rate contribution to the vital and growing field of local home front studies.

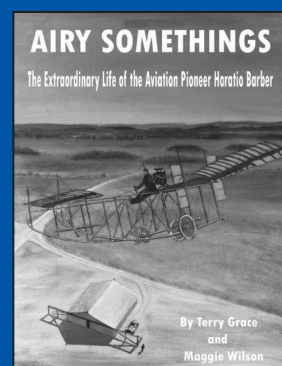


Glimpses into Etobicoke's Past: Selections from The Aldernews

ETOBICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Etobicoke: Etobicoke Historical
Society, 2019. Paperback: 274 pp.
etobicokehistoricalsociety.com

The Etobicoke Historical Society has produced and published a compilation of 92 individually authored "glimpses" that were previously published in its newsletter, *The Aldernews*. This selection of some of its finest stories will interest other Etobicoke history buffs, and also readers who enjoy local histories for the ways in which they "fill in the blanks" in our historical knowledge that larger studies cannot. Micro-histories such as those represented here help us to understand the similarities and differences, changes and continuities, in our shared past as they manifest in the not-so-famous communities in which most Ontarians have always lived their "off the record" lives. The selections cover a wide range of important subjects, themes, events, institutions, and people over an equally wide time span, from Etobicoke's Indigenous beginnings and the arrival of Europeans, through its development as a vibrant urban community, to its late twentieth-century pull into the metropolitan orbit of Toronto. Photographs, private and official, and other visual materials including local advertisements, are included to excellent effect. Brief and highly readable, the 92 essays successfully stand alone as the glimpses into Etobicoke's past that they are intended to be. Together, they make for an intriguing foray into Ontario history.



Airy Somethings: The Extraordinary Life of the Aviation Pioneer Horatio Barber

TERRY GRACE AND MAGGIE WILSON

Independently published, 2019.
Paperback: 242 pp.
amazon.ca

Seeing as Canadians are not usually associated with the limited roster of international "pioneers" in aviation, except for perhaps, Alexander Graham Bell (who is easily surpassed in collective memory by the American Wright Brothers), this introduction to "the extraordinary life" of Horatio Barber is itself extraordinary. In their brief individual introductions, co-authors Grace and Wilson explain how they became interested in their subject. Terry Grace, British-born and currently retired from the Ministry of Defence and residing in Wiltshire, England, first "met" Barber on a guided tour of the Lark Hill Airfields site (near Amesbury), where his exploits were well known and celebrated, at least for the period after 1909. Before that pivotal year in Barber's aviation career, when he first arrived at Lark Hill, he had reputedly amassed a fortune in Canada, possibly in mining. Curious to find out more about Barber's Canadian prelude, Grace made an excursion to Cobalt, where Barber had supposedly made his money. At that point, he was assisted in further "digging" by co-author Maggie Wilson, chair of the Cobalt Historical Society. This book is the culmination of their transatlantic efforts. What they discovered is that the enigmatic Barber was born in 1875 in Thornton Heath, not far from Lark Hill, where he later made his name in aviation. By 1903, he had made his way to New Jersey, where he married; he and his wife lived in the United States, Canada, and Greece, ultimately settling in London. In 1909, he was officially classified as a "civilian experimenter" upon receiving War Office permission to use a piece of land in Lark Hill. The authors make a convincing argument that, notwithstanding scant documentation, Barber's "missing years" between 1904 and 1908, when he was known to be in Canada, coincide with the Cobalt silver mine boom that commenced with the discovery of silver in 1903. Once most of the available land was claimed, many of the prospectors, speculators, investors, entrepreneurs, and con artists moved further north to the Larder Lake gold mining region. Among these was Barber; by 1909, he had become a wealthy self-identified "mining man" and consultant. Tracing Barber's peripatetic life to fill in the pre-1909 gap is testimony to the authors' persistence, and especially to their detective work. Their generously illustrated portrait of a very complicated individual confirms the now-standard historical understanding of the early twentieth-century capitalist class: these were men (all of them) who were indeed "experimenters" in numerous different enterprises, who started with little more than a rudimentary knowledge, a bit of capital, an urge to "try things out", a firm confidence in their ability to succeed above and beyond most other men, and a not-inconsiderable ruthlessness. Barber was not always admirable, despite his status as a "hero" and "pioneer", and Grace and Wilson do not hesitate to show the "unflattering" sides. In the end, however, there is no denying that he fit the mould of the "self-made" man so honoured in those times.

ANNOUNCING NEW OHS E-BOOK STORE

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

For the first time, the OHS is pleased to offer selected titles for digital download as Ebooks (PDF files). The Society's new Ebook Store features 16 books of enduring value published by the OHS between 1946 and 2019.

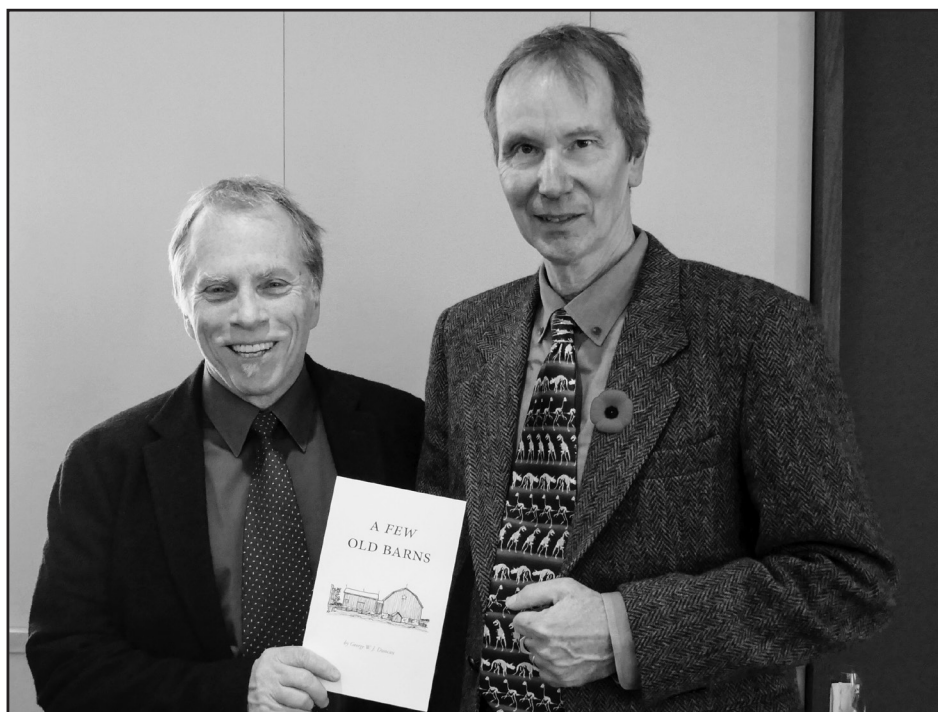
The list of publications represents a rich body of work, of both scholarly and popular interest, chronicling the history of this province. Topics include the history of Ontario, food and drink, built heritage, cemeteries, Indigenous history, and the Rebellion of 1837.

We are pleased to offer OHS members a 30% discount on all titles at checkout, and payment is accepted securely through Visa, Mastercard, and PayPal.

The most recent addition is *A Few Old Barns* by George W.J. Duncan, originally published in 2007. In 2019, the OHS published a new edition of the book, featuring new illustrations by the author and an updated discussion of heritage barn preservation in Ontario.

Many scans of additional OHS publications will be made available in an Elibrary on the OHS website later this year, as a member-only benefit.

For a detailed look at all the publications available for purchase, please visit: ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/store/.



Author George W. J. Duncan (right), an OHS member, is currently serving as Senior Heritage Planner for the City of Markham.

OHS CELEBRATES HONORARY PATRONAGE OF L.G.

Rob Leverty, Executive Director
rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Last November, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, hosted her second Viceregal Patronage Reception at Queen's Park.

Her Honour serves as the Honorary Patron of over 50 unique organizations across Ontario, and this reception again provided an opportunity for all of them to come together for a special celebration of their collective work.



Seen here at the reception presenting her Honour the Lieutenant Governor with a surprise gift on behalf of the patronage organizations are (left to right) Nora Sawyer (Alderville First Nation), OHS Board Director and Chair, OHS Indigenous Affairs Committee; the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; Rob Leverty, OHS Executive Director; and Mark Plishewsky (Oshawa), OHS Treasurer.

Since 1888, the OHS has received honorary patronage from all the Lieutenant Governors of Ontario. Therefore, as the longest continuing recipient of viceregal honorary patronage, the OHS took the lead in partnership with all the patronage groups in organizing a special gift in recognition of Her Honour's exceptional service to the people of Ontario.

To read about the gift and special tribute letter given to the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, please visit: tinyurl.com/st32gdj.

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

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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

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