

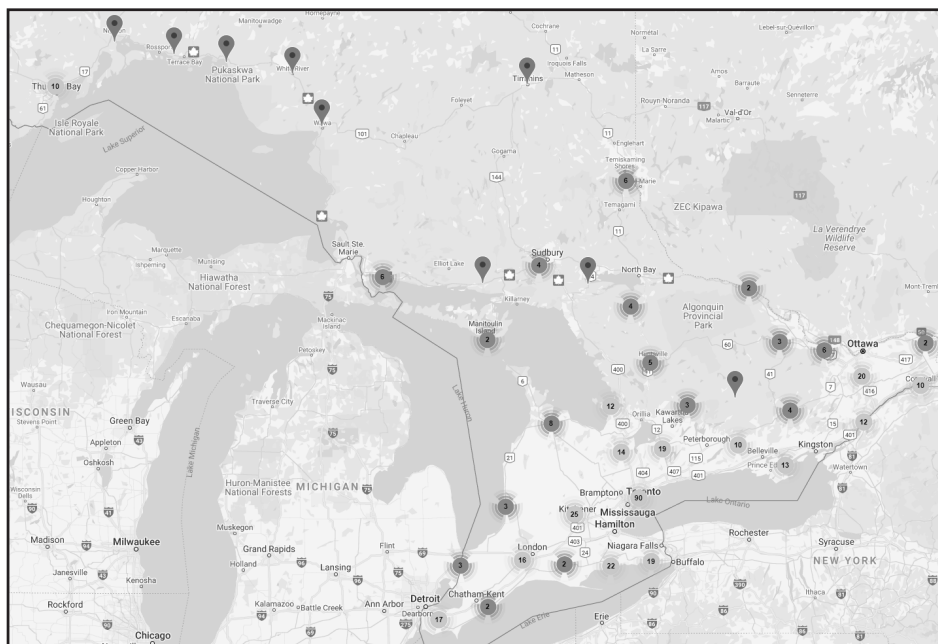
# OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 215

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## OHS LAUNCHES UPDATED ONTARIO HERITAGE DIRECTORY & MAP



**Sarah McCabe**, OHS Project Manager and Librarian  
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The OHS is proud to announce the launch of our updated Ontario Heritage Directory & Map. This 2020 digital initiative and service to our members follows up on our recent launches of the *Ontario History* journal online archive, the Elibrary, and the Ebook store.

The Ontario Heritage Directory & Map shows a list of over 400 of the OHS's current Affiliate Members (incorporated through the OHS) and Institutional Members in Ontario. Our database of member groups includes a wide breadth of heritage organizations from all parts of the province, such as historical societies, historic sites, libraries, archives, museums, cultural centres, municipal heritage committees, cemetery preservation committees, and more.

The Directory & Map is free to use for anyone in Ontario or around the world, and may be explored on desktop computers, tablets, and mobile devices.

The map provides a visual representation of heritage activity across Ontario, helping users find and connect with our Affiliate and Institutional

**'HERITAGE DIRECTORY' CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...**

## IN THIS ISSUE

OHS LAUNCHES UPDATED ONTARIO HERITAGE DIRECTORY	1
OHS HONOURS AND AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED	1
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	2
HONOURS AND AWARDS NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN	2
TRIBUTE TO GABRIELE SCARDELLATO	3
SAVING THE HISTORIC STREET FAMILY BURIAL GROUND	4
ICAP & OHS: CELEBRATING A 10-YEAR PARTNERSHIP	4
MUSEUM MILESTONES	5
HALDIMAND COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES HAS A NEW HOME	5
CRAIGLEITH HERITAGE DEPOT: INTO THE COMMUNITY	6
FROM THE BOOKSHELF	7

## OHS HONOURS & AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

**Daniel Dishaw**, Communications and Outreach Coordinator  
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Due to the pandemic, the OHS was unable to host an in-person awards ceremony to honour our winners. Instead, the citations will be posted on the OHS website, accompanied by acceptance speeches from the winners and links to any digital content corresponding to the award-winning nomination.

The 2019 OHS Award winners boast incredible achievements from across the province. This year's group of winners represented an impressively diverse range of communities and topics. The winners are as follows:

### AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

President's Award: **Friends of Grain Elevators**

Cemetery Preservation Award: **Ed Janiszewski/The Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital Cemetery**

Dorothy Duncan Public History Award: **The Champlain Society Podcast: "Witness to Yesterday/ Témoin d'hier"**

Indigenous History Award: **Lake of the Woods Museum and Partners: Shiibaashka'Igan Honouring the Sacred Jingle Dress**

Cruikshank Gold Medal: **Dr. Thorold Tronrud**

### AWARDS FOR AUTHORS

Fred Landon Award: **Dr. Dieter K. Buse & Dr. Graeme S. Mount**  
*Untold: Northeastern Ontario's Military Past*, volumes 1 and 2

Alison Prentice Award: **Kate Armstrong**  
*The Stone Frigate: The Royal Military College's First Female Cadet Speaks Out*

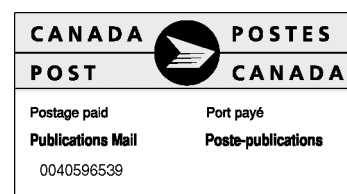
Donald Grant Creighton Award: **Dan Robson**  
*Bower: A Legendary Life*

J.J. Talman Award: **Dr. Stacie Burke**  
*Building Resistance: Children, Tuberculosis, and the Toronto Sanatorium*

Huguenot Society of Canada Award: **Suzanne Methot**  
*Legacy: Trauma, Story, and Indigenous Healing*

Riddell Award: **Dr. Gwen Reimer**  
"British-Canada's Land Purchases, 1783-1788: A Strategic Perspective," *Ontario History*

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# PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Michel Beaulieu, President  
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Hello. Bonjour. Boozhoo.

“Ontario—Does it Exist?” Arthur Lower’s contribution to the 1968 volume of *Ontario History* provocatively asks us to consider whether “Except in the geographical and legal sense, is there an Ontario?” Although ostensibly written in response to W.H. Magee’s contribution to the Society’s publication *Profiles of a Province*, Lower entertainingly shares some thoughts and observations that, arguably, still resonate, daresay persist, even today.

The question has certainly underscored and framed decades of debate and discussion before and after its publication. Since 1967, the Ontario Historical Society has honoured and recognized excellence in research, writing, and heritage preservation/promotion in the province of Ontario. Over the decades, the Society has recognized numerous individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to broaden our understanding of every corner of our province’s history and heritage. As you will read more about in this *Bulletin*, the 2019 Honours & Awards recipients are no exception. Be sure to check out their online acceptance speeches posted on the Society’s YouTube and social media channels.

I am also thrilled to launch the 2020 Honours and Awards Program in this *Bulletin*. Please help us continue this important tradition by nominating excellence in your community, or by sharing the details of our awards program with colleagues, friends, and family. Nominations have moved completely digital this year to avoid any issues with unpredictable

mailing timelines, and to be in compliance with all possible COVID-19 precautions. You can submit a nomination by visiting our website at <https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/honours-awards/>. Thank you for supporting our Honours & Awards program and helping us recognize our heritage champions from across Ontario.

Staff have continued to add past Society publications to the Ebook store over the past couple of months (including the *Profiles of a Province* collection mentioned above). I am pleased to announce that, in the coming weeks, a new Society publication will also be available in print and online, via the Society’s Ebook store—a second edition of the very popular 2004 book, *Thoreau MacDonald’s Sketches of Rural Ontario*, will be available just in time for the holiday season.

I was honoured to write the foreword to this expanded edition, written by George W.J. Duncan. The book contains roughly twice as many works by revered Canadian artist Thoreau MacDonald, and features several new sections on how MacDonald’s sketches help us to appreciate the beauty of both life and landscape across rural Ontario. The son of J. E. H. MacDonald, a member of the Group of Seven, Thoreau carved out his own space in the annals of Canadian art history. His work can be found on display at the Art Gallery of Ontario, the National Gallery of Canada, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, and many other collections. Many thanks are owed to Thoreau’s great-niece, Susan MacDonald, who not only gave permission for the use of these new sketches, but has worked closely with the author and the OHS in the production of this book.

At the time of writing, the holiday season is just around the corner. Having just completed the issues of *Ontario History* published until the 1990s, my holidays will be (partially) spent ensconced in my favorite chair, immersed in some of the best scholarship produced in Canada in the last thirty years. I hope that each of you also has something just as enjoyable planned. Season’s greetings and stay healthy and safe.

All my best,  
–Michel

# 2020 HONOURS & AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Help us recognize excellent work in the field of history. For more information or to submit a nomination, please visit:  
<https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/honours-awards/>.

*Nomination submission deadline for 2020 OHS Awards: **February 26, 2021***

## THE FOLLOWING AWARDS ARE OPEN FOR NOMINATION:

### 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.

### 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 2020.

### 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.



## TRIBUTE TO GABRIELE SCARDELLATO

**Rob Leverty**, Executive Director  
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Our country has lost a distinguished scholar and teacher who made a tremendous contribution to Canadian history. The OHS has lost a gentle giant. We have also lost a heritage champion, historian, author, Editor and Managing Editor of *Ontario History*, member, lecturer, workshop leader, volunteer, donor, and one of our most loyal and trusted friends.

Gabe joined the OHS in November 1988. He was then the education officer for the Multicultural History Society of Ontario (MHSO). On behalf of the OHS and the MHSO, I had just launched the History of Ontario's Peoples Grant Program (1988–1993). Gabe immediately saw the need and positive benefits of providing grants to grassroots organizations to document and showcase the contributions of the different peoples of Ontario to the history of Canada.

When the historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale was threatened with demolition in 1992, Gabe was a strong voice in support of its preservation and for the house to become the OHS's new provincial headquarters. Skilled in carpentry himself, he took a keen interest in its careful restoration (1993–1996) and always generously donated to our building fund.

Gabe enthusiastically supported the OHS when it was forced to establish a Cemetery Defence Fund to protect Ontario's cemeteries from real estate development in 1995. He was appalled that the Province of Ontario had ordered that it was in the *public interest* to relocate a historic cemetery for the private benefit of developers. Gabe immediately recognized that this would set a dangerous precedent. He was incensed at the lack of respect for our fellow citizens and their final resting places. He was appalled at the resulting loss of the hidden stories behind our history.

This was a fundamental matter of principle for Gabe: whose history is important? He felt that if the OHS truly embraced a mandate of pluralism and aspired to represent a membership comprising all Ontario's cultures and religions, then the OHS had a duty and responsibility to relentlessly defend everyone's history, including their sacred lands and burial places. As a student and author on the struggle between fascists and anti-fascists, he was also keenly aware of—and sensitive to—what was at stake.

Over the years that followed, Gabe faithfully donated to the OHS Cemetery Defence Fund as the Society struggled to defend the *public interest* against irresponsible development.

Gabe served as both Editor and Managing Editor of the Society's scholarly journal *Ontario History* from 1999 to 2003. During that period, he built on the legacy of former editor Dr. Jean Burnet, encouraging a wide variety of primary research and inclusive scholarship. Gabe broke new ground and pioneered many themes and fields, providing a broader and more comprehensive portrait of Ontario's diverse history with articles on Indigenous history, immigration and the working class, women's history, gender history, Black history, education, forestry, and sport. Gabe also oversaw three special themed issues on museums, First Nations issues, and educating young people in twentieth-century Ontario.

Gabe invited Dr. Dean Jacobs (Walpole Island First Nation) to act as Guest Editor in the Spring 2000 issue, and together they published "Continuity and the Unbroken Chain: Issues in the Aboriginal History of Ontario." Jacobs wrote, "This special issue of *Ontario History* is a significant milestone for Aboriginal history, [...] this is the first issue, Volume 92, to be edited by an Aboriginal person. [...] The Aboriginal history of Ontario must be seen in a holistic way, which is the way in which we view our lands and waters. In Aboriginal history it is critical to have such an approach, for without it, our people and history will not be understood [...]. Indeed, for First Nations in Ontario, history is our heart and soul."

Gabriele's editorship of the Society's scholarly journal contributed immeasurably to the diversity of Ontario's history and the development of our sector and historical education programming.

In 2000, Gabriele helped to plan and implement the OHS's highly successful symposium "*Buon appetito!* Italian Foodways in Ontario," which included his own presentation, entitled "From Garden to Table: Italian Canadians as Urban Peasant Farmers."

In this wonderfully insightful paper, Gabe wrote, "When I review my efforts to integrate my parents' experience into a general overview of Italian immigration to, and settlement in Canada, I am struck by the prominent role that food and foodways appears to have occupied. That wrenching act we refer to as immigration is itself about food: more specifically, it is about not having enough food, and dreaming about a world or place, possibly a country, where one might be able to earn enough to have enough food – *ubi panis, ibi patria*."

Oh my goodness, the delights of savouring Gabe's grape jelly or tomato sauce.

Gabriele was appointed The Mariano A. Elia Chair in Italian-Canadian Studies at York University in 2008. He was beloved and respected by both his colleagues and students.



The OHS remembers Gabe Scardellato, January 3, 1951–August 8, 2020

In 2010, Gabe was a founding member and the mastermind behind the Italian Canadian Archives Project (icap.ca), which was created to ensure the preservation of Italian-Canadian history. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, ICAP has grown beyond Gabe's wildest dreams to become a national network and registered charity, engaging everyone interested in the Italian-Canadian experience and thereby contributing to Canada's narrative, past and present. OHS remains a founding member of ICAP.

Gabriele was instrumental in helping the OHS to develop a multi-year business plan to transform and modernize *Ontario History* into an online resource. Gabe was thrilled last April when this digital achievement was reached, given that so many around the world now had access to, and were very interested in, Ontario's history. This valuable resource's ever-growing global readership is eager to discover what has been written about life in Ontario.

The OHS awarded Gabriele the Cruikshank Gold Medal in 2013, which honours an individual who has performed with distinction on behalf of the Society.

The kind of history Gabe loved and promoted was popular history in the truest sense—history about, and by, the people of any community, and especially those that were not traditionally written into the official record. His working-class, immigrant background gave him a profound compassion for, sensitivity to, and empathy for all of Ontario's peoples.

Gabe's understanding of history was about lived experience as much as academic training. That is why he volunteered to conduct over 45 OHS workshops for the Society's membership, often in remote communities. He had the magic grassroots touch and so it was no surprise that his workshops were so popular with our membership. One of his workshops, "Tell Us Your Story and In Your Own Words," embodied his public history approach and its attraction.

Because of his own roots, Gabe did not find easy entry into, or welcome within, the established academic networks, which have been fairly exclusive and certainly were when he was finding his footing as a scholar of the immigrant experience. But this is also what made him such a fine scholar—and a fine teacher and community-builder—his sense of being the 'outsider' in one circle was overcome by his "insider" status in the ones that meant most to him and his work. And these are also, of course, the attributes that made him a fine and unique human being. All of that is why Gabe made the OHS a better, more open and inclusive provincial historical society.

Over the last three decades, the OHS has faced many challenges. In any moment of need, the Society could always rely on Gabe's friendship, moral support, and delightful sense of humour. Always generous with his wisdom, diverse talents, and expertise, for the OHS, Gabe was a "man for all seasons."

The sudden and unexpected passing of this magnificent and rare, shooting star has, I know, shocked and gutted many of us. On behalf of the OHS and its membership, I send our warmest regards and condolences to Gabe's wonderful partner Kathy, his children, Matteo (Kristin) and Stephanie (Alex), his grandchildren, his extended family, and all his friends and colleagues.

The pandemic robs us of the opportunity to honour his life together, but I hope our experiences with and memories of Gabe will help us move forward somehow. I see Gabe waving to all of us. "Come on—there is still so much work to do, so many battles to fight... and then we can all eat and drink together." We have Gabe's solid, steady shoulders to stand on and his legacy to inspire us all.

-Rob Leverty  
Executive Director,  
The Ontario Historical Society



## SAVING THE HISTORIC STREET FAMILY BURIAL GROUND

**Janie Cooper-Wilson**, OHS Director  
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**Editor's note:** In 1995, the OHS was forced to establish a trust fund to protect Ontario's cemeteries from neglect and inappropriate development. Since 2011, OHS volunteers have been researching and documenting over 1,500 unregistered cemeteries across Ontario that have never been registered. The Society has been submitting lists of cemeteries to the Province of Ontario for registration. The struggle to preserve and protect all Ontario's cemeteries threatened by real estate development continues. This on-going work is made possible through financial contributions to the OHS Cemetery Defence Fund and donated time and skills from many generous OHS expert volunteers like Janie Cooper-Wilson. All financial donations to the OHS Cemetery Defence Fund will receive a charitable tax receipt.

The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) has joined forces with the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) to begin the process of reclaiming another almost-lost piece of our history. Known as the Street Family Burial Ground, this site is the final resting place of Underground Railroad Freedom Seekers, Stepney & Lucy (Canada) Street and ten of their immediate and extended family members, including Caroline (Stewart) Barnes, the niece of Underground Railroad heroine Harriet Tubman.

Stepney Street was born a slave in 1808 and was held in servitude by at least three different Virginia slaveholders—the last being Billy Neil. Stepney's wife, Lucy, was also born enslaved in Parkersburg, West Virginia, in 1813. She and their three eldest children, Henrietta, Ellen, and Andrew, were enslaved by Barnes Beckworth and resided about seven miles away from her husband. Stepney made the decision to self-emancipate upon learning he was going to be sold away from his beloved family. Six weeks later, Lucy and the children followed, accompanied by her brothers William and George and another slave named Nero Bransom. The courageous group of Freedom Seekers made their way to Ashtabula, Ohio—a major terminus of the Underground Railroad. They were forwarded across Lake Erie by schooner to Windsor, Ontario, where their family was joyously re-united in freedom.

Within a short time of their arrival, the Street Family was baptized and became members of the Zion Church in St. Catharines. Like so many other first-generation African-Canadians, Stepney was finally free to make Lucy his legal wife and the couple were subsequently married by renowned Elder Washington Christian in 1833. The Street Family eventually relocated to Haldimand Country, where they settled on 141 acres of land southwest of Cayuga, and raised a large family. Within



Photo - Courtesy of Aileen Duncan

Janie Cooper-Wilson, OHS Board Member & Co-Chair of the OHS Preservation & Cemeteries Committee, is shown with BAO Inspector, Andrew Reynolds, on November 3, 2020, during the OHS/BAO Joint Site Inspection of the Street Family Cemetery, in North Cayuga Township, Haldimand County.

a decade of their arrival in Canada, Stepney and Lucy had established the North Cayuga Baptist Church. They became religious and social leaders of their closely-knit Black settlement. They were destined to become the revered patriarch and matriarch of a large extended family, as their children grew to adulthood, were married and raised families of their own, forming familial and historically significant kinship ties.

Their century-old church closed in 1972 when the farm property was sold, and the cemetery rapidly deteriorated. Requests by concerned descendants to obtain information or gain access to the cemetery to restore dignity to their esteemed ancestors' resting places were repeatedly met with obstacles and defeat. Frustrated and out of options, direct descendant Aileen Duncan appealed to me (as Co-Chair of the OHS Preservation & Cemeteries Committee) on August 6, 2020. Acting as a representative of the descendants, I began in-depth research and investigations to save and protect this crucial, nationally-significant Underground Railroad Site. Travelling to Haldimand County, I conducted an initial site investigation in early October. I was subsequently joined by BAO Inspector, Andrew Reynolds to complete a joint inspection of the Site on November 3, 2020. Negotiations have since taken place to transfer legal ownership of the Street Family Burial Ground to the County. Provincial registration will follow accordingly. Site reclamation will hopefully begin in the spring of 2021.

To make a donation to this important project, please visit: <https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/donate/>.

## ICAP & OHS: CELEBRATING A 10-YEAR PARTNERSHIP

**Gabriella Colussi-Arthur**, OHS Director & ICAP President  
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When I began this piece, I intended to focus on the successful and fruitful ten-year relationship between the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) and ICAP, Italian-Canadian Archives Project. I currently serve as ICAP President and this year the OHS and ICAP have just renewed a Memorandum of Understanding, an agreement that underscores the Society's founding presence and decade-long support. As one of its founding members, OHS has participated in ICAP's conferences and provided access to its staff expertise, resources, and communication platforms. Our current Treasurer and Past President is Caroline Di Cocco, who, as cornerstone member not only of ICAP, but also current member and past President of the OHS board, has supported and shepherded our activities from their infancy. ICAP is enormously grateful for her outstanding commitment and advocacy.

ICAP is a national network that engages Italian-Canadians and those interested in the Italian-Canadian experience in Canada's narrative, past and present. Its network of scholars, archivists, and community leaders collaborates to identify, collect, and share historical material through community outreach and education. By providing tools and expertise relevant to local grassroots projects, both online and in person, and by sharing news and events, ICAP encourages families, communities, and organizations to share historical items such as documents, letters, and photos that capture the experiences of Italian-Canadians through a local repository, archive, or museum. ICAP does this by means of its network and shares news, events, and expertise relevant to the community.

In early August, however, our community lost Dr. Gabriele Scardellato, the mastermind of ICAP and outgoing holder of The Mariano A. Elia (MAE) Chair in Italian-Canadian Studies at York University. Thanks to the friendship between Dr. Scardellato, Caroline Di Cocco, and Rob Leverty, the cooperation was able to take shape. Similar to the OHS, where experts and historians work hand in hand with grassroots communities, Dr. Scardellato's mission at the MAE was a multifaceted cooperation that involved research, teaching, and information sharing. ICAP wishes to dedicate this piece to Dr. Scardellato who, we hope, in discovering that it was to appear in the *OHS Bulletin*, would have been very pleased indeed. ICAP's online tribute to Dr. Scardellato can be viewed on our homepage ([www.icap.ca](http://www.icap.ca)).

ICAP was born of an initiative organized by Dr. Scardellato. In 2010 he gathered together a team of community leaders, experts, and scholars in Ontario history and Italian-Canadian/Italian Studies to found this organization. The attending members of a meeting held at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay on October 1–3, 2010, unanimously agreed there was need for an Italian-Canadian archives project with a national scope. The event was co-hosted by the Institute of Italian Studies, the Advanced Institute for Globalization and Culture (aig+c), and local Italian-Canadian community leaders. As a result, the Italian-Canadian Archives Project (ICAP) officially began with a framework document in 2011, and was officially incorporated in 2013. In its efforts to reach individuals and groups across Canada, ICAP established an online presence in 2010 and a fundraising page on [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org). Now in its tenth year, ICAP's website operates in three languages (EN, FR, IT) and incorporates a sister site hosted by the University of Guelph. This site is designed to showcase ICAP's completed projects, while also providing "how-to" information for those interested in undertaking similar projects.

ICAP's Board of Directors comprises local, national, and international advisors and currently includes academics from seven different universities, as well as librarians and archivists from across the country. ICAP activities focus on Three Cs: Communities, Collaborations, and Conferences. ICAP supports the expansion

**'ICAP & OHS' CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...**



# MUSEUM MILESTONES

**Dr. John Carter**  
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This issue's column focuses on a new 6,455-square-foot facility recently completed in southwestern Ontario. It is always rewarding to hear of municipal tax dollars being profitably spent to upgrade cultural and heritage facilities. In the lead article below, Curator Karen Richardson describes the evolution of the Cayuga Library & Heritage Centre (formerly the Haldimand Museum & Heritage Centre). This multi-purpose building, which houses a museum, library, and archives, is certain to become a popular community hub/centre for residents in Haldimand County, as well as for visitors coming from far and wide.

In a column several issues ago, I wrote about the closing of the museum ship Norgoma, and how it was towed by the City of Sault Ste. Marie to a private dock. Subsequently, the vessel was put up for sale. A group in North Bruce Peninsula has indicated its interest in purchasing this ship and moving it to Little Tub Harbour in Tobermory. Initial plans are to use it as a tourist attraction, coffee shop, and museum. A proposal has been presented to the North Bruce Peninsula Council for its endorsement, and financial sustainability, rehabilitation, engineering studies, and harbour assessments are expected to be conducted. Stay tuned for future developments.

Also in North Bruce Peninsula, the Friends of Cabot Head continue to advocate for the preservation of the Cabot Head Light Station and its collection of related artifacts. The deterioration of the building, vandalism, and the state

of road access are all concerns of this group. It has teamed up with the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory and the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association to apply for an Ontario Trillium Grant for financial assistance to make needed upgrades at this 26-acre site that overlooking Georgian Bay. The Friends are also awaiting news about an application made to the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans for special funding from this federal government agency. Good luck on these two fundraising fronts.

The Community Waterfront Heritage Centre in Owen Sound, which has been closed all summer due to COVID-19, has recently faced another challenge. Vandals have been active at the site, damaging outdoor exhibits of the tug Ancaster and the historic Canadian National Railroad Coach #4884. Volunteers repaired the damage, and discussions with the City of Owen Sound are taking place regarding the installation of a surveillance system. City police intend to increase their patrols, and Fairmount Security Services, which has been keeping an eye on the site on a pro bono basis, will also boost its efforts. Long-term options aimed at reducing vandalism are being investigated by the site's board.

The "Riding the Rails" exhibit at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre in Southampton recently received an honorable mention in the category of community engagement from the Ontario Museum Association. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the museum community with an emphasis on innovation, advancing the museum profession in Ontario, and encouraging high standards of excellence in the museum field. The exhibit is now permanently housed in the museum's transportation hall. Congratulations to all involved and for the recognition of their achievements.

Ulana Balak, the long-time curator at the Todmorden Mills Museum in East York, has retired. Philip Cheung has been appointed as the Acting Administrator. Kelly Burwash is now the permanent Curator at the Toronto Railway Museum in downtown Toronto.

## HALDIMAND COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES HAS A NEW HOME

**Karen Richardson**, Curator, Haldimand County  
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In 2016, Haldimand County Council made the forward-looking decision to consolidate its various administrative sites—including its primary Cayuga Administrative Building (CAB)—into a new, purpose-built administration building. This decision included an assessment of the condition of the Haldimand County Museum & Archives (HCMA), which was on the same property as the CAB, as well as location opportunities for a new Cayuga Library.



Photo – Courtesy of Karen Richardson

This evaluation resulted in a vision to develop a new model for enhanced cultural services and resources, including an opportunity for Haldimand Museums to create new on-site and online exhibits and programming that would allow staff to share the stories of Haldimand County and its communities, past and present.

The end result was the co-location of the Cayuga Library and Haldimand County Museum & Archives into the new Cayuga Library + Heritage Centre. The open-concept design provides the Museum with exhibit, programming, and archival space while the Library offers a unique atmosphere for young and old alike, with children's areas, quiet study rooms, reading nooks, and ample space to work while enjoying views of downtown Cayuga. The inter-connected concept allows visitors to experience the Heritage Centre and Library resources in a seamless blending of areas.

Construction began on the 6,455 sq-ft. building in June 2018. The Museum space encompasses 1,400 sq-ft., with 800 sq-ft. dedicated to an exhibit and

display area, and 600 sq-ft. designated for local history and genealogical research. Genealogical records and archival information are available within the designated genealogy space, as are new technologies that assist with research. Heritage programming is offered year-round for both adults and children in the shared program space.

Exhibit space allows the public, young and old, to experience a traditional museum with thematic exhibits that are changed quarterly. Advancements in technology will expand our programming to the virtual world, offering an opportunity to engage local, national, and international visitors in new and unique ways.

Residents, visitors, and researchers from around the world make use of Haldimand's historical archives, exploring on their own or with staff assistance. The research room is bright and cheerful, with archives clearly labelled and accessible. Since the Library + Heritage Centre opened in August 2019, there has been a 25% increase in online requests, while use of the archives has gone up by 65%.

The exhibit space is a wonderful collection of permanent and mobile display cases. Visitors have stated that the open ceiling gives the illusion that the space is bigger than it actually is, and staff have ensured every possible space is being utilized to display collections. Above the permanent cases are recessed areas that showcase Haldimand's early history. One of the focal points of the space is the door from the Canfield Hotel, c. 1855. It hangs majestically on the wall, sparking conversation.

The Heritage Centre's first exhibit was a throwback to the beginnings of the Museum, which opened in a jury room in the Haldimand County Courthouse in 1933. It was fascinating to research and discover what was donated in the 1930s. The exhibit was eclectic; items ranged from a mill pick used in the village of Indiana to the surveyor's chain used to lay out the counties in Haldimand. The donors were as unique as the items they gave. The Crawford sisters had collected a number of Victorian oddities, with deer and dogs under glass apparently being a particular favourite.

Other exhibits for 2019 included WWI, WWII, and Christmas Celebrations. As the exhibits began to be changed, repeat visitors would stroll through the Centre once again, amazed at the history of Haldimand unfolding before their eyes.

The 2020 exhibit schedule got off to an excellent start with "Road to Freedom," a look at Black history in Haldimand County and the role the County played in the Underground Railroad. There was a considerable amount of Black settlement in Canfield—many escaped slaves settled and built families, businesses, and places of worship in the community.

The architectural firm of TCA | Thier + Curran Architects Inc. from Hamilton, through the leadership of Bill Curran, created an amazing space, bringing together the best of a modern structure while incorporating the rural history and values of the community. The Heritage Centre fronts onto Talbot Street (Highway #3) with large corner display windows that invite the public to enjoy the museum exhibits inside.

**'HALDIMAND COUNTY M&A' CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...**



# CRAIGLEITH HERITAGE DEPOT: INTO THE COMMUNITY

**Allison Brown**, Museum Technician,  
Craigleith Heritage Depot /The Blue Mountains Public Library  
abrown@thebluemountains.ca

The Craigleith Heritage Depot is a museum, archives, and a branch of the Blue Mountains Public Library in the town of The Blue Mountains. It is located in a historic railway station alongside Georgian Bay and its focus is local heritage extending from south of the bay past the Niagara Escarpment and into the Beaver Valley.

Since Fall 2018 the museum has been creating online exhibits using the platform Biblioboard. This interactive format allows for community input. Our first project began with a focus on world-renowned children’s illustrator Walter Trier, who lived at the foot of the Blue Mountains, and has expanded to Our Military Heritage, which aims to commemorate all veterans from our community and the local support for them. We are pleased to bring to light new stories rich in images and documents that are digitally accessible 24/7.

Staff have been delightfully surprised at the far reach of these online exhibits, with over 2,200 views from North American locations and even some participants joining from Luxembourg, Japan, and India.

The Willi Winkels exhibit brought viewers from California, Hawaii, Germany, and B.C. as well as new images of skateboards, snowboards, and skateboard demo team members that were added by the public. We continue to seek pictures of Wee Willi Winkels skateboards as well as stories and videos of this inventive athlete with a Blue Mountains connection who created a 7-ply maple laminate skateboard and developed boards for Alva and Sims.

Biblioboard has been an excellent tool for connecting the community and cooperatively gathering materials to showcase. In celebration of the 150th year hosting the Fall Fair, the Beaver Valley Agricultural Society partnered with the Craigleith Heritage Depot and Blue Mountains Public Library to create an exhibit featuring former fair ambassadors, news highlights, pictures from fairs past, and



Museum Technician Allison Brown showcases the Our Military Heritage online exhibit during a launch event on September 19 in Clarksburg.

more. This has been a gathering place for community memory as many colourful submissions have been received, with more expected throughout the fall.

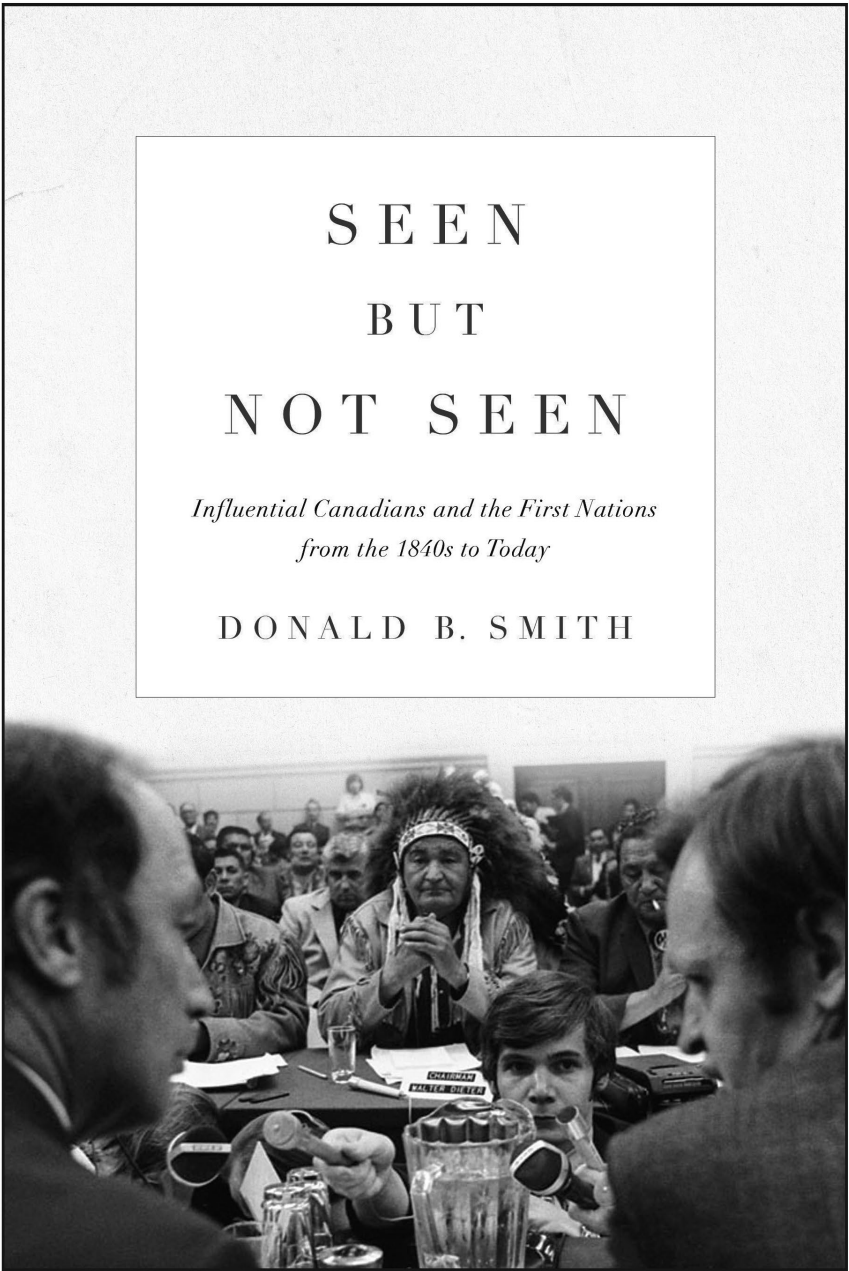
With an increase in online programming due to the pandemic, we have been able to connect these exhibits with video programs. Although Archives Awareness Week was quieter than usual last April, we successfully launched the Leonard E. Shore exhibit complete with educational videos, which also ties into the 25th anniversary of the Blue Mountains Public Library.

Did you know that over 25 women writers called The Blue Mountains home in the 19th and 20th centuries? Read biographical sketches as well as over 100-year-old full texts in Literary Women of The Blue Mountains.

Everyone is encouraged to engage and connect with the stories from our region, stories with deep roots and wide branches. The Craigleith Heritage Depot looks forward to bringing our local stories to light while connecting with people near and far. We are always looking for contributions of audio, video, images, stories, poetry, and more to add to these community exhibits. To view the exhibits or submit digitally, please visit: [thebluemountainslibrary.ca/virtual-museum.cfm](http://thebluemountainslibrary.ca/virtual-museum.cfm).

For more information, please connect with the Craigleith Heritage Depot at 519-599-3681.

# New from University of Toronto Press



“Donald B. Smith’s *Seen but Not Seen* could not possibly be more timely – and more welcome. This is the lifework of one of the country’s greatest historians.”

Roy MacGregor, columnist and feature writer for *The Globe and Mail*

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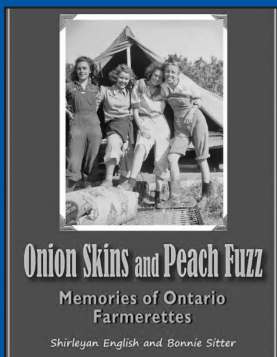
## FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio  
ccomac5702@rogers.com

It hardly seems possible that my last review column was published in January; even more unbelievable is what has happened to the world since then. At the start of this remarkable year, the usual hopes and concerns prevailed, with only a small buzz of worry surrounding the coronavirus outbreak in China. There is no need, as we approach the year's end, to belabour all that COVID-19 has come to mean, for us in Ontario, across the nation, and around the world. We have all lived it. And we're not done yet. Because we are history-minded, we have a stronger sense than most of what is implied by "for the duration." The best we can do right now, as the dreaded "second wave" sweeps through, is follow the safety protocols, take care of ourselves and others, try to keep our flagging morale up, and endure. Even plagues end eventually. The good books that are a fine tonic in the best of times are simply all the more so in COVID-times. Having had to sit out the last *Bulletin* due to an unprecedented (this is truly a strange year!) absence of books to review, I'm delighted to say that I now have a nice trove of thought-provoking recommendations. Stay well!

31 other women joined 800 men entering RMC; 21 of those women completed the four-year academic and military training course. Despite the fact that the "lady cadets" were supposed to be admitted and trained on an equal basis with men, Armstrong never felt that declared objective was met. As she relates, the women's high hopes in penetrating what was universally understood to be a masculine endeavour were frequently challenged and, in her personal story, deflated. Armstrong writes clearly and directly, at times sounding as much a dispassionate observer as the first-person narrator and memoirist. In an eye-opening testimony to traditional feminine socialization, she did her utmost to contain her feelings, to avoid complaint, to swallow grievances, and to hide physical and emotional pain—including the special brutalities of "recruit term." In her view, she had to prove herself—not only by excelling in classroom and officer training, but also by acting like "one of the boys"—by burying her true self for fear that the boys would find that self lacking in very "feminine" ways. Her story makes for compelling reading because of what Armstrong reveals about the unrelenting pressure to those ends, and what it cost her and her fellow "lady cadets"—both at the time of study and long after graduation—and how similar pressures impacted, and continue to impact women in what remains pretty much a man's world.

A big congratulations to Kate Armstrong on winning the 2019 OHS Alison Prentice Award for *The Stone Frigate*. It was by complete coincidence that this book came across my desk for review this summer, while at the same time it was being shortlisted for the Alison Prentice Award by the OHS Honours and Awards Committee. How fitting that she will be receiving this award, named for a pioneering Canadian woman who broke down barriers and advanced the field of women's history and education for future generations.

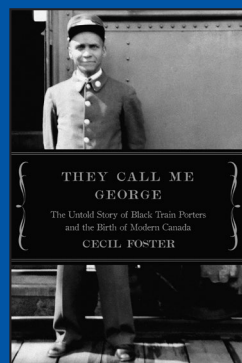


### *Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz: Memories of Ontario Farmerettes*

SHIRLEYAN ENGLISH AND  
BONNIE SITTER

Exeter: Self-published. 2019. Cloth; 160 pp.  
bonnie.sitter@gmail.com

Shirleyan English and Bonnie Sitter have collected a lively store of first-hand accounts from the Second World War, a historic time in which all were called upon to sacrifice "for the duration," for the nation's sake, and for the larger cause of democracy around the world. These are particularly relevant themes to current readers, despite the passing of near eighty years. One of the chief differences, of course, is that even if all were called upon, the duties ascribed were far from universal. While age and race mattered then as now, nothing defined homefront sacrifice as much as did gender. The war emergency that led to a labour shortage made female work essential, whether voluntary or paid, and permitted a certain bending of strict male/female public roles. When farmers' sons and the customarily male agricultural work force could no longer sustain the higher levels of agricultural production necessary for the war effort, at home and at the front, young women—dubbed "farmerettes" during the Great War, when they were first recruited—became critical land workers. The long hours and physical labour belied the "cute" diminutive they were given, but that was a large part of the public recruitment campaign: these were young women and, like other women in non-traditional war work, they were expected to do "a man's job" while the emergency demanded it. And then they could just go "back to the home," regardless of their aspirations for postwar life. Beautifully illustrated with never-before published photographs from the private collections of the women involved and their families, this anthology is a stirring oral history of a vital part of the Second World War homefront.

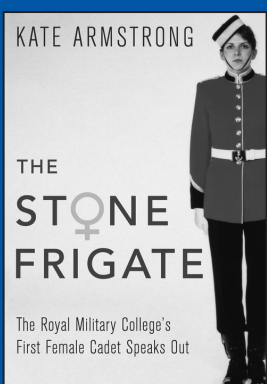


### *They Call Me George: The Untold Stories of Black Train Porters and the Birth of Modern Canada*

CECIL FOSTER

Windsor: Biblioasis, 2019.  
Paperback; 336 pp.  
biblioasis.com

Cecil Foster's important study of the experiences of the uniformly Black railway porters who performed the racialized "domestic work" aboard the trains is inaugural on many counts. It makes a vital contribution to our historical knowledge simply by uncovering and recovering the stories of these men who were marginalized by the systemic racism of Canadian society, both past and present. That in itself is an accomplishment, given how very "white" our historical discourses remain; recent analyses of what is actually taught in Ontario schools through textbooks published for and sanctioned by the provincial education ministry demonstrate the dreadful extent to which Black history remains buried. As the Black Lives Matter movement has amply demonstrated in this painful year, no further excuses can be made to ignore and neglect these issues. By examining Black lives in the past, we not only lift the veils of pervasive anti-Black ideas, policies, and practices—and their very real effects for Black Canadians (individually, collectively, and generationally)—we also see the nation-building, modernizing objectives that this racism was meant to support. Foster makes us look at ourselves starkly. The result is, as it should be, discomfiting. Above all, this study shatters the complacency that has also upheld a certain historic myth: that Canadians are—"barring a few nasty exceptions"—untainted by the legacies of slavery and pseudoscientific racial ideologies.



### *The Stone Frigate: The Royal Military College's First Female Cadet Speaks Out*

KATE ARMSTRONG

Toronto: Dundurn, 2019.  
Paperback; 299 pp.  
www.dundurn.com

Kate Armstrong's personal account of her experiences at RMC as its first female cadet are riveting, as might be expected from an individual who opened doors to the historically sacrosanct male realm of a military college that has graduated generations of Canadian officers. In September 1980, duly empowered by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, she and

If you know of any recently published works on Ontario's history that specifically deal with local or regional history, please contact *Bulletin* Editor Daniel Dishaw at ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

***A note to authors:* Though we are pleased to accept your submissions for review, the timeline for publication in the *Bulletin* may vary. Due to a high volume of submissions, please be patient. We will publish a review for your book as soon as we can!**



of it's community by providing 1) a Toolkit: a series of “how-to” documents offering detailed instructions on due process and evaluation; 2) online resources in the form of conference videos, audio books, ICAP partner sites, and exhibits; and 3) mentoring and workshops. Typically, one of ICAP’s board members will be assigned to a local ICAP committee for support. Ontario committees now include ICAP Sarnia, ICAP London, ICAP Guelph, ICAP Waterloo, and the soon-to-be-established ICAP Hamilton-Niagara.

Since its Founding Conference, ICAP has continued to host annual conferences across Canada to showcase local Italian-Canadian communities and practitioners and to further an understanding of ICAP’s “Three Cs,” processes and practices. Typically, the first conference day is a grassroots event with local guest speakers and community members and the second day features an academic-style conference.

Having held its online AGM on August 27, ICAP thanks OHS for attending and renewing its commitment and collaboration. ICAP is deeply grateful to Rob Leverty and the entire OHS team, since this extraordinary organization has been a beacon of support and guidance, setting exemplary standards for groups like ICAP.

...‘HERITAGE DIRECTORY’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

members. As a heritage tourism tool, this Directory & Map will raise the profile of our groups across the province. The Directory & Map is also a great online tool to expose students to local history sites and heritage organizations.

Users may focus on a particular region by zooming into the interactive map, or may enter a term (e.g. city) in the directory's search box. For example, searching for "Thunder Bay" produces nine OHS member listings, from Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior to the Thunder Bay Railway Historical Society.

Each listing includes the publicly available address, phone number, and email address. In addition, listings link to websites and social media accounts, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. Logged-in members may update their public listings at any time, or may let us know if they wish to make changes.

Since the 1980s, the OHS has maintained and published an invaluable directory of heritage institutions and organizations in Ontario. For a decade, the OHS's extremely popular online Directory & Map has served as a well used and much respected hub for heritage groups across the province. This new version highlights and gives wide exposure to the Society’s own member groups, while providing links to other provincial heritage organizations.

Is your organization not an OHS member but would like to be included in the Directory & Map? Please let us know! You may join through our website, or email us at [ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

Members are encouraged to make use of this new online service and share it with their friends and colleagues.

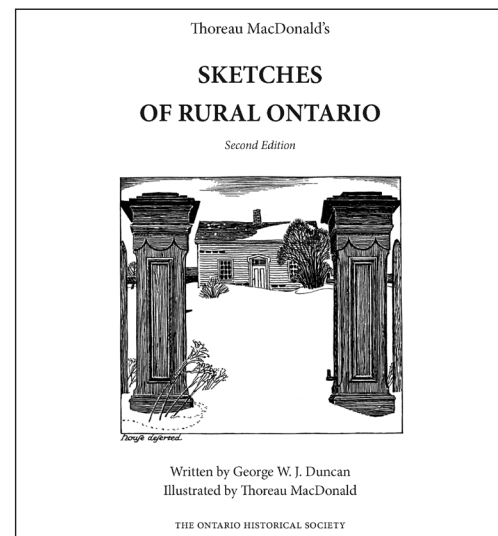
The Society would like to acknowledge the support of the Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries.

Please visit the Ontario Heritage Directory & Map on our website at <https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/directory-and-map/>.

Programming has taken on a new life with many new and returning audiences enjoying both the Heritage Centre and Library space. The accessibility of the site, and the introduction of different kinds of cultural and recreational experiences, has resulted in an increase in visitors and program participants. Staff offer a variety of programs and workshops, ranging from researching your family history to discovering Haldimand County’s past through talks and exhibits, providing something for everyone. Partnering with the Library on several onsite and online programs has proven successful for the Museum, and will be something staff continue to pursue in the future.

Being part of this project has been a great experience for staff. The partnership of the Library and Heritage Centre works well, as the two groups complement one another. Feedback from visitors has been unanimously positive; most are amazed at the building as its open and welcoming interior gives them pause to reflect and enjoy as they move through the space and enjoy the many features and resources. It clearly is a wonderful place for all ages, evoking the senses, stimulating the mind, and reflecting our legacy.

## NEW OHS BOOKSTORE RELEASE



This expanded edition contains roughly twice as many works by revered Canadian artist Thoreau MacDonald, and features several new sections on how MacDonald’s sketches help us to appreciate the beauty of both life and landscape across rural Ontario.

Author George W.J. Duncan is a member of the OHS and a founding member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals. He served as Senior Heritage Planner for the City of Markham from 2005 to 2020. Over the past 35 years, Duncan has authored several books and numerous articles on local history, early buildings, and issues concerning heritage conservation. His best-known works are *York County Mouldings from Historic Interiors* and *Historic Unionville: A Village in the City*.

**Print:** \$19.99 + shipping (Contact [ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca))

**Ebook:** \$14.95 (<https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/store/>)

**OHS Members get 30% off!**

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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 Heather Anderson at [handerson@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:handerson@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

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