

Graeme Bachiu's Documentary Series *Canfield Roots* Wins OHS President's Award

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The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to present the 2021-22 OHS President's Award, which recognizes an outstanding contribution to the preservation and promotion of Ontario's history, to Graeme Bachiu, for his six-part documentary series, [Canfield Roots](#).

Canfield Roots draws our attention to the historical significance of a small abandoned cemetery in Haldimand County. The Street Cemetery stands as the only remaining piece of physical evidence that a community of freedom seekers settled in Canfield after making their way north on the Underground Railroad.

Throughout this six-part series, viewers are shown how strong the connection can be between descendants and the cemeteries where their ancestors are buried. This is especially true for the descendants of Black freedom seekers who settled in Ontario after escaping slavery. Though they established prosperous communities and helped to create the province we live in, their contributions were intentionally overlooked, overwritten, and often destroyed. The movement to protect and restore the cemetery is therefore a critical step in reclaiming and retelling the history to acknowledge their stories. It also allows for descendants and community members to reconnect to their own past and the people important to them. *Canfield Roots*

does an excellent job of weaving these stories together in a way that both entertains and educates the viewer.

Watch Graeme Bachiu's Video Response



Bachiu's documentary series captures the very essence of grassroots public history work in Ontario, a story that too often goes unnoticed or untold. Bachiu's consultation with a vast network of experts, community leaders, and descendants demonstrates an impressive commitment to the history that must be commended. The combination of oral history and primary research documents was well balanced and expertly deployed. The OHS Honours and Awards Committee is very pleased to recognize Graeme Bachiu, and everyone who worked on this fantastic production.

Are you watching [Canfield Roots](#)? After first debuting on the [Bell Fibe TV App](#) and WNED PBS, and several other PBS stations throughout Canada and the U.S., it's now available on [Apple TV+](#) and the free [Tubi App](#). You can also buy or rent a digital copy of *Canfield Roots* at <http://www.windeckerroadfilms.com/>. In February 2023, *Canfield Roots* will return to cable TV on YesTV, Canada's favourite family station, as part of its Black History Month programming.

Founded in 1888, the Ontario Historical Society is a non-profit corporation and registered charity dedicated to the preservation and celebration of Ontario's history for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. To learn more about the OHS's Honours and Awards Program, or to submit a nomination, please visit <https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/honours-awards/> or contact the Society's offices by telephone or e-mail.

-The Ontario Historical Society-

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