



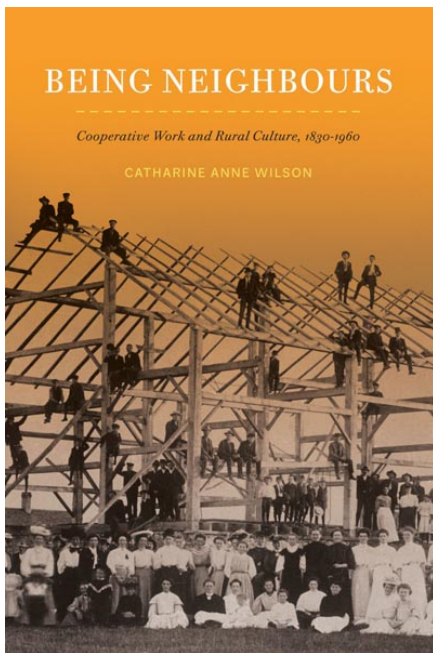
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## OHS JJ Talman Award Presented to Dr. Catharine Anne Wilson for *Being Neighbours: Cooperative Work and Rural Culture, 1830-1960*

The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to present the 2022-23 J.J. Talman Award for the best book on Ontario's social, economic, political, or cultural history to Dr. Catherine Anne Wilson for her book, *Being Neighbours: Cooperative Work and Rural Culture, 1830-1960*, published by McGill-Queens University Press.

Wilson's book draws from the collected diaries of rural Ontarians and weaves together a complex, yet accessible look into the reasons behind community "bees" and their importance in the development of settlements and farms across Upper Canada, Canada West and Ontario. The bees were essential to the physical construction of infrastructure in the early days of settlement and the sustainability of the family farm through decades of change, as it mechanized and capitalized. In rural communities, where many of the first settlers hewed out their existence with little currency and few neighbours, the working bees were a necessity for survival. It was expected that one would receive in kind what one provided the community. While there was no obligation to participate, participation in a bee reflected a sense of belonging in a community. The bees not only sustained the rural communities, they ensured that the harvests were bountiful enough to support the ever-growing cities of the province and beyond.

Exquisitely written and researched, with photographs and extensive annexes providing additional insight for the reader, *Being Neighbours* is a welcome addition to understanding the history of Ontario. The Honours and Awards Committee congratulates Dr. Catharine Anne Wilson.



### Dr. Catharine Anne Wilson Responds to the Society's Selection



Founded in 1888, the Ontario Historical Society is a not-for-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.

-Ontario Historical Society-

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