

OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 224

DECEMBER 2023

OHS WELCOMES NEWEST AFFILIATE: WINGHAM & AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



On November 8, 2023, the Wingham & Area Historical Society (WAHS) voted to incorporate through affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society. Pictured here from left to right are: (back row) Daniel Dishaw, OHS Executive Director; Joanne Douglas, WAHS Treasurer; Brent Bowyer, WAHS Secretary; Bill Farnell, WAHS Chair; John Smith, member at large; (front row) Peggy Kinsman, WAHS Vice-Chair; Debbie Metcalfe, member at large; and Mary McLean, member at large.

Bill Farnell, Chair, Wingham & Area Historical Society
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The motivation to form a Wingham & Area Historical Society was sparked last winter as the public library in Wingham hosted a series of monthly meetings entitled “Remember When”. It was a time for interested citizens to gather and discuss their collective history and experiences here in the Wingham area. These meetings were well attended, with many folks sharing stories, photos, yearbooks, newspaper clippings, and other significant local artefacts. The events were filled with great discussions and inspired a great deal of reflection and community bonding.

One member was so moved by the stories that he proposed a group be formed to preserve and record the memories of our most senior seniors. Interest was keen and a small band of citizens soon began the process of interviewing willing participants.

With the local museum recently closed and its collection being deaccessioned, the group found further motivation to fill the void and preserve as much local

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CELEBRATING THE 2022–23 OHS HONOURS & AWARDS WINNERS

The 2022–23 OHS Award winners represent incredible achievements from around the province. Follow the links below to see the press releases celebrating each one of our winners. As always, the OHS is delighted to be recognizing a diverse range of communities and topics with our annual Award Program.

The winners for 2022–23 are:

AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

President’s Award: [Allison Margot Smith](#)

Dorothy Duncan Public History Award: [Bruce County Historic Newspapers Digitization Project, Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre](#)

Heritage Conservation Award: [Fran Kronstal](#)

Russell K. Cooper Public Programming Award: [Dianna Boileau Plaque and Podcast Series, Borderland Pride](#)

Cruikshank Gold Medal for Outstanding Service to the OHS: [Jamie Laidlaw](#)

AWARDS FOR AUTHORS

Fred Landon Award: [Dr. dann J. Broyld](#)

Borderland Blacks: Two Cities in the Niagara Region during the Final Decades of Slavery

Alison Prentice Award (two winners):

[Dr. Sara Z. MacDonald](#)

University Women: A History of Women and Higher Education in Canada

[Dr. Sharon Cook and Margaret Carson](#)

The Castleton Massacre: Survivors’ Stories of the Killins Femicide

Joseph Brant Award: [Dr. Benjamin Bryce](#)

The Boundaries of Ethnicity: German Immigration and the Language of Belonging in Ontario

J.J. Talman Award: [Dr. Catharine Anne Wilson](#)

Being Neighbours: Cooperative Work and Rural Culture, 1830-1960

Donald Grant Creighton Award: [Hilary Bates Neary ed.](#)

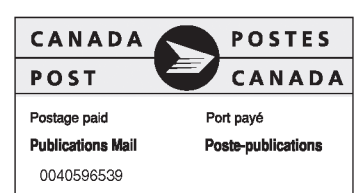
A Black American Missionary in Canada: The Life and Letters of Lewis Champion Chambers

OHS HONOURS AND AWARDS NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

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 the 2023–24 OHS Awards: **March 15, 2024***

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PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Kristin Ives, President
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Hello. Bonjour. Boozhoo.

Thank you to all the members and guests from around the province who were able to join the Society’s 135th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on October 12, 2023. It is truly an honour to serve an organization with such a long history of defending our heritage across this great province.

At our 2023 AGM, Dr. Donald B. Smith delivered an engaging and informative keynote address outlining the development of his 21-episode podcast for the OHS, *In Hindsight: Half a Century of Research Discoveries in Canadian History*. It was fascinating to hear the behind-the-scenes stories, including the instrumental role of OHS staff member Sarah McCabe. I am pleased to report that the recording is now available to be enjoyed any time on the OHS website, YouTube, and various podcast platforms. On behalf of the Society, I wish to extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Smith for his work on this project and for his continued support. A long-time OHS member and Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Calgary, he has focused his career on the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada, Quebec, and the history of Calgary and Southern Alberta. Dr. Smith’s first academic article, “Grey Owl,” was published in the OHS’s *Ontario History* journal in 1971.

I am delighted to be entering my second year as President of the OHS. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new Directors joining the Board: Candice McCavitt, Hans Bathija, and Meghan Cameron. On behalf of the Society, I thank you for your willingness to serve and to share your time and talents. As a grassroots organization with a diverse membership from across the province, we hope that our newest Directors will find serving on the Board a rich and rewarding experience. For more information on our newest members, please see the Society’s website, which features [short profiles of all our current Board members](#).

I would also like to extend our most heartfelt thanks to outgoing Board Members Eric Payseur, Jan Haskings, and Gabriella Colussi-Arthur. We truly appreciate all the time, effort, and dedication they have provided to the Society and its members during their terms of office. I know that Eric, Jan, and Gabriella will remain staunch supporters and advocates of the Society going forward.

NEW ROOF FOR THE MINDEMOYA OLD SCHOOL

Lynn Quesnel, Vice President, Friends of the Mindemoya Old School
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Just in time for winter, the Mindemoya Old School has been outfitted with a new, energy efficient roof on the century-old building, a first step in the planned retrofit.

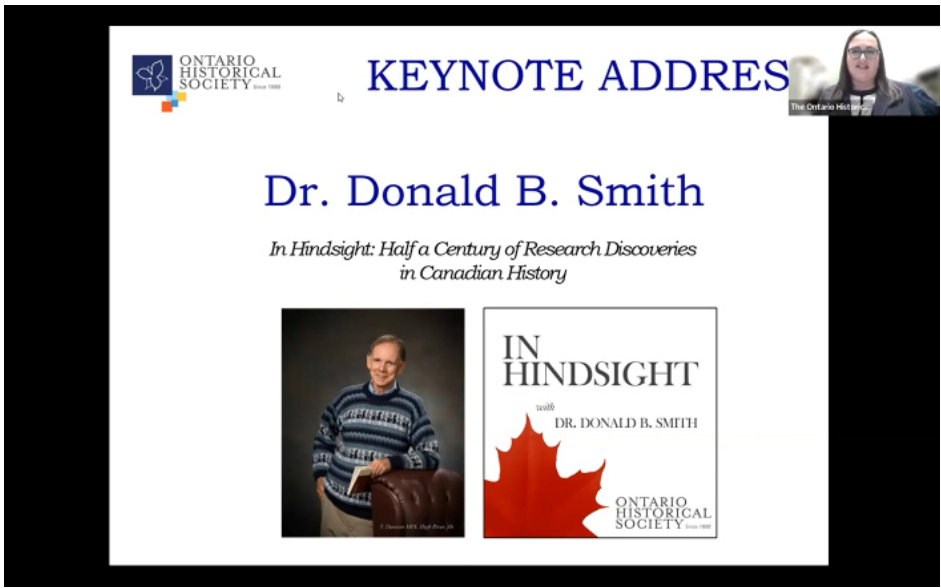
The Friends of Mindemoya Old School’s (FOMOS) motto is, “Building on the past to forge a prosperous, green, creative and inclusive future.” In keeping



with these principles, FOMOS sourced locally produced steel roofing from TerraStar Building Products on Manitoulin Island, and hired local contractor JD Construction to complete the installation.

Steel lasts twice as long as asphalt, and is recyclable at the end of its life. The roof is a light grey colour, which will help cut air conditioning costs by reflecting sunlight back into space. It’s literally a “cool roof!”

Built in 1921, the Mindemoya Old School was the first Continuation School in this part of Manitoulin. For the first time, students could pursue their education to Grade 12 without having to move away. It is historically significant and, when



The [2023 OHS Keynote Address by Dr. Donald B. Smith](#) is now available for viewing on the Society’s YouTube channel.

I want to congratulate all of the 2022–23 OHS Honours and Awards winners. These individuals, organizations, and authors have made significant contributions to our understanding of Ontario’s history. We celebrate their invaluable work, and thank them for preserving and promoting our collective heritage. Kudos!

Our [2023–24 Honours and Awards program is open for nominations](#). I encourage all our members submit nominations to help the OHS recognize outstanding achievements in the Ontario heritage sector.

As the year draws to a close, I also want to thank all the generous donors who offered their support to the Ontario Historical Society in 2023. As captured so perfectly on the OHS website: “[Ontario Historical Society donors care deeply about preserving, promoting, and protecting Ontario’s heritage for future generations](#).” For that support, we are truly grateful. As I write this report in late November, I’m very pleased to announce that we have welcomed 73 new members this year. It is so encouraging to see the passion for heritage preservation continue to grow in Ontario. I know that all these new members care deeply about our history, and I want to thank them for all their work and ongoing support of the Ontario Historical Society.

All my best,
Kristin

the owner, the Municipality, said they were planning to demolish it, many citizens stepped up to save it.

Under the guidance of the OHS, FOMOS became a not-for-profit corporation affiliated with the OHS in January 2021. As a corporation, we had legal status to negotiate a lease for the building, and we successfully obtained a 21-year lease from the Municipality in 2022. “This year, with the asphalt roof deteriorating from neglect, it was imperative to install a new one before the winter.



The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario was also instrumental in our progress. Our relationship with ACO made it possible for us to complete the retrofit using private donations, and we are grateful to them and to our donors. We are now focused on fundraising efforts necessary to begin interior renovations and have the upper level of the building ready for artists to occupy by next summer. For more information on the project and how to support FOMOS, visit [new-roof-and-double-your-donation](#).



OHS Project Manager & Librarian Sarah McCabe was very pleased to represent the OHS at the National Trust for Canada’s annual heritage learning and networking conference in Ottawa in October. The OHS warmly congratulates Natalie Bull (pictured here at the podium), the outgoing Executive Director of the National Trust, on her retirement.

Photo – Sarah McCabe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Daniel Dishaw, Executive Director
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I'm pleased to announce that the OHS Board of Directors recently voted to incorporate our newest affiliated member, the Wingham & Area Historical Society. I was given a fantastic tour of the area by Brent Bowyer and Debbie Metcalf during my visit to Wingham on November 8—the town boasts both stunning architecture and fascinating stories from the past. There is a lot of enthusiasm amongst the members and local residents about this new group and their mission to preserve and promote the local history. The lead article on page one of this issue of the *Bulletin* goes into more detail about the history and mandate of our newest member. I look forward to working with our new partners in the Wingham area!

Our incorporation program is a critical tool in the fight to preserve and promote our collective history. We have already begun consultations with several other groups that are hoping to incorporate in the coming months. We look forward to all the new partnerships and opportunities that the new year will surely bring.

As we look back on 2023, I would like to recognize the exemplary service of Ontario's outgoing Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, whose mandate concluded on November 14.

The OHS congratulates Elizabeth Dowdeswell on her historic and impactful appointment as the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. Serving for more than nine years, Dowdeswell left office as the longest-serving Lieutenant Governor in the history of our province. During her mandate, the Ontario Historical Society received the Honorary Patronage of the Lieutenant Governor's office. As our Honorary Patron, Dowdeswell expressed a keen interest in and passion for Ontario's history, attending many events and ceremonies hosted by our members around the province. On behalf of the OHS Board and staff, I want to thank the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell for her many years of support and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.



On Thursday, November 2, then Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Elizabeth Dowdeswell invited the OHS to the LG's Suite at Queen's Park for "a reception given in gratitude to the friends and supporters of the Lieutenant Governor's Office." Pictured here with Elizabeth Dowdeswell are OHS ED Daniel Dishaw (left) and OHS Director Hans Bathija (right).

I would also like to extend a warm welcome and congratulations to the new Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable Edith Dumont. It has been most encouraging to learn of Her Honour's passion for education and the preservation of Franco-Ontarian history. We look forward to working with Her Honour and her staff.

In early September, OHS staff and Directors learned of Dorothy Duncan's passing on August 29. Dorothy made an indelible mark on the Society and led the organization with strength and dignity as Executive Director through both good times and challenging ones from 1982 to 2001. I was lucky enough to meet Dorothy a few times, as she stayed connected to the Society in her retirement. She was a tireless advocate for our provincial history and will be remembered fondly by many. I want to use the rest of this Executive Director's Report as a tribute and celebration of Dorothy's life and career in arts, culture, and heritage:

OHS REMEMBERS DOROTHY DUNCAN 1927-2023

The Ontario Historical Society celebrates the life and accomplishments of Dorothy Duncan, OOnt, Former Executive Director of the OHS and lifelong champion of Ontario's history and heritage.

OHS Staff & Directors
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The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) mourns the passing of Dorothy Duncan on August 29, 2023, and wishes to celebrate her life with the many organizations and people she has touched in her lifetime. Dorothy's impact on the OHS and on the landscape of Ontario's history and heritage over her long and accomplished career cannot be overstated, and we wish to highlight some of her many accomplishments.

Dorothy's connection to the OHS spanned more than 50 years. She first became a member in the 1960s when she became Curator of Black Creek Pioneer Village and continued as a member throughout her tenure as Curator of Historic Houses for the Toronto Historical Board (1971–1973), Curator of the Peel Museum and Art Gallery (1973–1975), Museums Advisor, Province of Ontario (1975–1980), and Supervisor of the Museums Section, Ministry of Citizenship and Culture (1980–1982).

Dorothy was hired as Executive Director of the OHS in 1982, following her work for the Ministry. In the spring 1982 *OHS Bulletin*, OHS President Alec Douglas welcomed Dorothy with the following announcement:

We carried out an extensive search for a replacement and were exceedingly fortunate to obtain the services of Dorothy Duncan. Our new Executive Director comes to us from a senior position in Ontario's Ministry of Culture and Recreation. She is perhaps better known than any other single person in the province's heritage movement, and has for some time been closely associated with the causes pursued by the OHS. Our future with such dedicated and capable help is bright indeed. We welcome Dorothy with open arms.

As Executive Director, Dorothy oversaw the OHS's move to its current headquarters at the John McKenzie House in Willowdale, the incorporation of numerous new affiliate members, cemetery defence against development, and so much more. In 1989, a new award named after her was established as part of the OHS's Honours and Awards program: the Dorothy Duncan Award. Its



Former Executive Directors Dorothy Duncan and Rob Levery met in Orillia on March 25, 2018, to catalogue and package Dorothy's donation to the OHS Library.

first recipient, the Latchford/Montreal River Heritage Preservation Project, was recognized the following year.

Dorothy resigned as Executive Director in December 2001 to begin her retirement, but continued as an active and engaged Life Member of the OHS. In 2018, Dorothy donated her entire library of over 700 books on Ontario's history to the Society, which makes up a significant and valuable part of the OHS's library collection, as well as her collected papers and speeches.

Outside of the OHS, Dorothy was an accomplished public historian, researcher, and author—with a particular focus on Canada's culinary history and the everyday life of people in Upper Canada. In recognition of her work, she received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Waterloo in 1996, the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Preservation of the Heritage of Ontario in 2001, the Order of Ontario in 2003, and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

Endlessly supportive of the OHS and the preservation of Ontario's history, Dorothy requested that upon her passing, donations be made to the OHS in lieu of flowers. This was incredibly generous. The OHS staff and Board of Directors are extremely grateful to Dorothy and her family for this wonderful expression of support. Thank you to all those who made donations in Dorothy's memory.

On behalf of the Ontario Historical Society and its grassroots membership across Ontario, the staff and Board of Directors send our deepest condolences to Dorothy's family, her colleagues, her friends, and everyone mourning the loss of a powerful champion of Ontario's history and heritage. We thank her for all she did in her amazing career, and celebrate the impact her legacy will continue to have on the next generation of history leaders.

THUNDER BAY MUSEUM LAUNCHES PHOTO DATABASE

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Within the archives of the Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society is a rich collection of historical photographs that help to tell the fascinating story of Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario. A new project is in its early stages that will help to make these photos more accessible to the public, while also assisting with revenue generation to support the Museum's operations.



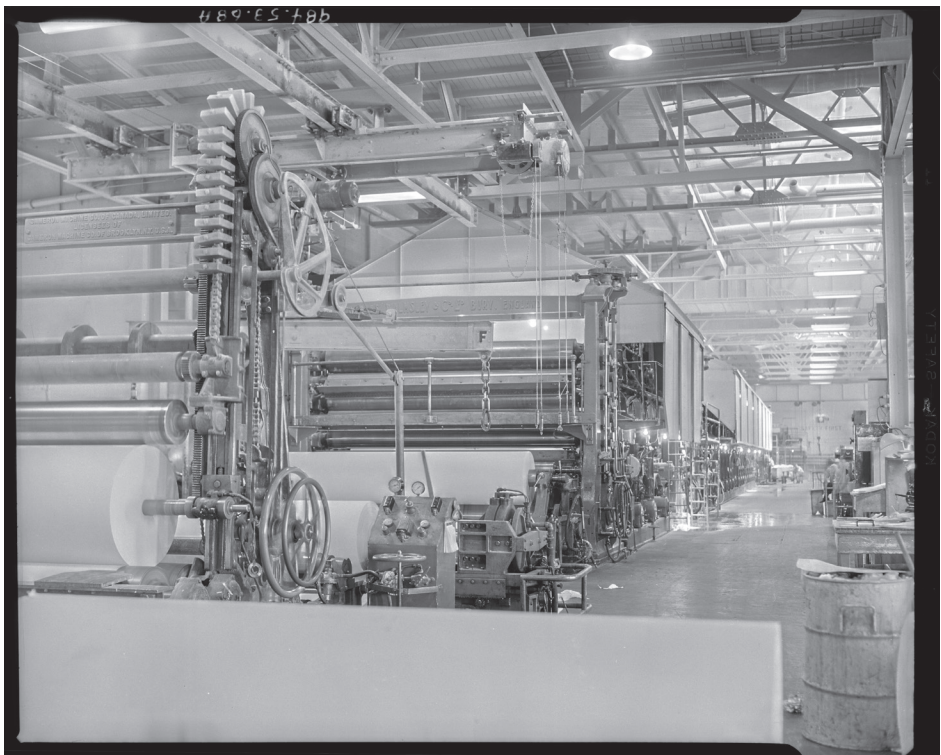
CPR's coal dock at Heron Bay on the north shore of Lake Superior. Taken by photographer John Forde in the 1890s, it's just one of the notable images the Museum has already digitized and made available through the web portal.

The digitization of this photo collection has been ongoing for many years but was accelerated in 2023 through funding from Heritage Canada's Digital Access to Heritage stream. Up to this point, visitors interested in browsing this collection, either for research projects or personal interest, have booked an appointment to come into the Museum to access it. But thanks to recent funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Museum has been able to develop a [web-based portal](#) that allows visitors to browse these photos from the comfort of their homes, greatly increasing the reach of our collection across the province and beyond. No doubt this portal will also enhance the Museum's revenue stream as it allows for the licensing of images from anywhere with minimal staff effort involved.

While there is still much work to do, and only a portion of the collection is currently reflected, our entire digitized photo collection will hopefully be available in the coming year, with further additions as new photos are scanned thanks to the hard work of our staff and volunteers. Visit <https://www.thunderbaymuseum.com/product-category/digital/> for more information.



The Thunder Bay Museum's photograph collection contains a fascinating record of how the cityscapes of Port Arthur, Fort William, and eventually Thunder Bay evolved over time. This photo, taken around 1938, shows the corner of Cumberland Street and Arthur Street (now Red River Road) at the epicentre of Port Arthur's downtown core. The long-distance tourist directional signs in the foreground reflect a time when major highways to the east and west converged through the core instead of bypassing the city.



Many photographs in our collection capture elements of Thunder Bay's industrial history. This one shows machinery in the Provincial Paper mill in Port Arthur, circa 1953. With production starting in 1918, this was the first paper mill constructed at the Lakehead. It was acquired by Abitibi Power & Paper Company in 1929. After being sold to employees in 1993 and changing hands several times, it was eventually demolished and the future of the site remains uncertain.

...‘WINGHAM & AREA HS’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

history as possible for future generations. At that point, we began the process of establishing a new historical society.

Much to our delight, we held the inaugural meeting of Wingham & Area Historical Society on November 8, 2023, passing motions to incorporate and approve both our constitution and bylaws, as well as appointing our first slate of Directors. OHS Executive Director Daniel Dishaw joined us for our incorporation meeting, despite the rough winter weather. He brought greetings from the OHS and outlined the history and role of the OHS, answering questions from the membership. We appreciated his presence and encouragement in matters of the history of Wingham. Daniel congratulated us on our incorporation and offered the support of the OHS in all our future endeavours. Members of the WAHS Board gave Daniel a tour of some of Wingham's historical sites, including the birthplace of Alice Munro and the literary garden that celebrates her life and work.

We recently held our first "Celebrate Wingham" fundraiser. The featured speaker was local award-winning architect John Rutledge, who took us on a architectural journey of the main street in Wingham. He pointed out many of the striking architectural features of the older buildings and discussed all the skills and practices involved in blending newer buildings into the street landscape. Everyone came away with an enhanced perspective on conservation and a deeper appreciation for the architecture of our town. The fundraiser also included a successful silent auction and local trivia contest. We welcomed several new members and raised more funds to support our efforts. It was a great way to start our journey as a newly incorporated organization and affiliate society of the OHS.



In October, the OHS partnered with the Willowdale Central Ratepayers Association (WCRA) and local children's camp, Sunnyside Up, to animate the historic John McKenzie House grounds for Halloween. The event featured performances from local artists, carnival games, snacks, and an outdoor haunted house experience. As always, one of the key objectives for the OHS as stewards of John McKenzie House is to provide opportunities for community engagement at the historic property in Willowdale. Pictured above (from left to right) are Stephen Boyle, WCRA President and Artist-In-Residence at John McKenzie House; Elie, Jenna, and George from Sunnyside Up Camp; and Daniel Dishaw, OHS ED.

MUSEUM MILESTONES

Dr. John Carter
drjohncarter@bell.net

In the article below, the Sault Ste. Marie Museum's Outreach and Programming Coordinator Alicia Wood-Salomon takes us on a tour of the Museum, from the architectural history of the building to the current programming and exhibition activities being offered.

I am pleased to report good news regarding the S.S. Keewatin: After concern about its future, work on stabilizing the vessel has been completed in Hamilton, and she now finds safe harbour at the Great Lakes Museum in Kingston. Recently towed there by the tugs Molly M1 and Vigilant 1, this 1907 ship is an important maritime artefact in the museum's collection. Once further upgrades are complete, the Keewatin is expected to become a major public attraction.

There is, however, less positive news about the Manitoulin ferries. I have written previously about the museum ship Norgoma, formerly docked at Sault Ste. Marie. Efforts to save or re-purpose this vessel have not proved successful, and she is to be sent to the scrap yard. Apparently the same fate faces her sister ship Norisle, which has been a feature of the Assiginack Museum in Manitowaning on Manitoulin Island for many years. Goodbye old friends!

With the announcement of the dissolution of the Region of Peel, questions are being raised about the future of collections at the Peel Art Gallery Museum

and Archives. The decisions about the distribution of all the collections must be made, but especially important is the future of the endowed William Perkins Bull Collection. The Peel Region Transition Board is collating feedback. Please send your comments to the Director, at peeltransitionboard@ontario.ca so that your thoughts and ideas can be considered.

Unfortunately, the Thelma Miles Museum at Black River-Matheson is now permanently closed. The organization has been dissolved and some of the collection has been sold, while remaining items are still up for sale. This is a significant loss to the museum community in northeastern Ontario.

Several issues ago, I reported on the thefts and vandalism at the Belle Vue Manor in Amherstburg. No suspects have been arrested yet, but it has been determined that the illegal activity, particularly the theft of items in the collection and of architectural pieces from the manor, was a carefully planned and orchestrated robbery. If you have any information about this matter, please contact the Amherstburg Police Department. I have also learned that the Town of Amherstburg is considering a proposal that would see the Belle Vue Manor property sold to a developer for the purpose of turning this national historic site into a hotel complex. If you would like to share your opinion on this plan or get an update on where the proposal stands, contact Mayor, Michael Prue mprue@amherstburg.ca or Clerk, Kevin Fox kfox@amherstburg.ca.

Finally, I must express my great sorrow on hearing the sad news of Dorothy Duncan's passing on August 29, 2023. Years ago, I was involved in the presentation of her honorary doctorate, granted by the University of Waterloo, for her tireless efforts on behalf of museums and heritage throughout the province and beyond. She was a mentor to me during my long career in the Ontario museum community. We will all miss her. My sincere condolences go out to her family.

SAULT STE. MARIE MUSEUM CELEBRATING 40 YEARS AT THE DOMINION BUILDING

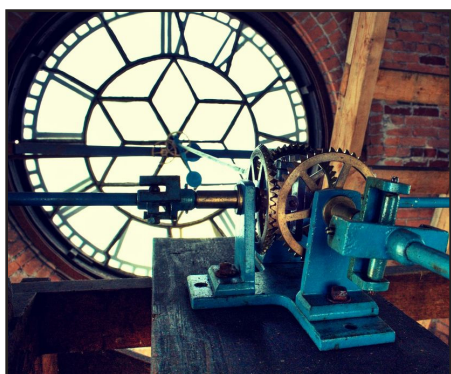
Alicia Wood-Salomon, Outreach and Programming Coordinator, Sault Ste. Marie Museum. outreach@saultmuseum.ca

The Sault Ste. Marie Museum is a not-for-profit, charitable organization operated by the Sault Ste. Marie & 49th Field Regiment R.C.A. Historical Society for the citizens of Sault Ste. Marie and the District of Algoma, as well as visitors to the community. A managing Board of Directors oversees the operation of the Museum.

The Sault Ste Marie and 49th Field Regiment RCA Historical Society was incorporated through affiliation and membership with the Ontario Historical Society on October 31, 1921. The organization has proudly served the Sault Ste. Marie area for more than 100 years.

The 2023 season marks an important milestone for the Sault Ste. Marie Museum. The museum is celebrating its 40th anniversary at 690 Queen Street East, also historically known as the Old Post Office or the Dominion Building. To celebrate the milestone anniversary, the Museum hosted an exciting year of featured events, exhibits, and programming. We welcome visitors year round to explore three floors of exhibit galleries that explore the history of Sault Ste. Marie.

The building itself has its own story to tell. In 1902, the City of Sault Ste. Marie received \$20,000 from the Dominion Government to construct a post office. Construction began in 1904 and the building was completed in March 1906. Like many buildings in Sault Ste. Marie, the post office building was constructed using sandstone excavated during the construction of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal. The iconic clock tower was added in 1912. At that point, the historic post office was the largest and grandest building in the City and a local landmark: the first sight of the city for approaching travellers. Its distinctive architectural features include uniquely cut stone walls, Romanesque arched windows, a magnificent oak staircase, an exquisite three-storey skylight, and the historic clock tower.



The historic clock (pictured here on the left) was built by J. Smith and Sons of Derby, England. The original cost of the clock was £185.10. The Smith of Derby Clockmakers began their trade in 1735 and continue to this day.

The clock was shipped from England aboard the S. S. Tunisian and arrived in Montreal. From there, it was shipped by train to Ottawa for inspection before being sent to the Sault by train.

Upon arrival, it was discovered that the tower was not tall enough to accommodate the workings of the clock. The tower had to be rebuilt. The original roof was maintained and the new tower was built smooth-sided, incorporating rectangular transom windows on each side.

The crown and ball (pictured here on the right) which adorned the top of the copper cornice on the clocktower was installed during initial construction in 1902. It was removed from the building in the late 1950s due to safety concerns, as the tower roof had slowly deteriorated.

The Post Office moved out of the building in 1949. Until 1970, several different government agencies used the building as their office space. Some of these occupants included, Public Works of Canada, the RCMP, National Employment Service, Customs, Weight and Measure, Dominion Immigration and the Indian Agent for Sault Ste. Marie.

By 1972 most of the federal offices and other tenants had moved out. The building would stay vacant for another 10 years until the city purchased it in 1982. In 1983, the Sault Ste. Marie Museum moved in.

Today, the building is a fantastic host for the City's collections. The exhibit galleries house and display artefacts and archival materials that illustrate the history of the people and the development of Sault Ste. Marie and immediate surrounding area. Our collections help foster a better understanding of our local heritage and the ways in which local history relates to our provincial and national history.

The Museum also hosts many fun and unique public events, publishes a weekly podcast series, boasts an impressive gift shop, and offers a new interactive feature utilizing QR codes; adding video and audio information to many of the displays and exhibits.

The Museum's Education and Outreach Department also offers in-person and virtual curriculum-based programming to both the Algoma District School Board and the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board.

The public programs currently offered include: The Crochet Poppy Workshop, Life Drawing Lessons, MacLeod Highland Dance Studio Lessons, and the ArtSpeaks Project ArtHive Community Sessions. For more information on these public programs, please visit saultmuseum.com/programs.html under programs.

Come discover YOUR museum—The Sault Ste. Marie & 49th Field Regiment R.C.A. Historical Society invites you to visit us! We're open Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00 am–4:00 pm, located at 690 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie. *(All photos courtesy of the Sault Ste. Marie Museum)*



The Museum's gift shop features a 962-piece brick-puzzle model of the Sault Ste. Marie Museum!

BARRY PENHALE'S ONTARIO

OSHAWA-BORN PEACE ACTIVIST: DOROTHY HENDERSON

Barry Penhale

barry@naturalheritagebooks.com

My wife and I share several interests and spend a lot of time discussing Canadian history.

Jane laughed aloud the other evening, when I remarked that at ninety-plus years, I am not likely to have too many more older interesting women enter my life. I realize how that may sound and to head off the wrong interpretations, let me quickly explain that, on a few occasions while considerably younger, I was favoured with the friendship of several outstanding Canadian women. My thoughts today are of three of them in particular, each of whom were quite exceptional and became an inspiration to me. That trio is Ethel Brant Monture, Dr. Mary Northway, and Dorothy Henderson. Ethel Brant Monture (1894–1977) was the accomplished Mohawk author and elegant great-great-granddaughter of Joseph Brant, whose historically important place in Canada's history has been well documented. When we met, she was living on the Grand River Reserve in a charming commodious home next to “Chiefswood,” the birthplace of the highly acclaimed poet Pauline Johnson, who was also known as Tekahionwake. Today, the Johnson home is open to the public as an Indigenous-operated Museum. Ethel, at the time we met, was an in-demand lecturer and, as I discovered, a gracious hostess and a very special lady in all respects.

The second woman, Dr. Mary L. Northway, at the time of her passing in 1987, left a remarkable legacy chronicling her many interests and accomplishments. Synonymous with the University of Toronto, later with the Institute of Child Study, and with countless advances in early childhood education, she was equally prominent as a pioneer in the growth of children's camps in Ontario. An Honorary Life Member of the Ontario Camping Association, Northway was a first-rate naturalist and spent countless enjoyable hours in Algonquin Park. A prolific writer in her field, she also authored the biography of her father, John Northway, under the title *Blue Serge Canadian*—an informative and affectionate reminder of his once-considerable prominence in Toronto's business community.

I hope in future to say more about Ethel Brant Monture and Mary Northway and how they both enriched my life. But today I have chosen to single out Oshawa-born Dorothy Henderson. Born Dorothy Marion McLaughlin in 1900, she was a proud member of one of Canada's best-known families, whose pioneering in the automobile industry ultimately led to the formation of General Motors of Canada. Her interest and pride in her family history prompted Dorothy to write the book, *Robert McLaughlin: Carriage Builder*, published by the Toronto press Griffin House in 1972. During her 86 years among us (she passed in 1986), Dorothy was actively involved with the arts, books, religion, and world peace. She was



The study table in the Canada Room.

to write and publish eight books, largely of a spiritual and philosophic nature, bearing such titles as *People Have Power*, *For the Greater Glory*, *Will Mankind Listen*, and *Creative Living*. She once was quoted as saying, “My books are written not for America particularly, but for the intelligent layman anywhere.”

Not surprisingly, she was an avid reader and surrounded herself with books in her comfortable but unpretentious farmhouse near King City. I first visited with her at “Hawthorne Hills” circa 1980, having accepted her invitation for a luncheon meeting in her bright airy kitchen to discuss Canadian markets for a fine book she had written, but one that her US publisher had poorly marketed. It was the start of a number of memorable times in her company and quickly fostered a special friendship. Dorothy, as I soon discovered, was an inspiring individual,



Wood carvings being prepared for the Canada Room.

and I found myself rewarded through exposure to her world views concerning peace. Her wide cultural tastes in art and sculpture also proved infectious, and Hawthorne Hills with its attractive rock gardens and scenic rural views was a balm to the soul of this (then) city-based publisher.

During her lifetime, Dorothy Henderson and her educator husband Douglas had come to know numerous world figures, some of whom they had hosted and entertained at Hawthorne Hills. It was a delightful discovery to learn that the once-famous Canadian poet Wilson MacDonald and his wife Dorothy were among their old friends. This was an especially pleasant surprise as by then I myself treasured a warm friendship with them. But perhaps even more surprising to discover was the Henderson's closeness to the internationally acclaimed African-American tenor, Roland Hayes (1887–1977). Canadian concerts headlined by this remarkable artist had produced an enduring friendship between Hayes and his Canadian hosts, who warmly accommodated him in their home, sparing Hayes the embarrassment of inferior lodging in Toronto. Unfortunately, Roland Hayes, like such other noted African-American performers as Marion Anderson, Paul Robeson, and later the popular band leaders Count Basie and Duke Ellington, was to know first-hand the not-so-subtle Canadian racism practised for far too long in major Toronto hotels. My own connection to Roland Hayes was tenuous but vitally important to me, for I had been brought to tears reading a rare Toronto Library copy of a book that acquainted this reader with the heart-wrenching story of the famous tenor's once enslaved parents—most notably his incredible mother “Angel Mo'.” Few books have impacted me so profoundly!

Dorothy Henderson was known to have attended some of the earliest meetings of the United Nations and her interest in understanding other citizens of the world was profound, and led to her involvement with the international language Esperanto. For years she promoted the movement with much enthusiasm, firmly convinced that the world needed a neutral language. This interest is reflected in the contents of a file I have about her, including letters received from her. Also included is a fading typed article headed “About the Canada Room.” This most unique room was Dorothy's idea and was dedicated in the memory of her father George William McLaughlin. The furniture for this room was designed and executed by the venerable old firm of Ridpath's Limited and was first displayed at their 906 Yonge Street, Toronto, location in February 1963. Following the public viewing, all was shipped to Rotterdam, Holland, to become the Library and Board Room at the headquarters of the World Esperanto Movement. This very special room, commissioned by Dorothy, featured only Canadian wood, Canadian symbols, and the work of Canadian designers and craftsmen, many of whom had ancestral roots elsewhere in the world. It was as Canadian as it could possibly be, including floor lamps from settler days and Canadian wildlife replicated on panelled walls. This is a little-known and interesting chapter in our heritage that deserves to be more widely known.

I like to think Dorothy Henderson would be pleased that such history is being revisited at this time. At one point in my life, I was fortunate to have the friendship of this caring woman. Looking back now, I realize how very fortunate I was.



Dr. Drummond Memorial Park in Cobalt was officially opened on June 24, 2023, with a ceremony at the Paul Penna Library. Doing the ribbon-cutting honour in front of Dr. Drummond's landmark fireplace are (from left to right) Assistant Coordinator Dwight Brydges; Cobalt Mayor Angela Adshead; and Project Coordinator David Brydges.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio

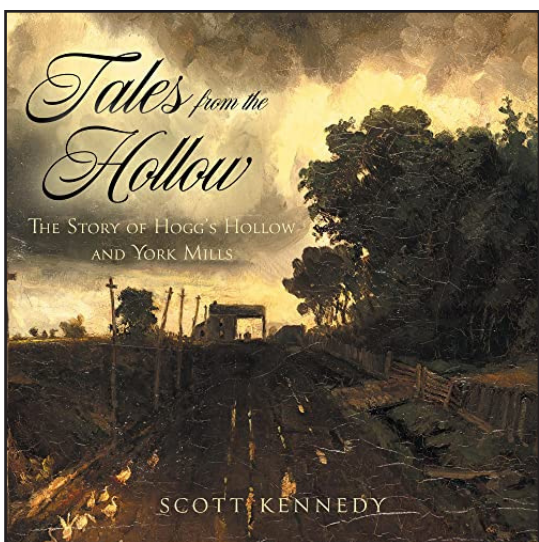
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This edition of the Bookshelf closes the calendar year, hard as it is to believe. My last editorial was all about summer fetes and festivities. Now we are entering the season of many different traditions of “following the light” and preparing for harsh months ahead. The light, however interpreted, is the hope of being here to greet the spring.

Today it is snowing, though very lightly, in that pretty “big soft snowflakes” way that we all love—the part that comes before the double-digit minus temperatures, the seemingly endless nights, the marathon snow-shovelling. But then we remember, too, the light that penetrates all this cold and darkness in the form of get-togethers with family and friends, building the world’s biggest snowman, browsing all the wonderful seasonal markets, and preparing (and especially indulging in) all the foods that we each, in our own custom, associate with our winter feasts. Those are the things we turn to every wintertime in Ontario. Those are the things that get us through. Among my personal favourites are a hot chocolate and a good book, such as any or all of those reviewed below.

However you celebrate, do it with all your heart, and the best of the season to everyone!

TALES FROM THE HOLLOW: THE STORY OF HOGG’S HOLLOW AND YORK MILLS



SCOTT KENNEDY

Friesen Press, 2022

friesenpress.com

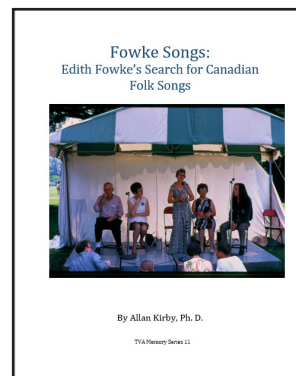
Most histories by local historians are inspired by the author’s own history. Certainly Scott Kennedy, a longtime resident of the York Mills neighborhood of Hogg’s Hollow, fits that description. OHS members will be familiar with his two earlier works: *Don Mills: From Forests and Farms to Forces of Change*, and *Willowdale: Yesterday’s Farms, Today’s Legacy*.

In *Tales from the Hollow: The Story of Hogg’s Hollow*, Kennedy follows the historic community’s evolution through nearly two centuries. While presenting a detailed chronicle of its development, he adds a personal touch by interjecting his own memories from childhood to the present day. Both those memories and the historical record point to the radical changes the community has undergone, especially since the Second World War. The suburban homes built during his 1940s childhood were meant to provide housing for successive generations as starter homes. Economic changes, especially burgeoning prosperity and a fascination with new and better—usually meaning bigger—saw all but five of the original fifty disappear within forty years. So many of those “affordable family suburbs” of the postwar years followed the same trajectory.

The book’s opening chapters illustrate the region’s history from pre-contact, through the British colonization of the late 18th and 19th centuries, exploring the milestones of the past century into the present day. Kennedy writes clearly and shows sound historical judgment in his selection of what can only be touched on in such a span of years. His choice of illustrations, mainly photographs, fills in where text does not allow. There are more than 250 included, making this book a visual delight as well as a literary one.

A committed environmentalist, musician, writer, and photographer, Kennedy challenges assumptions that “all growth is good growth,” a challenge all too relevant to present-day Ontarians who must deal with legislation pushing development over conservation. His photos of the woodlands and farmlands of the past are jarring reminders of what we have done. Ultimately this is not just a book about the history of one community, although he tells it well. It serves as a call to consider a better way forward, if there is to be any “forward.”

FOWKE SONGS: EDITH FOWKE’S SEARCH FOR CANADIAN FOLK SONGS



ALLAN KIRBY

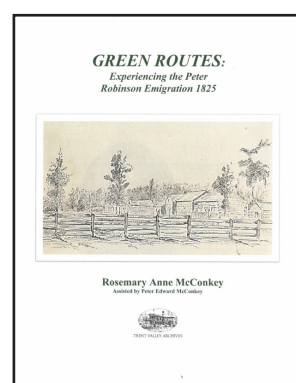
Trent Valley Archives Memory Series, 2023

trentvalleyarchives.com/shop/

Trent Archives curator and local historian Elwood H. Jones continues his project to support and promote both the history of the Trent Valley and the materials stored in its archives with this recent trio of publications, featured here in this edition of From the Bookshelf:

Allan Kirby’s book, *Fowke Songs: Edith Fowke’s Search for Canadian Folk Songs*, has important Peterborough roots but its subject extends beyond the local into the rich but largely unexplored history of Canadian music and folklore. An accomplished musician, Kirby is the nation’s leading expert on Fowke, a shamefully neglected figure in our history, seeing as she was, herself, the nation’s leading expert in her domain. Based on his 2002 doctoral dissertation in Canadian Studies at Carleton University, the book provides an accessible and fascinating insight into Fowke’s background (in education—she briefly taught high school) and her forays into collecting folksongs from the source: the ordinary people, many in rural and fishing villages in Ontario and the Atlantic provinces, who sang them, adapted them, and passed them on generationally. Born in 1913 in Lumsden, near Regina, and raised and educated in Saskatchewan, Fowke’s connection to Peterborough was made when she moved to Toronto with her husband and became involved with Peterborough folklorist and local historian Mary Towns. Unknown to many, Fowke helped launch the iconic Mariposa Folk Festival, which became an international draw for folksingers and their fans in the 1960s. She also compiled and anthologized many of her finds: traditional folk songs, some imported from overseas, and their variations in local lumbering songs and sea shanties, as well as children’s rhymes and rhythmic games. These important historical contributions remain unsurpassed. Fowke also hosted a long-running CBC radio show (*Folk Song Time*, 1950-63), recorded local singers and folk music legends such as Alan Mills, and published more than 20 books in the field. Kirby has produced a much-needed work on a remarkable woman who deserves to be better known.

GREEN ROUTES: EXPERIENCING THE PETER ROBINSON EMIGRATION 1825



ROSEMARY ANNE MCCONKEY

Trent Valley Archives Memory Series, 2023

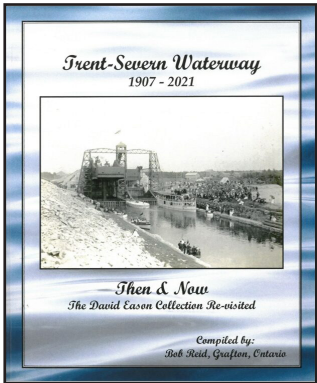
trentvalleyarchives.com/shop/

Peterborough historian and genealogist Rosemary McConkey’s *Green Routes: Experiencing the Peter Robinson Emigration 1825*, recounts the story of the Peter Robinson settlers, a largely destitute group of about 2,000 men, women and children who were in the charge of government agent Robinson. In 1835, the emigrants departed from Cobh, near Cork, in nine military transport ships provided by an English government desperate to be rid of them, while an even more distressed 50,000 applied for passage and waited for fraught passage on the crowded, unhygienic, and unsafe vessels. The book spans some 200 years, outlining the context that sparked these frantic departures, describing the difficult transatlantic voyage, and following them through their challenges of homesteading on the uncultivated and unfamiliar territory of Douro township after the travails of life in impoverished and afflicted Ireland. Most of the material comes from

‘FROM THE BOOKSHELF’ CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...

unpublished letters by several early generations of settlers, held at the Archives of Ontario. By showcasing the experiences of particular individuals and families within the Robinson group, McConkey is able to trace the settlement’s progress, from the lobbying attempts of the schoolmaster to get government-funded schools, through the legacies of the pioneers in establishing a thriving community, to the exploits of their 21st century descendants. The original emigrants’ stories encapsulate the development of Peterborough County, and their “footprint” remains, even for those who have moved on. This is a very timely production, with the bicentennial of the Irish emigration only a few years off, reminding us of the Irish tragedy that was such a formative event in the history of North America.

Trent Severn Waterway, 1907–2021, Then & Now:
The David Eason Collection Re-visited



BOB REID

Trent Valley Archives Memory Series, 2023
trentvalleyarchives.com/shop/

In *Trent Severn Waterway, 1907–2021, Then & Now, The David Eason Collection Re-visited*, photographer and canal enthusiast Bob Reid has done just that. He has compiled some remarkable early 20th century photographs by David Eason that he discovered in the Trent Valley Archives. David Evans Eason (1869–1930) was born in Otonabee Township, taught school for awhile, then graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree from the School of Practical Science (engineering) in 1902. He went to work for the Trent Canal immediately after graduation and became its Superintendent in 1919, a position he held until his death in 1930. An avid amateur photographer, Eason took 103 photos from various positions along the canal system over the years of his tenure, all of which are reproduced here. The “revisiting” is explained by the book’s structure. A selection of 62 of Eason’s images is juxtaposed, on opposite pages, by Reid’s contemporary colour photos of the same scene, taken as much as possible from the same position as the original photographer’s. The result is an interactive experience, compelling the reader to examine each version of a scene for the differences and continuities that have occurred in the many decades, lifespans, and generations that separate them. Reid has included an appendix with 51 more Eason originals, his entire set of canal photos. There is also a helpful timeline indicating the most important developments in the canal’s history. To contextualize its development,

expansion, adaptation, and structural changes, the accompanying text reprints an engineering history of the canal by Andrew H. Wilson of the Engineering Institute of Canada, originally published in 2017. Altogether, this is an enjoyable way to learn about one of the epoch-making transportation advances that was instrumental in moving an agrarian nation into an industrial one, with Ontario leading the way.

ANDREA IZZO RECEIVES GOV. GENERAL’S
HISTORY AWARD FOR TEACHING



Photo – Sgt Anis Assari, Rideau Hall

Former OHS Communications Coordinator, Andrea Izzo was awarded the Governor General’s History Award for Teaching Excellence. Pictured above are Andrea and Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, on November 22 at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

Now a teacher at Oscar Peterson Public School in Stouffville, Ontario, Andrea led his students through an investigation of the No. 2 Construction Battalion. After researching the battalion and the lives of individual soldiers, the students created digital exhibits, which they shared with their school community during Remembrance Day activities. The project was carried out in collaboration with the York Region District School Board Museum & Archives. Congratulations and Kudos to our former colleague, Andrea! For more information on the project and the award presentation, visit canadashistory.ca/awards/governor-general-s-history-awards/award-recipients/2023/leone-andrea-izzo.

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

Next issue copy deadline:
Friday, February 23, 2024.

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Types of membership in the Society are: Individual \$50, Institution/Organization \$55, 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 \$36.75

per year; member organizations, institutions and non-member individuals for \$47.25; and to non-member organizations and institutions for \$57.75. Membership inquiries should be directed to Heather Anderson at handerson@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

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