



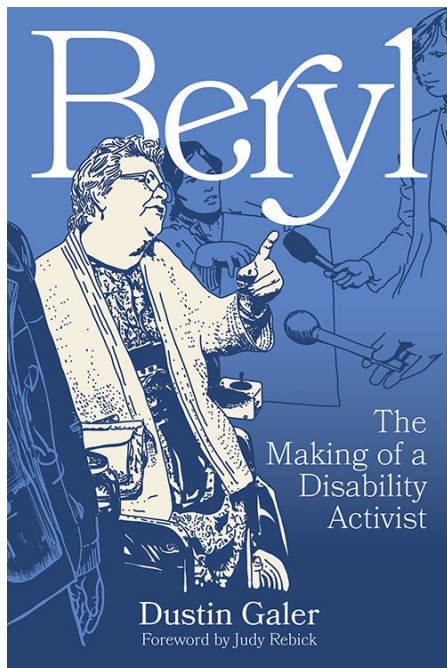
OHS Creighton Award Recognizes Dustin Galer for *Beryl: The Making of a Disability Activist*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to present the 2023-24 Donald Grant Creighton Award to Dr. Dustin Galer for his book *Beryl: The Making of a Disability Activist*, published by Between the Lines. The Donald Grant Creighton Award honours the best book of biography or autobiography highlighting life in Ontario, past or present, published in the past three years.

Beryl: The Making of a Disability Activist is a skilful and well-researched biography that, by exploring the life of disability activist Beryl Potter, vividly illuminates the historical context of the issues she addressed and causes she championed. Dr. Galer has made adept use of interviews and contemporary documentation (in various media) to write this impressive and highly readable biography. The book begins with the harrowing experiences that Potter herself experienced – physical, financial, and mental – and endured. From there it narrates Potter’s emergence as an activist and leading disability advocate of the 1980s and 1990s – a transformative and courageous personal journey from victimhood to agency and civil rights leadership. It is the inspiring story of a complex individual, overcoming great personal misfortune to battle entrenched social, cultural, and institutional barriers for the good of all. It is a work that lays bare the challenges and issues faced by individuals and efforts to reform an inadequate and oppressive social and health system. It does not sugar coat Potter’s life, and the book describes the strident opposition from some sectors to implementing legislative and regulatory measures to improve the lives of those with disabilities, and how she overcame such opposition.

The Honours and Awards Committee proudly presents the Donald Grant Creighton Award to Dustin Galer.



Sara Swerdlyk, Publicity & Promotions Manager at Between the Lines, accepts the OHS Creighton Award on behalf of Dr. Dustin Galer who was unable to attend the Honours and Awards Ceremony on November 2, 2024 at the Historic John McKenzie House. The award will be presented to Dr. Galer at a later date. Click the image to watch a video of the award acceptance.

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.

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