OHS Russel K. Cooper Award Winner: All Flowers Mahjong and the Wong Association of Ontario

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to present the 2026 Russell K. Cooper Award to All Flowers Mahjong and the Wong Association of Ontario. The Cooper Award recognizes an outstanding programming initiative that has brought greater public awareness to an aspect of Ontario's history in the past three years.

Through their partnership, All Flowers Mahjong and the Wong Association of Ontario have created a volunteer-run cultural initiative that celebrates and sustains Ontario's Chinese diasporic heritage through weekly, intergenerational mahjong programming in Toronto's Chinatown. Every week, dozens of community members—young and old—gather inside the historic Wong Association to play mahjong, exchange stories, and share cultural traditions that strengthen community connections and historical understanding.

By bringing new generations into a space that has long served Toronto's Chinese community, this collaboration also highlights the continuing importance of Chinese family associations as places of gathering, mutual support, and cultural exchange. Through these weekly gatherings, participants are introduced not only to mahjong as a cultural practice, but also to the histories and community institutions that continue to shape Chinatown today.

Through this intergenerational exchange, mahjong becomes a living cultural practice through which language, social customs, and community histories are shared and passed forward. Together, All Flowers Mahjong and the Wong Association of Ontario demonstrate how heritage can be sustained through participation, ensuring that Ontario's Chinese diasporic history is not only remembered but actively lived and practiced by new generations.

The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to recognize All Flowers Mahjong and the Wong Association of Ontario for their collaborative commitment to outstanding public programming and the continued vitality of Toronto's Chinatown.



The OHS Russell K. Cooper Award was presented at the 2026 OHS Awards Ceremony on November 14, 2026 at the Historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale, Toronto, Ontario. Left to right: Roy Wong, OHS Awards Committee Co-Chair Hans Bathija, Van Gonzales.

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 Awards Program, or to submit a nomination, please visit ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/awards/ or contact the Society's offices by telephone or e-mail.

-Ontario Historical Society-

Contact: ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca - 416.226.9011

@ontariohistory /ontariohistoricalsociety ontariohistoricalsociety.ca