

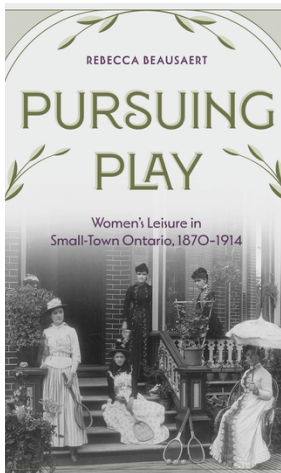


OHS Alison Prentice Award Winner: *Pursuing Play: Women's Leisure in Small- Town Ontario, 1870-1914*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Ontario Historical Society's Alison Prentice Award for Canadian Women's history recognizes an early career historian for an outstanding project bringing greater awareness to women's history in Ontario. The OHS is pleased to present the 2025 Alison Prentice Award to Dr. Rebecca Beusaert, for her book, *Pursuing Play: Women's Leisure in Small-Town Ontario, 1870-1914*, published by University of Manitoba Press. Beusaert explores the leisure activities of women in rural Canada within a period of tremendous social, cultural, economic, political and religious change through the three small town case studies of Elora, Dresden, and Tillsonburg. She convincingly argues that women in these areas increasingly exhibited agency and autonomy in their choices of leisure activities, which enlarged their social networks, strengthened long-standing ties of kinship and friendship, and created more opportunities for community involvement. In so doing, Beusaert challenges the prevailing narrative by revealing how trends in leisure and social change in small-town Canada actually mirrored those at the national level within a few decades of Confederation.

The Awards Committee is thrilled to announce Dr. Rebecca Beusaert as this year's recipient of the OHS Alison Prentice Award for Canadian Women's History.



The OHS Alison Prentice Award was presented at the 2025 OHS Awards Ceremony on December 6, 2025 at the Historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale, Toronto, Ontario. Left to right: Co-Chair of the OHS Awards Committee Hans Bathija and Prentice Award Winner Dr. Rebecca Beusaert.



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

f /ontariohistoricalsociety

🖱 ontariohistoricalsociety.ca