

OHS Dorothy Duncan Leadership in Heritage Award Winner: Sidney Williams

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The Awards Committee would like to first recognize Dr. Robert Roden with an honourable mention in the Dorothy Duncan Award category. Dr. Roden has exhibited ongoing dedication toward researching, preserving, and celebrating the local history of Etobicoke and Toronto. Thank you, Dr. Roden, for all of your many contributions.

This year, the Ontario Historical Society is proud to present the Dorothy Duncan Award for Leadership in Heritage to Sidney Williams, Assistant Curator at the Beachville District Museum, in recognition of her exceptional leadership, innovation, and commitment to public history education and community heritage programming in Ontario.

Sidney Williams is a bold and inspiring heritage professional who has transformed the way her community experiences local history. Through her vision and dedication, she has created highly engaging programs rooted in the cultural traditions, agricultural heritage, and industrial history of Oxford County. Her “Hands-On Heritage” initiative—including historic baseball-making, Victorian quilting, and butter-churning experiences—offers immersive, intergenerational learning opportunities that make history personal, tangible, and meaningful. These programs have garnered regional and national attention, strengthening heritage tourism and showcasing the power of small museums to deliver innovative, high-impact experiences. Sidney Williams exemplifies the spirit of this award through her leadership, creativity, community-first approach, and tireless advocacy for rural and regional histories. Her work has reinvigorated public interest in local heritage and inspired others across the cultural sector to think boldly about what community museums can achieve. The Awards Committee congratulates Sidney Williams on this well-deserved honour and extends sincere appreciation for her exceptional contributions to Ontario’s heritage and to the future of public history in our province.



The OHS Dorothy Duncan Leadership in Heritage 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 Dorothy Duncan Award winner Sidney Williams.

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.

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Contact: ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca - 416.226.9011

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