

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHS Awards Committee Recognizes The Friends of Hope Mill for Outstanding Commitment to Heritage Conservation

The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to present the Heritage Conservation Award to The Friends of Hope Mill. The Heritage Conservation Award recognizes an exceptional contribution towards the conservation, preservation, or restoration of a built-heritage or natural-heritage site in Ontario.

The Awards Committee extends an honourable mention and note of appreciation to Bob Rehder for his wonderful book, *The Hope Mill Challenge*, which tells the story of the Mill and the volunteer restoration efforts that have preserved the site and transformed it into a compelling heritage destination.

As a group of steadfast volunteers, The Friends of Hope Mill have worked to restore and animate the site for the public benefit. They continue to operate the Mill as a living history site with the support of the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, which leases the Mill to this group of volunteers.

This massive, multi-year project included: restoring the physical building and the mill and its original equipment to working condition; developing a plan for continued maintenance through creating a self-generated revenue stream to ensure the continued care of this historic place into the future, and interpreting the mill to visitors, helping them to understand and appreciate the importance of this incredible, early industrial example of Ontario's history. The Friends were also able to effectively garner support from individuals, businesses and government agencies in the Otonabee and Peterborough area to make this restoration dream a reality.



One Hope family member, Wayne Hope, expressed that “As a Hope family member, I can’t help but be amazed and proud at legacy that the Friends of the Hope have built for all of us.”

The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to present the Heritage Conservation Award to the Friends of Hope Mill.

The OHS Heritage Conservation Award presented at the Honours and Awards Ceremony on November 2, 2024 at the Historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale, Toronto, Ontario. Pictured are: Alex McCubbin, President of The Friends of Hope Mill (L) and Co-Chair of OHS Honours & Awards Committee Hans Bathija (R). 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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