



ONTARIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY *Since 1888*



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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Established in 1888, the OHS celebrated 135 years of history in 2023. The Society was founded as a federation of local historical societies, brought together by a common desire to celebrate and preserve Ontario history. The OHS remains committed to representing the public interest and empowering other grassroots historical organizations to do the same.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kris Ives, **PRESIDENT**
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Dave Mowat, **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**
Chair, Indigenous Affairs Committee

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Mark Plishewsky, **TREASURER**

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Chair, Ontario History Journal Committee

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Sarah Pirani, **DIRECTOR**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	CELEBRATING 135 YEARS OF THE OHS
4	OHS PODCASTING
5	PRESIDENT'S REPORT
6	TREASURER'S REPORT
7	ONTARIO HISTORY
8	MEMBERS & INCORPORATION
9	INSURANCE PROGRAM
10	PARKVIEW NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN
11	CEMETERY DEFENCE
12	HONOURS AND AWARDS
13–15	NEW MEMBERS, SUBSCRIBERS, & DONORS

Established in 1888, The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) is a not-for-profit corporation, registered charity, and publisher. The OHS is a non-government group bringing together people of all ages, all walks of life, and all cultural backgrounds interested in preserving some aspect of Ontario's history.

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OHS PODCASTING

Sarah McCabe, **OHS PROJECT MANAGER & LIBRARIAN**

In 2023, the OHS partnered with one of Canada's most renowned historians, Dr. Donald B. Smith, to launch the Society's first in-house produced 21-episode weekly podcast series, *In Hindsight: Half a Century of Research Discoveries in Canadian History*.

A long-time OHS member, Dr. Smith is a Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Calgary who has focused his career on the history of Indigenous Canada, Quebec, Calgary and Southern Alberta. Dr. Smith's first academic article, "Grey Owl," was published in the Society's *Ontario History* journal in 1971.

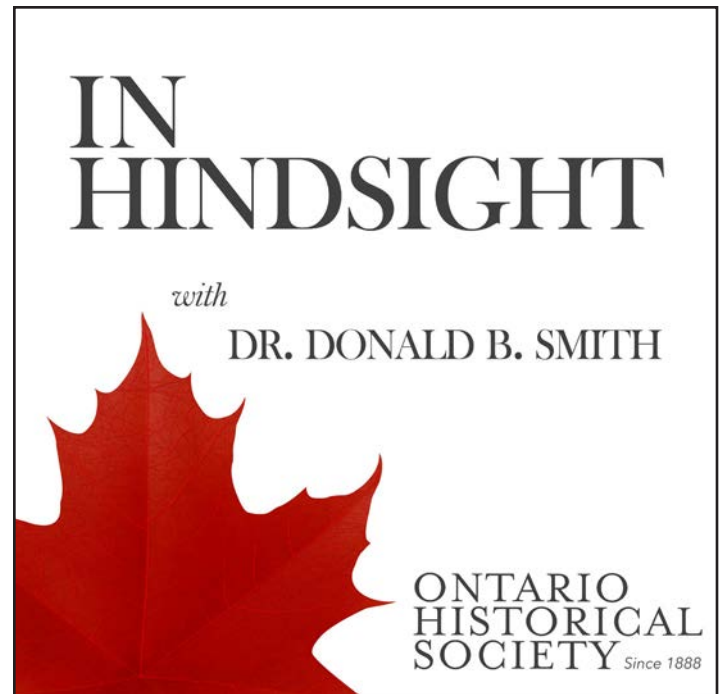


Don Smith and Mike Eagle Speaker photographed together (probably 1977), from Episode 21 of *In Hindsight: "Ontario Made Me. Calgary Adopted Me."*

In addition to the relaxed anecdote-filled old-fashioned radio-style talks (podcasts), substantial illustrated summary articles for each episode have been provided exclusively on the OHS website, including a short bibliography and/or the "back story" as to how the "discovery" was made, a terrific resource for students and those interested in learning more.

The Introduction, which premiered in January 2023, was presented by Dave Mowat, OHS First Vice President and former Chief of Alderville First Nation. Episodes 1 and 2 review Dr. Smith's transformation from a student of international affairs into an historian of Canada with a particular interest in the Indigenous Peoples.

Nineteen episodes from across Canada follow in which Dr. Smith presents a selection of his personal research discoveries through reading, interviews, and visits to the localities under review, both before and after his arrival in Alberta from Ontario in 1974.



Personalities covered include Grey Owl, Chief Buffalo Child Long Lance, Peter Jones & Eliza Field, the Mississauga & David Ramsay, Sir Augustus d'Este & Egerton Ryerson, Nahnebahwequay, Lord Bury, John A. Macdonald, Lester Pearson and many more, plus a penultimate episode on Olive Dickason & the Writing of Indigenous History in Canada, introducing how historical writing has been altered in the digital age.

Throughout the series, Dr. Smith's theme is that Canadians of the past were prisoners of their cultural values just as their latter-day judges are of today's beliefs. In each episode, he tries to understand, and to help the listener understand, the individual in the context of their own times.

In the 18 months since the launch, the series has been very well received, reaching over 3,200 listeners. In addition, Michael Payne's review (*Prairie History*, No. 13, Winter 2024, p. 54) emphasizes that "Partnerships of this type offer an opportunity for democratizing access to academic research and historical knowledge, and this series offers a model for other historical associations and institutions such as museums and archives to reach new audiences."

All 21 episodes are available now on the OHS website (<https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/podcasts/in-hindsight>) and wherever listeners get their podcasts. Closed captioned videos of each talk are available on YouTube (www.youtube.com/@OntarioHistory/videos). The OHS is honoured to have shared Dr. Smith's lifetime of personal research discoveries.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kris Ives, **PRESIDENT**

The Society celebrated 135 years of history in 2023, making it one of the oldest historical organizations in the country. Since 1888, the OHS has worked to empower grassroots historical societies all across the province. Our core mandate is more important now than ever, as volunteer-run historical groups continue to take over public heritage assets to serve the needs of their communities. It remains a top priority of the OHS staff and Board of Directors to support that work.

As the Society moves forward, we are working to lead conversations about the future of historical programming and heritage preservation in Ontario. The groundwork for a new strategic planning process was laid in 2023, and consultations with our members began in 2024. The OHS is committed to maintaining our core operations while exploring new avenues to serve our members and engage the public at large. The OHS Board of Directors looks forward to hearing from the membership in the coming months.

In 2023, the OHS began a revitalization of the John McKenzie House property in Willowdale, which serves as the OHS headquarters. This work is done in partnership with the City of Toronto and supported by the local community in Willowdale. Special thanks go to the Willowdale Central Ratepayers Association for their ongoing commitment to this important work. In addition to some physical restoration work at the house, the core objective has been to engage local residents and create lasting partnerships with other public benefit organizations in the area. Heritage properties like the John McKenzie House are not just historical sites on the map, they are active, public spaces that facilitate community connection, engagement, and bolster the local economy. Investing in these properties—and the community groups that help to animate them—supports heritage, tourism, and the arts at a grassroots level.

Once again, thank you to all of our supporters. It is only with your help and dedication that the work of the OHS is made possible. This year, I want to recognize the legacy of contributions made by Ronald Junkin (1942–2023). Mr. Junkin was an avid supporter of cemetery preservation. He was a member of the OHS and Ontario Ancestors (formerly the Ontario Genealogical Society) for many years, supporting the work of grassroots heritage preservation in his own community and across the province. Mr. Junkin was a

passionate defender of cemeteries in Ontario and a wonderful friend and ally to the Society. His passion and legacy will continue to have an impact in our province through the A. Ronald Junkin Cemetery Defence and Preservation Fund. He will be greatly missed.

I would like to acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism for funds received. The Society is looking forward to continued partnerships with all levels of government to support the celebration and preservation of our history.

It has been an honour to serve the Society as President for these past two years. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the dedicated OHS staff who work diligently to support the Society's operations. My sincere thanks also to the Board Members that I have been fortunate to serve with. Each Director is dedicated to the work of the Society and passionately brings their expertise and unique experiences to the role. As I look back on all that we have accomplished over these past two years, I'm particularly moved by the many ways in which our volunteers contribute to the work of the OHS. I want to thank them all for the wonderful support and dedication they offer to the Society's staff and membership every year. The OHS has come through a period of major transition in good financial standing, looking forward to exciting new endeavours on the horizon.



In October 2023, the OHS partnered with the Willowdale Central Ratepayers Association (WCRA) and local children's camp, Sunnyside Up, to animate the historic John McKenzie House grounds for Halloween. One of the key objectives for the OHS as stewards of John McKenzie House is to provide opportunities for community engagement at the historic property in Willowdale.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark Plishewsky, **TREASURER**

The Society's 2023 financial statements, audited by Akler Browning LLP, show a balance sheet that is sound, healthy, and debt free.

Total revenues from grants, memberships, subscriptions to *Ontario History*, investment income, and donations amounted to \$376,869 in 2023. Total income the previous year was \$369,680, reflecting an increase of 2%. Total expenditures amounted to \$372,762, which is down 7% from \$399,724 in the previous year.

The Statement of Operations for 2023 reflects a marginal surplus of \$4,107. The extra income is thanks to a generous string of December donations and increased investment income. As always, the support of our members and donors is greatly appreciated. This small surplus was used to bring a student employee on board for the summer of 2024 to support OHS core staff.

In 2022, the OHS reported unrealized losses in the market value of our investments. The OHS shifted from fixed income to equity investments in early 2023. Thanks to a rebound in the market, the Society is reporting a \$101,115 increase to the total fund balance, for a total of \$1,160,617. The vast majority of these funds are restricted donations, including a generous bequest received in December 2023 from the estate of long-time OHS member Ronald Junkin. The OHS greatly appreciates the support of Mr. Junkin and his family. The A. Ronald Junkin Cemetery Defence and Preservation Fund has been established in his name.

OHS volunteers once again donated approximately 7,000 hours of time and expertise to the Society in support of its charitable activities. In its 2018 Report, The Value of Volunteering in Canada, the Conference Board of Canada established the average value of work by a volunteer at \$27 per hour. Therefore, based on this calculation, the value of the hours contributed by OHS volunteers in 2023 is worth the equivalent of \$189,000 in donated labour.

In 2021, the OHS was awarded three years of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Aid to Scholarly Journals funding at \$13,500 per year, and was pleased to receive the second installment of this grant in 2023.

Significant heritage restoration work was carried out at the John McKenzie House (OHS headquarters) in partnership with the City of Toronto. This work, which began in late 2023 and ended in early 2024, focused on revitalizing and maintaining the historic outbuildings of the McKenzie family farm. This provincially significant site has become a hub for community programming and heritage tourism in Willowdale. The restored Stable (1915) and Milk House (1907) are pictured below.

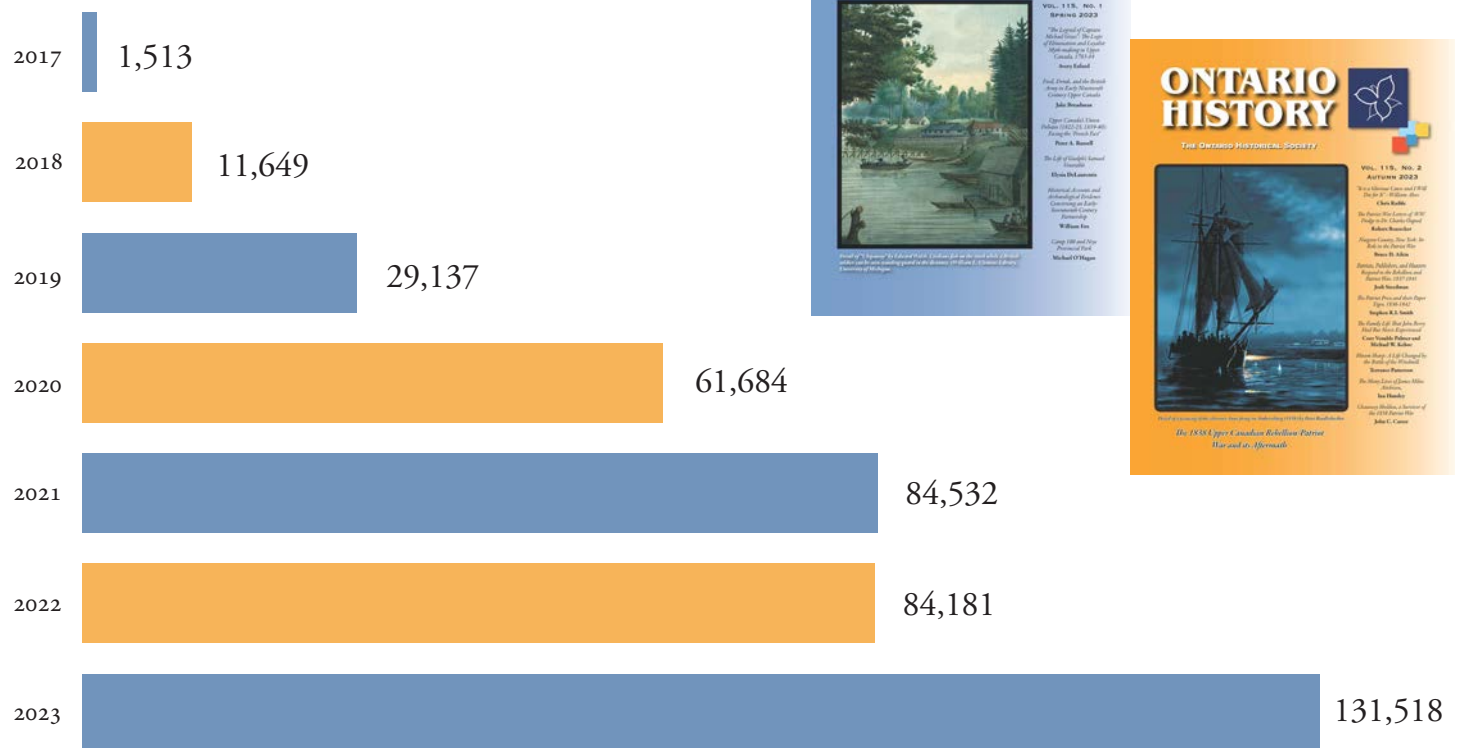
The OHS remains committed to its policies of fiscal discipline, strict spending controls, no debts, and prudent financial management.



In 2023, the Society published two new issues of *Ontario History* journal, both in print (through the OHS) and online via Érudit, a not-for-profit digital publisher and scholarly disseminator based in Montreal.

The Spring and Autumn issues of *Ontario History* contained a total of 15 new peer-reviewed articles and 13 new book reviews. A variety of historical themes characterized the two 2023 issues, including urban, culinary, Indigenous, military, publishing, political, and Black history. The Autumn 2023 special issue, “The 1838 Upper Canada Rebellion / Patriot War and its Aftermath,” was guest edited by Dr. John C. Carter.

Through the Society’s partnership with Érudit, readership of *Ontario History* has continued to grow. In *Ontario History*’s first seven years with Érudit, the journal’s articles and book reviews have been downloaded more than 400,000 times, with an average of over 360 downloads per day in 2023. Our partnership with Érudit exposes the journal to



GLOBAL DOWNLOADS OF *ONTARIO HISTORY* JOURNAL ON ÉRUDIT

academic and other libraries across Canada and worldwide. In a challenging publishing environment, the journal welcomed 44 new subscribers in 2023, up from 37 in 2022.

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For over a century, the OHS has been a leader in publishing peer-reviewed scholarly works on Ontario's history. The OHS thanks and congratulates all those accomplished authors whose contributions have maintained *Ontario History*’s pre-eminent place among Canada’s history journals. As ever, the OHS deeply appreciates the expertise of Editor Dr. Thorold J. Tronrud, Book Review Editor Dr. Alison Norman, and members of the distinguished Editorial Advisory Committee.



PUBLIC OUTREACH, SERVICES, & PROGRAMS

Daniel Dishaw, **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

NOT-FOR-PROFIT MEMBERS & INCORPORATION

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, the OHS has incorporated twenty not-for-profit historical organizations from regions across Ontario.

In 2023, the OHS was able to use a combination of in-person events and meetings alongside phone calls and online meetings to serve our provincial membership.

Last year, the OHS held incorporations meetings with members of the following communities: Hamilton, Minaki, Mississauga, North Huron, Rideau Lakes, Scarborough, Simcoe, and Toronto.

The OHS also provided consultations and services to our member organizations and institutions by phone and online such as: examining strategic directions, reviewing and revising constitutions and by-laws, discussing good corporate governance, providing letters of support for grant applications and fundraising initiatives, advocating for built and digital infrastructure funding, processing insurance applications, writing letters of good standing for member organizations, surrendering charters, and facilitating corporate name changes.

Citizens who organize to preserve and promote Ontario's history can apply to incorporate not-for-profit corporations through affiliation with the OHS. Each applicant must satisfy incorporation criteria, which includes preparing a mission statement, forming a volunteer board of directors, establishing a constitution and a set of by-laws, facilitating a public meeting (in person or online) with the OHS, and paying a fee.

From January 2023 to December 2023, the OHS processed incorporations for three new, not-for-profit historical organizations dedicated to the preservation or promotion of Ontario's history.

The Society is proud to have served the following affiliated societies in 2023:

Incorporated February 14, 2023
Built Environment Hamilton

Incorporated July 7, 2023
Newboro and Area Heritage Society

Incorporated December 1, 2023
Wingham Historical Society



Members of the Newboro and Area Heritage Society (NAHS) met on June 26 to hold their public incorporation meeting with the local community. From left to right are: Mary White, member at large; Adam Ball, Treasurer; Dudley Hill, Fundraising Coordinator; Kathy Mussell, Secretary; Daniel Dishaw; Kim Lulashnyk, Chair; Joan White, member at large; and Ted Stewart, Vice Chair. Board members not pictured are: Diane Haskins, Colleen Bedore, and Lily Bedore.



On November 8, 2023, the Wingham & Area Historical Society (WAHS) voted to incorporate through affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society. Pictured here from left to right are: (back row) Joanne Douglas, WAHS Treasurer; Brent Bowyer, WAHS Secretary; Bill Farnell, WAHS Chair; John Smith, member at large; (front row) Peggy Kinsman, WAHS Vice-Chair; Debbie Metcalfe, member at large; and Mary McLean, member at large.

INSURANCE PROGRAM

Established in 2008, the OHS insurance program provides vital protection for the Society's not-for-profit, volunteer-run member organizations. All organizations with a membership in good standing with the OHS are eligible to apply for insurance. This program is just one of many ways that the OHS works with organizations across the province to ensure volunteers and community heritage organizations are protected from liability.

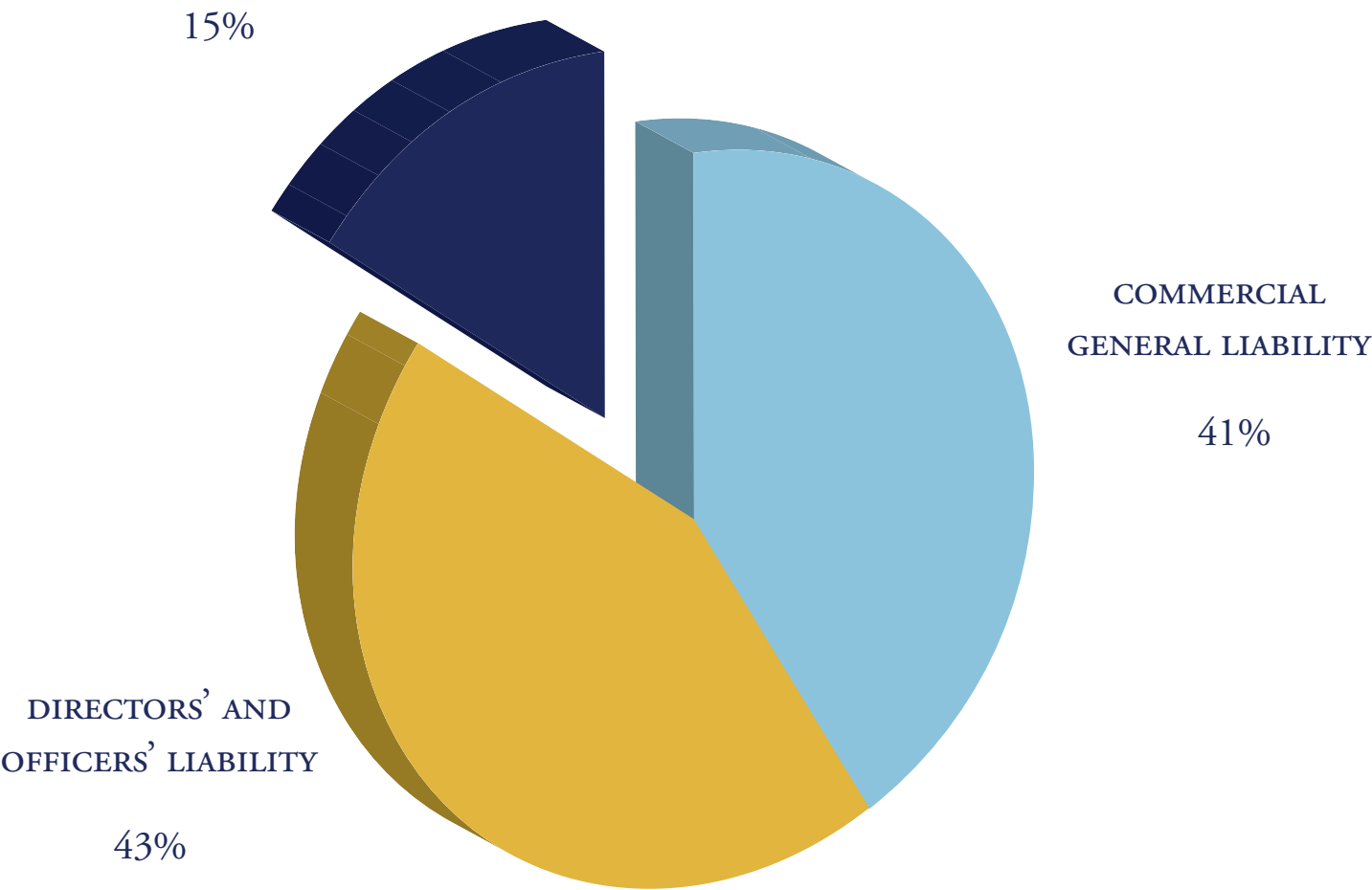
Once the OHS approves a new application, the Society's insurance broker, Jones DesLauriers Insurance Management Inc., holds a thorough consultation with

the applicant to ensure that each policy is tailored to the specific needs and local circumstances of the organization.

As of December 31, 2023, there were 186 historical organizations that held Directors and Officers Liability insurance policies, 177 organizations with Commercial General Liability insurance policies, and 68 organizations with coverage for Contents and Property.

Overall, twelve new policies were negotiated and underwritten for OHS member organizations in 2023.

CONTENTS AND PROPERTY



2023 OHS INSURANCE PROGRAM POLICIES

PARKVIEW NEIGHBOURHOOD GARDEN

The OHS enjoyed the fifteenth year of its partnership with the Parkview Neighbourhood Garden (PNG), a communal, organic market garden run entirely by volunteers. It is believed to be the first instance in Toronto of residential real estate being reclaimed for local urban agriculture. The garden is situated on the site of the John McKenzie property's former vegetable patch, adjacent to the Milk House, Stable and Coach House. The stable is loaned by the OHS to PNG's volunteers for the storage of tools and equipment.

The 2023 season saw all remaining pandemic restrictions lifted. Thanks to increased recruitment efforts, many new volunteers got involved with the garden. Younger volunteers who were eager to explore leadership roles laid the ground work for succession planning.

PNG continued with its produce distribution model of donating half of the produce to local charities directly after harvest, and offering half to local residents in exchange for donations to the garden. Over 478 pounds of food were donated. The not-for-profit groups which received donations were the Community Head Injury Resource Service (CHIRS), Neighbourlink North York, 415 Food Hub, and Food Rescue. Donations to the garden totaled more than \$2,300. A big thank you is due

to the generous volunteers and community members who exchanged donations for organic produce.

The growing season was a good one, without many weather challenges. Most plants did well. Squash and beans were particularly successful. A new crop, Asian sweet potatoes, were planted and tended by a couple of new volunteers. As usual, lots of watering was required during the hottest part of the summer, and a watering schedule with committed resources kept the garden irrigated.

The Garden will be expanding in the coming years! After the City of Toronto purchased the property at 37 Norton Avenue (adjacent to the northeast section of Parkview Neighbourhood Garden), city planners consulted with PNG volunteers and OHS staff about ideas to utilize the space and incorporate it into the existing garden. Many ideas were explored, and discussions will continue as the City makes progress toward preparing the property for new uses.

It was wonderful to have the garden return to pre-pandemic engagement levels, with volunteers working hard to maintain a productive and beautiful space for the Willowdale residents to enjoy. Our role as a teaching garden remains a primary objective, and the gardeners are thankful for the continued support of the OHS.



PNG volunteers spend weeks clearing and preparing the garden beds for planting in the spring. Skilled volunteers donate their time and expertise to help provide organic produce to those in need.

CEMETERY DEFENCE

In 1995, the Society was forced to establish a trust fund to protect Ontario's cemeteries from inappropriate development. This ongoing work is made possible through financial contributions to the OHS Cemetery Defence Fund and donated time and skills from many generous expert volunteers.

On June 2, 2011, in a meeting with Hon. John Gerretsen, the then-Minister of Consumer Services, the OHS and OGS (now Ontario Ancestors) officially presented the Government of Ontario with a database of 1,535 unregistered cemeteries. The OHS receives no notification and holds no right of appeal with regard to unregistered historic cemeteries that owners seek to relocate for private interests. It is almost impossible in these cases for the OHS to intervene effectively to defend the public interest.

The Province of Ontario subsequently requested that the two societies positively identify the exact location of all these cemeteries in order to register them. In 2022, the Unregistered Cemetery Committee completed their submission of unregistered cemeteries to the Province of Ontario.

Since 2016, an OHS staff member has sat on the Cemetery, Crematorium & Municipal Advisory Committee of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO), a not-for-profit corporation, delegated with the responsibility to administer provisions of the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 on behalf of the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services. Meetings of the Advisory Committee are held throughout the year as requested by the Board and Staff of the BAO, with the aim to represent the consumer interests of Ontarians as regards to Cemeteries and Crematoriums. At the end of 2022, the OHS staff member completed their term on the Advisory Committee, but was re-elected for a second term in 2023. The OHS looks forward to continuing their working relationship with the BAO, preserving and protecting our province's historic cemeteries.

Since 2020, the Preservation and Cemeteries Committee of the OHS Board of Directors has had an ongoing consultations with the BAO to save a number of important Black history cemetery sites in Haldimand County, including the Barnes-Street Family Burials, Morris-Williams Cemetery,

and the Duncan Family Burials site. Preservation and Cemeteries Committee Co-Chair, Janie Cooper-Wilson, and BAO Inspector, Andrew Reynolds, have put in countless hours of travel, research, and local outreach to preserve and tell the story of these sites of national historical significance.

The OHS, with a membership from all cultures and religions, believes it is in the public interest that all cemeteries be afforded the same legal status and be treated equally. The Society is pleased to have honoured its public commitments on this important principle, and will continue to work tirelessly to protect Ontario's historic cemeteries.



OHS President Kris Ives assisted cemetery historian and former OHS President, Ken Turner in delivering a Jane's Walk which explores the original Iler family Cemetery in the heart of the Iler Settlement. Jane's Walk is an annual festival of free community-led walking tours, held on the first weekend of May each year, inspired by Jane Jacobs. These walks encourage people to share stories and to establish community through connection.

HONOURS AND AWARDS 2022-23

Established in 1967, the OHS Honours and Awards program recognizes excellence in Ontario's heritage community. Congratulations to the 2022-23 recipients.



AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

PRESIDENT'S AWARD
Allison Margot Smith

DOROTHY DUNCAN PUBLIC HISTORY AWARD
Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre
Bruce County Historic Newspapers Website

RUSSELL K. COOPER AWARD
Borderland Pride
Diana Boileau Plaque & Programming

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AWARD
Fran Kronstal

CRUIKSHANK GOLD MEDAL
Jamie Laidlaw

ALISON PRENTICE AWARD
**Dr. Sharon Anne Cook &
Margaret Carson**

The Castleton Massacre: Survivors' Stories of the Killins Femicide

ALISON PRENTICE AWARD
Dr. Sara Z. MacDonald
University Women:

A History of Women and Higher Education in Canada

FRED LANDON AWARD
Dr. dann j. Broyld

*Borderland Blacks: Two Cities in the Niagara Region during the
Final Decades of Slavery*

J. J. TALMAN AWARD
Catharine Anne Wilson

Being Neighbours: Cooperative Work and Rural Culture, 1830-1960

AWARDS FOR AUTHORS

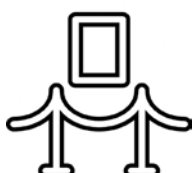
DONALD GRANT CREIGHTON AWARD
Dr. Hilary Bates Neary
A Black Missionary in Canada:
The Life and Letters of Lewis Champion Chambers

JOSEPH BRANT AWARD
Dr. Benjamin Bryce
The Boundaries of Ethnicity:
German Immigration and the Language of Belonging in Ontario

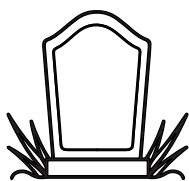
THE OHS HONOURS & AWARDS PROGRAM RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE IN



HERITAGE



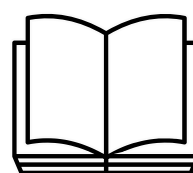
PUBLIC
HISTORY



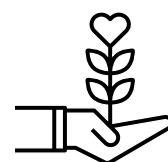
CEMETERY



PUBLIC



RESEARCH
& WRITING



PUBLIC
SERVICE

NEW MEMBERS & SUBSCRIBERS 2023

Sandy Agnew	Sarah Cossette	Clayton King	Jody Seeley
Bruce Aikin	Sheila Creighton	Armand La Barge	Robert Sheele
Bill Allan	Andrea Dyck	Teresa Lam	Jim Sherratt
Eileen Ansell	Jonathan Eaton	Donald Leitch	James Shropshire
Randal Bagg	Carol Eydt	Angie Littlefield	Patrick Sirianni
Tracey Beaton	Linda Gargaro	Robert MacDermid	Philip Stern
Aly Boltman	Catherine Gray	Thomas Malicki	Sabrena Sweeney
Donald Booth	Jennifer Green	Candice McCavitt	Jonathan Szo
Russell Boychuk	John E. Henderson	Marg McIntyre	Stephen Thomas
Jake Breadman	Victoria Hodgkinson	Sandy McRae	Morgan Thompson-Reid
Steven Bright	Kathryn Hogan	Pia Newell Santiago	David Timleck
Patrick Brode	Dave Hook	Joan Nicks	Anne Marie Todkill
Meghan Elizabeth Cameron	John Ibbitson	Ragavan Nithiyantham	Emily Turner
Lily Cheng	Stacey Jack	Jae Page	Laura Wickett
Debra Cole	Brian Jantzi	Jennifer Ploeger	Pamela Wright
Peter Collins	Lois Johnson	David Pyper	Scott Yaremko
Madison Cornwallis	Caitlyn Kasper	George Redburn	

ORGANIZATIONS & INSTITUTIONS

Bancroft Historical Society	Ontario Association of Cemetery and	Township of Puslinch
Built Environment Hamilton	Funeral Professionals (OACFP)	UELAC Edmonton Branch
Grand River Antique Society	Ontario Centre for Archaeological	UELAC Saskatchewan Branch
Newboro and Area Heritage Society	Research and Education	Willowdale Central Ratepayers' Association
Niagara Antique Power Association	Oro Freedom Institute	Wingham and Area Historical Society
		Town of Huntsville

OHS staff were pleased to visit OHS member organization, the Lost Villages Museum in Long Sault on June 27, 2023. The museum is home to many buildings that were relocated from the lost villages in the late 1950s to accommodate the expansion of the St. Lawrence Seaway and the International Hydro Electric project. Some of the relocated buildings are pictured below.



DONORS IN 2023

INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INSTITUTIONS

Sandy Agnew	Sidney Down	Duncan MacKenzie	Donald Smith
Anne Baillie	Audrey Fox	Madeleine McDowell	James Stanley
David Barrett	Edith & Geoff Geduld	Steven McLarty Payson	Philip Stern
Michel Beaulieu	Edith George	Marjorie McLeod	Marjorie Stuart
Robert Biggs	Robert Halfyard	R.G. & Elizabeth McQuillan	Patricia Taylor
Ellen Blaubergs	John E. Henderson	Adrian & Suanne Miedema	Thorold Tronrud
Glenn Bonnetta	Kristin Ives	Joan Miles	Samuel Whyte
Donald Booth	Dorothy Johnstone	Barbara Nair	Pat Williams-Chung
George Bryant	Estate of A. Ronald Junkin	Naomi Norquay	Blockthrough
M Chris Castle	Lindsay Kelly	Sharon O'Shea	Kawartha Lakes Culture &
Janet Cobban	Patricia Kennedy	Barry & Jane Penhale	Heritage Network
Peter Davis	Scott Kennedy	Eleanor Pyke	La Société d'histoire de Toronto
Hilary Dawson	Paul R. King	Robert & Kathleen Saunders	Waterloo Historical Society
Kari Dehli	Richard Lucas	F. Brent Scollie	
Daniel Dishaw	Allan J. Macdonell	Lawrence Scott	



In 2023, the Ontario Historical Society celebrated the life and accomplishments of Dorothy Duncan (1927-2023), OOnt, Former Executive Director of the OHS and lifelong champion of Ontario's history and heritage. Pictured above are Former Executive Directors of the OHS, Dorothy Duncan and Rob Leverty.

As Executive Director, Dorothy oversaw the Ontario Historical Society's move to its current headquarters at the John McKenzie House in Willowdale, the incorporation of numerous new affiliate

members, cemetery defence against development, and so much more. In 1989, a new award named after her was established as part of the OHS's Honours and Awards program: the Dorothy Duncan Award. In 2018, Dorothy donated her entire library of over 700 books on Ontario's history to the Society, which makes up a significant and valuable part of the OHS's library collection, as well as her collected papers and speeches.

Endlessly supportive of the OHS and the preservation of Ontario's history, Dorothy requested that upon her passing, donations be made to the OHS in lieu of flowers. This was incredibly generous. The OHS staff and Board of Directors are extremely grateful to Dorothy and her family for this wonderful expression of support. Thank you to all the donors who gave to the OHS in Dorothy's memory.

DONORS IN 2023

OHS NORTHERN ONTARIO TRUST FUND

Estate of Ruth E. Day

OHS CEMETERY DEFENCE TRUST FUND

Estate of Jean Burnet

OHS GRASSROOTS PUBLIC OUTREACH TRUST FUND

Estate of Ruth E. Day

A. RONALD JUNKIN CEMETERY DEFENCE AND PRESERVATION FUND

Estate of A. Ronald Junkin

FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Alpema Foundation
Capital Assets, Museums & Heritage Services, City of Toronto
Diane and Steven Clendenan Fund - Toronto Foundation
Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
Real Estate Services, City of Toronto
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Anonymous
Kathy David
Carolyn Knowles
Craig Leslie Mantle
Alexander José Agbayani Mascardo
Bruce County Historical Society

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The OHS was pleased to join many of our members and donors at the 2023 Emancipation Day Celebration at Fort York. The celebration featured a special presentation from Leslie McCurdy, *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman*, which uses Harriet’s own words in telling the story of her life. From left to right are OHS ED Daniel Dishaw, actor and playwright Leslie McCurdy, and OHS member Dorothy Abbott.



**In 2023,
volunteers once
again contributed
an estimated
7,000 hours of
service in support
of the OHS, worth
the equivalent of
\$189K in donated
labour.**