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OWHN NEWSLETTER

<https://artsonline.uwaterloo.ca/owhn/>

JANUARY 2017

OWHN/ RHFO 2017 Conference

**OWHN/RHFO
will hold its
2017 AGM and
Conference
in Sudbury,
Ontario**

Women & Northern Ontario

**20-21 October
2017**

**Laurentian
University,
Sudbury**

What's New at OWHN/RHFO?

New date for the annual conference

For the past few years, the OWHN conference has taken place early spring, but the next conference, and probably thereafter, will take place in October, during Ontario Women's History Month.

New OWHN/RHFO website coming soon!

A new dedicated OWHN website is being designed. It will give OWHN greater visibility, allow online payment of membership fees, conferences and donations to be made online, and can be used by the Communications Committee to post news and articles such as our newsletter and conference information.

A grant from the Ontario Government last year is helping to fund this project. Danielle

Terbenche has been taking the lead on this important initiative that we hope will bring in new membership. She is working with Toronto web designer Abhinav Kumar. It is hoped that the site will be up and running this March/April.

Membership Join/Renew

We plan for the method of paying for membership through Paypal from our new website to be up and running by April. So, we will wait until then to ask that you pay your membership (which runs January to December 31). So, please hold off until you receive a notice to join or renew online. We would appreciate if you could join/renew as you receive the notice; we need the funds to organize the superb fall conference and the new website!

Congratulations!

To **Jane Errington** on receiving the award for **Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision** at Queen's University

OWHN's award in women's history for the Ontario Heritage Fairs Association was presented at the regional fairs in 2016. The winning topics for the 2016 awards included: Emily Stowe, Jennie Trout, Emily Carr, Yvonne Gagnon, Helen Jordan, Nellie McClung, Roberta Bondar, Girl Guides, Rocklyn Academy, Women in Space, Women of the Wild, Japanese Internment WWII, Changing Role of Women, and last but not least: Butter Tarts.

OWHN got a grant!

OWHN received an Ontario Government Heritage Organization Development Grant. The Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport wrote: "I am pleased to approve a grant of \$1,057 for your organization under the Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) program for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Funding through HODG helps to strengthen the capacity of organizations to meet heritage sector goals and challenges in the context of government priorities."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Women &
Northern
Ontario**

**20-21 October
2017**

**Laurentian
University,
Sudbury**

**REMINDER:
Renew your
membership
for 2017!**

2016 OWHN/RHFO Conference at Black Creek Pioneer Village

The 2016 OWHN conference took place at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto. The "village" is a collection of heritage buildings and artifacts from across southern Ontario that have been brought together in one space to recreate 1800s Ontario. The "village" allows visitors to experience some of the aspects of early settler life in Ontario. The buildings have been restored to many of their original features and each building is filled with original furniture and objects that reflect 19th century rural Ontario. This was a wonderful place to hold our 2016 OWHN conference.

The conference theme was "Women and Booze: Pubs, Prohibition and Temperance" and appropriately began with a Friday evening meeting at a local pub in downtown Toronto. The Saturday program at Black Creek Village included keynote speakers, Sharon Cook, who spoke about Women, Sex, and Cigarettes; Jan Noel who spoke about Temperance Crusades before Confederation; and Julia Roberts who spoke about Taverns and Public Life in Upper Canada.

After a lovely lunch, the afternoon include a panel on women's history in schools and included educators, Pat Staton, Rose Fine-Meyer, Stephanie Gibson and Diane Vatour. The AGM followed, and then a tour of Black Creek Village which included, appropriately, a beer tasting event at the Black Creek Brewery. Plans are well under way for the Sudbury OWHN Conference in 2017!

Rose Fine



Heritage Fairs Award



OWHN's award in women's history for the Ontario Heritage Fairs Association was presented at the regional fairs in 2013. Students received a newly designed ribbon and an OWHN pin, along with a certificate. OWHN has received much positive feedback about this award. The Heritage Fairs allow students to act as historians, interpreters, and story-tellers.

The criteria for OWHN's award are:

- Winning projects must have a primary focus on women in Canadian history and the ways in which women have contributed to Canadian society. It may deal with Canadian women at the local, provincial, national or international level.
- Projects must provide evidence that the student has thought critically about one or more of the following: historical significance, primary and secondary sources, continuity and change, cause and consequence, possible interpretations of the student's chosen theme.
- Students must be able to present project in an engaging and convincing fashion.

Minutes of the AGM, May 7, 2016, Black Creek Village, Toronto,

Ontario Women's History Network Annual General Membership Meeting

Executive Members Present: Tina Bates, Jane Errington, Sharon Cook, Rose Fine-Meyer, Alyson King, Dianne Dodd, Lorna McLean, Pat Staton.

As well as a number of OWHN members: 25 in total
Meeting began at 12:45

Tina Bates: Chair

Tina called the meeting to order.

She asked for approval of the agenda: moved by Dianne Dodd and seconded by Lorna.

Tina asked for approval of the 2015 AGM meeting minutes: moved by Pat Staton and seconded by Sharon Cook.

The motions were both passed.

Business Arising from the Minutes. Tina explained about the special exhibit at the Waterloo museum. Tina sent out a letter of support to the museum for Women and Nation Building after Confederation. Exhibit on until Jan. 2018.

Report of the Chair:

Tina thanked those involved with the 2015 conference planning, especially members of the executive who spent much time planning and organizing the conference. She made a special note of the organizing committee leadership of Alyson King, Rose Fine-Meyer and Sharon Cook. Tina commented on the success of the conference and the wonderful Black Creek Village venue.

Tina also thanked Alyson for the wonderful OWHN newsletter and reviewed the donations of OWHN, which included an award for student projects on women at OHFA, Tina noted OWHN's continued support of the Ontario Heritage Fairs and the distribution of pins and ribbons at the regional fairs in Ontario, and support for the women's history poster.

Tina noted that she sent our annual report to OHS president Rob Leverty, which OWHN has affiliation and noted the Ontario Heritage Development grant which might generate some support for organizations such as OWHN. It is due June 20th. Tina offered to look into the grant as it might help costs towards our next conference.

Tina noted that Danielle Terbenche and Shannon Stettner had written position papers to broaden

the focus of OWHN to gender and sexuality. Danielle spoke about her own work in gender and noted that if we wanted to keep graduate students we need to expand our focus. Danielle also commented on the fact that there wasn't a call for papers for this conference. Alyson noted that the organization for the conference took place quickly and had to be thrown together. Julia noted that we question the focus of the organization and advocated for change in the future to send out a call for papers in order to provide a greater diversity of topics.

Tina responded to suggestions that perhaps OWHN change names. She noted the difficulty of gaining charity status with a name change and suggested that a call for papers and including the concept of gender in our communications might be the answer to include a broader range of scholars and topics.

Dianne agreed that public historians and archivists were also needed to provide multiple perspectives and Alyson suggested we put a greater emphasis on putting out a call for papers earlier next year for the 2017 conference. Danielle is to circulate her paper to all members.

Tina noted OWHN's continued support of the Ontario Women's History Poster for schools in Ontario, published each year by Green Dragon Press, and supported in part by OWHN.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Financial Report, Lorna McLean

Lorna provided statements of the Treasurer's Financial Report for the Fiscal year 2015, which were made available for all attendees. She noted she went through our financial statements and shared the financial report with the OWHN members. Last year there was a carry-over but this year there was not. Lorna noted that the numbers for membership would be higher since a few members paid when they arrived at the AGM today. Lorna noted that the financial books were in good standing.

The financial report indicates that our Net assets as of May 1, 2016 were \$2919.91 but that we needed to pay additional conference costs. The 2015 costs so far were \$1945.00. Membership fees by this date were \$780.00 and donations were

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Minutes of the AGM (con't)

\$590.00. The largest additional costs for OWHN were the women's history posters at \$2000.00

Sharon suggested we have a discussion regarding continued support for the poster. She noted that since our financial numbers were low, was it still feasible for our organization to support the posters with such a large amount?

Alyson noted how we needed to increase membership numbers to maintain our funds and that might mean conferences throughout the province. There was a discussion regarding the time of year for the OWHN conference. Pat Staton noted that for many years the conference was held in October during women's history month and that we had a larger turnout. She argued that moving it to May, although convenient for some, had reduced our numbers.

Pat Staton made a motion to change the conference to the fall. Diane seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion passed with the proviso that we begin the change in 2018 as the conference for 2017 in the north had already begun planning.

Sharon Cook moved that the Treasurers Report be adopted and this was seconded by Alyson King. The motion was passed

New Business

Communication Subcommittee Report:

Danielle Terbenche reported on the website. The problem lies with it being tied to the University of Waterloo and so it is both difficult to maintain and to find. It is an out of date website and does not prove links to online membership or for donations which is important today for all organizations. She has created social media sites: both Facebook and Twitter accounts which are bilingual. She noted that a professional website would cost money but that OWHN should consider taking steps. It was noted that Alyson King had created the WordPress site. Danielle noted that she knew churches who had used one particular website designer and the advantage was that there were no maintenance costs, just a onetime cost of \$1500. Discussion followed.

Tina noted difficulties in obtaining grants for website development. Julia noted that the University of Waterloo had costs associated with housing our website. Sharon noted that we could only

consider the costs if we had stopped supporting the women's history poster but that our funds could not support this proposal at this time. It was decided that due to the limited time for the meeting we had to end discussion, but that we bring this topic forward for further discussion in the future.

Sharon Cook made a motion that we support and accept the Communication report and its recommendations at this time. The motion was seconded by Julia Roberts.

Pat and Julia suggested we need more quotes from a number of website designers. The motion was passed.

A number of pamphlets and posters were made available for the members including a link to Pat Staton's new online book: It was Their War Too: Canadian Women in World War One which could be downloaded for free at: **womenwar.ca**

Conference 2017

There was a brief discussion of the conference for 2017 and its location. Sara Burke and Margaret Kechnie noted that they were hoping and planning for the OWHN conference to take place in Sudbury in 2017. It had been many years since OWHN held a conference in the north. Linda Ambrose also sent support for the conference at Laurentian in May 2016.

It was suggested that some of the topics for call out for papers might be: the histories of women living in the north, missing and murdered Indigenous women, and Rose suggested we continue to incorporate teachers sharing their pedagogical strategies, as we did this conference.

It was agreed by all members present that the 2017 conference be held in Sudbury.

Confirmation of Executive Officers (2nd of a 2 year term)

Chair: (2015-2017) Tina Bates

Vice-Chair: Dianne Dodd

Treasurer: Lorna McLean

Secretary/Archivist: Rose Fine-Meyer

Members-at-large: Sharon Cook, Julia Roberts, Sarah Hogenbirk, Pat Staton, Alyson King Nadia Jones-Gailani

Past Chair: Jane Errington

The meeting was adjourned at 2pm

Moved by Dianne Dodd and seconded by Alyson King

Rose Fine-Meyer, Secretary.

June 2016

Call for Papers

ONTARIO WOMEN'S HISTORY NETWORK/
Le réseau d'histoire des femmes en Ontario

Annual Conference

Women and Northern Ontario

20-21 October 2017, Sudbury, Ontario

The Ontario Women's History Network (OWHN/RHFO) will hold its Annual Conference at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario from October 20 to 21, 2017. Laurentian University operates on the traditional territory of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and within the Robinson-Huron Treaty Area. The conference organizers invite proposals for individual papers and panel sessions on all aspects of the history of women, gender, and Northern Ontario. Subjects could include, but are not limited to: Indigenous women; Franco-Ontarian women; women and immigration; women and work in non-traditional fields; women and education.

Individual and panel proposals must include a 250 word abstract, and a one-page *curriculum vitae* that provides details such as publications and current research interests, institutional affiliation, contact address, and email of the presenter. For panel proposals, please include this information for each presenter, as well as a one-page proposal for the entire session.

The deadline for proposal submissions is April 30, 2017. Please send proposals to Sara Burke, OWHN Conference Organizing Committee, by email, sburke@laurentian.ca.

Free Teaching Resources

Free to OWHN members and colleagues:

Unfolding Power: Documents in 20th Century Canadian Women's History, by Pat Staton, Rose Fine-Meyer & Stephanie Kim Gibson. Green Dragon Press (www.greendragonpress.com). Single, multiple, or 18 per box copies are available. Contact Pat Staton p.staton@utoronto.ca

Also available electronically: ***It Was Their War Too: Canadian Women in World War I*** by Pat Staton, is now available on free down load at womenwar.ca, thanks to Senator Nancy Ruth.

Herstoriescafe.ca

Videos of past HerstoriesCafe talks are available at:

<http://www.canadashistory.ca/Community/National-History-Forum/2015-History-Forum>

For updates and details see: <http://herstoriescafe.com>.

