

Ontario Women's History
Network, Dept. of History
University of Waterloo
Hagey Hall, Waterloo
Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1
gcbbrandt@uwaterloo.ca
alyson.king@uoit.ca
[http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/
~owhn/](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/~owhn/)

OWHN NEWSLETTER

<http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/~owhn/>

SEPTEMBER 2011

Women & the War of 1812

OWHN 2012
Spring Confer-
ence Friday,
April 13th at
John McKenzie
House & Satur-
day, April 14 at
Blue Barracks,
Fort York,
Toronto

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Canadian Women & the Second World War

On the first weekend of April 2011, members and guests of OWHN gathered at the HMCS Catarauqui in Kingston, Ontario, to learn about and discuss topics related to Canadian women during WWII.

Friday evening events began with a wonderful film and discussion. *Proudly She Marches*, an 18-minute 1943 NFB film was followed by short presentations by three women veterans of the war. Katherine McIntyre joined the Air Force as an air control officer when she was in her 4th year at Queen's University and was stationed at Gander. Bea Corbett joined the WRENS when she was in her 3rd year at Queen's and

worked as a wireless telegraphist. Correne Schavo was working in a factory making haversacks when she joined The Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWACS).

These very personal stories was followed by a talk by Dr. Jeanette Lynes, Associate Professor of English, St. Francis Xavier University & author of *The Factory Voice*.

After dinner, a panel composed of Grace Poulin, Carolyn Gossage, and Cynthia Toman focused on assessing the impact of women's military contributions. Grace Poulin discussed finding aboriginal servicewomen, most of whom, upon reflection, felt

their experiences of the war had been good. Carolyn Gossage told the stories of various servicewomen, while Cynthia Toman focused on one military nurse, Kay Christie, who became a prisoner of war in Hong Kong.

Saturday's program began with a paper by Helen Smith and Pamela Wakewich on "Trans/forming the Citizen Body in Wartime: National and Local Public Discourse on Women's Bodies and 'Body Work' for Women during World War Two" (presented by Rose Fine-Meyer and Alyson King due to the authors' inability to attend the conference).

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Herstoriescafe.ca

HerstoriesCafe brings historical stories about Canadian women into public forums. We explore historical sites and those missing narratives about our past – a past which often leaves out the stories of half the population. The absence of women in historical representations is a reality. As Canadians we must recognize that women's contributions, participation and experiences are central to our collective past.

The HerstoriesCafe Toronto provides an opportunity for people to get together to celebrate Canadian women's history. Come join us each month at various venues around Toronto: to hear

a presentation, enjoy food and drink, and socialize. Think of it as a salon: a place to share ideas, pool historical resources, and stimulate debate in an intimate and relaxed setting.

Check our website herstoriescafe.ca for upcoming events.

September 27th: 5:45 – 8:00 at the Archives of Ontario
Women of Record at the Archives of Ontario

The event will highlight records we have

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Heritage Fairs Award



Thanks to Jan Haskings-Winner, OWHN has sponsored an award in women's history for the Ontario Heritage Fairs Association. The Heritage Fairs allow students to act as historians, interpreters, and story-tellers. The criteria for OWHN's award are:

- Project must have a primary focus on women in Canadian history and the ways in which women have contributed to Canadian society. Project may deal with Canadian women at the local, provincial, national or international level.
- Project 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.

Canadian Women & the Second World War (con't)

Rose Fine-Meyer, Ellie Deir, and Katlynd McLaren participated in a roundtable on strategies and resources for teaching about women in WWII. Ellie focused on the importance of images and online materials, while Katlynd provided the perspective of the student teacher using inquiry-based learning to teach. Rose demonstrated the ways in which women can be integrated into the teaching of the Second World War. She noted that there has been little improvement in incorporating women's historical narratives in school history texts, despite repeated efforts by women's groups to make change.

During lunch, Dr. Ruth Roach Pierson reflected on her experiences writing her ground-breaking book, *'They're Still Women After All': The Second World War and Canadian Womanhood*, and much to the delight of the audience, read a few poems from her latest poetry collection.

Following Ruth's keynote address and the AGM, Dr. Laura Brandon of the Canadian War Museum, and Kelly Saxberg, film producer and director, discussed different ways in which women's experiences in WWII is portrayed to the broader public. Laura noted that there was a tendency to assume that women could not paint military subjects; as a result women artists were not permitted to go overseas until the war was over. Kelly discussed the process of making the film *Rosies of the North*, a film that recounts the story of the women working at the Fort William's Canadian Car and Foundry from 1939 to 1945.

The final session of the day was a panel discussion on "Revisiting the Historical Narrative of Women and the Second World War: Where Are We Now?" Dr. Jeff Keshen and Dr. Gail Cuthbert Brandt brought a wealth of scholarship to their presentations and provoked the same lively discussion that prevailed throughout the day.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2012 Spring Conference
Friday, April 13th at John
McKenzie House &
Saturday, April 14 at Blue
Barracks, Fort York,
Toronto

REMINDER:
Renew your
membership for
2012!

Herstoriescafe.ca (con't)



(Continued from page 1)

about Ontario women who in a variety of ways, helped shape our province as we know it today. This includes highlighting the records of women who challenged systems or institutions, women who conducted good deeds (eg. nurses, lawyers, public servants) and women who were pioneers, both on the land (farmers) and in their respective professions. The event will also feature a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility, highlighting how the Archives of Ontario preserves records relating to all Ontarians. Talk and a behind-the-scenes tour of the archives facility.

October 27th: 5:15 (note earlier time) at the Christie Mansion.

Cecilia Morgan, Professor, History of Education OISE/UT. Her talk, in recognition of Women's History month, will be held at Christie Mansion- across from Queen's Park.

"Among the Six Nations": Celia B. File and the Politics of Memory, History, and Home in Southern Ontario, 1920s-1960s

"Among the Six Nations" explores the life and writings of high-school history Celia B. File. File began her teaching career in the 1920s at Tyendinaga, where she developed a life-long interest in the history of the Six Nations, particularly that of Iroquois women. After completing her M.A. thesis at Queen's University in 1930 on the Mohawk leader Mary (Molly) Brant, File developed a close friendship with Bernice Loft/Dawendine, the Mohawk performer and writer. In the early 1960s File wrote a memoir of her experiences at Tyendinaga and the Grand River *Among the Six Nations*. Dr. Morgan's presentation will focus on the intertwined nature of history and memory, the past and the present, in File's writings and the complicated politics of gender and race that shaped them.

November 24: 6:15 pm "What's so Feminist About Food History?"

ry? Women and Food Canada in the 1950s and 1960s" at The Gladstone Hotel*

Franca Iacovetta Professor of History, University of Toronto and **Marlene Epp**, Associate Professor of History, University of Waterloo will speak on feminist approaches to food history and the history of women and food in Canada, highlighting the 1950s and 1960s, by drawing on their own research and that of others in their new volume, co-edited with Valerie Korinek, *Edible Histories, Cultural Politics: Towards a Canadian Food History*. (University of Toronto Press, 2012). We will eat our way through this cafe evening, in particular enjoying 1950s and 1960s food that graced the tables of Canadians. Have you ever made a jello salad? Did your mother make you a spam sandwich? Did you know that Mennonite women made 7-Up Salad alongside their traditional zwieback buns?

This talk will require pre-registration and includes a fee of \$10. for food provided by the hotel

HerstoriesCafe Coordinators: Rose Fine-Meyer and Kate Zankowicz

Kate is a history doctoral student and Rose is an instructor and history doctoral student at OISE/ University of Toronto. We started Herstories Cafe because we wanted to provide a venue where interested people could hear stories by well known scholars in the field of Canadian women's history-and enjoy a coffee or food in a relaxed environment.

Minutes of the AGM, April 2011

Ontario Women's History Network Annual General Membership Meeting April 2, 2011-Kingston, Ontario (excerpts)

Present: Executive: Gail Cuthbert Brandt, Alyson King, Julia Roberts, Rose Fine-Meyer, Jan Haskings-Winner, Linda Ambrose.

Absent: Sharon Cook

45 conference attendees and members were present.

1. Gail Cuthbert Brandt, Chair, called the meeting to order. She spoke about the conference and thanked Jane Errington for her work in holding the conference at RMC in Kingston. She thanked everyone for attending the conference. The Agenda for the meeting was up on the screen at the front of the room for all to view. Approval of the Agenda: Moved by Jane Errington and seconded by Lorna Mclean. The motion was passed.

2. Approval of the minutes from 2010 meeting: Moved by Jan

Haskings-Winner and seconded by Marg Kechnie. The motion was passed.

3. Business arising from the minutes: OWHN had put forth a motion in 2010 to look at ways to support work in women's history projects. OHASSTA offers certificates for regional projects at the Ontario Heritage Fairs. Jan Haskings-Winner reported on her work to ensure these certificates are in place this year. They will be given out at local/regional fairs. This year, there will only be regional fairs.

Gail reminded everyone to renew membership and to fill out the membership forms. She indicated that we were creating a directory which we hoped would be released later this spring and we needed the form information.

Gail indicated that under the OWHN constitution, because we have charitable status there needed to be an auditor's

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Minutes of the AGM (con't)

Thanks!!

**To the Faculty of
Social Science &
Humanities, UOIT
for sponsoring the
mailing of this
Newsletter with
the Ontario
Women's History
Month Poster.**

**Send items for the
next Newsletter to:**

**Alyson King
(Alyson.king@uoit.ca)**

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report. OWHN was audited this year for the years 2009 and 2010. Gail read parts of the report and the auditors' conclusions that OWHN's financial statements for both years accurately reflected its financial position. There was some discussion about audit costs. Gail indicated that OWHN had not received the final billing for the auditor's cost but that they would be considerable. Gail asked for a motion to accept the auditors' report. The motion was moved by Julia Roberts and seconded by Linda Ambrose. The motion was passed.

4. Treasurer's Financial Report. Julia Roberts provided the treasurer's financial report which was made available to all attendees. Income for 2010 was \$3925.00 which created a total income in the OWHN account of \$5243.83. Expenditures for 2010 included OHS membership, the women's history poster, the annual OWHN conference, and other fees such as translation and banking. Expenditures totalled \$4107.08. Dec. 2010 year end balance was \$1136.75. Julia moved to accept the treasurer's report. Jan suggested we put it up on the website. Approval for the treasurer's report. Moved by Jan Haskings-Winner and seconded by Rose Fine-Meyer. The motion was passed.

5. Gail presented the slate of officers for 2011-2013, as officers are elected for a two-year term.

Chair: Alyson King; Vice-Chair: Jane Errington; Treasurer: Gail Cuthbert Brandt; Secretary: Rose Fine-Meyer. Members at large: Jan Haskings - Winner, Linda Ambrose, Sharon Cook, Julia Roberts

Jan Haskings-Winner nominated Sandra Kritzer as a member at large. It was also decided to add a grad student representative as a member at large. Sarah Hogenbirk was nominated for this position.

Moved to accept slate of officers by Lorna Mclean, seconded by Ruth Sandwell and the motion passed.

6. New Business: Gail opened the discussion about the theme for the 2012 conference. We noted the many celebrations taking place to acknowledge the war of 1812. It was suggested that the executive begin looking into holding the conference in the Niagara region and to find local historians and museums to be included. Gail opened the floor for suggestions about when the conference should take place. Rose Fine-Meyer suggested the executive first contact teacher organizations and faculties of education to ensure the date will work with their calendars. She suggested that partnering with new

teachers was an essential part of the work of OWHN, which must begin these partnerships before conference dates are set. Several people, Gail, Julia and others were asked to make initial contacts. Someone suggested asking Cecilia Morgan to speak, another commented on the work of the Niagara museum and others mentioned Brock University. It was decided that work to secure a date would begin immediately. Alyson, as new Chair, indicated she would take initial steps. Gail indicated there may be some funding available, given that the province is celebrating the bicentennial of the war of 1812.

Rose Fine-Meyer presented an update on the new curriculum for Canadian and world studies that is to be released by the Ontario Ministry of Education for primary and secondary schools this year. OWHN is a stakeholder, and as such is allowed to submit suggestions and comments. Rose brought curriculum documents which had been released in January 2011 for the members to examine. A very good discussion followed. The discussion centred on the broader questions of inequality and Ruth Sandwell summed up the comments by stating that fundamentally this was about inequality and that suggestions to make major changes to the history curriculum were "profoundly radical." She added: "Our system is rooted in inequality. It is at the centre of curriculum." She added we might make a bold statement such as "OWHN highly recommends that women appear in the curriculum as they appear in the population." This proposal was well received by the members. Jan Haskings-Winner indicated that the curriculum changes now are to be in effect until 2025 and encouraged bold statements. Gail suggested that members send emails to Rose indicating their positions and comments and that Rose would create a Ministry response which she would first send out to OWHN members.

6. Other Business: There was a discussion about membership drive as we try and increase the importance of a membership. Several people indicated the need for younger members and retired individuals who can bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the organizations. Gail thanked everyone for attending the AGM.

The meeting was adjourned.

Rose Fine-Meyer, Secretary, April, 2011.

News, etc.

OWHN'S Archive: The records documenting OWHN's founding and history are currently residing in Pat Staton's home. Pat is proposing that the documents be deposited in the Archives of Ontario.

Jane Errington, distinguished faculty member, stepped down from her position as Dean of Arts at The Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) this summer to pursue other interests. Jane is the recipient of numerous awards including the RMC Teaching Award, the John Scott Cowan Prize for Research Excellence (RMC's premier award for scholarly achievement), and the Colonel The Honourable John Matheson Award for Leadership at RMC. Jane has had a long association with RMC and will surely be missed by her colleagues and students. She notes "I will continue with my PhD supervisions there; most of the time I will be concentrating on my graduate class and students at Queen's, and my own research, my garden and seeing friends and family."

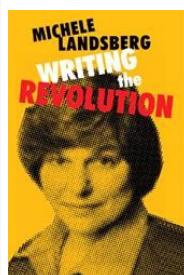
Pre-Publication Announcement from Green Dragon Press
After quite a few years research, much walking and fact checking, we are pleased to announce the upcoming publication of *In Our Sisters' Footsteps: A Women's Walking Tour of Toronto*, by Pat Staton. While primarily meant to help readers visit houses, sculptures, parks and other sites connected to the women who made Toronto the city it is today, armchair readers will also enjoy the stories of women such as Ada Marean Hughes, Jane Jacobs, Emma Goldman, Mary Ann Shadd, Amelia Earhart, Maude Menten, Carrie Davies, Lucy Thornton and many others. For pre-publication orders, contact Green Dragon Press at 416-251-6366.

The **Marion Dewar Women's History Reading Group** will begin a new season this month. We typically meet every six weeks or so and read a variety of historical books, and sometimes fiction with an historical basis. Our book club has now been operating for 12 years. It draws from the Uni-

versity of Ottawa, Carleton University, and a wide range of federal government departments and museums, including the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Canadian War Museum, Library Archives Canada, Parks Canada and many more. We offer a prize each Spring to a Canadian women's historian. For more information, contact: Sharon Cook <scook@uottawa.ca>.

"Those who make a revolution and those who write about it are usually two different people. Michele Landsberg is one of the few on earth who is trusted and effective at both. There is no one I respect more in the trenches---or on the page."

~Gloria Steinem



Your founding membership in the **Feminist History Society** was the key to our success in 2010. We signed up nearly 700 members and produced a fabulous first book: *Feminist Journeys/Voies féministes*.

We are now ready to distribute Michele Landsberg's fascinating new book, *Writing the Revolution*. To receive your copy we need you to renew your membership for 2011. Please think about joining with the 3 year membership option. It would be a huge help in sustaining the Society.

Download, complete and mail back the attached form or use an online credit card transaction on our website: <http://FeministHistories.ca/join/>. For long-term viability, we need 800-1000 on-going members. Please help us by recruiting one or two new members. We can't thank you enough for your support.

Beth Symes, Symes & Street Barristers and Solicitors
133 Lowther Avenue, Toronto, ON M5R 1E4
Direct Line: 416-920-6179, Fax No. 416-920-3033

News from Nursing History

Publications in the past year:

Cynthia Toman, "Historical Thinking and the Shaping of Nursing Identity," *Nursing History Review*, 20 (2012): 184-204.

Cynthia Toman, "My chance has come at last!" The Weston Hospital, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and Indian Nurses in Canada, 1917-1929," *Native Studies Review*, 19, 2 (2010): 95-119.

Cynthia Toman, "Frontlines and Frontiers: War as Legitimate Work for Canadian Nurses, 1939-1945" in *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of Women's History*, 6th edition, eds. Mona Gleason, Tamara Myers and Adele Perry, pp. 242-261 (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2011).

Projects:

Cynthia Toman, Kristin Burnett, and Jayne Elliott, "Beyond Storytelling: Understanding Society through Encounters in Health," 13-14 May 2011, University of Ottawa. SSHRC funded workshop for interdisciplinary graduate students in the history of health.

Cynthia Toman, "Experiences of First World War Canadian Army Medical Corps Nursing Sisters from Alberta: Mary Lamplough, Amelia Anderson, Catherine de Bellefeuille, Emma Griffis, and Ruth Honour Johnson," Access Copyright Foundation, 2011.

Ontario Women's History Network
Le réseau d'histoire des femmes en Ontario

MEMBERSHIP FORM

The aim of the network is to promote the study and dissemination of women's history throughout Ontario.

___ Membership Renewal (1 January to 31 December)

___ New Member (1 January to 31 December)

___ Yes, I would like to join the Ontario Women's History Network (OWHN). I enclose:

___ \$20 Membership

___ \$10 Full Time Student

___ \$35 Annual Sustaining

___ Donation (Donations, not membership fees, are tax deductible. Charitable Status # 0967000-21) Donations can be designated.

Please make cheque **payable to Ontario Women's History Network**.

Please complete (Print):

Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Areas of Interest or Expertise: _____

Home #: _____ Business #: _____

E-mail: _____

Fax: _____

Do you want to be included in the OWHN Directory? Yes _____ No _____

Mail to: **Ontario Women's History Network**
c/o Dr. Alyson King
Faculty of Social Science & Humanities
University of Ontario Institute of Technology
2000 Simcoe St. N.
Oshawa, ON L1H 7K4

