

Annual Report

2018



WORKERS
HISTORY MUSEUM
MUSÉE DE L'HISTOIRE
OUVRIÈRE

A year in review

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT	P. 3
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	P. 5
EVENTS ATTENDED	P. 6
PROJECTS.....	P. 7
YOUNG CANADA WORKS 2018.....	P. 11
PAT MCGRATH SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT	P. 11
COMING UP	P. 12

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



First let me say how proud I am of the achievements outlined in the Annual Report. We had another very busy year!

My thanks to all of the volunteers on and off the Board of Directors. Without people giving freely of their time and commitment, and sharing a passion for history as a living influence on our present and future, we could not continue to survive and thrive. Let's hear it for the volunteers!

I would also like to thank all of the people who work for us. Creating real and paid work in a virtual museum is an achievement, an adds greatly to the professional quality of our output!

- Summer student, Jane Harkness, helped immensely with the 2019 calendar and did research on potential stories for CapitalHistory.ca and more kiosks.
- Don Kwan continued to promote the Wong Brothers for us and Robert Yip made initial contact with people at the Ottawa-Carleton School Board about introducing the Wong novel into the school system.
- Juan Bello, producer of “Never Forgotten”, has worked tirelessly on making this documentary relevant today. We used ACTRA narrators in the video – Todd Fennell, Amanda Barker, Braden Wright, John Fleming and David Huband. An original music score was written by Daniel Séguin for the video.
- Andre Mersereau and his team at Chapter One Studio finished the PSAC wall exhibit located at 233 Gilmour Street. They also did the flyer we used about the PSAC building for Doors Open.
- Heather Weinrich took over writing the Bonnie Robichaud book with some more research conducted by Richie Allen.

Last year I outlined 3 goals as priorities. How did we do?

The practice of using myself, the Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary as an Executive Committee to keep work happening between Board meetings reduced ad hoc decisions by the President. There were some face-to-face meetings and ~~some~~ email discussions. They were not burdensome, and produced the desired results.

Lobbying of City Councillors did not happen as planned, but improved communication with the City has helped with the recognition we have received. I recommend continued effort in this direction for the new Board.

Shorter meetings continued to be appreciated, but after some there were observations made that we sometimes could have achieved important results if we had dug a bit deeper. It is always a balancing act, and next year's Chair will need to test the Board, the committees, and those participating in the Retreat to ensure the right balance is struck.

Lastly, several documentaries are nearing completion. One of the issues being dealt with by the producers and Board of Directors is what format we will be issuing our documentaries in starting in 2019 as DVDs are being phased out as digital technologies take over. We are looking at Vimeo as our new method.

The "Never Forgotten" video on the 1935 On-To-Ottawa trek is nearing release of the English version on Vimeo. Our involvement was not as direct in the Carleton Unionization video, but we are pleased to report it is also nearing release. Ongoing discussions about the Same Sex Rights video ~~are continuing~~ with a potential partner in the GLBTQ2S community are very important, and not to be rushed. In all honesty, we have had some more research and thought on Work and Disability, but it remains a long term goal.

I am not reoffering as President for 2019 but will continue to work as producer and work at finalizing projects and marketing our products. It has been my honour to serve as President of the Workers' History Museum.

Arthur

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Arthur Carkner

Vice-president:

Robert Allen

Secretary:

Paul Harrison

Treasurer:

Barb Stewart

Members-at-large:

Evert Hoogers

Penny Bertrand

Christine Goneau

Phillippe Trottier

Doug Marshall

Robert Hatfield

Institutional members:

David Yazbeck

Annie Noël

Trustee:

Wilbray Thiffault

Peter Cormier

Heather Stevens

EVENTS ATTENDED

January

- PSAC National Capital Regional Council meeting

February

- Heritage Day at City Hall
- Union of Taxation Employees Local 70010 Annual General Meeting
- Union of Taxation Employees Local 70001 Annual General Meeting

March

- WHM AGM March 5
- Union of Taxation Employees Presidents' Conference

April

- Carleton University National Capital History Day
- WHM Trivia Night
- Union of Taxation Employees Local 70030 Annual General Meeting
- PSAC Convention - Toronto

May

- PSAC Convention – Toronto -5 days
- Launch of Wong Brothers graphic novel at Shanghai Restaurant in Ottawa
- Attended ComicCon in Ottawa at a booth selling our National Press Club jazz CD
- PSAC NCR Regional Annual General Meeting – 2 days

June

- Hosted Doors Open Ottawa at PSAC building 233 Gilmour Street
- Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa AGM – Ottawa

November

- WHM Trivia Night
- Meeting with Union of National Employees about circulating news and information about WHM to their members

December

- Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa - Gathering of the Council – Ottawa
- CLiFF – Ottawa

PROJECTS

Capital History Kiosks

In 2017 the Workers' History Museum completed work on eighteen Capital History Kiosks featuring little known and untold stories about Ottawa's past. The kiosks consist of vinyl wraps around traffic control boxes featuring a striking image, lively text, and a QR code taking visitors to the Carleton Centre for Public History's web-based storytelling site, CapitalHistory.ca.

We have received tremendous support from the Mayor for this project and the kiosks will stay up for about five years. During the summer of 2018, our summer student, Jane Harkness, did some research on possible new sites for more kiosks.



Graphic Novel

The graphic novel is about the Wong Brothers, the history of one of the first Chinese-Canadian families in Ottawa that owned a grocery store on Bank Street and formed the first Chinese-Canadian hockey team in Ottawa. We've already received great reviews for it and hope to do a series of graphic novels based on the Capital History stories. The sales have been very good and there is interest from the Ottawa-Carleton School Board about getting the novel into classes. This will be pursued in 2019.



PSAC 50th Anniversary project

The wall exhibit was finalized in mid-March 2018 and can be seen at 233 Gilmour Street. This was the final part of the PSAC 50th anniversary project.



These are pictures of PSAC members at work over the last 50+ years. Many people do not realize the variety of jobs that these members have done.

Work and disability

Over the past several years, our summer students have done research and conducted interviews of various people in preparation for working on a documentary video on workers and disability. Work will begin in earnest on it in 2019.

Workers' History Museum and Bytown Museum Walking Tour Partnership

In partnership with the Bytown Museum, the Workers' History Museum was to conduct four labour history walking tours for the months of July, August and September 2018. However due to weather, and advertising problems the tours did not take place.

On-to-Ottawa Trek

The On-to-Ottawa Trek will be the museum's first documentary offered in three languages. We will add Spanish for this documentary as well as our usual English and French. The rough cut of the documentary has been completed and we hope to have it released in the spring of 2019. The title for the documentary is *Never Forgotten*. It is going to be released in phases, with the English version first, then the French and subtitled Spanish versions.

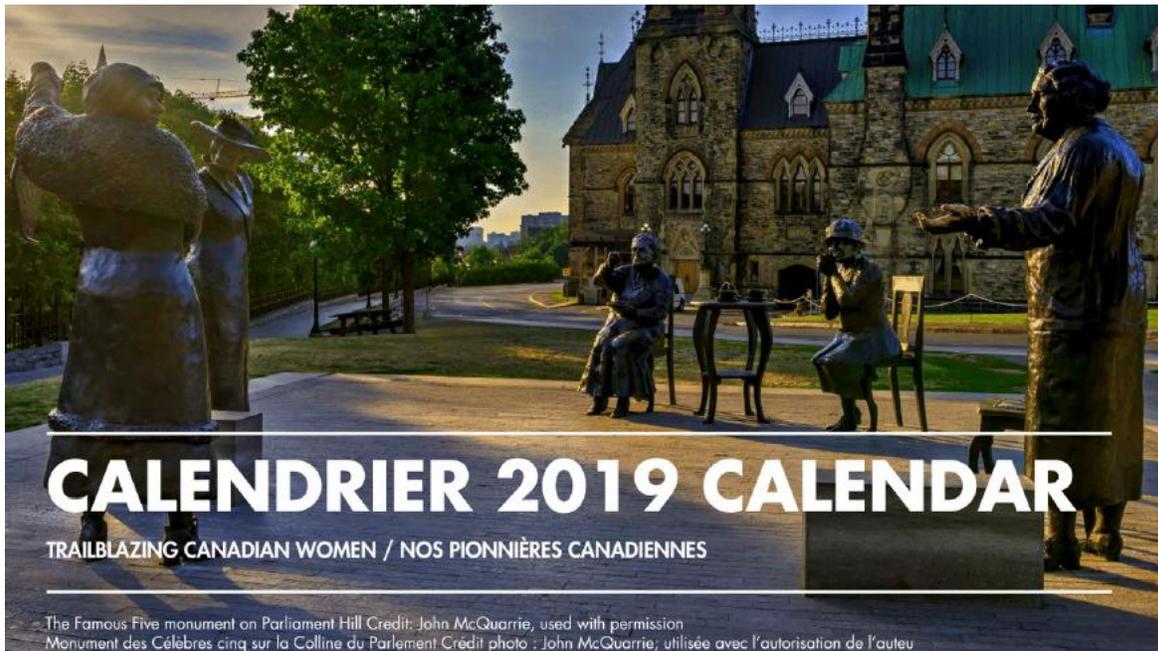
E.B. Eddy

- The exhibition at 251 Bank Street has been extended once again, until January 31, 2020.



2019 calendar

Thanks to: Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC); Union of Canadian Transportation Employees (UCTE); Union of National Employees (UNE); Union of Taxation Employees (UTE); National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE); Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU); Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE); and the City of Ottawa the 2019 calendar has been a huge success.



YOUNG CANADA WORKS

The Workers' History Museum was again fortunate to receive funding from Young Canada Works (YCW) for the hiring of one summer student. Jane Harkness is a student at the University of Ottawa.

She was instrumental in getting in touch with some of the people featured in our 2019 calendar. She found contacts that enabled us to get permission to use pictures and other information on various women. She wrote the on-line biographies of the women.

She did research for some new sites or stories based on women for the Capital History Kiosks projects that we plan to follow up on in 2019.

PAT MACGRATH SCHOLARSHIP

Melissa Sinfield is attending Saint Paul University in Ottawa working on her Masters in Conflict Studies. She has her Bachelor of Social Science, Honours in International Development and Globalization from the University of Ottawa.

She is active in social justice and academia. Her thesis explores the topic of disability in labour communities of rural Canada. She is organizing a new Public Interest Research Group in Ottawa, while working for the Mauril Bélanger Social Innovation Workshop. She is also collaborating on a separate research project entitled "Transforming Food Systems Imaginaries: Commoning Land and Labour in Canada".

Her submission was a set of drawings based off photographs belonging to a farming family from Lombardy, a rural region near Smiths Falls ON. They represent a cross-generational knowledge transfer across 4-5 generations as they engaged in agricultural production. The drawings illustrate some the many challenges, adversities, and adaptive strategies rural labourers have had to face as dynamics shift, industries change, and major historical events occur. They can be seen on our website.

Here's to another great year for the Workers' History Museum!