

The Ontario Historical Society's Cruikshank Medal honours an individual who has performed with distinction on behalf of The Ontario Historical Society. This year's recipient is Dr. Gabriele Scardellato.

As a member, author, editor, workshop leader, volunteer and donor to the OHS for the past 25 years, Gabriele has been an unfailing and hard-working ambassador for the Society. Over the years, he has actively supported the projects and programs of the OHS, not only benefitting the Society's member organizations and individuals, but the greater heritage community at large.

Gabriele has presented his oral history workshop, "Tell Us Your Story and In Your Own Words" many times for the OHS, in partnership with the Society's member organizations, including the King Township Historical Society, the Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee, the Huron County Historical Society, and the Voyageur Heritage Network.

In 2000, Gabriele helped to plan and implement the OHS's highly successful symposium Buon Appetito! Italian Foodways in Ontario, which included his own presentation, entitled "From Garden to Table: Italian Canadians as Urban Peasant Farmers."

From 1999 to 2003, Gabriele served as both Editor and Managing Editor of the Society's scholarly journal Ontario History. During that period, Gabriele built on the legacy of former editor Dr. Jean Burnet, encouraging a wide variety of primary research and inclusive scholarship. Gabriele broke new ground and pioneered many themes and fields, providing a broader and more comprehensive portrait of Ontario's diverse history with articles on the First Nations, immigration and the working class, women's and gender history, black

history, education, forestry, and sport. Gabriele also oversaw three special themed issues on museums, aboriginal issues, and educating young people in twentieth-century Ontario.

In the Spring 2000 issue, Gabriele invited Dean Jacobs (Walpole Island First Nation) to act as Guest Editor, and together they published Continuity and the Unbroken Chain: Issues in the Aboriginal History of Ontario. Jacobs wrote, "This special issue of Ontario History is a significant milestone for Aboriginal history...as it is the first issue to be edited by an Aboriginal. The Aboriginal history of Ontario must be seen in a holistic way, which is the way in which we view our lands and waters. In Aboriginal history it is critical to have such an approach, for without it, our people and history will not be understood...indeed, for First Nations in Ontario, history is our heart and soul."

Gabriele's editorship of the Society's scholarly journal has contributed immeasurably not only to the history of Ontario but also to the development of the discipline of history.

In 2011, Gabriele was instrumental in helping the OHS to develop a five-year business plan to transform and modernize Ontario History into an online resource that will be available for an ever-growing readership eager to learn about what has been written about life in Ontario. He also continues to serve as a volunteer book reader and judge for OHS awards.

Gabriele is presently Associate Professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, and holds The Mariano A. Elia Chair in Italian-Canadian Studies at York University.

For his unflagging commitment, outstanding scholarship, and generous volunteerism to The Ontario Historical Society, the Honours and Awards Committee is proud to present the 2012 Cruikshank Medal to Dr. Gabriele Scardellato.