
Multicultural History Society of Ontario

Reviewing the Year

2018/19

President's Message

I am pleased to present the annual report for the Multicultural History Society of Ontario. It outlines our achievements during the 2018/19 fiscal year.

We undertook a wide range of activities in 2018/19 that produced very satisfactory results. We continued work in re-arranging and re-describing our extensive archival holdings; we assisted students, educators, community historians, and heritage professionals in accessing resources and/or pursuing projects; we circulated exhibitions; we conducted training in the practice of oral history; we hosted placement and practicum students; and we managed our Facebook page as an information clearinghouse on matters related to ethnocultural and Indigenous heritage. I would be remiss if I did not also highlight our work recruiting, training, and supervising virtual volunteers, and participating in collaborative government/community heritage policy and interpretation initiatives.

As is evident from this report, establishing the online digital repository, *Discovering Multicultural Canada* (DMC), is an important undertaking for the Society. The initiative will have a significant impact on the heritage sector in Ontario since, in addition to the MHSO's digital archive which will serve as the anchor archive, DMC will host multiple digital archives created by organizations and facilities with ethnocultural and Indigenous archival holdings. Resources permitting, we will assist these organizations and facilities in creating their archives. Indeed, we envision assuming a leadership role in digital stewardship, designing and delivering comprehensive workshops, providing online tutorials, and producing web resources for a network of DMC partners.



We have been awarded a number of project grants in past years to support the development of *Discovering Multicultural Canada*. In 2018/19, we received a grant under the Documentary Heritage Communities Program to digitize more of our oral history interviews. On April 11, 2019, I was honoured to make a presentation on our work at a funding announcement for Ontario recipients hosted by Guy Berthiaume, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, at the TIFF Bell Lightbox in Toronto.

I also want to acknowledge the ongoing support provided by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport through its Provincial Heritage Organization Operating Grant Program.

None of our successes in 2018/19 would have been possible without the people involved in the Society's day-to-day operations. My thanks go to Carl Thorpe, Carolyn Braunlich, Dora Nipp, Winston Loui, Elizabeth Price, Dennis Moore, Cassandra Tavukcuyan, and Tommy Paparizos.

Professor E. Wayne Dowler
President

MHSO Achievements in 2018/19

Undertaking Collaborations and Providing Advice

National

We secured membership on the Content Working Group of the National Heritage Digitization Strategy (NHDS) and, to address the Working Group's concern that greater emphasis be placed on inclusion, we produced a new version of the NHDS Content Strategy for review by the Strategy's Steering Committee.

Provincial

In collaboration with the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) and the Ontario Museum Association (OMA), we produced a draft document, 'PHO Statement on Cultural Heritage in Ontario', a vision statement for adoption and use by the provincial heritage organizations.

We continued our partnership with the Ontario Heritage Fairs Association (OHFA). We were represented on the OHFA Board, and we gave a prize at each of the 15 regional fairs held in April and May. Our Outreach & Digital Archive Officer conducted a workshop at the York Regional Fair.



Kylie Ng, a Grade 8 student at Herbert H. Carnegie Public School in Maple, won the MHSO Prize at the York Regional Fair. The research question for her project was 'How Might the Chinese Immigration Act Have Affected the Cultural Identities of Chinese Canadians Today?'

Municipal

As in previous years, we were an active participant in the Heritage Interpretation Working Group (HIWG), advising Infrastructure Ontario on the heritage interpretation design plan for the new courthouse in Toronto. The courthouse is being built in an area formerly known as The Ward, a prominent immigrant neighbourhood in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Preserving and Increasing Access to Archival Holdings

In 2018/19, we continued our efforts to preserve and increase access to primary source materials documenting immigrant, ethnic, and Indigenous experiences.

Acquisitions and Donations

We attempted to fill gaps in the Society's oral history collection related to collaborative projects undertaken in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Our Archivist located and borrowed cassette tape recordings of interviews that had been conducted in projects with the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) and the Delhi Tobacco Museum & Heritage Centre (DTM&HC). Fifty-two interviews obtained from the OBHS were digitized, and the tapes were returned along with copies of the digital files.

Benjamin Looker, an Associate Professor in American Studies at Saint Louis University, donated a collection of items related to his work on progressive Filipino Canadian theatre in Toronto in the 1980s and 1990s. The items include programs for plays staged by the Carlos Bulosan Cultural Workshop and

Diwata Works, clippings from Toronto Filipino newspapers on the productions, transcripts of the documentary films, *Canada is in the Heart: The Carlos Bulosan Cultural Workshop* and *The Carding Story*, and transcripts of five interviews that Looker conducted with key participants in Filipino Canadian theatrical endeavors.



This is a photograph, taken in 1997, of the cast for a Carlos Bulosan Cultural Workshop production – *Images of 1896*, a sarsuela (musical) about resistance to Spanish colonial rule.

Collections Re-Arrangement and Re-Description

We continued our work re-arranging and re-describing our collections in line with current archival practice. For instance, our Archivist completed RAD-compliant descriptions for 6,065 items in our textual records collection. (RAD – Rules for Archival Description) A PhD candidate in History who is fluent in Ukrainian created an inventory of 900 items in the Ukrainian component of the collection.

Content for the MHSO's Digital Archive in Discovering Multicultural Canada (DMC)

Our Outreach & Digital Archive Officer uploaded new content to our digital archive in DMC:

- 122 oral history interviews ... increasing the total to 1,997;
- 22 interview transcripts ... increasing the total to 506;
- 19 narrator biographical notes ... increasing the total to 127;
- 390 original log & identification forms ... increasing the total to 2,008;
- 27 contemporary researcher/interviewer files ... increasing the total to 132; and
- 698 historical photographs.

We also undertook work in support of future content uploads to the digital archive. For instance, we inventoried and produced RAD-compliant, item-level descriptions for 22,915 historical photographs in the MHSO fonds in the Archives of Ontario (AO), and we began work on an agreement with the AO to borrow and digitize the approximately 84,000 historical photographs in the fonds. In addition, our Archivist selected, organized, and shipped approximately 1,370 interviews (1,900 cassette tapes) to be digitized by The MediaPreserve.

Our focus on the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Oral History Collection continued. This unique collection contains over 300 interviews, in Cree, Oji-Cree or Ojibwe, with Indigenous Elders in remote communities in northern Ontario. The interviews were conducted some 40 years ago by the MHSO and the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre (OCCC). Having digitized the interviews in 2017/18, we continued work, in collaboration with the OCCC, to prepare them for inclusion in DMC. We:

- inventoried and produced RAD-compliant, item-level descriptions for 302 interviews;
- renamed 1,032 digital files in accordance with the Society's standardized, digital-record naming convention;

- engaged two transcribers/translators – one for Cree-language (Omushkego “N” dialect) interviews and the other for Oji-Cree and Northern Ojibway;
- produced Cree-syllabic transcripts and English-language translations for 28 interviews; and
- produced 20 narrator biographical notes.



Marguerite Wabano is one of the Elders who was interviewed by the MHSO and OCCC in the early 1980s. When she died in 2015 at the age of 111, she was the oldest known survivor of Canada’s residential school system.

Our very successful virtual volunteering program continued under the direction of our Outreach & Digital Archive Officer. Through the program, we produced 214 interview transcripts. Once these transcripts have been edited, they will be uploaded to DMC. A total of 110 individuals inquired

about entering the program in 2018/19, and we ended the year with 56 committed volunteers plus a dozen or so potential participants who were working on the required sample assignment.

Content for Partner Digital Archives in Discovering Multicultural Canada (DMC)

We assisted the Canadian Macedonian Historical Society (CMHS) and the Canadian Polish Research (CPRI) Institute in uploading initial content to their digital archives in DMC. For instance, the CMHS uploaded 57 oral history interviews, primarily video, and the CPRI uploaded 457 issues of newspapers.

Providing Services, and Undertaking and Supporting Programming

Research Assistance

The oral history interviews, ethnic newspapers, historical photographs, and textual records in our Archives continued to attract researchers. In addition to making interviews available to narrator family members – this is indeed a happy task – we helped researchers access primary source materials on a wide range of subjects. Those our Archivist assisted included:

- a summer student at the Oshawa Museum researching displaced persons who came to Canada and settled in Oshawa after the Second World War;
- a Professor in the History Department at McMaster University researching the experiences of child migrants from the British Caribbean;
- the daughter of a soldier in ‘Anders’ Army’ (the Polish Armed Forces in the East) researching her father’s involvement in the Battle of Monte Cassino in the Italian campaign in 1944;
- a PhD student and SSHRC Doctoral Fellow in Cinema & Media Studies at the University of Chicago researching the reception that D.W. Griffith’s film, *The Birth of a Nation*, had in Canada in 1915;

“I am just so happy to be able to have this recording of my father, whose voice I have not heard in 30 years!”

Daughter of Jerzy Juralewicz

- a poet from Dublin, Ireland researching women who immigrated to Canada from Ireland, with a particular emphasis on women in the arts;
- a Postdoctoral Visitor in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics at York University researching Augusto Bersani, a RCMP informant who reported on Italian Canadians involved in fascist activities during the Second World War;
- a woman who came to Canada from the Netherlands when she was two and a half years old researching, as context for her family's experiences, Dutch immigration from 1945 to 1955 and the role that organized religion played in immigrant settlement;
- a PhD student in History at Concordia University researching how the children of South Asian immigrants have negotiated their identities; and
- an M.A. student in History at the University of Toronto researching the extent to which, in the last three decades of the 20th century, Latin American restaurateurs used food to represent a national and/or pan-national ethnic identity.

Educational Programming

Our exhibition, *Reflections: Images of Chinese Women in Canada*, was displayed at the Arthur Child Heritage Museum of the 1000 Islands in Gananoque from the beginning of May to the end of September, 2018. It was the centerpiece for exploring the theme that the museum had selected for the year – migrations. The theme was appropriate since the 1000 Islands are a migratory axis that has served as a transit way since the recession of the glaciers.

To celebrate Black History Month and to complement a symposium, 'The Importance of Strategic Alliances for Canada's Human Rights Movement', held on February 7, 2019, our exhibition, *Many Rivers to Cross: The African Canadian Experience*, was displayed in the McLaughlin College Art Gallery at York University during the month of February.



Our Outreach & Digital Archive Officer delivered the Society's oral history training workshop, *Collecting Voices*, to students and faculty in the graduate program in Communication and Culture at Ryerson University. The training was in preparation for their interviewing independent filmmakers active in Ontario between the 1960s and 1980s. Workshops were also delivered to students in the Cultural Heritage Conservation & Management and the Museum Management & Curatorship Programs at Fleming College, and to a small research team of students and faculty that is working on collecting oral history data for a history of the University of Toronto Scarborough.

This photograph is included in the 'Pioneer Women' section of the *Reflections: Images of Chinese Women in Canada* exhibition. ... Haw Chow Shee with children George and Avis, Montreal, Quebec, circa 1897, Courtesy of the Estate of Mrs. James Lee.

Support for Educational Programming

We provided photographs and videos for use in publications, exhibitions, and public events such as the following:

- the August-September 2018 issue of the magazine, *Canada's History*, for the article, "The Country of Half Welcomes," regarding Canada's checkered history with refugees;
- the exhibition, *Great Women During the War 1939-1945*, developed by the Canadian War Museum in partnership with the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy, France ... it opened at the Juno Beach Centre on March 1, 2019;

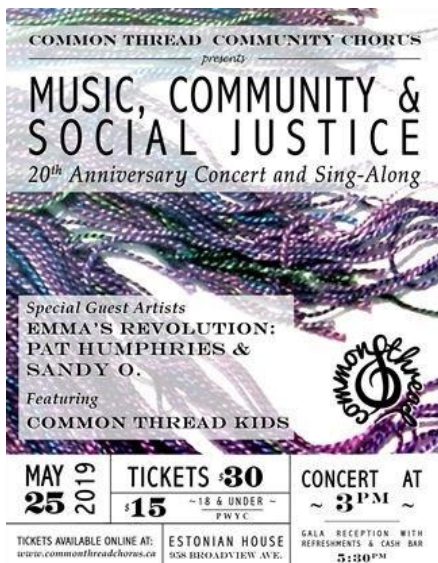


- the online school program for *Family Bonds & Belonging*, an exhibition developed by the Royal BC Museum and adapted by the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 ... the exhibition opened at Pier 21 on March 9, 2019;
- the publication, *Land of Triumph and Tragedy: Voices of the Italian Fallen Workers*, produced by the Italian Fallen Workers Memorial Project ... the book, which is a 'sequel' to the Memorial Wall unveiled in April 2016 at Villa Charities in Toronto, was launched on May 23, 2019; and
- the 20th anniversary concert of the Common Thread Community Chorus held at Estonian House in Toronto on May 25, 2019.

We also helped a number of organizations find resources for programming in other repositories – for instance, photographs for CBC Radio for its Doc Project on Grace Bagnato, a “one-women immigrant settlement agency” in Toronto and Ontario’s first Italian Canadian court interpreter.

Student Placements and Interns

We hosted two Public History placement students from York University and an Archives Management practicum student from the University of Toronto’s iSchool, supervised by our Archivist. We also hosted a History intern from the University of Toronto Mississauga, supervised by our Outreach & Digital Archive Officer. The students learned about, and worked on, components of our DMC and collections re-arrangement/re-description initiatives.

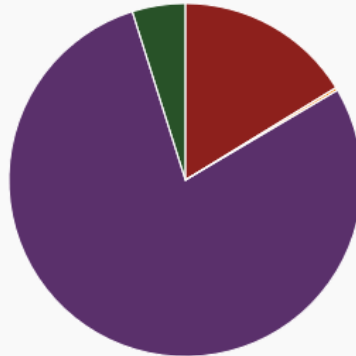


The Common Thread Community Chorus is an 80-voice choir that builds community and promotes social justice through music. Its repertoire comes primarily from multicultural folk music traditions.

Multicultural History Society of Ontario Financial Report

Fiscal Year – July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

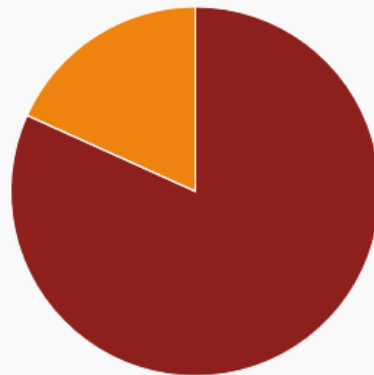
Revenue



- Received donations \$44,420.00 (16.24%)
- Non-receipted donations \$699.00 (0.26%)
- Gifts from other registered charities \$0.00 (0.00%)
- Government funding \$215,102.00 (78.64%)
- All other revenue \$13,298.00 (4.86%)

Total revenue: \$273,519.00

Expenses



- Charitable programs \$213,921.00 (81.75%)
- Management and administration \$47,766.00 (18.25%)
- Fundraising \$0.00 (0.00%)
- Political activities \$0.00 (0.00%)
- Gifts to other registered charities and qualified donees \$0.00 (0.00%)
- Other \$0.00 (0.00%)

Total expenses: \$261,687.00