

The 2018 AAO Awards

The AAO Awards Committee - comprised of Carolyn Bart-Riedstra (Chair), David Sharron, Jean Dryden, and Rodney Carter – were pleased and honoured to present three awards at the conference in Waterloo. We congratulate all the award recipients and thank the AAO members who took the time to prepare such strong nomination packages so that we could recognize and celebrate the award winners.

The Alexander Fraser Award



Left to Right: Robert McIntosh, M.C. Havey, Rodney Carter (photo credit: Nancy Maitland)

This award is given to individuals who have contributed in a significant way to the advancement of the archival community in Ontario, recognizing cumulative contributions rather than any single activity.

This year, the Alexander Fraser Award was presented to **M.C. Havey** for her contributions to the archival community in Ontario through her championing of religious archives and her tireless work preserving the stories and legacies of the Canadian Catholic community.

In addition to her work as archivist for the Sisters of Service and the Edmonton-Toronto Redemptorists, M.C. has been active in the development and growth of the Catholic Archivist Group, serving on various committees over the years, including Chair, and in this capacity, she has mentored countless archivists, sharing her experiences and wisdom about working as a “lone arranger” within small religious archives.

She’s also been an active participant of the Canadian Catholic Historical Association and her participation with this group has helped foster a connection between historians, the most common users of religious archives, and the archival community.

M.C. has worked on several important projects which have ensured the safekeeping of Catholic archival records, offering advice and assistance to smaller congregations of women religious, the Our Lady’s

Missionaries and Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, and in overseeing the transfer of the personal fonds of influential Redemptorists to the most appropriate institutions.

Throughout her archival career, M.C. has proven time and again her generosity and dedication towards the archival community.

The James J. Talman Award



Left to Right: Robert McIntosh, Danielle Robichaud, Rodney Carter (photo courtesy of Danielle Robichaud)

The James J. Talman award is given to an individual who has demonstrated an outstanding level of imagination and innovation in contribution to the profession, their institution, or the archival community, or have challenged conventional thinking about archival work.

We were pleased to present the 2018 Talman Award to **Danielle Robichaud** for her work in encouraging archivists to contribute to Wikipedia, and by showing how archivists can be activists in implementing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She has led by example in many respects: by improving Wikipedia articles (she has logged more than 4,250 edits in Wikipedia), training archivists how to use Wikipedia, and leading Wikipedia Edit-a-thons.

Danielle chose Wikipedia as one means of addressing her concerns about reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada. As she said, “By making the decision to move beyond guilt and defensiveness to an

action-oriented view of reconciliation I ... [focussed] on ... creating a reliable page to ... raise awareness about the school system and facilitating the retrieval of resources by others seeking to improve their own understanding of its impact.” In 2017, the Wikipedia page on the Canadian Indian Residential School System (which carries 434 edits made by Danielle), was designated a Featured Article by Wikipedia’s editors. Featured articles are considered to be among the best Wikipedia has to offer. Danielle also created a resource page on the AAO website identifying what archivists can do to implement the recommendations of the TRC.

Corporate Award



Left to Right: Robert McIntosh, David Sharron, Sharon MacKay, Amanda Oliver, Robin Keirstead (Photo courtesy of Iona McCraith)

The AAO’s Corporate Award is s given to organizations, corporations, or agencies of any kind that have been particularly supportive of archives and/or the archival community. The 2018 Corporate Award was presented to **Labatt Breweries of Canada**.

In 2011, a fruitful partnership between Labatt Breweries of Canada and the Western Archives began in earnest. That year, Labatt donated its massive corporate archives spanning over 170 years and encompassing more than 2600 boxes to the University of Western Ontario. The donation was not only impressive for its size and historical content, but Labatt also revealed its generous nature by providing accompanying funds to the Western Archives to assist with staffing, processing and purchasing supplies for these new materials.

In 2016, Western Archives and Labatt agreed to collaborate on a project for Labatt's 170th anniversary that would highlight the richness of the collection, increase its accessibility, and support student learning. Labatt and Western staff worked together to design features and potential narratives for the exhibit and Labatt hired a web design firm to create the site. This was an excellent opportunity to share resources and build a stronger relationship.

The website officially launched in October 2017 allowing users from around the world to benefit from having access to its content. Further, this project allowed Western staff and students to gain invaluable technological skills, such as digitization, virtual exhibit design, and digital storytelling which will be applied to future projects.