



For Immediate Release  
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*Owen Sound*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Schank to Receive Heritage Honour**

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**Respected writer, researcher and native activist Susan Schank is being honoured during Heritage Week with a presentation from Owen Sound Mayor Ruth Lovell Stanners. The Community Planning & Heritage Advisory Committee (CPHAC) nominated Ms. Schank for the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) Heritage Community Recognition Program for her work in preserving and promoting local history.**

"Owen Sound's volunteers work tirelessly to preserve our cultural heritage," explained CPHAC Chair Councillor Deb Haswell. "One way to celebrate their accomplishments is to recognize individuals as opportunities arise." One such opportunity is the annual OHT Heritage Community Recognition Program for significant contributions to built, cultural and natural heritage preservation across the province. Ms. Schank is one of more than 200 volunteers honoured in 2009.

She is in good company; previous Owen Sound recipients of this honour include Melba Croft, Helene Weaver, Dorothy Vick, Paula Niall and Barry Lewin.

"Heritage preservation must be embraced by people it touches most – people in communities who join with their neighbours to protect buildings, natural heritage sites and cultural artifacts, and to tell the stories – the local histories – that are the backbone of our understanding of who we are and where we came from," added the Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman of the OHT.

Ms. Schank's native ancestry and ties to famous local ancestor Catherine Sutton (Nahnebahwequa) have inspired much of her efforts with the aboriginal centre of Georgian College, Piyak-Ootihii drummers, Restoring the Circle committee and the Grey County Historical Society. She has written many research articles for the Historical Society's publication *The Historian*, and been integral in bringing awareness to the protection of the burial site of Catherine Sutton.

Susan is also proud of her work with the Grey-Owen Sound-Saugeen Amalgamated Métis Centre; she has volunteered for six years, doing workshops, drumming, research, genealogy, and working in their Medicine Garden. For three years she has volunteered at the Grey Roots Museum & Archives doing research.

The presentation of the award will occur at the Council meeting on Tuesday, February 16, at 4:30 p.m.

- 30 -

*For more information contact:  
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## BACKGROUND

### Heritage Community Recognition Program

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The annual Ontario Heritage Trust Heritage Community Recognition Program helps communities recognize volunteers for their work to preserve, protect and promote Ontario's heritage. Presentation events are co-ordinated by the nominating councils.

The Ontario Heritage Trust is an agency of the Government of Ontario, dedicated to identifying, preserving, protecting and promoting Ontario's built, cultural and natural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations.

*Quick Facts:*

- Since the Heritage Community Recognition Program began in 1996, the Trust has helped communities across Ontario recognize 3,400 local heritage volunteers.
- The Trust also coordinates the Young Heritage Leaders program, which recognizes heritage volunteers under the age of 18.
- In 2007, a nomination category for the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement was added to the program. This award recognizes individuals who have made volunteer contributions to preserving, protecting and promoting community heritage over a period of 25 years or more.

*Learn More:*

- Visit [www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca) for information on the nomination guidelines for the Heritage Community Recognition Program.

- 30 -

*For more information about the OHT, contact:  
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Ontario Heritage Trust*