



Ontario Historical Society Recognizes Author of Women's History

Presented as part of the 2012 – A Year of History Conference

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For Immediate Release

In 1967, The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) established an Awards Programme to honour individuals, organizations, corporations and authors who have contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of Ontario's heritage.

Dr. Ian Radforth, Chair of the Honours and Awards Committee of the OHS, is pleased to announce that the 2011 Alison Prentice Award, recognizing the best book on women's history in Ontario,



Pictured on June 9, 2012 (from left) is Caroline Di Cocco, Second Vice President, OHS; Dr. Ian Radforth, Chair, OHS Honours and Awards Committee; and Maria Meindl, author and recipient of the OHS's 2011 Alison Prentice Award.

Photo Andrea Izzo

published in the past three years, was awarded to Maria Meindl for her book *Outside the Box: The Life and Legacy of Writer Mona Gould, the Grandmother I Thought I Knew*, published by McGill-Queen's University Press.

Maria Meindl's book is both brilliant and unconventional, characteristics that also describe the book's subject, Mona Gould. At

once a biography and a celebration of the work of a woman poet, journalist, and broadcaster from Ontario, *Outside the Box* traces a journey of discovery as Maria Meindl learns about her grandmother, a larger-than-life figure. The book begins with the granddaughter's recollections of her encounters from childhood with a woman she found captivating, eccentric, and perplexing. After Mona Gould dies, it falls to Meindl to sort through her grandmother's large and chaotic collection of papers in the collection of the Thomas Fischer Rare Books Library at the University of Toronto. As a reluctant archivist, Meindl continually gains insights into Mona Gould's accomplished but troubled life, which compels her to re-evaluate the relationship she and her grandmother shared. In the end, readers come to appreciate two fascinating and talented women writers, Mona Gould and Maria Meindl.

The Honours and Awards Committee of The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to present the 2011 Alison Prentice Award to Maria Meindl.

Founded in 1888, The Ontario Historical Society is a non-profit corporation and registered charity dedicated to increasing an appreciation of Ontario's history and preserving its heritage for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. To learn more about the OHS' Honours and Awards or to submit a nomination, please visit www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca or contact the Society's offices by telephone or e-mail.

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