



*Preserving, promoting and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.*

Our Cultural Moment for June celebrates Ian Turner



Ian Turner, a man who contributed so much to his community was highly worthy of the *Senate 150 Award* he received in 2017 for community leadership and volunteerism. The focus of this cultural moment is his involvement in the Arthur and Area Historical Society. Ian was, for all the years the Society has existed, at the heart of its success as a showcase for local, Canadian, and broader history.

Central to Ian's work with Historical was supporting the local history murals, giving walking tours to visitors, and giving his own time and recruiting student volunteers to the local Trails system initiated by the Society.

Among his many contributions, were his interest in and skillful organizing of trips for the Society members and the community. They combined visits to historical or noteworthy places, such as fascinating museums, intriguing small businesses, and unusual shops, with appealing lunch stops, and breaks at the nearest Tim's. His experiences as a History teacher shepherding groups of high school students was invaluable. Ian's talents as a teacher fit in perfectly with the presentations the Society made each year at Caressant Care and the Society Rooms. With other members, he worked his way through the decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century on such topics as the "Titanic", a World War II overview, local black history, and a look at education through his teaching years.

Whatever presentation he made, Ian was a master story-teller, whose insightful stories were always sprinkled with humour. His last presentation to Historical was one of his favourite subjects: trips with his students: to New York and Europe, and to Montréal on the day of the Referendum to support the "No" vote. These adventures brought tears of laughter throughout.

It is fitting that Ian gave us some of our happiest moments at the last meeting of the Society before the pandemic descended. His contributions to our history and culture live on.

Submitted by Gail Donald Wellington North Cultural Roundtable