



Multicultural History Society of Ontario

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Summer | Fall 2012 Newsletter

One Step Closer to Worldwide Access

The MHSO is on its way to providing worldwide access to its unique collections! The **Ontario Trillium Foundation** has generously provided funding for the creation of an online digital archive that will host a large portion of the MHSO's oral history interviews, historical photographs, as well as supplementary educational resources. The archive will be available online in November 2014.

The MHSO's oral history interviews are currently being transcribed and translated by 15 volunteers. We would like to welcome all new volunteers and thank those that have returned to assist with this exciting project. **Want to help?**

1. Become a volunteer transcriber or translator. Opportunities are available in the GTA region at the MHSO archive and throughout Ontario in online roles.

2. Make a financial donation to ensure this vital resource is preserved and made accessible. See **"Donate Today"** for more information.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario.



Toronto's Diversity Alive at Black Creek Pioneer Village



The MHSO and Black Creek Pioneer Village are proud to announce the opening of a **new exhibition** *They Gave Up Themselves for the Next Generation: The Working Lives of Chinese Canadian Women, 1923-1967*. Adapted from the MHSO's website *Chinese Canadian Women: 1923-1967* (www.mhso.ca/chinesecanadianwomen),

Detail Photograph from Exhibit. Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1938. Courtesy of Mary Mohammed.

the exhibit offers visitors a unique opportunity to celebrate and explore the compelling work and life experiences of 20th century Chinese Canadian Women through oral histories, photographs and personal artifacts. For opening hours and location, see www.blackcreek.ca.

Increased Interest in Collections

The MHSO's collections have seen increased traffic since moving into its 1st floor location at the Kelly Library! **Heritage Toronto** has arranged for young writers to use the MHSO archives as a means of researching and writing about their own ethnocultural backgrounds. Furthermore, throughout the last year, researchers have studied over 37 different ethnocultural groups using our oral history interviews, cultural publications, historical photographs and various other textual materials.

DONATE TODAY

The MHSO aims to preserve over 3,000 deteriorating oral histories recorded on cassette-tapes by raising additional \$100,000 for digitization. **Help save Ontario's stories by making a donation today.**

All cheques are payable to the Multicultural History Society of Ontario. Please visit the 'Multicultural History Society of Ontario' profile on CanadaHelps.org to make a donation by credit card. Any donation over \$15 is tax deductible.

MHSO Presents at the TDSB Secondary School Symposium

On May 8, 2012, **Dora Nipp** (MHSO Board Member), Vanessa Tamburro (Education Programme Officer) and Sarah Warner (Outreach Coordinator) led *The Ties that Bind Workshop*, which took place within the context of the TDSB Secondary School Symposium. 60 students from a variety of schools from the Toronto District School Board (TDSP) learned how to analyze primary source materials related to Chinese Canadian

workers on the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). Through the guided analysis of historical photographs and oral history interviews, history came alive for the students. One student remarked, “the pictures were a good way of knowing about the real life of the Chinese in Canada” and another student expressed that the oral histories were **deeply moving** and revealed another side of history not always explored in the classroom.



A student analyzes primary source materials. May 8, 2012. Courtesy of Vanessa Tamburro.

AAO Consultants assess the MHSO Archives



Please donate today to ensure that Ontario's multicultural history is safely preserved

In February and April, the MHSO Archives hosted Carolyn Bart-Riedstra, Archives Advisor, and Iona McCraith, Preservation Consultant from the **Archives Association of Ontario** to assess the MHSO's archives. Commended for his commitment to caring for the collections and his knowledge of the MHSO's vast holdings, MHSO archivist Pasang Thackchhoe was praised as “a walking finding aid.”

Nevertheless, McCraith and Bart-Riedstra recommended describing the collections as a fonds-level system as well as at the series-level to align with archival standards, in order to make descriptions of the collection available on ARCHEION thereby increasing access to our holdings; and storing the collections in proper preservation containers, including acid-free Hollinger boxes.

Summer Students and Interns

Thank you to the following summer students and interns for their diligent work over the course of the summer:

- **Ravneet Dulai**, OISE, University of Toronto
- **Siobhan Angus**, University of Toronto
- **Sushima Naraine**, Public History Program, Western University

If you are interested in pursuing an internship at the MHSO, please send a letter of intent to info@mhsoc.ca.

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Follow us to receive access to regular updates, photographs, oral history clips and videos, and much more.



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Become a member (it's FREE)! Get access to the MHSO's collections, invitations to special events, and newsletters. Contact us at info@mhsoc.ca or by mail to sign up.

Announcements

The MHSO would like to announce the departure of Britt Braaten, Curator/Manager of the MHSO. She has accepted an exciting position at the Canadian War Museum and we wish her all the best in her new endeavours.

The MHSO is proud to announce the addition of Cathy Leekam (cathy.leekam@mhsoc.ca), Program Manager, and Vanessa Tamburro (vanessa.tamburro@mhsoc.ca), Education Programme Officer, to the team! Welcome!