



# Multicultural History Society of Ontario

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## 2013 Newsletter

## VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

The MHSO would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers, both past and present, for their dedication and contribution to the Society and *Strangers No More: Immigrant History and Multicultural Ontario*. The MHSO's online archive documents Ontario's diverse immigrant and ethnic experiences through oral history interviews, historical photographs and innovative educational programming.

At this present time, a total of 110 transcribers, 8 editors, 1 co-op student, 2 interns, and 27 volunteers from across the province and Canada are contributing their invaluable time, skills, and talents to the online archive project. The MHSO recognizes and appreciates their deep commitment to raising awareness of our shared histories and access to the products of our diverse heritage.

The MHSO would also like to highlight its partnerships with Professor Marlene Epp (HIST351: Canada, the Immigrant Experience) of the University of Waterloo, and Professor Malama Csimenis (FRED01: French Service Learning) of the University of Toronto Scarborough campus. Together, the MHSO, Professor Epp, and Professor Csimenis offer students in their classes the opportunity to gain valuable experience in oral history transcription and research.



Sarah Warner, MHSO Outreach Coordinator, thanks volunteers for their hard work and enthusiasm for the *Strangers No More* online archive project.

## STAY CONNECTED

**Become a member** - it is FREE! Get access to MHSO collections, newsletters, and invitations to special events and workshops. Contact us at [info@mhso.ca](mailto:info@mhso.ca)

**Follow us** to receive access to regular updates, job and volunteer postings, photographs, oral history clips, videos, and much more!



## MY CO-OP STUDENT EXPERIENCE by Aaron Weiss (right)

As a grade 11 co-op student interested in different types of history, I did not have any idea about what to expect when I first heard of the MHSO. I made sure to do some research about the Society before my first day on the job so that I could understand more, but I guess reading about the wealth of cassette tapes, pictures and other artifacts cannot compare to what I walked into on the first day. Boxes upon boxes of these historic items were definitely a slightly intimidating sight, but I was quickly welcomed onto the team and I felt like I fit in well. I started on smaller jobs, such as finding call numbers for pictures and researching information, but I soon started to learn how to do larger tasks like scanning photographs, editing transcripts and uploading documents to their social networking sites. I even managed to tag along to one of the MHSO's oral history workshops! It was an interesting and informative event. I am excited to see what else this placement has in store!



## WELCOME SUMMER INTERNS

The MHSO would like to welcome two new summer interns! **Keely Bland** (right), Education Intern from the Master of Museum Studies program at the University of Toronto, will be developing lesson plans for the online archive project, *Strangers No More*. **Holly Foran** (left), Undergraduate Research Assistant from Guelph University, will be conducting a review the MHSO's archival collection.



## VOLUNTEER IN FOCUS by Michelle Hayman (left)

I first learned about the MHSO in a rather unusual place. I was taking a break from the heat at an internet café in Florence last summer when I saw that a friend had sent me a link to the **MHSO website**. As a graduate student studying Canadian immigration history at the University of Toronto, I knew that it would be the perfect place for me to volunteer. Since September 2012, I have worked on transcribing oral history interviews from the late 1970s and 1980s. It has been a fascinating opportunity to hear Canadians' life stories and experiences. I have especially enjoyed learning more about African Canadian history and the Civil Rights movement in Canada through these interviews; it even inspired me to plan a road trip to Chatham-Kent this summer!