



*The Osgoode Society*  
For Canadian Legal History

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**For Immediate Release**

**June 13, 2011**

**News Release**

**The Osgoode Society awards promote Canadian legal history**

**Toronto** – The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History is honouring three academics at a special ceremony on June 21, in recognition of the recent contributions they have made to furthering Canadians' understanding of the country's legal history.

At the Osgoode Society's annual meeting, the following three awards will be presented: the **R. Roy McMurtry Fellowship in Legal History**, the **Peter Oliver Prize in Canadian Legal History** and the **John T. Saywell Prize for Canadian Constitutional Legal History**.

"We applaud each award recipient for enriching Canadians' understanding of the country's legal history," said Jim Phillips, editor-in-chief of the Osgoode Society. "Through their work, this year's award recipients have helped promote the public's interest in the history of law and the legal profession."

The **R. Roy McMurtry Fellowship in Legal History** honours the contributions of the Honourable R. Roy McMurtry, O.C. O.Ont., Q.C., to Canadian legal history as the province's Chief Justice, Attorney General and founder and current president of the Osgoode Society. The award was created in 2007, following his retirement as Chief Justice of Ontario.

The fellowship supports graduate students or those with a recently completed doctorate in their research of Canadian legal history, for one year. Scholars working on any topic in the field of Canadian legal history are eligible for the award.

The 2011 winner of the **R. Roy McMurtry Fellowship in Legal History** is **Daniel Rueck**, a McGill University Ph.D. candidate who will soon be a visiting scholar at the University of Western Ontario. During the fellowship, Mr. Rueck will continue researching Mohawk systems of land tenure and land use in Kahnawake during the nineteenth century. Mr. Rueck's research project is of both great historical and contemporary interest, given current debates surrounding the privatization of Aboriginal land.

The **Peter Oliver Prize in Canadian Legal History** was established in 2006 to honour the late Professor Peter Oliver, the Osgoode Society's founding editor-in-chief. The prize is awarded annually for a student's published journal article, book chapter or book about Canadian legal history. Students in any discipline at any stage of their careers are eligible.

The 2011 winner of the **Peter Oliver Prize in Canadian Legal History** is **Jonathon Penney**, a doctoral student at Balliol College, Oxford. Mr. Penney is recognized for his article *Ivan Rand's Ancient Constitutionalism*, published in 2010 (University of New Brunswick Law Journal Vol. 61 No. 1). The article provides considerable context and insight about Justice Ivan Rand's groundbreaking civil rights decisions of the 1950s.

**The John T. Saywell Prize for Canadian Constitutional Legal History**, an award made possible by the generosity of the family and friends of the late Professor John T. Saywell, recognizes outstanding contribution to Canadian political and legal history. Among Professor Saywell's prolific work is *The Law Makers: Judicial Power and the Shaping of Canadian Federalism*, published in 2002 by the Osgoode Society. The Saywell Prize is given bi-annually for the best new book about Canadian legal history that makes an important contribution to an understanding of the Constitution and/or federalism.

The 2011 winner of the **John T. Saywell Prize for Canadian Constitutional Legal History** is **Douglas Harris** of the University of British Columbia. Professor Harris is recognized for his book, *Landing Native Fisheries: Indian Reserves and Fishing Rights in British Columbia, 1849-1925*, published by the University of British Columbia Press. Professor Harris' writing draws on an impressive range of sources to demonstrate the unique and crucial relationship between reserves and fishing rights in British Columbia. Through his book, Professor Harris furthers understanding around Aboriginal rights, federalism and the intra-agency conflicts that exist between federal government officials concerned with Indian affairs and those concerned with fisheries.

The annual meeting will also feature a talk by The Honourable Robert Sharpe on his forthcoming book to be published by the Osgoode Society *The Lazier Murder: Prince Edward County, 1884*.

**Annual Meeting, Award Ceremony and Reception details:**

**Date:** June 21, 2011  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Museum Room  
Second floor  
The Law Society of Upper Canada  
130 Queen St. West, Toronto  
(Enter through east doors facing Toronto City Hall)

The Osgoode Society was incorporated in May of 1979. It became the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History in 1993. Founded at the initiative of the Hon. R. Roy McMurtry, former Chief Justice of Ontario and a former Attorney General for Ontario, and by officials of the Law Society of Upper Canada, the Osgoode Society studies and promotes public interest in the history of the law, the legal profession and the judiciary in Ontario and elsewhere in Canada and stimulates research and publication on these subjects.

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