The Champlain Society

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A Township at War – Jonathan F. Vance
Wins the 2019 Floyd S. Chalmers Award for Ontario History

The Champlain Society is pleased to announce that A Township at War by Dr. Jonathan F. Vance, Professor of History at Western University, is the winner of the 2019 Floyd S. Chalmers Award.

Published by Wilfrid Laurier University Press, A Township at War tells the story of how an Ontario community experienced the ups and downs of the First World War.

The jury noted this about A Township at War:

The First World War is said to have marked the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century because of its effect on politics, economics, culture and the overall genre de vie and mindset of people everywhere. Many, including Vance, have explored the “Great War” at the macro-level but, in A Township at War, he focuses on the micro-level in East Flamborough, Ontario. Using myriad archival records, interviews and correspondence, Vance creates a vivid portrait of a community that, he argues convincingly, is typical of rural Ontario before, during, and after the conflict. There is a strong personal theme in this unique book as Vance’s family has deep roots in the township. His personal insights and memories enhance his professional assessment. In this well-illustrated and elegantly written study, Vance captures the essence of a rather orthodox Ontario community, its people, and their war-time concerns. In doing so, he has added significantly to our understanding of the impact of this terrible conflict, and also to the history of Ontario.
First presented in 1983, the Floyd S. Chalmers Award is given to the best book written on any aspect of Ontario history in the preceding calendar year. The award selection committee was composed of Dr. Jan Noel (University of Toronto), Dr. Roger Hall (Emeritus Professor, Western University), and Dr. Brian Osborne (Emeritus Professor, Queen’s University). The prize includes a $1000.00 cash award as well as an Inuit carving, as dictated by Floyd S. Chalmers himself. Dr. Vance will receive the award at the Annual General Meeting of the Champlain Society on Saturday, 2 November 2019.

The Chalmers Foundation entrusted the Champlain Society in 1982 to make this award annually. The Champlain Society, founded in Toronto in 1905, is dedicated to making the voices of the past survive through the written text. It publishes an edited volume of textual documents each year and maintains a rich repository of digitized books as well as an active blog and a series of podcasts. It continues to be based in Toronto, but reaches around the world with its www.champlainsociety.ca website.

For more information, contact Dr. Patrice Dutil, Secretary to the Jury at: pdutil@politics.ryerson.ca

For more than 100 years, The Champlain Society has worked to spread awareness of Canada’s documentary heritage. The Society has published over 100 volumes on a wide variety of explorations and discoveries and will continue to do so with the support of its members. The Champlain Society has also launched several new online initiatives including blogs, podcasts, and digital archives.

Members benefit from full access to all Society publications and resources.

Explore The Champlain Society at champlainsociety.UTPjournals.press