

The Dr. Don Brearley Genealogical Essay - \$500 Prize

The Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) is offering an annual prize to an Ontario Secondary School Student enrolled in grade 11 or 12.

This competition is intended to:

- encourage student interest in history, particularly local history;
- encourage student interest in their community and the people who formed it;
- encourage student interest in family history; and,
- assist students in their development of sound research methods.

THE ESSAY - Write an essay of 1 000 to 5 000 words discussing the family history of an individual who is no longer living but who did live in your community. The person may be anybody – one of your ancestors, one of the early settlers in your community, someone who became famous, or someone who was killed in one of the world wars – but you should give reasons why you chose that person. The paper is not about just the individual but about that individual in his or her family. Discuss at least three generations of which the individual is one. Because of privacy laws, do not discuss any living person.

RESEARCH AND CITATIONS - Cite the sources of your research. These sources may be personal interviews, or from the Internet, but at least some of your sources must be original documents. You are not required to meet genealogical standards but your citations should be good enough to convince the reader of the accuracy of your story and to enable the reader to go to your sources.

STYLE AND FORMAT - You must do the research and you must do the writing. You may ask for advice as to where to find research material; your local OGS Branch would be an excellent source. You may also consult with your teachers or other adults regarding sources and style. Type and double-space your paper in WordPerfect, Word or pdf only. Your name and contact information should appear on the title page only.

SUBMISSION – Submit your essay by 5:00 p.m. April 1st (or the following business day should this date fall on a weekend). E-mail the file to:

awards@ogs.on.ca with the subject line “Secondary School Essay Competition”.

JUDGING AND RESULTS – Papers will be stripped of their title pages and judged anonymously. OGS judges will read the papers and award the prize to one paper, provided it meets acceptable standards. The winner will receive \$500 and a one-year Student Membership in OGS. The winning paper will be published in *Families*, the OGS quarterly journal. There may be runners-up who will receive a one-year Student Membership in OGS and may have their papers published in *Families*. By submitting a paper to this competition, you are giving OGS the right to publish it. If your paper is accepted for publication, you may, in co-operation with a member of the editorial board, be asked to make some modifications to fit the style of *Families*. If you submitted in pdf, you will be asked for a copy in Word or WordPerfect. If your paper is published, we will ask your assistance in acquiring copies of original documents, photographs, or other material that can be used to illustrate your paper.

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