

# Deadly Women of Ontario

Mary Osborne of Saltfleet Township - the first woman hanged in Upper Canada - killed her much older husband because she was in love with another man.

Angelina Napolitano, an Italian immigrant living in Sault Ste. Marie, hacked her abusive husband to death with an axe. Her case became an international *cause célèbre*

And Carrie Davis, a young English servant in World War I Toronto, shot her employer, Bert Massey (of the famous Massey family) because she was convinced he had “ruined” her.

*Deadly Women of Ontario* recalls eight notorious women from Ontario’s past. Author and historian Cheryl MacDonald delivers a rivetting presentation, not only describing these dramatic cases, but also discussing how crime opens a window onto the past, revealing details about everyday life that might otherwise be lost. She also touches on gendered politics and “chivalrous justice” which, quite literally, let some women get away with murder.



The talk runs 30-45 minutes and includes ample time for questions and to discuss local “deadly women.”

For more information, please contact Cheryl by phone at 905-776-2406 by e-mail at [heronwood@execulink.com](mailto:heronwood@execulink.com) or through [www.heronwoodent.ca](http://www.heronwoodent.ca)

Cheryl MacDonald has been writing professionally since 1976. Along with a long-running weekly history column in the *Simcoe Times-Reformer*, Cheryl has written numerous historical articles for magazines such as *The Beaver*, *Old Farmer’s Almanac* and *Maclean’s*. A graduate of the University of Waterloo and McMaster University with an M.A. in history, she has also written, co-authored or edited nearly 40 books of historical non-fiction. Her books on true crime include *Who Killed George: The Ordeal of Olive Sternaman*, *Haldimand History: Crime & Punishment 1850-1950*, and the forthcoming titles *Murder! The Unsolved Mystery of Sir Harry Oakes Death* and *Great Canadian Imposters*.