

Cheryl MacDonald has been writing professionally since 1977. 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 written, co-authored or edited about 40 books of historical non-fiction, including *Adelaide Hoodless: Domestic Crusader*, *Niagara Daredevils*, *Celebrated Pets*, *Deadly Women of Ontario*. She is a professional member of both Professional Writers Association of Canada and Crime Writers of Canada.

On her own, or with partner Bob Blakeley, Cheryl has given hundreds of presentations to historical societies, community organizations and schools throughout Ontario. She is noted for solid research and an engaging (and often humorous) speaking style.

Bob Blakeley was a long-time columnist with the *Simcoe Reformer* and has been involved in historical re-enacting for more than 25 years. His books include *The Civilian Soldier: The Complete History of the Norfolk Militia, 1796-2007*, and, with Cheryl, *Hysterical Re-enacting*, *Hysterical Re-enacting 2* and *Norfolk, Haldimand and the War of 1812, including the Six Nations*.

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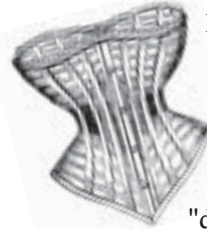
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For the Ladies

*If your audience or membership is predominantly female, talks which might particularly appeal to them are **Great Canadian Love Stories, Women and the War of 1812, and Deadly Women of Ontario.** They might also enjoy:*

Unmentionables!

A brief history of ladies' underwear. Originally prepared for Haldimand-Norfolk Women's Services, this is a quick romp through the history of corsets, brassieres, girdles, hoopskirts and pantalettes. And then there's the notorious "divorce" a forerunner of bras that "lift and separate"!!!



Hairy Stories

A woman's hair is her crowning glory, according to an old saying. But what we do to make it look good! An entertaining look at the history of hair, hair styles, and hair-dressing.

Special Occasions

Christmas in Ontario or **Talking Turkey** for Thanksgiving or Christmas; **Great Canadian Love Stories** for St. Valentine's Day; **The Irish in Canada** for St. Patrick's Day; and **Canadian, Eh? Canadian Symbols and Traditions**, perfect for Canada Day.

Other Options

No one can be all things to all people, but after more than 40 years of historical research and writing, Cheryl can offer a wide range of talks. Specialities include women's history; rural history; true crime (1800-1950); Haldimand; Norfolk; the War of 1812. If you want a tailor-made speech, please get in touch!

About Writing

Cheryl has published more than 2000 articles in Canadian and American newspapers and magazines, plus dozens of books. She has taught writing courses at Fanshawe, Mohawk and Niagara Colleges, worked with trade publishers as well as with business, government and community groups. In addition, she has self-published some of her own work, plus published the occasional book by other authors.

All this experience translates to expertise that can help you get happily published — or if you are already published, understand the realities of marketing your work. Cheryl offers four presentations on writing:

Marketing for Writers - How do you find a publisher? How do you promote your book once it's published? This presentations shows how.

Successful Self-Publishing - With self-publishing and print-on-demand services exploding, just about anyone can produce a book. Here's what you need to know to make yours stand out.

Writing History - Whether your project is a family history, short articles, or full-length books, this presentation covers the basics of research, writing, publication and marketing.

Polished Prose - If rejections are piling up, perhaps it's time to hone your writing skills. This quick and practical approach lets you in on professionals' secrets.



Writing presentations can be as short as 45 minutes or as long as six hours and are priced accordingly.

Historical Talks



Planning your next meeting or special event?
 Consider a talk from historian and writer

Cheryl MacDonald

Everyone Loves a Good STORY

Want something fun and entertaining for your next meeting or special event? Consider one of these talks.

Underpinned by solid research (sometimes years of it!) the talks are designed to be lighthearted and interesting. Usually the emphasis is on people and their relationships, their passions, their faults, their foibles. Some listeners have even compared the talks to soap operas or celebrity gossip shows!

A few include brief slide shows, but most are deliberately low-tech. Cheryl prefers to rely on period costume, one or two props, and good old-fashioned story-telling to connect audiences to the topics.

Most talks run 45-60 minutes, with time for questions and discussion. Length can be altered to suit your needs.

Pricing also varies depending on the time and distance involved, Please call for details.

True Crime

Deadly Women of Ontario

Notorious women from the past, including the first woman hanged in Ontario. Cheryl also explores why women were more likely to get away with murder, and how true crime can offer valuable information about the past. Based on the book.



Lethal Ladies

A sequel to *Deadly Women* will be published in the spring of 2011, with eight stories of deadly women, including the notorious Evelyn Dick of Hamilton. If your group has already heard *Deadly Women*, you'll love this talk. If your group hasn't, Cheryl will blend stories from the two books.

Great Canadian Imposters

Grey Owl was an Englishman masquerading as an Indian. Cassie Chadwick claimed to be the illegitimate daughter of millionaire Andrew Carnegie. British army surgeon James Barrie may have been born female. Ferdinand Waldo Demara, inspiration for the television series *The Pretender* took on all kinds of aliases — and at one point performed emergency surgery at sea while posing as a Canadian naval surgeon. Find out about these and other fascinating and felonious characters!

Mostly Murder — Norfolk Crimes

True crimes — mostly murder — from Norfolk County, Ontario. From the early 1800s to the last man hanged in Norfolk, Cheryl provides a fascinating look at crime and punishment in one Ontario county.

Who Killed George?

In 1897, Olive Sternaman went on trial at Cayuga, Haldimand County, for allegedly poisoning her husband George. Because the couple had lived in Buffalo, the sensational trial made headlines across Canada and in the United States, and drew the attention of crusading reporter Thomas Phillips Thompson, grandfather of writer Pierre Berton.

War of 1812

Food, Farming & the War of 1812

In 1813 British-Canadian forces suffered more than 20 casualties in a raid to capture salt supplies from the U.S. Food, food shortages, and farming are a seldom discussed aspect of the war, but they were absolutely crucial to its success.

Women and the War of 1812

Women joined their husbands on campaigns, as cooks, nurses, laundresses. Others ran farms when the men were away. Some acted as informants. They experienced the stress of enemy invasions, loss of loved ones and property. Drawing on eyewitness accounts, newspapers and other sources, Cheryl explores the lives of Upper Canadian women during the War of 1812.

Norfolk, Haldimand & Six Nations

No battles took place in this area, but the "skirmish" at Nanticoke sent shockwaves through the country, leading to a special commission and treason trial that resulted in the execution of eight men. The Norfolk militia also fought in the last Canadian land battle of the War of 1812, and the Six Nations of the Grand River played a crucial role in the war. Find out about the dramatic and compelling events that helped shape Canada.

Also Available

Conversations with Colonel Nichol

Laura Secord

In development for 2012:

Children and Teens in the War of 1812



O Canada!

Since 1967 Cheryl has been reading, researching, and writing about Canadian history. These talks are based on some of her favourite stories from the past.

Celebrated Pets



From Pilote, a bitch who guarded 17th century Montreal, to Brigadier, a police horse killed on duty in 21st century Toronto, Canadian history is full of wonderful dogs, cats, horses, birds and other exotic creatures. This is a warm and humorous account of our love affair with companion animals, including Susanna Moodie and the Troublesome Tomcat, Notable Newfies, Jumbo the Elephant, The Real Winnie-the-Pooh, Grey Owl and the Beaver People, and Military Mascots. *Slide show included.*

Gunboats on the Great Lakes

When the Fenians invaded Canada in 1866, gunboats were also pressed into service, some for just a few days, some for more than two years. *Britomart, Heron* and *Cherub* were sent by the British Navy to patrol Lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron. The gunboats provided Canadians with a sense of security in the aftermath of the Fenian invasion. Using ships' logs, naval records and contemporary newspaper reports, Cheryl traces the history of the gunboats and their crews. Their story — largely unknown and the subject of her master's thesis — offers a fascinating glimpse into Canada at the dawn of Confederation. *Brief slide show included.*

Great Canadian Love Stories

Pull out a ten-dollar bill and look at the face on it. Did you know that John A. Macdonald was once one of the most eligible single men in Canada? This talk reveals many little-known romances from Canada's past, featuring John A. Macdonald, Ontario's first premier, John Sandfield MacDonal, Queen Victoria's father and telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell.