



The Osgoode Society
For Canadian Legal History



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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The seal of the Osgoode Society reflects an element of the arms of John Beverley Robinson from whom the land on which Osgoode Hall is built was purchased by the Law Society of Upper Canada in 1829.

THE OSGOODE SOCIETY

For Canadian Legal History

The Osgoode Society was incorporated in May of 1979. In 1993 it became the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History. Founded at the initiative of the late R. Roy McMurtry, a former attorney general and chief justice of Ontario, and officials of the what was then named the Law Society of Upper Canada, its purpose is to study and promote public interest in the history of the law, the legal profession and the judiciary in Canada and to stimulate research and publication on these subjects.

Among the society's activities are its publications programme, an oral history programme, an events programme featuring presentations by and discussions with legal historians and judges, and a research support programme to assist scholars doing research in Canadian legal history. The society's intention is that its annual publications will be funded partly by membership fees. The continuation of our programmes depends on support from members, patrons, and, especially, the Law Foundation of Ontario. We are grateful for their ongoing support.

EDITOR IN CHIEF'S REPORT

The Osgoode Society had another excellent year in 2025. We published four books, bringing our total to 129 since the publishing programme began in 1981. Those books serve as testaments to the richness and variety of our nation's legal history. The members' book was Robert Sharpe, *My Life in the Law: Lawyer, Scholar, Judge*, published with the University of Toronto Press. This is a personal reflection on Robert Sharpe's long, varied and influential career in the law, which includes a decade as the President of the Osgoode Society and the authorship of four Osgoode Society books. After giving an account of his early life and education, Sharpe examines his time in the law starting with being a student in the late 1960s. In those years, and as a young lawyer in the early 1970s, Canadian law focused on legal doctrine, heavily influenced by English law. As a legal academic in the 1970s to the 1990s Sharpe participated in Canadian law's emergence from the shadow of narrow legalistic formalism, and then dealt with that evolution from the very different perspective of a judge and a legal history scholar during the first 25 years of this century.

We also published three optional extras. One was *Challenging Exile: Japanese Canadians and the Wartime Constitution*, by Eric Adams, Professor of Law at the University of Alberta, and Jordan Stanger-Ross, Professor of History at the University of Victoria, published with the University of British Columbia Press. After the Second World War ended, Canada planned to banish over 10,000 Canadians of Japanese descent to Japan. This book is the story of the making of the laws of exile, the legal system that made it possible, and the resilience and resistance of people facing its injustice.

Our second optional extra was Carolyn Strange, *Fatal Confession: A Girl's Murder, a Man's Execution, and the Fitton Case*, published by the University of British Columbia Press. Carolyn Strange is Professor of History at the Australian National University. *R. v Fitton* was a unique landmark in the criminal law and a window on Canadian society in the 1950s. The murder of children, particularly sex murders, invariably produces strong reactions, but this Toronto murder in January 1956 fleshed out ambivalence over the culpability of a males tempted by precocious females, disagreements over the latitude given to the police to extract confessions, and disquiet over the royal prerogative of mercy's administration by the federal cabinet.

Our final optional extra was a case study of a parliamentary divorce, *I Did Not Commit Adultery: Law and Gender in Ontario in the 1870s*, by Jim Phillips, Emeritus Professor of Law and History at the University of Toronto. Published with the University of Toronto Press, this book chronicles the breakdown of the marriage of Robert and Eliza Campbell, of Whitby, in 1873, which precipitated a six-year battle in the Ontario courts and the Parliament of Canada. This is a detailed study of how the law governed married women in the later nineteenth century, looking at the operations of the civil courts, the forensic skills of leading members of the Ontario legal profession, constitutional law, and parliamentary divorce, the last a topic never before examined in detail by Canadian historian.

We also have an excellent line up for 2026 (see below) and plenty more in the offing for future years.

Our oral history programme continues to thrive under the leadership of Professor Patricia McMahon, Oral History Director. More information about the collection is available on our newly-designed website. The new format is more easily searchable and there continues to be an increasing the number of people who know about it and use it for research.

The Society is on very good ground financially, although we could always use more members, particularly young lawyers and students in law and history. Our Board membership continues to evolve – younger and more diverse in ethnic minorities and women. We have one Director on the Supreme Court of Canada, another who

is the Chief Justice of Ontario, and two others who are on the Ontario Court of Appeal and the Ontario Superior Court.

I continue to feel fortunate to hold the position I do and to work with dedicated and talented people. I thank especially our President, the Hon. Paul Schabas, Associate Editor Professor Philip Girard, Treasurer Ian Hull, Director of the Oral History Programme Professor Patricia McMahon, and our highly capable and dedicated Administrator, Amanda Campbell. I also thank all members of the Board.

Prof. Jim Phillips
Editor-in-Chief

THE PUBLISHING PROGRAMME

As noted above, the Society published four books in 2025. We will publish six books in 2026, the most ever in a single year, bringing our total since 1981 to 135. The publishing programme in any given year also includes work done on a number of manuscripts, which will actually not be published until the following year.

In 2026, the members book will be Earl Cherniak, *In the Courts: A Counsel's Memoir* (University of Toronto Press). Our five optional extras will be, in alphabetical order, David Berg, *There is No Place for Sympathy Here: The Belcher Islands Murder Trials* (McGill-Queen's University Press); Patricia McMahon and Robert Bothwell, *In the Shadow of the Manhattan Project: Radium, Fraud and Secrecy at El Dorado* (University of British Columbia Press); Colin Campbell and Robert Raizenne, *A History of Canadian Income Tax Volume 3: Tax Reform and the Modern Act* (Canadian Tax Foundation); Reinhold Kramer and Tom Mitchell, *PS Burn After Reading: The Kellock-Taschereau Commission and Soviet Espionage in Canada* (University of Toronto Press); and Ian Radforth, *Making a Killing: Murder and Life Insurance in 1890s Ontario* (University of Toronto Press).

Brief descriptions of all these 2026 books can be found on the Society's website.

A membership form for 2026 and a book order form are in this report, or you can join and/or buy books online, www.osgoodesociety.ca. A full list of all our previously published books is on our website, and that list also appears in every Osgoode Society volume.

THE ORAL HISTORY PROGRAMME

The Oral History Programme is a unique and invaluable source of information on all aspects of Canada's legal past. Since 1979, the programme has interviewed more than 730 legal professionals resulting in more than 100,000 pages of transcript. Completed interviews are sent to the Archives of Ontario but are also available free of charge directly from the Osgoode Society (subject to access restrictions). A complete, searchable listing of all interviews conducted for the Osgoode Society oral history programme is available on the Society's website: <https://www.osgoodesociety.ca/oral-history/>.

The programme continues to prosper under the direction of Professor Patricia McMahon of Osgoode Hall Law School. In addition to training interviewers, she helps set the strategic direction of the program and oversees its administration, including the timely completion of interviews and their release.

The Society's oral history interviews are used extensively in scholarly research, and we continue to receive regular requests from people researching interviewees for all manner of reasons including those looking for anecdotes to recount at retirement dinners or celebrations of life. We have also provided extensive access to the collection for law students and researchers writing about a range of legal history topics including legal education, activism, racism within the legal profession, and the role women. The programme continues to use technology to improve access to the collection. In addition to regularly reviewing closed or restricted interviews to ease access restrictions, we have improved on-line search capabilities to help researchers locate relevant interviews, including the addition of AI-generated summaries to provide greater information about the contents of interviews.

We continue to pursue projects involving specific courts and topics, including the Court of Appeal for Ontario, the Provincial Court, Charter litigators, legal education and the experience of racialized lawyers, including specific projects on women leaders in Canadian legal education, lawyers involved with the Artists' Legal Advice Services (ALAS), and the history of defamation law in Canada. A project on the life and contributions of Charles and Anne Dubin is scheduled to begin in 2026. Arthur Gans, a retired judge of the Superior Court of Justice, continues to serve as a frequent interviewer, and we are grateful for his dedication and extensive efforts to expand the collection.

The following interviews were undertaken in 2025:

Kirby Chown
Nathalie Des Rosiers
Tony Duarte
Jean Fraser
Eileen Gillese
Marian Hebb
Jula Hughes
John Laskin
Patrick Lesage
Paul Sanderson
Angela Swan

Please note that completed interviews may still be subject to revision or access restrictions at the request of the interviewees, and access may be limited temporarily.

THE LECTURES AND OTHER EVENTS PROGRAMME

In 2025 we continued our programme of legal history events, with 5 speakers.

January 15 – Bob Sharpe talked about his forthcoming Memoirs, the Osgoode Society Members book for 2025.

March 12 – Eric Adams and Jordan Stanger-Ross talked about their forthcoming book on the exile of Japanese Canadians, a 2025 Osgoode Society book.

May 14 – Douglas Sanderson and Andrew Stobo Sniderman discussed their recent (2023) award winning book *In the Valley of the Birdtail: An Indian Reserve, a White Town and the Road to Reconciliation*.

October 6 – Osgoode Society editor-in-chief Jim Phillips interviewed former Supreme Court Justice Rosalie Abella about her career and the importance of legal history before an audience of some 200 people at the U of T Law School.

October 15 – Professor Constance Backhouse of the University of Ottawa gave the inaugural R. Roy McMurtry lecture in Canadian Legal History

PATRONS OF THE SOCIETY

We are most grateful to our Patrons whose generous support made many of our efforts possible. Our patrons in 2025 were:

Prof. Constance Backhouse
Chernos, Flaherty, Svonkin, LLP
Gowling WLG
Hull & Hull LLP
Mr. Wayne Kerr
The Law Foundation of Ontario
McCarthy Tetrault
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
Pape Chaudhury LLP
Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP
The Hon. Robert Sharpe
Torys LLP
WeirFoulds LLP

A Patrons Page is included in each of our publications. Additional Patrons are most welcome. Patrons contribute between \$2,500 and \$5,000. We also have a category ‘Members of the McMurtry Circle,’ for individuals who wish to support the Society with a \$500 membership. A tax receipt is provided.

MEMBERSHIP

Category	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Student	62	75	126	130	114
Individual	209	234	191	205	213
Individual Sustaining	59	56	61	53	60
McMurtry Circle	21	23	23	18	24
Total	350	388	401	405	411

MCMURTRY CIRCLE MEMBERS 2025

Mr. Philip Anisman

Mr. Timothy Baikie

Prof. Penny Bryden

The Hon. Thomas J. Carey

Prof. Lori Chambers

Mr. Thomas Conway

Mr. Garfield Emerson

Prof. Philip Girard

Mr. Duncan Glaholt

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Prof. Jim Phillips

The Hon. Veronica Puls

The Hon. Audrey Ramsay

The Hon. Paul Schabas

Ms. Maureen Simpson

Mr. John Wilkinson

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Mr. Matthew Asma

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Ms. Sheila Block

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Mr. Luc Chabanole

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Mr. Paul Davis

Mr. Andrew Easto

Prof. Bruce Elman

Mr. Henry Gabriel

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The Hon. Stephen T. Goudge

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The Hon. Lorne Sossin

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Mr. David S. Thompson

Mr. Richard Tinsley

The Hon. Jamie Trimble

Ms. Janet Walker

Mr. James Weppeler

Prof. Robert Yalden

AWARDS

The Society offers or administers a number of awards.

R. Roy McMurtry Fellowship. In 2025 we did not award the R. Roy McMurtry Fellowship in Canadian Legal History. This is the first time we have not done so. We expect to be able to award it in 2026.

Peter Oliver Prize. The Peter Oliver Prize in Canadian Legal History is named for the Society's founding editor-in-chief, and awarded annually for published work in Canadian legal history written by a student. Students in any discipline and at any stage of their careers are eligible.

The 2025 co-winners were Julien Bich-Carrière, '“J'attends vos lumières de tous:” collégialité et délibérations d'appel à la Cour du Banc de la Reine/du Roi, 1891-1907', and James Collie, 'Municipal Constitutionalism and Its Origins,' published in the *UBC Law Review*, Volume 57, 2024, 723-725.

John T. Saywell Prize for Canadian Constitutional Legal History. This prize, established through the generosity of Professor Saywell's son John MacIntosh and in recognition of Professor Saywell's life-long commitment to the highest standards of scholarship in Canadian history and law, is given bi-annually to the best new book in Canadian legal history, broadly defined, that makes an important contribution to an understanding of the constitution and/or federalism.

The winner of the Saywell Prize for 2025 was Professor Kent Roach of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. The Prize is awarded as a recognition of Professor Roach's more than 30-year career as Canada's leading scholar of constitutional remedies and the interplay of criminal law and the Charter of Rights, particularly, though not solely, in the field of wrongful convictions. Wrongful convictions remind us, as do few other areas of law so powerfully, that the past is imperfect.

STUDENT BOOK AWARDS

The Society in co-operation with Canadian law schools offers an annual book award to a graduating student deemed to have done excellent work in legal history. The Society provides one book from its back list and a current membership, including the annual publication, to such a student in each participating Canadian Law School.

DIRECTORS AND ANNUAL MEETING

Meetings of the Board of Directors were held on January 13, May 1, and September 25, 2025. The Annual Meeting of Members was held on June 2, 2025, via Zoom. At the annual meeting the following were unanimously elected as Directors of the Osgoode Society:

Prof. Constance Backhouse
Professor of Law, University of Ottawa

Prof. Heidi Bohaker
Department of History, University of Toronto

Bevin Brooksbank
Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

Shantona Chaudhury
Pape Chaudhury LLP

Brendan Brammall
Chernos Flaherty & Svonkin LLP

Paul Davis
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Timothy Hill
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Hull & Hull LLP

Linda Plumpton
Torys LLP

The Hon. Mahmud Jamal
Supreme Court of Canada

Jennifer King
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The Hon. Paul Schabas
Superior Court of Ontario

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Court of Appeal for Ontario, retired

Jonathan Silver
Torys LLP

The Hon. Lorne Sossin
Court of Appeal for Ontario

The Hon. Michael Tulloch
Chief Justice of Ontario

John Wilkinson
WeirFoulds LLP

(The Treasurer of The Law Society of Ontario and the Attorney General for Ontario are directors ex officio.)

The annual meeting was addressed by Robert Sharpe, author of the 2025 members book *My Life in the Law: Lawyer, Scholar, Judge*.

OSGOODE SOCIETY OFFICERS

President

The Hon. Paul Schabas

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Jim Phillips, Faculty of Law and
Department of History, University of Toronto

Associate Editor

Prof. Philip Girard, Prof. Emeritus,
Osgoode Hall Law School

Director, Oral History Programme

Prof. Patricia McMahon, Osgoode Hall
Law School

Treasurer

Ian Hull, Hull and Hull LLP

Administrator

Amanda Campbell

The Board operates with the assistance of various committees. The editor-in-chief is a member of all committees. Members interested in joining a committee should contact the chair of the committee or Amanda Campbell. The committees are:

Membership:

Chair - Jonathan Silver

Nomination and Governance:

Chair - The Hon. Paul Schabas

Oral History:

Chair - Prof. Patricia McMahon

Communications:

Chair - Prof. Patricia McMahon

The Directors welcome inquiries and suggestions on any aspect of the work of the Society.

Osgoode Hall. May 2025



**The Osgoode Society for
Canadian Legal History
Financial Statements**
For the year ended December 31, 2025
(Unaudited)

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Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement Report

To the Members of The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History (the "Society") that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for non-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Basis for Qualified Conclusion

In common with many non-for-profit organizations, the Society derives revenue from fundraising activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible to us obtaining evidence we considered necessary for the purpose of the review. Accordingly, the evidence obtained of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Society. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to fundraising revenue, excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses and cash flows from operations for the year ended December 31, 2025, current assets as at December 31, 2025 and net assets as at January 1 and December 31, 2025.

Qualified Conclusion

Based on our review, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Conclusion paragraph, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History as at December 31, 2025, and the result of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Canadian accounting standards for non-for-profit organizations.

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants
Oakville, Ontario
May 14, 2026

**The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History
Statement of Financial Position
(Unaudited)**

Honourable R.
Roy McMurtry
Legacy
History
Fellowship
Fund

December 31	Theodor Kerzner, Q.C.		Peter Oliver Memorial Student Fund		John T. Saywell Prize Fund		John T. Saywell Endowment		Honourable R. Roy McMurtry Legacy History Fellowship Fund		2025 Total	2024 Total
	General	Fund	Fund	Memorial	Saywell	Saywell	Endowment	Fellowship	Fund			
Assets												
Current												
Cash	\$ 88,498	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,408	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 524,889	\$ -	\$ 613,387	\$ 829,705
Short-term investments (Note 3,4,5,6,7)	-	33,424	-	-	7,641	-	25,970	-	-	-	70,443	68,365
Accounts receivable	27,521	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,521	64,816
Prepaid expenses	15,971	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,971	1,222
Due from General Fund	-	57,811	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57,811	57,811
Due from Restricted Funds	37,840	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,840	18,840
Publication inventory (Note 8)	69,458	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69,458	37,310
	239,288	91,235	3,408	3,408	7,641	25,970	25,970	524,889	892,431	1,078,069	1,720	
Capital assets (Note 9)	541	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	541	1,720		
	\$ 239,829	\$ 91,235	\$ 3,408	\$ 3,408	\$ 7,641	\$ 25,970	\$ 25,970	\$ 524,889	\$ 892,972	\$ 1,079,789		

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current												
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 113,446	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 113,446	\$ 87,658
Deferred revenue (Note 10)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	394,000
Due to Restricted Funds	57,811	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57,811	57,811
Due to General Fund	-	-	-	-	3,840	4,000	4,000	30,000	37,840	37,840	37,840	18,840
	171,257	-	-	3,840	4,000	4,000	30,000	209,097	558,309	521,480		
Net assets	68,572	91,235	3,408	3,801	21,970	683,875	683,875	892,972	1,079,789			

On behalf of the Board: _____ Director _____ Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History
Statement of Operations
(Unaudited)**

For the year ended December 31

	General	Theodor Kerzner, Q.C. Fund	Peter Oliver Memorial Student Fund	John T. Saywell Prize Fund	John T. Saywell Endowment	Honourable R. Roy McMurtry Legacy History Fellowship Fund	2025 Total	2024 Total
Revenue								
Law Foundation of Ontario grants	\$ 394,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 394,000	\$ 230,100
Fundraising	36,500	-	-	-	-	-	36,500	38,500
Membership fees	36,989	-	-	-	-	-	36,989	31,865
Book sales	13,626	-	-	-	-	-	13,626	10,914
Investment income	-	1,031	-	329	718	11,424	13,502	27,186
	481,115	1,031	-	329	718	11,424	494,617	338,565
Expenditures								
Society programmes								
Publications (Note 8)	60,108	-	-	-	-	-	60,108	87,665
Oral history	56,083	-	-	-	-	-	56,083	46,678
Editorial and programme support	31,568	-	-	-	-	-	31,568	43,064
Grants and awards (Notes 3,4,5,6)	-	-	-	4,000	-	-	4,000	30,000
Research support	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	3,000
Membership and promotion	6,912	-	-	-	-	-	6,912	6,814
Events	36,000	-	-	-	-	-	36,000	11,761
	195,671	-	-	4,000	-	-	199,671	228,982
Administration								
Administrative salaries	45,648	-	-	-	-	-	45,648	47,887
Office	49,922	-	-	-	-	-	49,922	38,573
Professional fees	29,483	-	-	-	-	-	29,483	25,848
Website	7,438	-	-	-	-	-	7,438	2,189
Amortization	60	-	-	-	-	-	60	430
	132,551	-	-	4,000	-	-	132,551	114,927
Total expenditures	328,222	-	-	4,000	-	-	332,222	343,909
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$ 152,893	\$ 1,031	\$ -	\$ 329	\$ (3,282)	\$ 11,424	\$ 162,395	\$ (5,344)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
(Unaudited)**

For the year ended December 31

	General	Theodor Kerzner, Q.C. Fund	Peter Oliver Memorial Student Fund	John T. Saywell Prize Fund	John T. Saywell Endowment	Honourable R. Roy McMurtry Legacy History Fellowship Fund	2025 Total	2024 Total
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ (84,321)	\$ 90,204	\$ 3,408	\$ 3,472	\$ 25,252	\$ 483,465	\$ 521,480	\$ 526,824
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	152,893	1,031	-	329	(3,282)	11,424	162,395	(5,344)
Net assets, end of year	\$ 68,572	\$ 91,235	\$ 3,408	\$ 3,801	\$ 21,970	\$ 494,889	\$ 683,875	\$ 521,480

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History Statement of Cash Flows (Unaudited)

For the year ended December 31	2025	2024
Cash was provided by (used in)		
Operating activities		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$ 162,395	\$ (5,344)
Adjustments required to reconcile excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures with net cash provided by operating activities		
Amortization of capital assets	60	430
Loss on sale of capital assets	1,720	-
Changes in non-cash working capital balances		
Accounts receivable	37,295	(31,376)
Prepaid expenses	(14,749)	2,950
Publication inventory	(32,148)	20,860
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	25,788	33,477
Deferred revenue	(394,000)	251,220
	(213,639)	272,217
Investing activities		
Purchase of capital assets	(601)	-
Purchase of short-term investments	(2,078)	(2,736)
	(2,679)	(2,736)
Increase (decrease) in cash during the year	(216,318)	269,481
Cash, beginning of year	829,705	560,224
Cash, end of year	\$ 613,387	\$ 829,705

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited)

December 31, 2025

1. Purpose of the Organization

The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History (the "Society") was formed to study and promote public interest in the history of the law, the legal profession and the judiciary in Ontario and elsewhere in Canada and to stimulate research and publication on these subjects.

The Society meets these objectives by publishing books on Canadian legal history, sponsoring the collection of oral histories from individuals within the legal community, maintaining a website devoted to Canadian legal history, providing research and publication grants, and sponsoring and hosting legal history seminars.

The Society is incorporated, without share capital, under Letters Patent. The Society has been granted tax exempt status as a charitable organization under the Income Tax Act of Canada (the "Act"). In order to maintain the exempt status, the Society must meet certain requirements within the act. In the opinion of management, these requirements have been met.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and are in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

(a) Fund accounting

The Society uses restricted fund accounting. General activities are reflected in the General Fund.

(b) Investments

Investments consist of Guaranteed Investment Certificate, that are recorded at cost, with interest recorded as earned.

(c) Publication inventory

Inventory, which consists of books available for sale, is carried at the lower of cost and net realizable value, as measured using the specific identification method.

(d) Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Amortization is provided annually at rates calculated to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Computer Equipment	20% declining balance
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The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited)

December 31, 2025

2. Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

e) Financial instruments

The Society's financial instruments are comprised of cash, investments, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, all financial instruments are reported at amortized cost less impairment, if applicable. Financial assets are tested for impairment when changes in circumstances indicate the asset could be impaired.

(f) Revenue recognition

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate externally restricted fund. All other restricted contributions for which no restricted fund has been established are deferred and recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the years in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the General Fund if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Membership fees are recognized as revenue when application for membership is received. Each member is entitled to receive the 'membership book' of the year as part of their membership fee.

Book sales are recognized as revenue when the books are shipped.

Investment income is recognized as revenue in the period in which it is earned.

(g) Contributed goods and services

Volunteers contribute numerous hours each year to assist the Society in carrying out its activities. The fair value of the contributed services cannot be reasonably estimated and are not recognized in the financial statements.

The Law Society of Ontario provides office services to the Society, including rent, telephone and computer assistance, the fair market value of which is not readily available. As such, the value recorded is the amount actually paid.

(h) Allocation of expenses

Staffing costs for general support, including office administration and editorial support, are allocated to functional areas disclosed in the statement of revenue and expenses based on an estimate of the percentage of time spent by personnel on activities related to each function.

3. Theodor Kerzner, Q.C Fund

The Theodor Kerzner, Q.C. Fund was established by the Board of Directors in 2015, from funds donated by the Estate of Theodor Kerzner. This fund is intended to provide financing for projects to augment the Society's operations.

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3. Theodor Kerzner, Q.C Fund (Continued)

For ease and efficiency of managing investments, these funds are commingled with the Society's investments (See Note 7). The Society is entitled to use the investment income from the Theodor Kerzner, Q.C. Fund for its operations.

4. Peter Oliver Memorial Student Fund and Endowment

The Peter Oliver Memorial Student Fund was created in 2006 to provide an annual award for published work by a student, or students, in the field of Canadian legal history. The award includes a copy of the current year's publication, a copy of the Peter Oliver Essay Volume and any five books from the back publications list.

For ease and efficiency of managing the investments, these funds have been commingled with the Society's investments (See Note 7). The Society is entitled to use the investment income from the Peter Oliver Memorial Student Fund for its operations.

5. John T. Saywell Prize Fund and Endowment

The John T. Saywell Prize for Canadian Constitutional Legal History ("Saywell Prize") was created in 2008. An award of \$2,000 is granted bi-annually to the author of the best new book in Canadian legal history that makes an important contribution to an understanding of the constitution and/or federalism. The prize is to be funded from investment income on a \$25,000 endowment and related contributions.

The \$25,000 contribution received in 2008 for the Saywell Endowment Fund is subject to externally imposed restrictions stipulating that the resource be maintained permanently. Investment income on this balance is restricted to fund the John T. Saywell Prize for Canadian Constitutional Legal History and is included in revenue of the John T. Saywell Prize Fund.

6. Honourable R. Roy McMurtry Legal History Fellowship Fund

The Honourable R. Roy McMurtry Legal History Fellowship (the "McMurtry Fellowship") was established in 2006 to enable students and post-doctoral candidates in Canadian legal history to undertake or continue their studies, writing and research in the field. Funds held in the McMurtry Fellowship are restricted for the purpose of meeting the commitments of the Fellowship.

In 2024, the Fellowship was awarded at \$Nil, (2024 - \$30,000 paid over two years). At its discretion the Board can award Honourable Mention prizes. In 2025, no Honourable Mention awards were granted.

Investment income earned on the assets represents restricted revenue to the Fellowship.

In 2024 under the terms of an Investment Services Agreement between Osgoode and the Law Society of Ontario ("LSO"), LSO managed the investments related to the McMurtry Fellowship. In 2025 management was taken over by the The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History

Assets of the McMurtry Fellowship are held in a savings account, earning interest at 2.18% (2024 - 4.76%) per annum.

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7. Investments

Investments are carried at cost plus interest accrued to the statement of financial position date.

Investments for the General Fund, Theodor Kerzner Q.C.Fund and Peter Oliver Memorial Student Fund are commingled for ease of management. These investments consist of Guaranteed Investment Certificates, maturing at varying times between August 2026 and January 2028, earning rates of interest between 2.00% and 2.60%.

8. Publication Inventory

Included in publication programme costs is inventory cost of \$32,148 (2024 - \$20,860) required to reflect inventory at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

9. Capital Assets

	2025		2024	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Cost	Accumulated Amortization
Computer	601	60	-	-
Office equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,970	\$ 13,250
Net book value		\$ 541		\$ 1,720

10. Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue reported in the General Fund represent restricted operating funding received in the current period that is related to expenses of a subsequent period. Changes in deferred revenue balance are as follows:

	2025		2024	
Balance , beginning of year	\$ 394,000	\$	142,780	\$
Add: amounts received during the year	-	-	394,000	-
Less: amounts recognized to revenue in the year	(394,000)	-	(142,780)	-
Balance , end of year	\$ -	\$	394,000	\$

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11. Financial Instruments

The Society's financial investments comprise fixed income deposits, the main purpose of which is to provide financing for the Society's activities. It is the Society's policy that investments are redeemed as cash flow dictates. The Society has various other financial assets and liabilities such as accounts receivables and accounts payables, which arise directly from operations. The main risk arising from the Society's financial instruments are interest rate risk and credit risk. This risk has not changed from the prior year.

(a) Interest rate risk exposure

Exposure to the risk of changes in market interest rates relates to the Society's cash and investment balances. The Society manages this risk by investing in fixed rate investment instruments. This risk has not changed from the prior year.

(b) Credit risk exposure

Credit risk equates to the carrying amount of financial assets. The Society carries receivables from recognized third parties. Accounts receivable balances are monitored on a regular basis to minimize exposure to bad debt. This risk is managed by requiring advance payment for membership and books sales. Credit risk associated with cash and investments is limited to the risk of default by the counter party, with a maximum exposure equal to the carrying amount of these assets. This risk has not changed from the prior year.

12. Guarantee

An indemnity is provided to Directors, Officers, and others involved in the organization, for costs to settle suits or actions resulting from their involvement in the Society. The Society carries Directors and Officers insurance to mitigate the cost of any potential future suits or actions. The coverage limit of the insurance is \$5,000,000.

The nature of the indemnification prevents the Society from making a reasonable estimate of the possible exposure due to the difficulty in assessing the amount of liability which stems from the unpredictability of future events.