



Sam Steiner, president of Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, presenting the award to Lorraine Roth. Photo by Barb Draper.

### “Award of Excellence” to Lorraine Roth

The Mennonite Historical Society of Canada (MHSC) named Lorraine Roth of Tavistock, Ontario, as the recipient of its 2010 Award of Excellence for her lifelong contribution to the preservation of Canadian Mennonite history. The award, made at the Society’s January 23, 2010, annual meeting in Steinbach, Manitoba, especially noted her meticulous research on the history of Amish Mennonite families who settled in Upper Canada beginning in the 1820s.

Roth, age 79, became interested in family history as a teenager and published her first genealogy in 1963. She began serious research on Amish origins in Europe in 1969 when she lived and worked there for 1½ years. Over time she compiled 25 family histories and assisted with another 15 or 20. She wrote the historical background when the Amish Mennonites celebrated their sesquicentennial in Canada in 1972, and in 1998 published *The Amish and Their Neighbours: The German Block, Wilmot Township, 1822-1860*, the definitive work on the early Amish settlement in Waterloo region.

Lorraine published a collection of biographies, *Willing Service: Stories of Ontario Mennonite Women*, in 1992. She is a charter member of the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario, and served on historical committees for the binational Mennonite Church, the Western Ontario Mennonite Conference, and the Mennonite Conference of Eastern Canada. In retirement she continues to maintain detailed genealogical files on over 100 Amish Mennonite surnames.

New projects for 2010 include formation of a Genealogy Committee that will oversee a MHSC-sponsored website on Mennonite genealogy that will include digitized source documents.

The Mennonite Historical Society of Canada was established in 1968 to sponsor the Mennonites in Canada history series by Frank H. Epp and Ted Regehr. Its membership is composed of six provincial Mennonite historical societies, four Mennonite denominational bodies, Mennonite Central Committee Canada, and the Chair of Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg.

The 2010 officers are Sam Steiner (Waterloo, Ontario), President; Royden Loewen (Winnipeg, Manitoba), Vice-President; Lucille Marr (Montreal, Quebec), Secretary; Richard Thiessen (Abbotsford, B.C.), Treasurer; and Alf Redekopp (Winnipeg, Manitoba), fifth member. The board approved a budget for 2010 of \$27,800.

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Mennonite Historical Society of Canada Board, front, left to right: Connie Braun (BC), Alf Redekopp (Mennonite Church Canada), Richard Thiessen (BC), Sam Steiner (Ont.), Lucille Marr (Quebec), Royden Loewen (Chair of Mennonite Studies). Back row: Conrad Stoesz (Man.), Barb Draper (Ont.), Richard Lougheed (Quebec), Leonard Chester (Brethren in Christ), Robert Goertzen (Evangelical Mennonite Conference), Wesley Berg (Alberta), Bert Friesen (Man.), Jake Buhler (Sask.), Laureen Harder-Gissing (Mennonite Church Eastern Canada), Victor Wiebe (Sask.), Linda Huebert Hecht (Ont.)