

2015 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

This year's annual awards banquet is really shaping up to be something special. The culminating event of this year's convention will be taking place on Saturday, April 18, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. in the Rainbow Salon located on the 10th floor of the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Attendees can start gathering at 6:30 for the pre-banquet reception and cash bar.

This year's buffet style meal consists of your choice of Grilled Chicken Breast, Steamed Sole Fillets with Alfredo Sauce, Roasted Pork Loin and Penne Pasta entrées.

Our Master of Ceremonies, Bret Evans, is sure to keep things lively as we are introduced to this year's recipients of the O.N.A. awards: Fellow of the O.N.A.; the Bruce H. Razman Award; and the O.N.A.'s highest award, the Award of Merit.

In typical O.N.A. fashion we will also be drawing tickets for a number of great banquet prizes: two Hershey gift baskets, a Hard Rock Cafe Hoodie, 4 Fallsview Waterpark passes, a 5 volume collection of Bank of Canada publications, a Hallmark Gift Basket, a Harley Davidson Replica Coin Bank, and more!

In addition, Matt Bowan, Royal Canadian Mint engraver, will be attending the dinner and the post-banquet reception (directly following the banquet in Room 301, on the 3rd floor of the hotel.) We will have a number of coloured, 2012 Sir Isaac Brock, 25 cent pieces available, at a nominal charge of \$1.00, in 2 x 2 holders that Matt will sign for you as a keepsake of the event!

Master of Ceremonies

Our Master of Ceremonies will be none other than Royal Canadian Numismatic Association President, Bret Evans.

Bret was born in Ottawa, and raised there and in Brantford. After graduating from Conestoga College he entered a career in journalism, originally at the Guelph Daily Mercury, and then at community newspapers in Fergus, the Hamilton area and in Alberta.



In 1990 he accepted a job at Trajan Publishing, as editor of Canadian Coin News and Collectibles Canada magazines. He remained at Trajan until 2015, when he left to pursue an interest in freelance writing. By that time he was managing editor and associate publisher of Canadian Stamp News as well as Canadian Coin News.

His numismatic interest is focused on classic British coins.

Bret's involvement in the RCNA started through Trajan Publishing, and he attended his first convention in Toronto in 1991. Later he became an Director for Southern Ontario and eventually President of the Association. He was also a founding director of CAFNE, and is on the board of award for the Paul Fiocca award.

Keynote Speaker

We are honoured to have local Niagara historian Sherman Zavitz as this year's banquet keynote speaker.

Mr. Zavitz is the official historian for the City of Niagara Falls and the Niagara Parks Commission. His presentation is entitled-



Annie Edson Taylor: First Over the Falls in a Barrel.

Mr. Zavitz, born in Welland, Ontario, has been a resident of Niagara Falls for 46 years where he was an elementary school teacher for 35 years, retiring in 1995.

He is a past president of The Lundy's Lane Historical Society, a past chair of the Niagara Falls Board of Museums and was the Chair of the City of Niagara Falls Centennial Book Committee.

He has written a weekly column for the Niagara Falls Review since 1993, featuring subjects of local historical interest (Niagara Then and Now, A Niagara Note, A Picture from the Past). He has also written five books *Niagara Then and Now*, *Niagara Falls Then and Now* and *It Happened at Niagara* Series 1, 2 & 3). He has also been featured extensively in local radio broadcasts.

Drawing on his historical knowledge, Zavitz has also served as a tour guide to visitors to Niagara Falls.