

# City of London - Application for Appointment to a City of London Board or Commission

## Application

Please choose the Board or Commission you are interested in serving on: **Eldon House**

## Contact Information

Name: **Bryan McClure**

City: **London**

Province: **ON**

Postal Code: **N6J 4W4**

## Experience and Qualifications

If you have experience on a London Board or Commission, please provide dates and details. (max. 3000 characters):

**No previous experience.**

What do you hope to contribute or learn as part of a Board or Commission? (max. 3000 characters):

**As a recent Ph.D. graduate of Western University's history department, I hope to be able to bring my expertise on history and heritage matters to the board. As an expert on Canadian and British Imperial history, my knowledge can help discussions on the board towards how to move forward in an atmosphere of reconciliation and diversity of experiences. With a strong understanding of recent historical knowledge, I can bring important knowledge of the theory and academic discussions surrounding historical sites in Canada and local communities. My research focused on the construction of historical memory through memorials to the First World War which can play into board's role of ensuring Eldon House remains an important site of London's historical memory. My desire as a board member is to ensure that Eldon House plays a larger role in teaching Londoners and others the history of the city and region. The long-term future of Eldon House is a motivation for my application as I desire to ensure it can be visited by the next generations. To help further the sites connection to the city, I would advocate a growth of relationships with historic businesses and communities groups in the city. As a member of the board my hope is that I would learn more about the practical and political issues surrounding historic sites. With a strong knowledge of the theory behind historic sites, by joining the board I hope that I can expand my skills by learning about the practical side of maintaining historic sites. As a young and recent graduate, my hope is that by learning from the board I can use these skills in the future to help serve London, the city I have made my home.**

How will you support the work of a Board or Commission? (max. 3000 characters):

**I will support the work of the board by harnessing my historical training to help guide discussions on the direction of Eldon House. Having a strong background in history, research, and the theory behind historic sites, I can help those with more practical skills to develop a strong future for Eldon House. As an expert on the ways historic sites have and are used to develop historical memory and the teaching of history, my skills will assist the staff who run the site day-to-day by bringing knowledge available to very few. The perspective I bring as a young historical expert means that I can play an important role in the long-term future of the site.**

Please describe additional experience, training, or community involvement that will help you in your role as a Board or Commission Member. (max. 3000 characters):

**Alongside my education at Western University, I have experience with the London Curling Club where I have volunteered as an instructor at introductory curling events. As one of the oldest community organizations in the city, having just celebrated 175 years, my volunteering at the club has shown the ways Londoners are interested in their community and learning new things. By joining the board, I hope to build my love of London through supporting an important historic site.**

**I am currently working as a researcher for the organization The World Remembers that seeks to build a database of every person killed in the First World War around the world. Working as a researcher for this non-profit has provided me with insight into the complexities of conducting historical research in such a setting. As well, working for The World Remembers demonstrates the balancing act needed for historical projects with different stakeholders who are contributing. As a board member, I would bring a clear understanding that diplomacy is needed between the museum, city, other governments, and private businesses who all help to keep the site functioning.**

We value the contributions of Londoners with diverse experiences and welcome applications from individuals who share our commitment to reconciliation, equity and inclusion. Please describe how your work, community or lived experience will enhance these efforts through Board and Committee work. (max. 3000 characters):

**As a historian, knowledge of the historic injustices experienced by Indigenous and people of colour in Canada is something that I have worked to learn more about. Within my own research I have worked to ensure the perspectives of other communities are included in my work such as the way Indigenous peoples of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand all made contributions to the First World War and commemorated the conflict in their own ways. As such, I have experience researching and writing about including everyone into Canadian and imperial histories. It is important to integrate and expand our historical perspectives through public historic sites.**

Attach resume or other document here, if needed: **McClure CV.pdf**

Attach more files here, if needed:

## Confirmations

I declare the following: **I am a resident of London. ; I am at least 18 years old.; I am not a City employee or Council member.; I understand that my application and any attachments will be included on a public agenda that is published on the City website.**

To help inform our outreach activities, please tell us how you heard about this opportunity:  
(optional): **City Website**

If you selected 'Other', please specify:

Submitted on: **6/20/2023 1:53:05 PM**

# Bryan McClure, Ph.D.

## Education

- 2016-2023 Ph.D. in History at University of Western Ontario, London, Canada  
Thesis: *'Gave His Life for the Empire': Memory, Memorials, and Identity in the British Empire after the First World War*, <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/etd/9183/>  
Supervisor: Dr. Jonathan F. Vance
- 2014-2015 M.Phil. in Modern Irish History at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland  
Thesis: *'Now We See Through a Glass Darkly': Memorialization of the First World War in Dublin*, passed with distinction.  
Supervisor: Dr. Anne Dolan
- 2008-2012 B.A. (Honours) major in History and minor in English Literature at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

## Awards

- 2019-2021 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Fellowship  
2020 Ivie Cornish Memorial Fellowship  
2018-2020 William Edgar Travel Funds  
2016-2020 Western Graduate Research Scholarship  
2017-2019 Ontario Graduate Scholarship  
2018 Ley and Lois Smith Military History Fund  
2018 Graduate Student Award for Research and Conference Travel

## Publications

Blog Post: 'Māori Princess and Red Cross Queen: The Memorial Arch to Hera Takuira'. On *H-Empire: H-Net Humanities and Social Sciences Online*. (September 20, 2022).  
<https://networks.h-net.org/node/5293/blog/h-empire/10951112/m%C4%81ori-princess-and-red-cross-queen-memorial-arch-hera-takuira>.

Review of *Operation Crusader and The Desert War in British History and Memory*. By Alexander H. Joffre. In *Journal of Military History*, 86, no. 3 (July 2022), pp. 741-742.

Review of *The Other Wars: The Experience and Memory of the First World War in the Middle East and Macedonia*. By Justin Fantauzzo. In *H-Net Empire Reviews* (March 11, 2021).

Review of *Politics of Forgetting: New Zealand, Greece, and Britain at War*. By Martyn Brown. In *Journal of Military History*, 85, no. 1 (2021).

Review of *Beyond Words: Languages of Remembrance from the Great War to the Present*. By Jay Winter. In *Canadian Military History*, 28, no. 1 (2019).

Review of *Forgetful Remembrance: Social Forgetting and Vernacular Historiography of a Rebellion in Ulster*. By Guy Beiner. In *Essays in History*, 52 (2019).

### Work Experience

- 2022-Present Researcher for the charity, *The World Remembers*
- A global memorial to the First World War dead, worked as an expert on the war and historical data
  - Organized and compiled data from international museums and other institutions providing data on their nation's war dead to be uploaded to *The World Remembers* website and kiosk that is in the Canadian War Museum
  - Wrote information sheets on the data to help provide historical context, and explain what is in the databases provided to *The World Remembers*
- 2020 Historical consultant to Lynne Golding's *The Mending*, book three in the Beneath the Alders Series, Blue Moon Publishers, 2021.
- 2010-2016 Historical Interpreter, Black Creek Pioneer Village Museum, Toronto, Ontario
- Provided historical information and demonstrated trades to visitors in historic buildings from the nineteenth century.
  - Research, wrote, and led tours on the history of beer, economics, social, and political histories of Toronto, Ontario, and Canada during the nineteenth century.

### Teaching Experience

- Course Instructor at King's University College at Western University
- 2021-2022: *Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini: The Totalitarian Age (HIST 1404E Online Course)*
- Instructor for the online version for one of the introductory and first-year history courses for the university
  - As an introductory course, focused on providing a variety of different styles of history ranging from political, economic, social, cultural, military, art, sports, and emotions
  - Created the course structure that moved chronologically, but sought to explore thematic issues such as fear, spectacles, empire, and memory
  - Worked with colleague teaching the same course in another section to ensure assignments lined up between the two sections that saw students introduced to the work of historians through historiography, close secondary reading, and writing an essay using primary sources
  - Instructor for the same course in the summer of 2022 where I worked with a teaching assistant to assist in grading course assignments
  - Assigned weekly reading and online forum posts where students were able to engage with a variety of material ranging from academic books and journal articles, to analysing primary sources such as speeches, propaganda posters, memoirs, art, and photographs

Teaching Assistant at University of Western Ontario

2018-2020: *International Relations from 1945 to Present (INTREL 2702E)*

- Led tutorial discussions on primary and secondary sources on international history
- Educated students on major themes and historical events in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Brought back for Fall 2020 semester as senior teaching assistant to support online teaching during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Assisted in the organization and running of a simulated international conference in 2018 and mock UN General Assembly speeches in 2019 and 2020
- Provided a guest lecture on international relations and international sporting events in 2018

2019-2020: *Zombie Apocalypse: Panic and Paranoia in Human History (HIST 2186B)*

- Marking assistant for class of several hundred students grading tests, and exams

2016-2018: *Modern Europe, 1715 to Present: Conflict and Transformation (HIST 1401E)*

- Led tutorial discussions on primary documents from European history
- Taught students about major political, social, cultural, and economic changes
- Supervised and assisted students with research papers and course materials
- Graded student participation, responses to weekly questions on course materials, research papers, and exams

Teaching Assistant at King's University College at Western University

2021-2023: *Europe and England 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Century (HIST 2403E)*

- Led tutorials exploring primary sources from the early modern period of European and English history
- Helped teach students how to read primary sources in greater depth to examine patterns and examples of political and social power structures during this period
- Assisted in the grading of student assignments

2018- 2022: *Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini: The Totalitarian Age (HIST 1404E)*

- Led tutorials discussing primary and secondary documents on Soviet, Nazi, and Fascist Italian history
- Taught students how to interpret and analyze academic and primary sources
- Assisted in grading student papers
- For summer course, 2020: created quizzes based off lecture material and monitor online discussions between students on readings in lieu of tutorials

2018-2019: *History of Sport (HIST 1820F)*

- Led tutorials discussing various topics in sports history
- Engaged with students to teach them the social, economic, and political impacts of sports throughout history

-Assisted in the grading of student assignments and presentations

### Conference Presentations

- 2023 *Heroes of the Great War: The Conception of National Heroes from the First World War*. Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting: Difficult Histories in a Global Context at York University. Toronto, Ontario. May 29-31.
- 2022 *Memorials to Imperial Service: Historic Churches and Memorials to Imperial Servants*. Culture, Things and Empire: Virtual Seminar Series. May 11. Link to the lecture can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2UesLihj1I>
- 2021 *National Military Memorials Databases: Remembering First World War Memorials in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. International Society for First World War Studies Conference at Gettysburg College. Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (virtual conference). September 16-18.
- 2021 *Defending the War Graves: Body-Snatching and Resistance to the Imperial War Graves Commission, 1918-1939*. Canadian Military History Colloquium at Wilfrid Laurier University. Waterloo, Ontario. May 14-15.
- 2020 *From Petitioning to Body-Snatching: Resistance to the Imperial War Graves Commission, 1918-1939*. Canadian Military History Colloquium at Wilfrid Laurier University. Waterloo, Ontario. May 8-9. (Cancelled due to Covid-19, delivered as part of Western History Virtual Thursdays Workshop Series, May 14.)
- 2020 *'The Cemeteries Should Be the Symbol of a Great Army and an United Empire': The Building of Cemeteries and Memorials by the Imperial War Graves Commission*. Western University Graduate Student Conference Pathways to the Past: Consuming History. London, Ontario. March 13-14. (Cancelled due to Covid-19)
- 2019 *Remembering the Imperial Dead: Personal Memory and Identity of the First World War*. Reframing Empire: Imperialism, Anti-Imperialism and Their Legacies in Public History at Queen's University Belfast Centre for Public History. Belfast, Northern Ireland. December 16-17.
- 2019 *The Peace Conference, the Imperial War Graves Commission, and the Memory of Peace*. Royal Military College of Canada Annual History Symposium, The People's Conference: The Transnational Legacies of 1919. Kingston, Ontario. November 8-9.

- 2019 *Island of Ireland Peace Park: Negotiating Anglo-Irish Relations on the Battlefields of Flanders*. Western University Graduate History Conference Pathways to the Past: Modern(izing) History in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. London, Ontario. April 26-27.
- 2019 *The Individual in the Empire: Memory, Memorials and Imperial Identity after the First World War*. Imperial Legacies of 1919 at the University of North Texas. Denton, Texas. April 18-20.
- 2018 *'He Died Fighting for the Country He Loved So Much': Epitaphs of Canadian Soldiers in the First World War*. Canadian Military History Colloquium at Wilfred Laurier University. Waterloo, Ontario. May 5-6.
- 2016 *'Now We See Through A Glass Darkly': Memorialization of the First World War in Dublin*. Canadian Association of Irish Studies. Banff, Alberta. May 25-28.

### **Public and Guest Lectures**

- 2023 Guest Lecture for The History of Sport at King's University College. *Cold Weather Sports and Canadian Identity: Ice Hockey and Curling*. London, Ontario.
- 2021 Royal Canadian Regiment Museum Speakers Series 2021. *'Between the crosses, row on row': Battlefield Crosses as Sites of Mourning and Memory*. RCR Museum. June 26.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqt4P1TrENA&ab\\_channel=TheRoyalCanadianRegimentMuseum](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqt4P1TrENA&ab_channel=TheRoyalCanadianRegimentMuseum)
- 2020 Guest Lecture for The Two World Wars at King's University College. *Myth Making After the First World War: A History of Remembrance*. London, Ontario.
- 2020 The First World War and Popular Culture Twitter Takeover, *Sports and the Legacy of the First World War*, Une Plus Grande Guerre (@UnePlusGrGuerre) and the International Society for First World War Studies (@FWWsoc), September 28-October 2.
- 2019 London Middlesex Ontario Genealogical Society. *Memory, Memorials, and Imperial Identity after the First World War*. London, Ontario.
- 2019 Guest Lecture for The Two World Wars at King's University College. *Forging the War: First World War Memorials and the Memory of the War*. London, Ontario.
- 2019 Bruce McCaffrey Graduate Seminar Series at University of Western Ontario. *Memory, Memorials, and Imperial Identity after the First World War*. London, Ontario.



- 2018 Guest Lecture for International Relations from 1945 to Present at University of Western Ontario. *'Politics by Other, Other Means': International Relations and Sports*. London, Ontario.
- 2018 Guest Lecture for The Two Worlds Wars at King's University College. *Forging the War: First World War Memorials and the Memory of the War*. London, Ontario.
- 2018 Retiring with Strong Minds. *The Imperial War: The British Empire and Commemorating the First World War*. London, Ontario.
- 2017 Innisfil Historical Society. *'The Pipes, The Pipes Are Calling': Irish Migration to Canada*. Innisfil, Ontario.
- 2016 Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society. *An Gorta Mor: The Irish Potato Famine 1845-1849*. Newton-Robinson, Ontario.
- 2014 Richmond Hill Historical Society. *An Gorta Mor: The Irish Potato Famine 1845-1849*. Richmond Hill, Ontario.

### **Administrative Experience**

- 2019-2021 Coordinator of the McCaffrey Graduate Student Seminar Series at University of Western Ontario.
- 2018-2019 Co-Chair of Graduate Student History Conference at University of Western Ontario.
- 2014-2015 Chair of Electoral Commission for Graduate Students Union of Trinity College Dublin

### **Memberships**

- 2016-Present Canadian Association for Irish Studies
- 2021-Present International Society for First World War Studies

**Languages** French: intermediate reading, writing and basic oral understanding.

**References** Available upon request.