

Another one for the history books

The City of Edmonton today announced that Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail is the city's new Historian Laureate.

"I'm passionate about helping Edmontonians connect with the city's unique heritage," says Metcalfe-Chenail. "It's a tremendous honour to be selected as Historian Laureate and to be given the opportunity to engage Edmontonians on a day-to-day basis, both on and offline, about how we can commemorate and preserve the city's important milestones."



In 2010, the City of Edmonton reinforced the importance of identifying and preserving Edmonton's history by becoming Canada's first municipality to appoint a Historian Laureate. The Historian Laureate is the City's official ambassador on historical matters and promotes the history of the city and its citizens by documenting, researching, interpreting and speaking about the people, places and events that have created Edmonton's distinctive heritage and character.

Metcalfe-Chenail's two-year term begins April 1, 2014. She will join Poet Laureate Mary Pinkoski in marking important civic occasions. Metcalfe-Chenail will work closely with the Edmonton Historical Board and Edmonton Heritage Council, which administer the Historian Laureate program.

"As Edmonton's third Historian Laureate, Metcalfe-Chenail will build on the strong foundation set by her distinguished predecessors, Shirely Lowe and Ken Tingley," says Martin Kennedy, Chair of the Edmonton Historical Board. "We're excited to hear her fresh perspectives on documenting and sharing Edmonton's stories, and connecting citizens to our heritage."

Metcalfe-Chenail is a freelance writer, speaker and historian who loves to explore Edmonton's stories. She was the first female to be elected president of Canada's Aviation Historical Society and her upcoming book, *Polar Winds: A Century of Flying the North* will highlight Edmonton's aerial connections to the North from the Klondike gold rush era to the turn of the last century.

Metcalfe-Chenail's research into aviation history has included the perspectives of women and First Nations groups that have been largely absent from existing historical narratives. Metcalfe-Chenail was named as Chatelaine's Maverick of the Year in 2011, as well as one of Avenue Magazine's Top 40 under 40 in 2012.

Her fondness for history is also marked by extensive involvement in local organizations and initiatives. Through the Edmonton Heritage Council, she coordinated the City and Memory Heritage Symposium in 2013 and was a tour guide on the YEG Curiosities bus tour.

The Edmonton Historian Laureate receives an honorarium of \$5,000 for each year of the two-year term, provided by the Edmonton Historical Board.

For more information on the Historian Laureate, visit edmonton.ca/historianlaureate. Connect with the new Historian Laureate on twitter @danicanuck using the hashtag #yeghistory or by emailing historian.laureate@edmonton.ca.

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