

## **Bread and Butter Work**

Whether you are an editor or a writer or both, there is bread and butter work ahead through the *Our Canada, Our Stories – Notre Canada, Nos Histoires* project. We want to encourage Canadians of all ages and backgrounds to record their personal, family and community stories and histories. Some of them can do the work themselves. Many of them will need professional help and are willing to pay for it.

A few things you can do to get that work:

- 1. Send people to our main website: <a href="www.canada150.ca">www.canada150.ca</a> to get them familiar with the project. Navigate the site with them so you can highlight where they can do the work themselves and where you can help.
- 2. Show them how they can start right away writing letters/emails to family and friends. They can upload them directly to our website <a href="https://www.canada150.org">www.canada150.org</a> (English) or <a href="https://www.canada150.net">www.canada150.net</a> (French) after getting your help to write & edit their stories.
- 3. On your professional websites, include key search words like: "Canada 150," "family history," "ghostwriter," "community history," "storyteller." You want people to be able to find you both geographically as well as having a working partnership over the Internet.
- 4. Work collaboratively with **local** libraries, seniors groups, schools, faith communities, nursing homes, clubs, and community history groups. Consider creating a co-op of editors and writers to share your expertise and the work.

Check out <u>www.writingabooktogether.com</u> as an example including a fee schedule. Charge a sliding scale depending on a person's ability to pay so those who can afford a professional rate can supplement those who cannot.



Harry van Bommel
Harry is the author of 41 books,
including over a dozen biographies
and family histories.

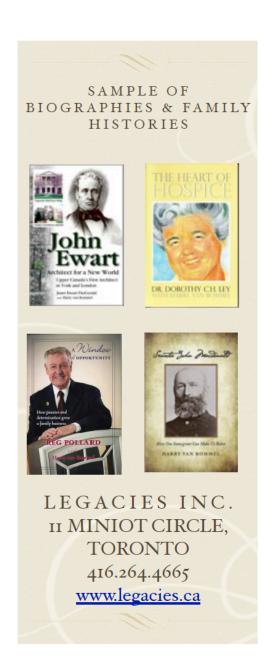
People need an economical way to record their stories as a legacy gift. Typically, hiring an author to write a biography or family history costs between \$13,000 to \$39,950!

Our program is only \$255, \$975 or \$1,820.

Harry's real strength is listening:

- listening to people's stories,
- listening to the lessons they have learned, and
- recording them for the person's own use and as a legacy gift.

Check out Harry's books at: www.legacies-inc.com







Time is invaluable. That must be why we don't have enough of it!

Listening to our elders' thoughts and stories, and recording them, is something we always want to find enough time for but other demands get in the way.

I can spend the time listening to your elder and collecting their thoughts and stories.

I will sit with your elder and record their stories into a document that your elder can edit. They will have complete control over the content.

You can rest assured that your elder will be spending time with someone who appreciates the gift of a story and what it can mean to a family.

## "WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE..."

People need time to tell their stories. Their thoughts and stories of success, of failure, of love, of hope, of their family's history, and of lessons learned are irreplaceable. What people need is a thoughtful listener and a simple record of their stories to keep and to give to their children and their grandchildren. The time spent developing this personal legacy is as meaningful as the personal record itself.



- 6. Walk the talk write your own stories for the website or self-publish a full-length autobiography or family history. People won't believe their stories are worth recording if you do not believe that your stories are worth recording.
- 7. Help people scan primary documents: diaries, journals, annotated photo albums, scrapbooks, and help them convert old videos, Super 8 and 16 mm films into digital files. You can also help them convert any audio-cassettes where they talked or performed. Many families, for examples, sent by cassette letters to families 'back home.' Once converted to digital files, upload them to our website in 2017-2018.
- 8. Form a small group around your kitchen table who are interested in this work to help spread the word personally and through social media. Let them become your marketing team.