

Douglas W. DeCroix, Executive Director

Douglas W. DeCroix has served as Executive Director of Western New York Heritage, Inc. since 2009. A native of the Chicago area, he came to Western New York in the early 1990s. Doug did his academic work in History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Miami University of Ohio and Bowling Green State University.

His contributions to regional, national and international history have included several nationally aired historical documentaries produced by WNED-TV and The History Channel, dozens of articles and several thematic books published by Western New York Heritage and many public presentations on a variety of historical topics in both the United States and Canada. He has served in advisory capacities for numerous historical museums and organizations throughout Western New York, the Midwest and Ontario. In 2015, he was one of the scholars selected to contribute a chapter for the *Routledge Handbook of the War of 1812*, published by the Taylor & Francis Group.

In recognition of his work, Doug has received awards from numerous regional and state entities, including the Excellence in Print Publication Award from Medaille College in 2013 and the Owen B. Augspurger Award from the Buffalo History Museum in October 2015. In 2023, his efforts to publish *Legends of the Chautauqua-Erie Grape Belt* were recognized with the Jim Finkle Industry Award, presented by the New York Wine & Grape Foundation.

Doug continues to collaborate with a variety of cultural and educational organizations, working to celebrate the region's rich history while seeking creative ways of bringing that history into the lives of the region's inhabitants.

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