

## 2013 CSTHA Public Lecture /

## Conférence publique de l'AHSTC 2013\*

### Light Switch:

### Towards a History of the Second Enlightenment

**Prof. H.V. Nelles**

L.R. Wilson Professor of Canadian History, McMaster University, and  
Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus, York University

But for the aesthetic pleasures we draw from waterfalls, geysers and fireworks, we value energy not as a good in itself, but rather for the work it can be made to do. In recent time we have produced a good deal of energy and put it put to work making light. This talk will venture some thoughts on why the earth has begun to glow in the dark.

\* offerte en anglais uniquement

---

**H.V. Nelles** is the L.R. Wilson Professor of Canadian History at McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada and Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus at York University, Toronto, Canada. He is the author or co-author of *The Philosophy of Railroads* (1972), *The Politics of Development* (1974), *The Revenge of the Methodist Bicycle Company* (1977), *Monopoly's Moment* (1986), *Southern Exposure* (1988), *The Art of Nation-Building* (University of Toronto Press, 1999) - which has been translated as *L'Histoire spectacle* (Boréal, Montréal, 2003) - and most recently *A Little History of Canada* (Oxford University Press, Toronto 2004).

For his scholarship he has been awarded the Newcomen Prize, the City of Toronto Book Award, a National Business Book Award, Le Prix Lionel Groulx and the Sir John A. Macdonald Prize of the Canadian Historical Association for the best book in Canadian History, once in 1986 for *Monopoly's Moment*, and again in 2000 for *The Art of Nation-Building*. He is the only person in the thirty year history of the Macdonald Prize to have won it twice. At York he was awarded a Faculty of Arts Teaching Excellence Award in 1988-89 and again in 1994-5. In 1985 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. York University named him a Distinguished Research Professor in History in 2001. He was for many years the editor of the Canadian Social History Series at the University of Toronto Press, is a past editor of the *Canadian Historical Review*, and is currently a member of the editorial Board of the *Business History Review*.