



## GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE LA VALLÉE DE LA GATINEAU

*...preserving and promoting awareness in the history and heritage of the Gatineau Valley for 50 years.*

### 2012 Meeting & Event Schedule

To celebrate our 50th anniversary, the Society executive has put together an ambitious calendar of events for 2012 which is focused on celebrating the Society's roots by connecting with some of the historic places, contributors, and organizations that have donated their time and expertise to make GVHS a viable and significant local institution since 1962.

As well as looking back, we want to venture into some new territory, with events planned at both the new community centres in Wakefield and Chelsea. We have updated the GVHS logo to reflect journey into the future. We are ever so grateful to Chelsea Graphic Artist, Tracy Carefoot - [www.tracycarefoot.ca](http://www.tracycarefoot.ca) - for her expert designs and for her friendly advice and patience in creating the new logo.

### 50th Anniversary Celebration Kick-off

Monday, January 16, 2012 at 6:30 pm  
Wakefield Mill, 60 Mill Rd., Wakefield QC



The Gatineau Valley Historical Society is pleased to launch our 50th anniversary celebrations with a musical evening in the Lounge at the historic Wakefield Mill, featuring music by Gail Gavan.

Starting at Gavan's Hotel in Quyon, Gail learned the basics of the country music business at her father's knee. She is one of the few local musicians who specializes in Valley traditions, blending country and folk, French and English, fiddling and stepdancing into an engaging performance. She has continued to work in the Ottawa and Gatineau Valleys and beyond and has become one of the most beloved entertainers in the area.

Admission – free-will donation to support the Fairbairn House Heritage Centre. There will also be a silent auction to benefit the Fairbairn House.

Everyone welcome!



## Archives Open House & AGM Remembering Pat Evans • Exhibition of Historic Photos • Cantley 1889

Monday, February 20, 2012 at 7:30 pm  
Chelsea Library, 100 Old Chelsea Rd., Chelsea, QC

Join Society members and volunteers for a presentation of some of our recent and favourite acquisitions of digital images and records pertaining to the Gatineau Valley. We will also preview changes to the GVHS website, including our new design, and the dedication of an online resources which will bring together the archival legacy of GVHS founding member and archivist Pat Evans.

We are also pleased to welcome Cantley 1889, an association of local residents who came together in 2010. Their mission is to discover, catalogue, protect and promote heritage in the municipality of Cantley. They have an ambitious agenda which includes activities such as talks, tours, and even the planned restoration of an original tugboat once used for logging on the Gatineau River. Members of Cantley 1889 also write regular columns for the community newspaper, the Cantley Echo. With the publisher's permission, the GHVS and Cantley 1889 have collaborated closely on their first joint project - the posting of the Cantley Echo' first 11 articles on the GVHS website, under Digital Resources.



You can communicate with Cantley1889 at [info.cantley1889@gmail.com](mailto:info.cantley1889@gmail.com) or contact President Margaret Phillips at 819-827-1969.

The Society elections will be held and our annual reports distributed. *Nominations for the Society's Executive will be accepted up to February 13, 2011 – contact [info@gvhs.ca](mailto:info@gvhs.ca).*



## The Great River Project with Ottawa Riverkeeper Meredith Brown



Monday, March 19, 2012 at 7:30 pm  
Wakefield Community Centre, Great Hall

Ottawa Riverkeeper, Meredith Brown will fascinate you with her reflections on the Great River Project, a 900 km canoe excursion of the Ottawa River the summer of 2011. During the excursion Meredith and her team monitored water quality, and met with a diverse group of people and leaders along the way. The Friends of the Gatineau River will also be present at this evening.

Visit their website for more information - [www.ottawariverkeeper.ca](http://www.ottawariverkeeper.ca)



## 2012: A Year of Celebration Save the Dates!



- Monday, April 16*                      **History of the Larrimac Golf Club with Larry Dufour**
- Saturday, April 28 &  
Sunday, April 29*                      **Historical Walk in the Gatineau Park with local author Katharine Fletcher**
- Monday, May 28*                      **Annual Dinner and Awards at Camp Fortune, Chelsea, QC**
- Sunday, June 10*                      **Heritage Paddle and River Celebration at The Grange de la Gatineau, Cantley: event with Friends of the Gatineau River (FOG) and The Grange**
- Saturday, August 18*                      **49th Annual Auction of Antiques and Collectibles  
St. Stephen's Church, Old Chelsea, QC**
- Monday, September 10*                      **History of the Gatineau River Yacht Club - joint meeting & BBQ at the Yacht Club to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary**
- Monday, October 15*                      **Bill Mason: Filmmaker, Artist & Canoeist (1929-1988) with speaker Ken Buck at the Chelsea Library**
- Sunday, November 11*                      **Remembrance Day Ceremony, Chelsea Cenotaph, Chelsea, QC**
- Monday, November 19*                      **War of 1812 - a talk by Vic Suthren at the Meredith Centre, Chelsea, QC**



**Mystery Photo:** Who is this man and what is he passing to the steam train engineer? Find out on page 4

**Archives:** Chelsea Library • downstairs

**Hours:**

<b>Monday &amp; Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
1:30 - 4:30	6:00 - 8:00 pm
or by appointment - 819-827-6224	

### Call for volunteers!

With GVHS' 50th anniversary celebrations now underway, we are planning to add more content from the Society archives to our popular website ([www.gvhs.ca](http://www.gvhs.ca)). The Society Archives volunteers and Website Committee are responsible for the operations of the Society Archives, including acquisitions, inquiries, physical and intellectual control for records in all media, and for developing historical content and research tools for the GVHS website.

Much of the work that is required could be done by Society volunteers at home, including proofreading scanned (by OCR) material; typing handwritten finding aids and scanning documents and photos. As well, we are always open to ideas from members/volunteers for web articles, on-line exhibitions, or other digital resources which will make the Society's multi-media collection more discoverable.

We are planning to hold a one-day digitizing and archiving workshop in the new year, so if you are interesting in learning more contributing the Society archives and website please let us know if you would like to attend. Contact Marc Cockburn, 819-459-2004 or [info@gvhs.ca](mailto:info@gvhs.ca))

**Executive 2012**

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**THE ULTIMATE IN SPECIAL DELIVERY** by Norma Geggie

The train service from Ottawa to Maniwaki from the late 1800s offered a wonderful service to the people of the Gatineau. However, it appears that a service was also offered in the opposite direction.

Hector Vaillancourt recently supplied the Gatineau Valley Historical Society image bank with many pictures which have greatly enhanced our collection. One picture, possibly taken in the 1950s, and reproduced on page 3 of this newsletter, required a little explanation.

Elmer Wills, who ran an ice cream parlour in Wakefield in the building that now houses the National Bank, provided an exceptional service to the crew in the engine. As the train approached the centre of the village on the return trip to Ottawa, it slowed sufficiently for Elmer to delivery two Cokes to the two men.

Then the next morning he would find on the lawn of his house which was opposite the ice cream parlour, (now Dr. Chicoine's residence and office) the empty bottles with dimes inside in payment.

The building seen in the background of the photo was then owned by Mr. Alex Austin, and was home to the Post Office, with Bernard Sully acting as postmaster. It will be recognised today by its outline as Khewa, the native art boutique in Wakefield.

**Gatineau Valley Historical Society Membership Application/Renewal Form**

Box 1803, Chelsea QC J9B 1A1 ~ 819-827-6224 ~ www.gvhs.ca

- *Up the Gatineau!* - our annual local history journal
- *GVHS Newsletter*
- Access to our archival material
- Regular meetings on local and national heritage topics

**Membership Fees (per family): 1 year — \$15.00      2 year — \$25.00**

**New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/town \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ The newsletter will be emailed to you.

I would like to help with: Auction\_\_ Archives\_\_ Cemeteries\_\_ Executive\_\_ Publications\_\_