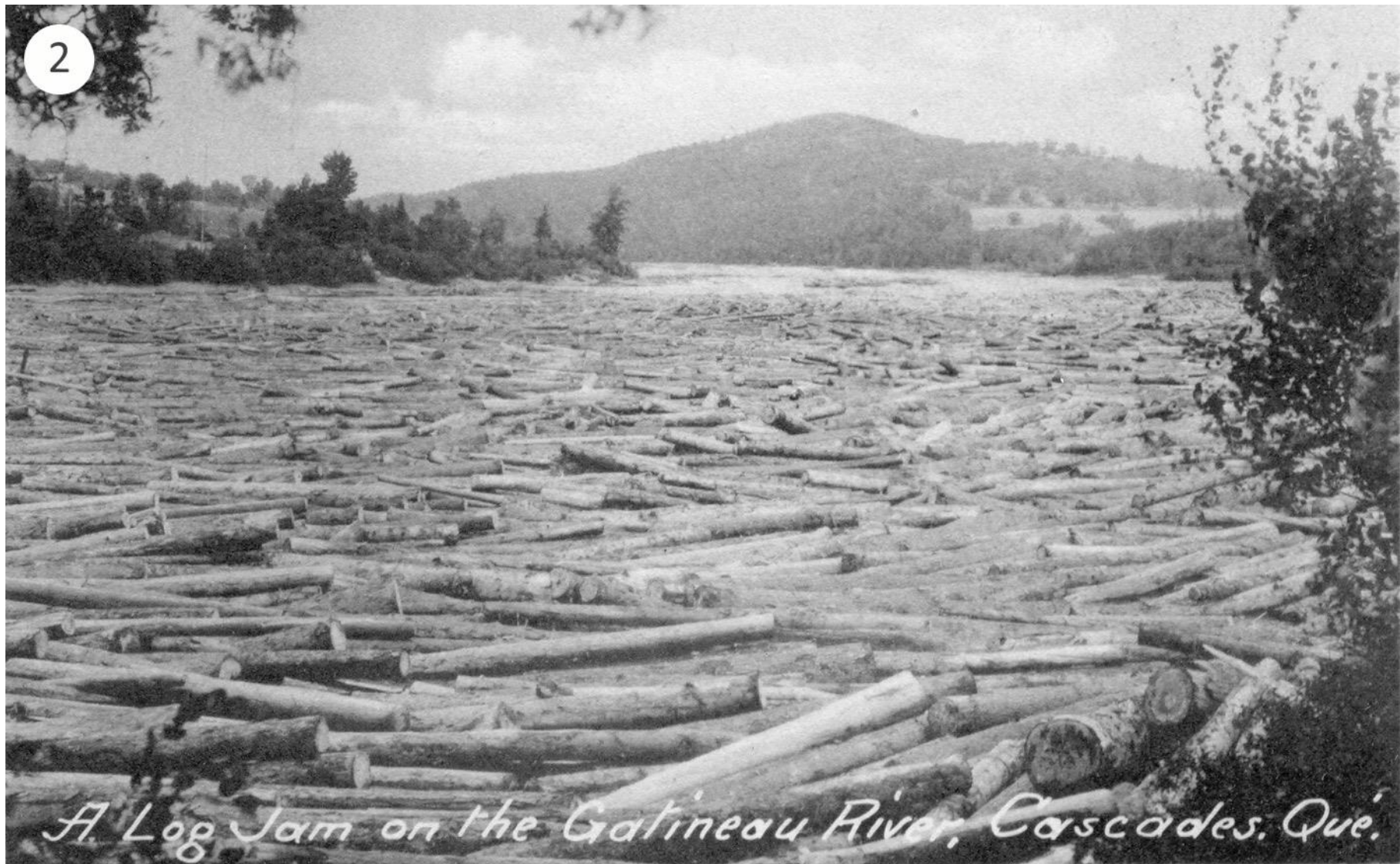


## Un siècle de souvenirs à célébrer

2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cascades Club. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a big party planned for September 2020 had to be indefinitely postponed, but we look forward to a time in the future when we can all gather together to celebrate this important milestone in the history of our club. Many of the photos included in this presentation were generously provided by the Gatineau Valley Historical Society, whose ongoing efforts to preserve the history of our community deserve high praise.





The Gatineau Hills were home to first nations peoples for thousands of years. It wasn't until the early 1800s that European settlers, many of them Irish and Scottish, began to trickle up the Gatineau River to establish logging camps and farms. Cascades was named for the adjacent 5 sets of rapids in the once-turbulent Gatineau River. This photo shows a log jam on the river at Cascades in the early 1900s.





The Gordon family established the first farm in Cascades in the 1830s and it was around this time that the first road was built north along the shore of the Gatineau River. This photo shows part of the Gordon farm in the early 1900s. The road at right eventually came to be known as Pine Road and the houses on Pine Loop now stand where the distant field once was. In those days Pine Road ran all the way down the hill to join the main road along the river, a sliver of which can be seen in the far distance.



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In the early 1890s the railway reached Cascades. This photo shows the original Cascades train station, which burned down in 1910. The station that was built to replace it now resides on Cross Loop and inspired the design for the Club's new boathouse (designed by Peter Markhauser). Train travel made the Gatineau Hills much more accessible to visitors from the city, and many cottages and hotels sprang up along the Gatineau River in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

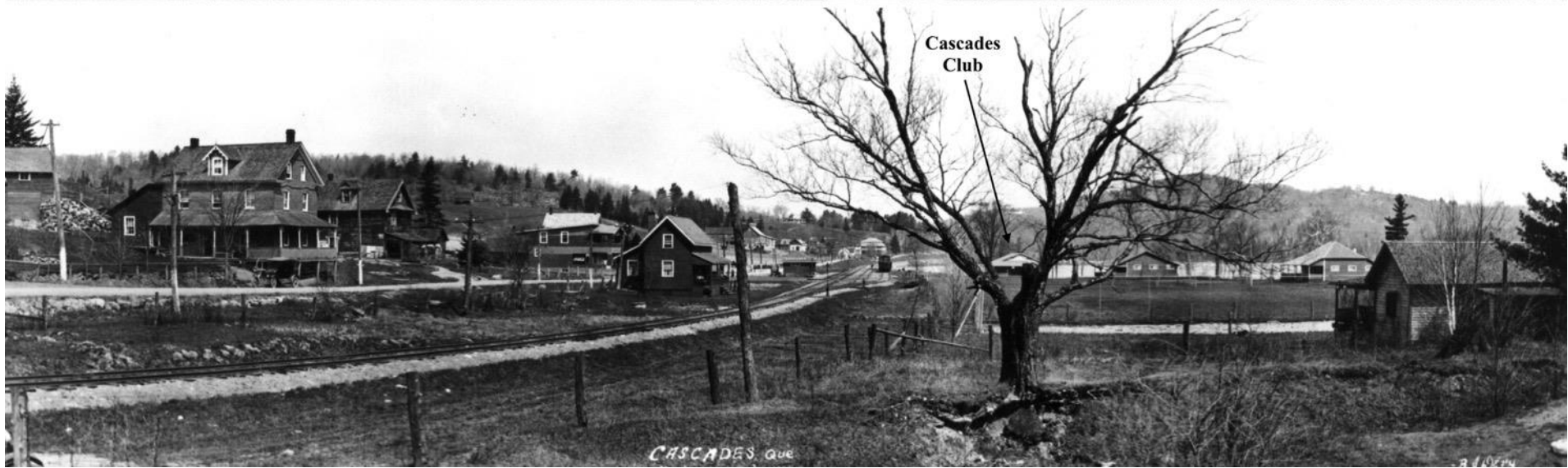


Alice & Samuel Wilson



Samuel Wilson arrived with the railroad, and with his wife Alice Cross built and operated the 30-room Peerless Hotel pictured here, which was located at the north end of the Air Cascades float plane base. The Wilson family would go on to play a big role in the history of the Club over the next century.





The Cascades Club's first clubhouse, which is circled in red in the top image, was built around 1920 on the bank of the Gatineau River in the village of Cascades, which is pictured here. The bottom photo was taken looking north from the village to the Peerless Hotel in the far distance, with the river off to the right and the Club just visible between the main branches of the tree.

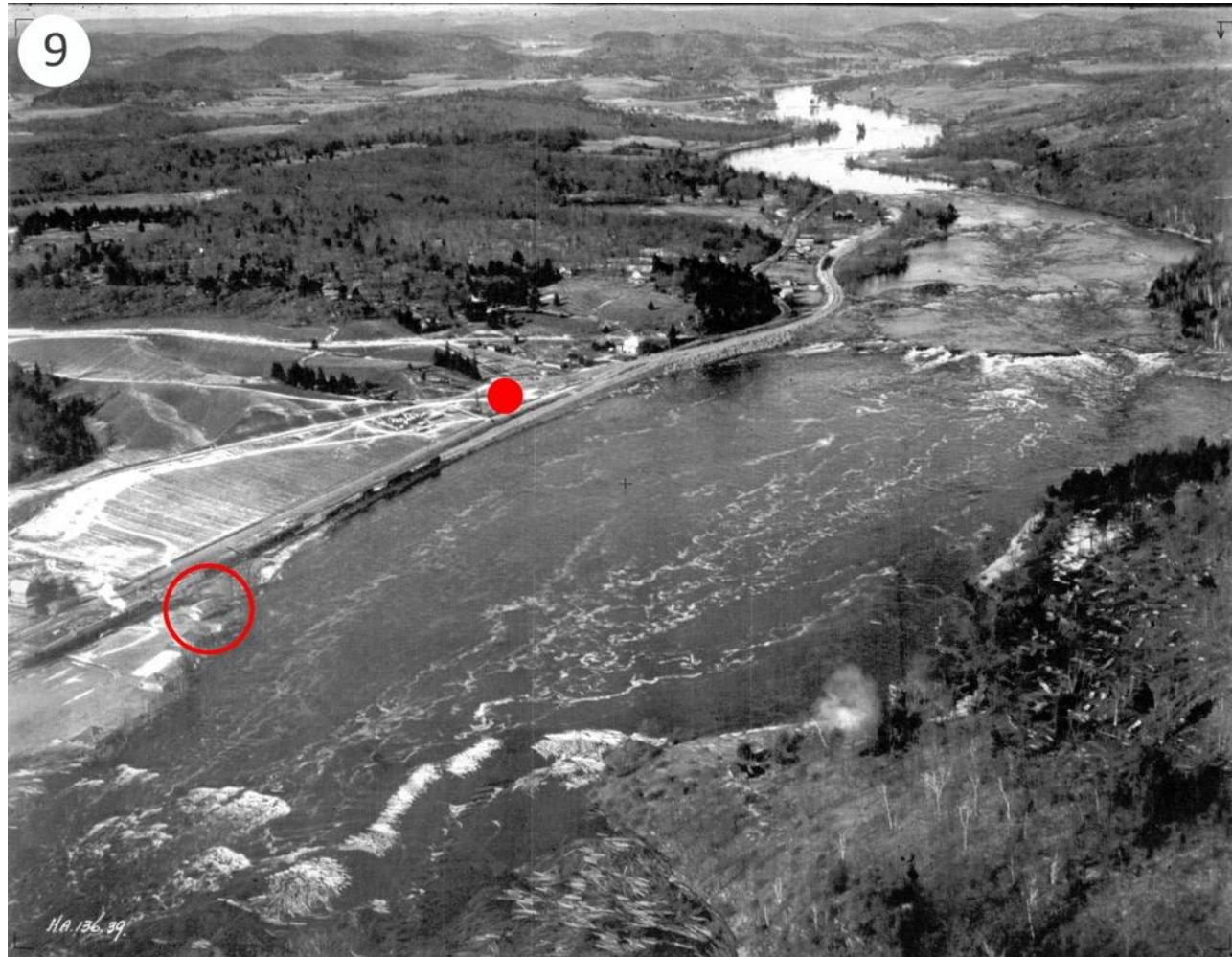






Baseball was a popular sport at the Club for over 60 years. In the early 1900s every small community 'up the Gatineau' had its own ball team and avid fan base, and after the games there would be dancing at the respective club houses. In the 1920s hardball games took place up on the field where Pine Loop is now located. This photo was likely taken up on the 'clay hill', as it was then called, with Mont Cascades visible in the background. The Club's oldest possession is the framed photo montage of the Cascades championship hardball team of 1922-3 that hangs in the clubhouse.





In this aerial photo from the mid 1920s the Club is circled in red and the red circle above shows roughly where the Cascades Club waterfront is located today. In 1927 the village of Cascades and the low-lying farmland north of it were flooded when 2 hydro-electric dams were built downstream. The village's buildings were destroyed or dismantled and moved. The clubhouse building was sold to the Gatineau Boom Company, which used it for years as a cookhouse for its logging base in Cascades. In compensation the Club received \$600 and 3.25 acres along the newly built section of River Road, which in the 1935 land deed was referred to as both the Gatineau Highway and the Hull-Maniwaki Highway.





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It was almost a decade before the Club mustered the energy to build a new clubhouse, but that didn't mean that all its activities ceased. In the 1930s softball replaced hardball as the popular sport of the day and ball games took place at the Club's new property and attracted many spectators, as this photo shows.





Meanwhile, across the road Billy and Peg Wilson's Tip Top refreshment stand (which later expanded into an inn and tearoom) was a popular stopping point along what was then the main road north. Dances and boxing matches were held on the outdoor dance pavilion, weather permitting, and the Cascades Post Office, before it was closed, was operated out of the Tip Top. The old post office sign now hangs in the Cascades Club.





On April 24, 1935, by means of Letters Patent, in the reign of George the Fifth, “by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India”, the Cascades Club was formally incorporated, with a mandate, “To establish, maintain and conduct a social and athletic club for the accommodation of its members and their friends...and to promote friendly and social intercourse among its members.” This is the earliest known photo of the clubhouse which still stands today. An article in the “Gatineau Echo” newspaper of August 2, 1935 reported, “The Cascades Club House which has been dreamed of for many years is now nearing completion. Since Monday morning three carpenters and an army of volunteer workers have been working 16 hours per day to get the building completed for the Cascades Day Picnic on Civic Holiday.”



World War II lasted 6 long years, from 1939 to 1945. Food, alcohol, and gas were rationed and everyone on the home front pulled together to support the boys overseas. Billy Wilson ran fund-raising events at the Tip Top to support the war effort. Fred Walton and Eddy Cross, pictured here in their World War II uniforms, both survived the war and went on to serve as presidents of the Club in the 1950s. Ron Grant, father of Melanie Hopkins and former Club President Cathy Grant, participated in the liberation of Holland as a member of the 48th Cameron Highlanders. This photo of Ron was taken by famed photographer Yousuf Karsh.






Photo by  
Conrad Poirier

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Honorary lifetime Club member R. J. Hughes remembers attending movie nights and square dance lessons at the Club in the 1950s, both of which were organized by Eddy Cross. This photo is not of the Club - it was taken in the 1940s at a Montreal YMCA, but it gives a sense of the era. The clubhouse was not winterized until 1979, so prior to that it operated as a seasonal facility. Up until the 1960s, the Gatineau Hills were 'dry' - no alcohol could be purchased north of Hull and no drinking was allowed at the Club, but members got around that rule by caching alcohol in their car trunks or under the corners of the clubhouse for easy access.



1960s

R. J. Hughes

**1960s**

**R. J. Hughes**

In 1967 Club President R. J. Hughes, who was only in his early twenties at the time, signed a contract with a local band called The Young Ones to do up to 8 performances at the Club that summer. Dances, and board meetings, were held weekly during the summer of 1967. The Young Ones' sound was described in a fan newsletter as 'groovy' and the lead singer Leslie Moore as being 'born to swing'. The group's musical influences included the Rolling Stones, Paul Revere and the Raiders, and the Beatles.





The 1970s saw exciting changes at the Cascades Club. Local architect Alan Hopkins proposed and spearheaded an ambitious project to build 2 international squash courts at the Club. The sod-turning ceremony shown here took place in October 1977 and was attended by the mayors of the municipalities of La Pêche and West Hull (now Chelsea). Alan is standing second from right.





The majority of the squash facility construction was done by volunteers, although Austrian stonemason Albert Kuen was hired to build the squash court walls as they had to be straight and true and 40 years later they are still in great shape. At the same time the main hall of the clubhouse was winterized, and the Club became, for the first time ever, a year-round facility.





The official opening ceremony of the new squash addition took place in the fall of 1979 and for many years afterwards squash was the Club's main *raison d'être*. Years later, in 1996, Robin Wilson wrote, "The building of the squash courts was one of the most effective community development projects I've ever been involved in. It made me more lasting friendships, and certainly taught me more carpentry skills, than any other project."



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In the 1980s the 'new' clubhouse turned 50 and a party was held to celebrate its anniversary. Marilyn Liddiard wrote in a newspaper article about the event, "...President Maggi (Williams) wheeled in a 4-foot birthday cake and with everyone's champagne glass filled to the brim, we toasted to another 50 years. Somewhere in the room the faint strains of Auld Lang Syne could be heard and...with increasing gusto, the melody rang out...Cheers Cascades Club! Long may you live! With such dedicated and committed members, I have no doubt that you will."





In the 1990s the Club survived yet another financial crisis and a severe ice storm. From 1996 to 2001 R. J. Hughes organized country dancing at the clubhouse on the first Saturday of every month and in 1999 the country dance group built the Club a brand new front porch, the plans for which were drawn up by Alan Hopkins.





By the late 1990s the winds of change had begun to blow again, and a new chapter in the Club's long history opened. A century and a half of logging on the Gatineau River came to an end in the early 1990s. Not long afterwards a handful of Club members started to explore the idea of regaining the waterfront access that the Club had lost 70 years before. The old logging camp buildings shown here at the future site of the Cascades Club waterfront were torn down around 1995. For a number of years the Club rented this waterfront area from Hydro-Quebec, but in 2012 a 52-year lease was successfully negotiated with the Municipality of Chelsea.





In 1998 Lucie Duncan and Ed Hanrahan started a summer camp at the Club which in the following years became hugely popular. In its first year the camp made a small profit, which was enough to buy a handful of used sprint kayaks. Ed repaired the boats over the winter and in 1999 the Club's sprint paddling program took its first tentative steps. The following year Ed took the Club's first group of youth paddlers, shown here, to regattas in Gananoque and Carleton Place.





The many achievements of the Club's youth paddlers over the next 20 years, and the herculean efforts of the parent volunteers who built a competitive sprint program from the ground up, would fill a slideshow twice as long as this one, but you can read all about it in Cascades Club 1920-2020.



In 1999 avid paddler Dan Mallett, pictured at left in this photo, collected together a group of athletic overachievers to form the Club's first competitive dragon boat team, which was called the Draveurs after the hard-working log drivers of the Gatineau River. The team initially trained in a borrowed 14-person boat...





...but in 2002 the Club's first dragon boat was purchased and brought to Cascades by Peter Markhauser and Brad Evenson, pictured here, who were also instrumental in raising the funds to buy it.



Photo W. McElligott



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The dragon boat program at the Club took off after that and many new teams, both competitive and recreational, were formed in the early 2000s. The Cascades Women's team, pictured here, notably qualified for and competed in 4 International Dragon Boat Federation World Club Crew Championships, in Toronto, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Hungary, winning multiple medals along the way. As well, many individual Club members competed successfully for Canada at numerous World Nations Dragon Boat Championships.

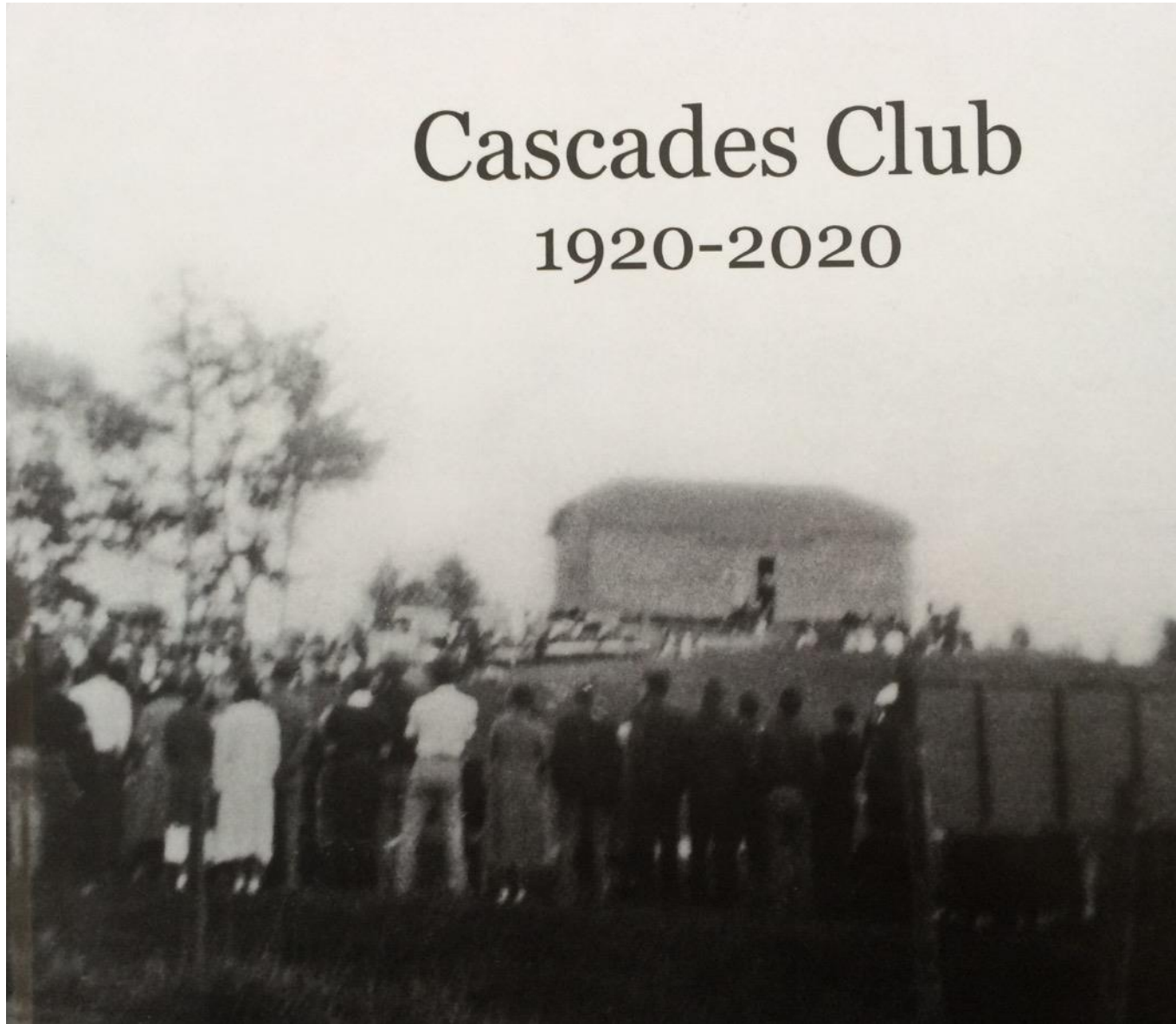




While the summer camp and waterfront programs were starting to take off, up at the clubhouse, Lynne Evenson, Fiona Hennessy and Jane Batten started a popular spinning program in 2002, which Lynne continued to run for many years. Yoga, boxing, fitness classes, karate and other activities, as well as pig roasts and numerous social events took place at the clubhouse through the first two decades of the 21st century.

# Cascades Club

## 1920-2020



All the photos you've seen during this presentation and many more are included in the new history book of the Cascades Club. This ambitious project has been a long time in the works and is the result of a huge collaborative effort on the part of many Club members past and present. Thank-you all for the incredible help, support and enthusiasm you've provided over the past year.





Now here we are in the 100th year of our Club. Despite the challenges of the current global pandemic, in 2020 the Cascades Club is 100 years strong. Its biggest assets are the same today as they have been for the past century, a generous community of friendly active people and an idyllic location along our beautiful Gatineau River. So Happy 100th Cascades Club and here's to many more!

