



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU LA SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE LA GATINEAU

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NEWSLETTER

No. 00-3.: June - July 2000

COMING EVENTS

ANNUAL ANTIQUE AUCTION AND FLEA MARKET

Saturday, August 19, 2000, 9 am to 12 pm
St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Old Chelsea

Once again, the ever popular HSG Antique Auction and Flea Market returns to the grounds of the St. Stephens Catholic Church in Old Chelsea on August 19, 2000. This year the organizing committee is headed by Theresa Windfield, and her team are asking members to donate items for the auction and flea-market. As well, anyone who would like to help in organizing this event or lend a hand on the day of the auction are urged to contact the Theresa at 827-0678.

HSG MONTHLY MEETING.

September 11, 2000 7:30 pm
St. Camillus Parish Hall, Farrelton, P.Q.

This will be a special meeting to recognise the 150th anniversary of St. Camillus Parish (Farrelton). The meeting will be hosted at Parish hall in Farrelton. The guest speaker is Marianna O'Gallagher, noted historian, writer, publisher and possessor of a wealth of knowledge of Irish settlement in Canada. Marianna's particular focus is on Grosse Isle, about which she has written several books.

VISIT BY THE HUDSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Saturday, September 30, 2000

On September 30 the HSG will play host to members of the Hudson Historical Society to repay their hospitality at the upcoming HSG visit to Hudson (June 17). Plans are afoot to take our guests to Wakefield by train, where they will be met by HSG volunteers who will escort the Hudsonites on a bus excursion to places of interest in the Wakefield-Chelsea region. More details will be provided as planning proceeds.

ECHOS OF THE PAST

On June 8, Resort to Work in Wakefield launched a web site on the internet, called "La Voix de la vallée de la Gatineau -écho du passé" (<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/vallee>).

This french language web site lets visitors relive the colonization of the Upper-Gatineau region (north of Low) and experience scenes of its logging industry through a collection of text and archival photographs.



The site also features a large collection of digital audio files of local French Canadian folk songs that were originally collected by Lucien Ouellet, Curator of the French America Programme at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Another section is devoted to the aboriginal presence on the Gatineau river and is highlighted by a recording of an interview with William Commanda, Spiritual Chief of Algonquin First Nations near Maniwaki - in which he offers his rendition of sacred aboriginal song.



Sponsored by Industry Canada's Digital Collections, the site was produced by Resort to Work in partnership with the Société d'histoire de l'Outaouais, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the **Historical Society of the Gatineau**, and the Château Logue in Maniwaki.

The project also allowed Resort to Work to employ some local youth (Stéphanie Lagueux, Johnathan Lécuyer, and Blake MacMillan) to gain valuable experience and launching them on a promising career in web design and implementation.

The site complements the existing English language web site "The Historical Legacy of the Gatineau from Cantley to Low", (<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/gatineau/>) launched last year on Canada's Digital Collections, and also produced by Resort to Work. Plans are now afoot to link the two sites within a larger HSG web site



Signs of our Past - Walking Tour of Wakefield

When strolling through Wakefield this summer, look for the six new interpretive signs that will soon sprout up at various locations throughout the village. Thanks to HSG members Michael Copper and Norma Geggie, along with their team of welders and graphic artists, the signs are now being built and will soon be installed in a sequence six of multi-media interpretive signs that will offer images and bilingual text related to the commercial and community history of Wakefield. The tour commences at the Wakefield Recreation Associations facility on Valley Drive. The HSG are pleased to have partnered with the Municipality of LaPêche and the Wakefield Mens Club.

This interpretive project complements the existing interpretative trail that begins at Geggie park and winds its way up to the MacLaren Cemetery and Wakefield Grist Mill.

It is hoped that the walking tour will be officially opened during the festivities that are being planned when the relay marking the opening of the Trans Canada Trail comes through Wakefield on September 2. The HSG will be supporting activities in Wakefield that day.

It's a Small World!

HSG members Cathy and Bill Pawley visited friends Roland and Carol Greenbank in Huntingdon, Quebec and discovered a link with a founder of the Kirk's Ferry's Union Mission Church (see *Up the Gatineau!*, volume 25, for Carol Martin's article about this church).

Mrs. Greenbank wrote that her great-grandmother, Marion Bennett Hayes, was instrumental in founding the Kirk's Ferry Union Mission Church. The Hayes came to Canada from Ireland in 1867 and settled in Hawkesbury, where William Earle Hayes managed a general store and Marion was the organist at the Anglican Church. In 1952 when Mrs. Greenbank's sister visited there some of the hymn books at the organ still carried her name! They family moved to Ottawa in the 1890s, and bought a summer home in Kirk's Ferry. It was lost when the dam was built. They had ten children in all, three boys and seven girls. Very few of the daughters married, most continuing to live until their deaths in the family home. Marion Bennett Hayes died in 1925 at her home on Fairbairn Ave. in Ottawa.

The Greenbanks are both members of the Chateauguay Valley Historical Society, where Roland is in charge of publications and Carol is archivist. They are also new members of the HSG. Welcome and many thanks for the information!

Quebec Anglophone Network being Formed

Quebeckers interested in the historic role of the Anglophone community in Quebec are finding themselves at the threshold of being able to fulfil a long cherished dream. That dream has been to have a mechanism through which all who are interested in preserving and communicating a knowledge of our heritage can meet, share and exchange knowledge and discuss the passing on of traditional skills. Now with the help from a grant from the Canadian Department of Heritage the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network is being formed.

A steering committee of six (including Michael Cooper of the HSG) , representing different regions and cultural interest groups began meeting with federal advisors to plan the use of funding for an initial conference now planned for Bishop's University in Lennoxville on the week-end of June 23-24-25.

The conference will feature talks on local history, thematic workshops and a variety of social interactions for delegates from across Quebec. Representing the HSG, will be Michael Cooper who will be talking on working with schools, and David Nobbs who will discuss how local heritage groups can set up web sites.

HSG Archives

Jay Atherton would like to remind members that the HSG Archives will be closed during the summer. The last day of business will be on June 21, and will reopen again in September - the date to be revealed in the next newsletter.

The HSG received an letter from Elsie Sparrow of the Archives du Pontiac Archives, inviting members to drop into their Open House which runs from Monday, July 3rd to Saturday the 8th. The hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

E-mail Contacts

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