

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

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NEWSLETTER

No. 01-2.: April 2001 - May 2001

Alexandra Bridge turns 100

One hundred years ago, on April 22, 1901, the Alexandra Bridge was opened to railway traffic. The railway event was reported by the Ottawa Citizen of 23 April 1901:

Formally Opened: Passenger Train on the Gatineau Road into the Central Station

The Interprovincial Bridge was opened for railway traffic yesterday morning when the first train of the *Ottawa, Northern & Western Railway*, formerly the *Ottawa & Gatineau*, crossed to the Central depot. The handsome engineering structure was decorated with flags, as was also the locomotive and cars of the train, which was the regular morning express from up the Gatineau.

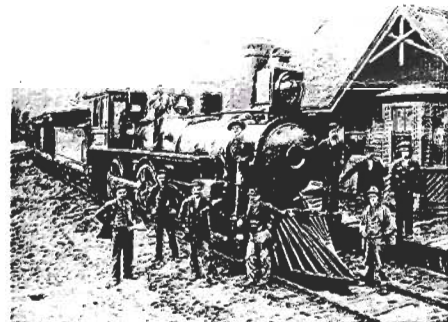
At the Hull station a large number of passengers got on, Mr. John Lauzon being the first to purchase a ticket for a passage over the new bridge. Several of the Ottawa and Hull Aldermen and the officials of the railway were on board. The distance between stations was covered in just seven minutes, the train arriving sharp on time. Conductor Hoolihan was in charge and the engineman was W.M. McFall.

As the train entered on the bridge, Mr. Noel Valiquette of the Cottage Hotel smashed a bottle of wine on the locomotive. A big crowd stood on the Dufferin Bridge and watched the inauguration of traffic on the line. There was no formality, a souvenir of the line in the form of a badge was presented to all the passengers and guests.

Several of the 100th anniversary dates are already past, namely the completion by the Dominion Bridge Co. in December 1900 and the opening to foot and road traffic on 5, March 1901. The first train across the bridge on 22 April 1901 represents the original reason for the construction of the bridge by its then owner, the *Ottawa Northern and Western Railway* (formerly *Ottawa and Gatineau*). The remaining anniversaries are the start of Hull streetcar service on 25 July 1901 and the dedication by the Duke of Cumberland and York, heir to the throne, to his mother Alexandra on 21 September 1901.

When opened, the bridge had the fourth longest cantilever span in the world, and was one of the most advanced bridges of this type in North America. Its construction was subsidized by Ottawa City Council and the Federal Government, to improve cross-river commuting, tourism, and goods transport. From 1902 to 1966 it was owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway as part of the transcontinental route from Montreal to Vancouver. From 1901 to 1946, the bridge was also used by electric commuter trains of the Hull Electric Railway from Wrightville and Aylmer, a predecessor to today's STO. The bridge has always carried automobile, cycle and pedestrian traffic. Since 1966 it has been owned by the Federal Government and is part of the Ceremonial Route. It is a City of Hull heritage site and a National Historic Civil Engineering site.

The Historical Society of The Gatineau has been invited to join representatives of the Bytown Railway Society, the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, The Dominion Bridge Co. CP Rail, Public Works and the National Capital Commission to a commemoration event to be held 9:30, April 22, 2001, at the bridge. *(Many thanks to David Jeanes of the Bytown Railway Society, for providing the information in this article)*



Ottawa & Gatineau Valley Railway - Group of men posing with Locomotive #7. ca.1890/Gracefield, Quebec (PA-164656)

HSG Coming Events - Page 6.

2001 HSG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

President`s Message - 2000 in Prospective

In many respects 2000 was banner year for your Society; we were recognized as The Group of The Year by the Municipality of Chelsea, and indeed, Carol Martin was elected Chelsea's Citizen of the Year. Especially for her work in making history live during Chelsea's year-long 125 Celebrations. And making sure that the material that was used was authentic, and historically accurate.

The meetings have been well attended, with interesting speakers. Including a meeting at the St. Camillus Parish Hall in Farrelton to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Church. The Remembrance Day Service at the Pioneer Cemetery attracted its largest crowd ever and the Auction netted over \$9,000 profit for the continuing work of the Society. The June visit to Historic Hudson and the 1732 Greenwood Centre for Living History was delightful. The Hudson Historical Society made a reciprocal visit in September, that included tours of Chelsea and Wakefield and a trip back to Hull on the steam train.

A program to provide six colourful interpretive signs in the village of Wakefield spear-headed by Michael Cooper, was done in partnership with the Municipality of La Peche through its Heritage Committee. It dovetails with a Walking tour he put together in 1999 An extension of this project to Chelsea and north to Low is in the works.

Many other exciting projects are under way; an Image Bank project with Adrienne Herron and in co-operation with the University of Ottawa to - in simple terms - put the very large photo collection of the HSG Archives on computer; developing a web site that will be the envy of any historical society; and closely related, documenting on video the stories of the communities of the Gatineau Valley, just to mention a few.

Banner year -yes indeed. But I feel that I should mention that there has been a decline in the number of members. We have slipped almost 40 members this year (a number have just not renewed). Certainly some attrition is natural, but I will be proposing to the Executive Committee that a study be made on how to attract new members, especially from the those that have yet to get their gray hair !!

I was also surprised to see that the sale of publications, an important source of revenue for the Society, has dropped by almost 12% in the passed year. I'm sure that if we brought out a few new publications we'd solve this revenue shortfall. In the mean time, thanks to our hard-working Publications Committee; Gudula and Duncan Marshall who make sure that the stores are stocked and maintain the inventory.

Ernie Mahoney

Awards

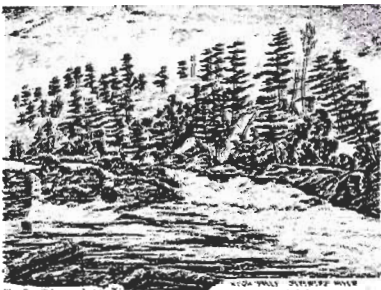
In keeping with its tradition of recognizing individuals for their contribution to the community

Honorary Life Membership: Judith Grant

Award of Honour: Adrienne Herron, Beatrice O'Byrne, and William Gonzalez.

Letter of Commendation: - Charles Cardinal.

The Arthur Davidson Prize went to Jim Burant for his outstanding contribution to *Up the Gatineau!* Vol 26, for his article, *The Picturesque hills and dales: The Gatineau Through Artists Eyes.*



High Falls, Gatineau River, July, 1856.

Austin, William Augustus (1829 -1896)

National Archives C-000484

Election of Officers

The annual general meeting of the Historical Society of The Gatineau elected one new director to the Executive Committee for 2001, Mr. Jamie Linton a well knows Cantley writer.

Members of the Executive Committee are: President Ernie Mahoney, 1st Vice-President David Castleman, 2nd Vice- President Randolph Gher-son, Past President Carol Martin, and Directors Marc Cockburn, David Nobbs, Allen Richens, Michael Cooper, and Jamie Linton.

Director Norma Geggie is on leave, as she is currently living in Whitehorse. she will rejoin the committee on her return in August. members of the nomination committee were the President, Jay Atherton, and Carol Martin

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 2000

Archives

Hours and Location

The Archives operates out of the basement of the Chelsea "Town Hall" -beneath the Library. It is open for consultation and research on Tuesday mornings, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, September through June. Those wishing to use the Archives are invited to call in advance (Jay Atherton, 827-1703).

Archives Volunteers

Staff of the Archives during the past year have been:

- Jay Atherton, overall direction and textual records accessions
- Annette Brand, photographs and pictures
- Joe Fitzpatrick, special project of photographic records from The News (Art Mantell)
- Norma Geggie, textual records accessions and inquiries
- Joan Gherson, reference library and related inquiries
- Anne Goodeve, PMO Evans Collection
- Adrienne Herron, Gatineau Valley Historical Image Bank project
- Bob Hughes, photographs and related documents, esp. re. Cascades area
- Anita Rutledge, genealogical inquiries

The Society lost a loyal member and the Archives a valued volunteer with the death in early January 2001 of Anne Goodeve. We shall all miss her.

Image Bank Project

At the initiative of Adrienne Herron, the Archives this year undertook a major project to catalogue (in a data base) and digitize its entire collection of historical images (photographs). Thanks to the Apprenticeship Program of the Visual Arts Department of the University of Ottawa, the Archives expects to have one student working on this project on an ongoing basis.

Considerable progress was made in the first year of the project. As of the end of January 2001, 844 photographs have been entered in the system -estimated to be just under a quarter of the existing collection. (Continued growth of the collection, through new acquisitions of photographs from Historical Society members and others, will of course affect the statistics over time.)

The new system already has had an impact on current operations. The Archives no longer copies photographs loaned for later return to their owners; rather, it simply scans and describes them. The image exists electronically and the system can produce a quality hard copy whenever required. These processes have reduced costs and resulted in faster turn around time on loaned images.

The next major step in this project is for the Society to acquire its own hardware (to date we have been using Adrienne Herron's own computer, scanner, printer, etc.). We expect to have this equipment in place in our Chelsea site sometime this Spring.

Accessions (Received During 2000)

Papers of **Dr. Harold Geggie**, correspondence and other documents pertaining to the Gatineau Memorial Hospital, 1951-53; received from Norma Geggie.

Scrapbooks of **Sadie (Timmins) Stevenson**, from the home of Charles Stevenson, a long-time resident of Wakefield, involved in community affairs; presented by Anita Rutledge.

Henry W. Trowsse (blacksmith, Chelsea, 1880s), envelope of insurance receipts, insurance document, etc., 1886-1906; received from Dan Charlton, Chelsea.

Receipts, bank records, etc. of **George Weinling of Wakefield**, 1930-53; presented by Norma Geggie.

Papers of **Allan Richens**, secretary of Chelsea School Board, 1969-1972 -6 files pertaining to Chelsea School; received from Allan Richens.

Portraits of **P.M.O. Evans**, 1943, 1992, and 1997 (taken by Adrienne Herron); presented by Bill Pawley.

Copies of **The Gatineau Echo**, published by Billy Wilson of Cascades in 1935; copied from originals owned by Preston Wilson.

Three photographs donated by **Musie Brown**: a river scene, Cascades ball team and Summerlea ball field, 1930s; interior of Tip Top, 1940s.

(continued on p.4)

New Accessions (continued)

Photograph of **Cascades railway station**, ca. 1910, donated by Bob Hughes.

Copy of photograph of **Wakefield Methodist Church** and Rev. H.A. York, from Gladys Payne.

Geggie Collection -photographs of Wakefield structures, 1910 flood, hospital garden party, received from Norma Geggie. .

Copies of three photographs of the **Tip Top Restaurant**, Cascades, ca. 1930, from Preston Wilson.

Copies of eleven photographs of Wakefield village, Caves ferry at Farm Point, Rupert Presbyterian Church, Cantley pits - from Anita Rutledge.

Fourteen photographs of **P.M.O. Evans** taken by Adrienne Herron in 1997- donated by Adrienne Herron. Sound recordings (cassettes), slides of items used in displays at **MacLaren House Museum**, 1990s; donated by Norma Geggie.

Colour photographs of **Armistice Day Exhibit** at the Chelsea Library, November 1999, donated by Allan Richens.

Photograph of **Patrick Evans** at auction sale, Chelsea, ca. 1980, donated by Bill and Cathy Pawley.

Copies of documents presented by **Harry Gow** concerning his heritage property in Chelsea, 1861-1937.

Copy of photograph of **Union Church, Cascades** - wedding of Jack and Helen Ditchfield Ravenscroft, 6 Sept. 1941 - from Helen Ravenscroft.

Photographs of Old Chelsea Burial Ground (1999), Meech Creek Valley covered bridge (1975), Sully Brown farm (1970s), house and cemetery on Shouldice Road, La Pêche (1999), Fairbairn/McNally house, Wakefield (1999) - donated by Huguette Poulin.

Seven postcards and one photo of Wakefield area, donated by Norma Geggie,

Records of **Earle Sleigh and Carriage Co., Wakefield** - "Loan Notes," invoices, etc. 1925-1936; loaned by Barry Smith for copying.

Copies of two photographs of **W .L. Mackenzie King at Kingsmere**, from originals in National Archives.

Two copies of photographs of teacher and class in front of **Cascades Church School**, ca. 1910 and ca. 1918, from Monique Larocque.

Collection of photographs of **Mulvihill family** and **Hollow Glen**, 1940s and 1950s; text "Memories of Hollow Glen," by Edna Young - loaned for copying by Leo Mulvihill.

Jay Atherton, Archivist

Publications Committee

Total sales for the year 2000 were \$2545.49 (\$1434.34 from our retailers and \$1144.95 direct to customers). This was down 11.5 % from last year. *Hurling Down the Pine* continues to be our steadiest and most price worthy item. We still have many boxes in stock. The French edition of *Touring the Two Chelseas* has sold out but we still have a large number of the English version in stock. *Blue Sea Lake* is also sold out. We participated in the sale of the Municipalities Calendar but did not catch the market in time and sold only 21 of them. The remainder were returned as unsold stock.

We are again carrying the *Extra Mile* and added a *Place Apart* for Nonna Geggie. Temporarily at least we appear to have exhausted the market for our historical map with only 2 sold during the year .

Outlets in the area that carry our publications include:

Adrianna' s	End of the Line	M&R. Old Chelsea
Chapters (Sussex Store)	Boutique Decouverte	Epicene du Parc
O'Bonsoin Phalmacy	Boutique Sante	Gerry and Isobel's
Charles IGA	Chelsea Municipal Office	

Gudula Marshall

Membership

A reminder that 2001 membership fees are due for those members whose membership expired at the end of 2000. please check your address label. Membership dues are unchanged; i.e. \$15 for 1 year or \$25 for 2 years. All paid-up members will receive a free copy of the 2001 issue of *Up The Gatineau!*

Financial Committee

As in previous years, the Financial Committee developed a budget for this year (2001) in consultation with the Executive and other committees, and provided advice and assistance to the Treasurer. The Financial Statement (below) details the 2000 revenues/expenditures and the long term investments.

I Revenue:

Bank Balance 01-01-00 Royal Bk A/C 5097654		4,579.06
Memberships		2,285.00
Publications		2,246.23
Chelsea Calendars		198.50
Bank Interest		16.37
Publication Loan Repayment		2,000.00
Rem Day Refund (99)		44.00
Wakefield Walking Trail Project - La Pêche Grant		2,000.00
Wakefield Rupert Alcove Men's Club		100.00
Dinner		1,013.00
Donations		54.00
Veterans' Plaque - Chelsea Grant		500.00
Hudson Historical Society Donation		100.00
Annual Auction (incl. \$100 of donations)		10,483.86
GST & QST Rebate (96-99)		<u>1,911.88</u>
	Total:	\$24,531.90

II Expenditures:

Administration:		
Office Supplies	765.41	
Telephone	516.34	
Bank Fees	103.91	
Honoraria	1,050.00	
Web Site (www.hsog.org)	245.57	
Outaouais Alliance	25.00	
PO Box Rental	71.32	
Gift - Carol Singing (99)	<u>23.01</u>	2,800.78
Publications - UTG, Books		2,604.80
Newsletter		1,050.85
Archives		1,215.82
Meetings - Advertising		1,609.82
AG Meeting		434.22
Wakefield Walking Trail Project		7,447.89
Portrait - Hyndman		563.75
Dinner		1,010.26
Greenwood Centre for Living History		200.00
Chelsea Photo Quiz		50.00
Annual Auction		1,985.00
Remembrance Day		150.00
Luncheon - Hudson Historical Society		240.00
Library Display		1,838.10
Chelsea Municipal Plaque		100.00
Pioneer Cemetery		790.00
Bank Balance 31-12-00 Royal Bk A/C 5097654		<u>3,440.22</u>
	Total:	\$27,531.90

III Long Term Assets:

Investments:		
Cda Saving Bond maturing 01 Nov 2003	16,000.00	
Cda Saving Bond maturing 01 Nov 2007	8,000.00	
Cda Saving Bond maturing 01 Dec 2009	<u>5,000.00</u>	29,200.00
Royal Bk GIC maturing 18 Jan 2003	5,421.61	
Royal Bk GIC maturing 18 Apr 2001	7,862.06	13,283.67
Publication Loan: "A Place Apart"		<u>1,500.00</u>
	Total:	\$43,983.67*

* Includes Que Government grant of \$4.9K for publication of "In Memory of Chelsea Pioneer Cemeteries" and amounts remaining from the following previously donated funds: Pioneer Cemetery \$4,000; A Davison \$2,205; MA Phillips \$1,800; Memorial \$1,836.

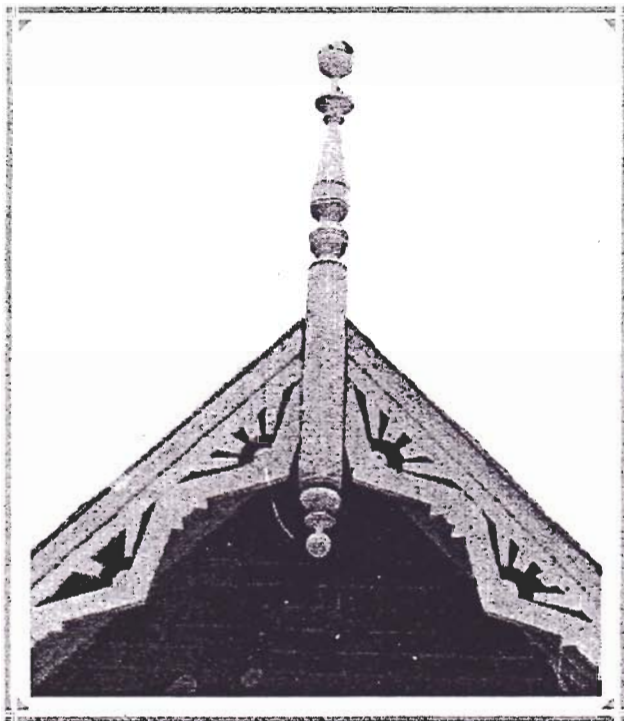
Note: The above does not include fixed assets and inventory of publications.

Do you know?

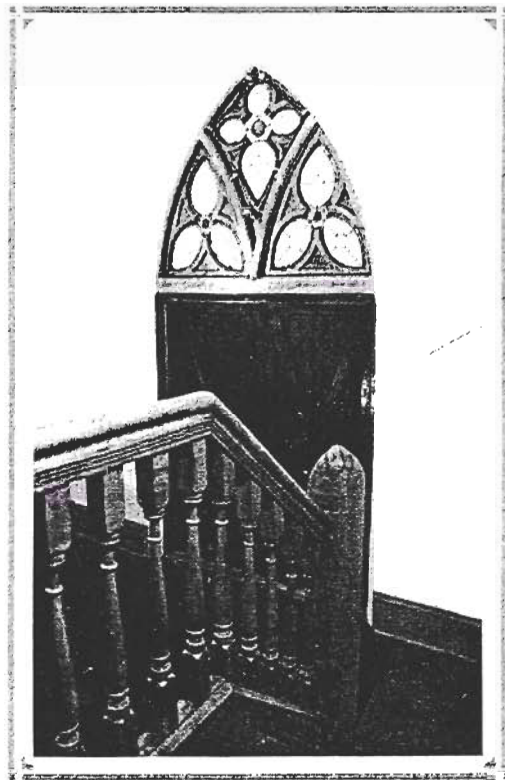
As a regular feature of the HSG Newsletter, we will be publishing selections from the HSG Image Bank, and asking members to help us identify the persons and/or places in the photographs. This information will be added to the database record that accompanies each image.

For the two images below we are seeking the answers to the following: the name of the church, year it was built (or approximate date), location of Church (town), and the year the photographs were made (or approximate year). If you know the answers to these questions, please contact Adrienne Herron at 827-9125.

Also, we want to encourage you to contact the Society archives if you would be willing to lend us your old photos to be scanned into the Image Bank. If you think you have something of interest, please do not hesitate to contact Jay Atherton at 827-1703.



*Details of church architecture and furnishings.
Reproduction from "Unto the Hills", page 13.
Barry Schwerdfeger, photographer.*



Coming Events

Monday April 23, 2001, 7:30pm
Chelsea Community Centre

This HSG monthly meeting will see the return of the popular *Show and Tell Night*. If you have some historic items to show and tell, please bring them along. We are especially interested in old photos of the Places, events and people of The Gatineau

Monday May 21, 2001, 6:30pm
Club Cascades Club

This year, the HSG Dinner will be held at the Cascades Club. The cost for this year's dinner will be \$25, and the invited speaker is Lee McDonald, Assistant National Archivist of Canada. Call the HSG number to reserve tickets.