

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

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NEWSLETTER

No. 2003-01 : February - March 2003

Coming Events

Monday February 17, 2003, 7:30 p.m.
Chelsea Community Centre

HSG Annual General Meeting
and

Ernie Mahoney, Preston Wilson,
and Judy Grant:

Memories of Journalism in The
Gatineau over the past 50 years.

HSG business meeting to vote on a name change of the HSG, awards, elections of officers, and other business. Also, local artist Ed Robinson's exhibit: Chelsea : The Historic Series.

Monday March 17, 2003, 7:30 p.m.
Chelsea Community Centre

Jean-Paul Murray:


Memory Suppressed: R. Percy Sparks,
Founder of the Gatineau Park

Though Roderick Percy Sparks, more than any other man, worked tirelessly to create the Gatineau Park -- developing public support, lobbying the government, drafting the first master plans -- his memory has been all but forgotten. Accordingly, any mention of his name to Gatineau Park information officers -- to the NCC chairman, even -- elicits only shrugs and blank stares...

Moreover, digging into his story reveals a man who, among other things, brought down the King government in 1926 and prompted a Constitutional crisis (the King-Byng affair) that would forever curtail the authority of Canada's governors general ... a man who worked alongside F.R. Scott denouncing sweat shops and defending workers

"WHAT`S IN A NAME?"

Since its founding in 1962 our Society's name has been "The Historical Society of The Gatineau." Consistently, over the years, newcomers and the media have referred to it as "The Gatineau Historical Society," which implies that our mandate covers the City of Gatineau rather than the rural Gatineau Valley. With the creation of the new City of Gatineau, what was a small problem is now a large one. The solution, however, is easy.

**HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

**OF THE
GATINEAU**

At the general meeting on Monday evening, February 17, I shall be introducing and moving adoption of a resolution to amend our constitution by changing its name to "The Gatineau Valley Historical Soci-

ety" ("La Société historique de la Vallée de la Gatineau"). I hope as many members as possible will be in attendance to discuss and vote on this resolution. Those unable to attend who wish to express an opinion might consider calling me at (819) 827-1703, or sending me an e-mail message at koko@sympatico.ca.
(Jay Atherton, Archivist)

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Referred to as "a great student of history, an authority on Shakespeare ... noted for his complete integrity and intellectual honesty," in his *Ottawa Journal* obituary, he stands as a folk hero and giant in the story of our community and our nation. The focus of this discussion is to demonstrate that Percy Sparks deserves much greater recognition than has so far been given to him.

Writer, translator, researcher Jean-Paul Murray current works as special advisor to the Senate Speaker. He has been round and about Parliament Hill for some sixteen years, and has worked for numerous members, including the Hon. Jacques Hébert, as well as the deputy opposition house leader, Jacques Guilbault. The former managing editor and translating coordinator of *Cité libre*, a magazine founded by the late Pierre Elliott Trudeau, he has translated six books and published articles in various magazines. He is currently translating his seventh book for McClelland and Stewart, titled *Testament d'un tueur des Hells*. He lives in Chelsea.

FROM THE IMAGE BANK

CENTRAL CANADA

SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

CAMP FORTUNE

15 Minutes from FDC Meach Lake Road Parking Lot
Sleigh Transportation Available :25c:

SUNDAY, FEB. 13

SLALOM RACING 10 A.M.
SKI JUMPING 2 P.M.

ADMISSION (Both Events) ADULTS 50c CHILDREN 25c
EXCELLENT BUS SERVICE GOOD ROADS FREE PARKING

OTTAWA SKI CLUB

This is a ski poster for the ski championships held at Camp Fortune by the Ottawa Ski Club in 1949. This poster is from a collection of photos, brochures and maps donated by Allan Richens after his talk on the history of skiing made to HSG's AGM in Feb. 2002.

January Meeting

On one of the coldest evenings of the new year, invited speaker Marie-Louise Perron of the Library and Archives of Canada warmed HSG members with her enthusiasm and dedication in promoting the Canadian Genealogy Centre. This soon to be launched the Internet site will be a virtual meeting place that will offer services, authoritative content, advice and research tools for genealogist and Canadian Public.

Recent polls have shown that Genealogy is a budding industry in Canada, with half the population showing interest in tracing their family and ancestors on a proposed one-stop government Internet site. Ms. Perron's presentation offered an advanced preview of what this Internet portal will look like and discussed some of the challenges inherent in it's creation.

After the slide presentation, the audience had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss a number of issues relating to genealogy, including the emergence of "genealogy tourism" and the Federal Government's recent decision to allow the release of the post-1901 census which had been opposed by Statistics Canada on privacy grounds.

Of particular interest to the HSG, Marie-Louise talked about the possibility of the Society contributing to the National Name Index for the 1901 Census which will be hosted on the Canadian Genealogy Centre's website. Certainly something for the Society to think about!

Once again, on behalf of the HSG many thanks to Marie Louise sharing her expertise and experience with HSG. More information of the Canadian Genealogy Centre can be found at www.genealogy.gc.ca.

HSG Archivist Honoured by his Peers

At the annual conference of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA), Friends of the National Archives President and HSG Archivist Jay Atherton was awarded a special honour—a life membership in the ACA.

A native of Vancouver, Jay worked as an archivist and manager with the National Archives of Canada for thirty two years, until his retirement in 1993. He then served as Archivist of Carleton University and taught part-time in the Archives Technician Program at Algonquin College. He is currently Archivist of the Historical Society of the Gatineau as well as President of the Friends of the National Archives.

The Society, joining with many other friends and colleagues, wish to extend our warmest congratulation to Jay.