

GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Aug—Sept. 2003

Box/C.P. 1803 Chelsea PQ J9B 1A1 (819) 827-4432

Number 2003-04

Coming Events

**Monday, Sept. 22, 7:30 PM
Cascades Club**

Show and Tell Night

Everyone welcome! Society members will present some recent acquisitions and selections from the GVHS Archives and Image Bank. The Show and Tell will focus on the historic landscape of Cascades and the Gatineau Valley. Members and guests are encouraged to show their own personal memorabilia, records, family photos, maps, etc., or any other interesting items relating to Gatineau Valley history. **Please note** the special date and location for the September meeting. The Cascades Club is located at 100 Ch. de la Rivière. (Off Highway 105 at Tulip Valley) .

**Monday, Oct. 20, 7:30 PM
Chelsea Community Centre**

Life and Times of a Fireman on the Gatineau Line: Duncan du Fresne

Duncan du Fresne is a retired Canadian Pacific fireman who often worked on the Maniwaki Sub-Division (known as the 'Gatineau Line') during the 40s' and 50s'. Mr. du Fresne is a member of the Bytown Railway Society whose aim is to promote railway history in the Bytown region and across the country. The Society publishes. **Branchline - Canada's Rail Newsmagazine** 11 times a year in which Mr. du Fresne contributes a regular column called *Tidbits*. He will have on hand copies of the articles he has written about the 'Maniwaki Sub'.

More coming events on page 4

Tribute to Bob Phillips

Those of us who attended the 40th GVHS Auction felt the absence of Bob Phillips, who always attended (and made astute purchases) the Society's fundraiser - an event he helped to create and maintain. After 40 years of faithful service and support to the Society, Bob Phillips died in his log home on July 9 at the age of 81. *(Continued on page 2)*



Bob Phillips was instrumental in making the Society's Auction a Gatineau Valley tradition. *(Image Collage by Adrienne Herron)*

Reconciliation Ceremony at Old Duclos Cemetery

"C 'etait problemement la premiere fois qui se reunissaient en un acte de reconciliation, les descendants de ceux qui etaient separees vers 1850-1870."

This remark was made by Henri Martineau following a solemn ceremony at the old French Protestant cemetery near Duclos, Quebec, organized by the 150th Anniversary Committee of the Ste-Cecile de Masham Parish on August 2, 2003.

Mr. Martineau, president of the Anniversary Committee, welcomed about 80 guests to the bilingual ceremony which focused on reconciliation with those families who long ago chose to leave the Masham parish and join a group locally known as "Les Suisses" Protestants who had formed a community near Duclos, a small village north of Masham.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1) Bob Phillips was a man of many facets. In the late '20s he was a copy boy at the Toronto Star, where his mastery of language made itself evident. This stood him in good stead later, as the author of six books and hundreds of magazine articles across more than half a century.

He served with the Canadian Army in northwest Europe, and after the war he joined the then Department of External Affairs, and was promptly posted to Moscow, 1947-49. On one occasion, Bob met and shook the hand of Joseph Stalin. On his return - as was the order of the day - he went to the National Defense College.

In 1967, he and his late wife Maryanne were part of a small committee charged with beautifying the capital for Canada's centennial year; it rapidly became a committee to prevent the razing of the centre of the city. The plans included a scheme to fill in the Rideau Canal to create a road into the centre of town, and tearing down the Union Station to make way for a parking lot. Both daft ideas were scrapped, thanks to Bob's hard lobbying as to the folly of the scheme.

He established Heritage Canada - not to be confused with the government department of the same name - in April, 1973. In addition to founding Heritage Canada, he saved the 1875 Grant House at 150 Elgin Street that became its first headquarters. A year earlier, Bob Phillips undertook, again with Maryanne, the monumental project of reconstructing an 1819 barn on his Cantley property.

The reconstruction took from 1972 to 1976 to fully realize the dream. It became known as "The Grange", the crown jewel of their collection of five other rescued heritage log buildings that were erected on the property over the years. The Grange was the most ambitious log restoration ever attempted in Canada. As fate would have it, the great structure caught fire on April 25, 1992, with a loss of Bob Phillip's many treasures and his personal library, including a collection of 16th-century maps, and a life-time of photo albums. At first the building was considered a total loss; but, on close examination it was determined that the logs suffered only charring an inch deep. Bob determined it would be rebuilt, and, indeed, rebuild it he did in time to move in for Christmas, 1992.

The Grange became one of the most celebrated meeting places of West Quebec, where Bob's hospitality welcomed thousands for events which ranged from fundraisers to his grand Dominion Day parties.

THE ORDER OF CANADA

Certainly the most significant honour of his many was his appointment to the Order of Canada on December 1987. The Citation reads: A former soldier, diplomat, and public servant, this writer and lecturer has laboured for many years, personally and through organizations at the local and national level, to increase public awareness of our Canadian heritage. His pioneering work in this field was acknowledged by his appointment as the founding President of Heritage Canada.

He served as President of the Historical Society of the Gatineau 1984-88 and is an Honorary Life Member. He left an indelible mark on the Society, especially in promoting its annual auction, of which he was its best customer, with a knowing eye for valuable antiques. Bob's many contacts aided the Society's work immeasurably.

Bob was a great believer in the power and the economy of well chosen words, and that good words should give as much pleasure to the writer as to the reader. We hope that Bob's memory will live through his great deeds and the good words he shared with us all.

(Ernie Mahoney)

Report of 40th Annual Auction

Date: 16 Aug, 2003, 0900-1300

Location: St. Stephen's Church Grounds, Old Chelsea.

Weather: Sunny, warm, breezy

Auctioneer: Gerry Lepage

Number of Donors: 40: (29 for regular auction and 19 solicited donors for celebrity & silent auction). Also, several anonymous donations (grouped under one registration number).

Number of Registered Bidders: 94

Residency of Bidders: Mainly Chelsea, Gatineau, Ottawa. One from the U.S.A.

Revenue

Bake Table	\$270.55	Flea Market	\$ 554.75
Books	\$176.00	Silent Auction	\$594.00
Auction	\$3365.00	Donations	\$20.00
Publications	\$18.00	Memberships	\$180.00
Total	\$5242.55	(Less %50 rebate to some donors)	

Auction Coordinators: Ernie Mahoney & Theresa Winfield.

Volunteer Team: Jay Atherton, Allan Richens, Mary Armitage, Dave & Eileen Castleman, Klaus Decker, Randolph Gherson, Anita Rutledge, Norma Geggie, Peggy Atherton, Carol Martin, Shirley Dufour, Rory Winfield, Joe Fitzpatrick, Brian Arthur, Marc Cockburn, Duncan Marshall, Michael Cooper, Marguerite Fitzpatrick, Alice Chandler, Sacha Smirnoff, Bill McGuffin, Bob Martin, Harold & Margaret Reid, Rene Nielsen, Betty Allen, Natasha Sabalotny, George & Sylvia Shawcross, Gudula Marshall, Richard Herron, Dominique Alie, Lois Wilson, Joy Cameron, Adrienne Herron.

Once again, Thanks to all the volunteers.

(continued from page 1) Guests at the ceremony, including descendants of "Les Suisses" families, joined Armand Dufour and Ralph Robinson in readings from a special reconciliation service, enhanced by chants and hymns by the Masham church choir and Mr. Robinson. Honorary patrons for the 125th Anniversary, Annette Robertson and Aurele Sincennes, attended the ceremony.

The cemetery and adjoining property, where a church, manse, and school once stood, had been cleared of underbrush and neatly landscaped by a team of local volunteers in preparation for the event. And a heritage plaque had been erected in recognition of the cemetery's 1998 designation as a site of historic significance by the Municipality of La Pêche. Also on display were models showing the buildings that stood on this land for over half a century.

Mr. Martineau, president of the Anniversary Committee, welcomed about 80 guests to the bilingual ceremony which focused on reconciliation with those families who long ago chose to leave the Masham parish and join a group locally known as "Les Suisses" Protestants who had formed a community near Duclos, a small village north of Masham.

Norman Robinson of Kazabazua, whose ancestors belonged to the "Les Suisses" community had prepared a short history for the ceremony. He explained that by 1870 the Masham Catholic congregation had grown to 170 families, making a new church necessary. Choosing a site for the new church re-kindled a long-standing grievance by parishioners who lived to the north of Masham village, dating back to 1845 when the first place of worship was built in the village instead of at a spot more accessible to rural members of the parish. When the new church was again located at Masham, a group of parishioners decided to leave the church and join Cal-

vinism Presbyterian adherents at Duclos. In 1883 a French Protestant church, along with a manse and stable, was erected there. By the year 1900 a small school and cemetery had been added to the complex.

As the years went by a gradual decline in the Duclos church membership became evident. Some families had returned to the Masham church, others had moved to new communities or married outside their faith; in other cases, death had taken the last family member from the community. In the 1930s the stable and school were taken down. By the mid-1900s the house had been demolished and the church dismantled and moved to another location. After the church was gone, until the 1960s, relatives of the church families gathered each year at Jim Robinson's farm for a picnic and a memorial service at the old Duclos cemetery.

Today, all that visibly remains of the French Protestant church complex at Duclos is the cemetery - and a fence that surrounds the entire property. Seven stone markers remain intact, and there are eleven known unmarked graves. Among those buried here are members of the Giroux, Larche, Sincennes, Muckle and Robertson (Robinson) families.

After the August 2nd reconciliation ceremony at the cemetery, a reception hosted by Committee members was held at the Masham Church Hall. Conversation centred around what, when and why events had occurred as they did away back then, and who were the people in the historic photos that were displayed for viewing by guests. Refreshments were served, and a nostalgic reunion and very special event had come to an end.

(Anita Rutledge August 12, 2003)

The 150th Anniversary Committee and its supporters have planned and hosted many events and celebrations in 2003, and they have undertaken a number of ambitious projects, not the least of which is the publication of a history book on the Parish, its families and community life. This 186-page history book is written in easy-to-read French, and is well illustrated.

It is entitled "150e anniversaire Paroisse Ste-Cecile de Masham 1853-2003" and is now available from the Masham church office (456-2212) or at several stores in the area, for \$15 a copy. For more information you may wish to call Eric Proulx at 456-2947.

Congratulations are due to all members of the Anniversary Committee and their supporters for the dedication and creativity they have displayed in looking back at their community and for working so hard, and in co-operation with others, to ensure that the history of these 150 years in their parish is celebrated and recorded for future generations.

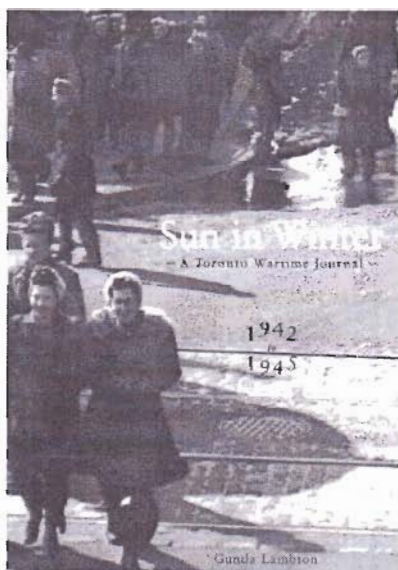
GVHS Archives Reopening

The Society's Archives will be reopening on Monday, September 8. Located below the municipal Library on Old Chelsea Road, the Archives is open to visitors on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons, between 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Come and see what we have to offer. Anyone interested in working with us will be especially welcome. We need extra hands for projects involving the organization and description of records, processing photographs and entering information into our automated Image Bank, looking after our holdings of maps, taking care of our Library of reference books, and responding to requests for information. Researchers with specific requirements should call to make an appointment to meet with a specific volunteer. To do this, or to obtain general information on the Archives and its services, contact Jay Atherton at 827-1703 (koko@sympatico.ca).

Thursday September, 18th 7:00-8:00
Nicholas Hoare Books, 419 Sussex, Ottawa

*Book Launch for Sun in Winter: A Toronto
Wartime Journal, 1942-1945*

Society Member, and frequent contributor to *Up the Gatineau!*, **Gunda Lambton**, will be launching her new book called *Sun in Winter: A Toronto Wartime Journal, 1942-1945*.



The book tells the intriguing story of one woman's life as a single mother sent to Canada from England for safekeeping during the war.

In 1942 Gunda Lambton was a "war guest," a single mother sent from England to Toronto to avoid the war. While insanity raged throughout Europe she struggled to keep herself and her two small children going in a strange

new home. *Sun in Winter* captures her keen interest in life in Canada and draws vivid pictures of the many people who helped her survive.

It is dedicated to these great-hearted people and to the city of Toronto, which emerges as one of the story's central characters. Almost all Canadian families were involved in war work, directly or indirectly. While most memoirs of the time stress the dramatic and heroic, *Sun in Winter* is a tribute to the quiet areas of endurance and pleasures of discovery that also distinguished these years.

Gunda Lambton, an artist and writer living in Alcové, Quebec, is the author of several books, including *Stealing the Show: Seven Women Artists in Canadian Public Art* and *The Wildest Rivers, the Oldest Hills: Tales of the Gatineau and Pontiac*.

The book can be ordered at www.amazon.com, or directly from the McGill-Queen's University Press c/o Georgetown Terminal Warehouses, 34 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, ON, L7G 4R9. Email to orders@gtwcanada.com. Toll free number: 1-877-864-8477

September 26-28, 2003
Quebec City, QC

*Make Passage for Quebec City's
Heritage Days*

The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) is joining government and local organizations to promote Quebec city's *Les Journées de la culture*, September 26 - 28, 2003. Join the thousands of people who come together every year in this vast popular movement to educate their fellow citizens and raise awareness of the importance of culture and heritage.

The weekend will be highlighted by the arrival of the *The Jeanie Johnston* a remarkable replica of the original ship which was built in Quebec in 1847 and carried Irish emigrants from County Kerry, Ireland to the United States and Canada during the years of the Irish potato famine.

QAHN will sponsor activities for member groups or individuals attending and has reserved some reasonably priced accommodation. For details, call too free: 1-877-964-0409, or by email: home@qahn.org

Sunday September 14, 2003 1:00-5:00
Library and Archives of Canada
395 Wellington Street Ottawa

*Preservation Quest! How to Preserve your
Home Movies, CDs, Videos, and more.*

Hosted by the Canadian Conservation Institute, the Library and Archives of Canada, and the Canadian Heritage Information Network, this special event is designed to raise public awareness about the preservation of personal electronic records such as home movies and videos, sound recordings (vinyl records, cassettes, audio CDs), digital photographs, and data files (diskettes and CDs). The afternoon promises to be both fun and informative. Come join us and make sure your own electronic treasures are not lost forever!

Free Admission! Free Parking!

**The Master of Ceremony will be
Ken "The General" Grant.**