

GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Jun — Jul 2004

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Number 2004-03

Coming Events

June 26, 2004, 9:30 am

Starting at the Wakefield Rec Centre

Join us on a Pontiac Heritage Tour!

All are invited to enjoy a summer field trip to the Pontiac region on Saturday June 26, to be hosted by the **Pontiac Historical Society**.

The Pontiac region is very rich in architectural and natural history. The log houses, the old farm-houses, and the wooden fences tell the stories of the first inhabitants of this region, the woodsmen and the settlers. The purpose of the Pontiac Historical Society is "the education of its members and the public in matters of local history by the collection and preservation of such materials as shall be of interest as local history"

To make the event a real summer outing, we will form car-pools in Wakefield, drive through the remote section of Gatineau Park north of Lac Philippe and over to Highway 148 to Shawville. We will bring our own picnic baskets with goodies for an open-air lunch.

Itinerary:

09:30am: Meet at the Wakefield Recreation Centre (opposite Wakefield Post Office) to form car-pools.

10.30am: Meet and greet, by the President of the Pontiac Historical Society, Rev. William McDowell.

11:00am: Visit the Pontiac Archives in its new Library location, with overview of contents and services.

12:00pm: Picnic lunch and tour of the developing site of the Armstrong Heritage Farm, a 30-acre historical re-creation on the outskirts of Shawville.

**For more information, contact
Michael Cooper at 459-2787**

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GVHS Annual Dinner

As GVHS Past-president Ernie Mahoney remarked in his welcoming address, this year's Annual Dinner at the Heritage Hall in Low was a first for the Gatineau Valley Historical Society. It was the first time the Society have held a major event north of Wakefield and we had our largest attendance ever.

Over 200 people came to the dinner from all over the Gatineau Valley, including the Mayors of five municipalities north of Low.

The evening was highlighted by special guest Wayne Rostad who opened his performance by noting that "You know you're getting old in years when the historical society invites you to speak."

During the his speech, he referred to the Gatineau Valley, his old stomping ground as "where everyone escapes to" and he related his history in the area through anecdotes and songs that had the crowd in stitches. He sang his songs about the Wakefield Steam Train, Doug Ryan's BP Station, Clarence Hickey's 1948 Dodge truck, and the Chateau Pearson's cast iron trough. Mr. Rostad spoke fondly of the Low Lions Club, the Gatineau Clog, and many people he recognized in the crowd.

To thank him for his participation in our Annual Dinner, the GVHS presented Mr. Rostad with an Honourary Life Membership for his work in preserving history in the area through his songs and for his outstanding work in supporting communities across Canada.

Earlier in the evening, the Arthur Davison Prize for the best article in the 2003 edition of *Up the Gatineau!*, was awarded to Heather Quipp for her article "Old Mountain Lodge at Kingsmere."

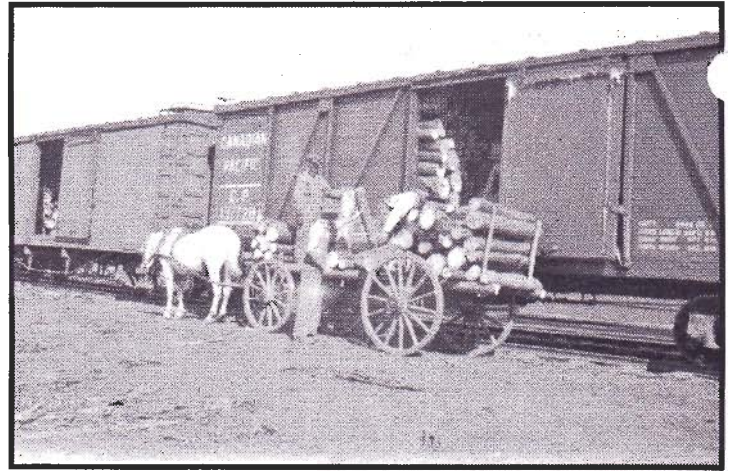


GVHS Exhibition Opens in Low

Coinciding with the Annual Dinner, the GVHS participated in a "preview" opening of the new Visitor Centre located in the old Sûreté du Québec building in Low. Within the facility, the GVHS has set up an exhibition of Gatineau Valley images drawn from the collections of the GVHS Image Bank, Library and Archives Canada, and les Archives Nationales du Québec, Outaouais. The presentation includes 22 photos, artwork, and maps related to the settlement of the upper Gatineau Valley, the logging industry, the development of the railway, and the building of the Pagan Dam.

The GVHS wishes to thank the individuals who assisted in the preparation of this exhibition: Caroline Hogan, Norm Ramsay and Sophie Dazé from Library and Archives Canada; Luc Brazeau from les Archives Nationales du Québec, Outaouais; GVHS members Duncan Marshall and Bruce Ballantyne; caption writer Tamara Tarasoff; and translators Robert et Denise Carrière of Communications St-Germain.

The Visitor Centre will open to the public around the weekend of June 26th. Some of the images are reproduced in this Newsletter



Loading Pulp at Station, Kazabazua (1924)

John Boyd, photographer

*John Boyd Collection / Library and Archives Canada
(R-000133)*



Cutting Corn in Kazabazua (1924)

John Boyd, photographer

*John Boyd Collection / Library and Archives Canada
(PA-086858)*

Membership Reminder

Please check your membership status code, which is located on the right hand side of the mailing label on the envelope of this Newsletter. If the code is 2003/12, please renew your membership by sending a cheque for \$25 (2 years) or \$15 (1 year). All paid-up members will receive the NEW volume 30 of *Up the Gatineau!* (a \$7 value, free to members).

July 5th to July 10th, 2004

137 Centre Street, Shawville

Open House for the Pontiac Archives

The annual open house for the Pontiac Archives will be held July 5th to the 10th. The hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, and 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday.

Pontiac Historical Society

www.rootsweb.com/%7Eeqcpontia/pont_hist_soc.html

Pontiac Heritage

www.cycloparcppj.org/patrim_a.htm

Aug 21, 2004, 9:00 am

St. Stephens Church, Old Cheslea

GVHS Annual Auction and Flea market

The GVHS Annual Auction returns with the 41th edition of this popular summer event on Saturday August 21, 2004. Again the Society will be counting on the help of volunteers for the organizing committee or on the day of the event, and on donations of items to be auctioned.

If you can help, please contact Jay Atherton (827-1703), Marc Cockburn (459-2004), or Theres. Winfield (827-0678).