



GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Apr — May 2006

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

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Coming Events

Gatineau Valley Historical Society - 2006 Annual Dinner

6:00PM, Monday, May 22nd, 2006
Edelweiss Golf and Country Club

Join the Society as we celebrate our achievements in bringing awareness to the heritage of the Gatineau Valley. Our guest speaker **Mr. Peter Frood, Director of Parks Canada's Historic Places Initiative**, will speak on how communities in the Gatineau Valley can value, enjoy and conserve our local historic places. Local traditional musician, stonemason and police pipe band member **Bobby Watt** will enchant the audience with his many vocal talents and charming Scottish brogue.

This year's dinner is in support of the future **Musée Fairbairn Museum**, a community project of the Gatineau Valley Historical Society to develop a quality bilingual museum focusing on the human and natural heritage of the Gatineau Valley using the original home of William Fairbairn, a Wakefield founder and builder of the first grist mill on the La Pêche river in 1838.

Everyone welcome!

Tickets: \$25.00 per person. To purchase a ticket, please contact Rene Nielsen at 27.1845

Report of the 2006 Annual General Meeting Monday February 20, 2006, Chelsea Community Centre

Presidents Message:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and thank you for attending the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Gatineau Valley Historical Society. Before moving on to the business portion of the program and to our speaker Mr. Ken Buck, I would like to take a few moments to highlight some of the Society's accomplishments this past year.

Overall, our main success this year has been in strengthening our relationships with the local municipalities in which our activities are mainly based. The Society has been fortunate this year in gaining important allies to help us in our mission of bringing awareness to the heritage of the Gatineau Valley and I believe we are proving to be a valuable resource in the municipality's efforts to incorporate heritage elements in their long term plans.

We congratulate the Municipality of Chelsea for having introduced the new Chelsea Cultural Policy. Society members Carol Martin and Jay Atherton participated in the development the policy and will continue as permanent members of the Chelsea Cultural Policy Committee. One of the first tasks for this group will be to consolidate the Municipality's historic sites inventory. Society members were also involved in the celebration of Chelsea's 130th anniversary, with Carol Martin writing a series of short pieces for the Chelsea Express. As well, Carol and Society members Linda Bardell, Bob Hughes, Preston Wilson, and Eileen Castleman starred in a "Historic Fashion Show", along with Chelsea mayor Jean Peras and other municipal employees.

The 130th celebrations also included a ceremony at the Old Chelsea Protestant Burial Ground to inaugurate Chelsea's stewardship of this important historic site after many years of care-taking by the Society. The event also served as the official launching of Carol Martin's book *"In Memory of Chelsea's Historic Cemeteries"*. Again, congratulations to Carol for this

President's Message:

achievement and for adding depth to our knowledge of Chelsea's past.

Of course the biggest development in regard to Chelsea this year was our obtaining some secure space for the Society's archives in the newly renovated and expanded Chelsea Library. The executive were pleased to give some financial support in the amount of \$5,000 to this initiative, since we feel that this arrangement will go along way in helping us protect and build on our archives which we all acknowledge has become heart and soul of the Society.

Also relating to Chelsea, the Society was pleased to be involved in three NCC events to recognize the heritage aspects of Gatineau Park. Society member Alan Richens was instrumental in gently prompting the NCC to install Historic Plaques at Laurriault and Wattsford's lookouts, in order to recognize the important contributions of these families in shaping the cultural landscape of Gatineau Park. As well, Society member Jean-Paul Murray's article in Vol 30 of Up the Gatineau! proved to be a catalyst to have a room in the NCC visitor Centre named after Percy Sparks.

The big news in La Peche was the Society's successful efforts in lobbying municipal council to save the Fairbairn House and move it over the Hendrick Park where it will be turned into a regional museum in partnership with the GVHS. The municipality responded by spending almost 50K to make the move happen and the society has put together the Musee Fairbairn Museum Project Steering Committee which is currently in the process of hiring a consultant to help us write a business plan. As well, we are looking at some of immediate and long term design and construction issues, developing our vision in terms of the kind of exhibitions and programs we want to have, and putting together a communication plan. We are expecting to begin fund-raising efforts as soon as the business plan is complete and our general timetable for the museum to open is in the spring of 2007.

The municipality of La Peche continues to support the efforts of the Municipal Heritage Committee's program of recognizing La Peche historic buildings, and the committee is now looking at ways to improve the program by having the more note-worthy historic sites and buildings in LaPeche designated for protection. Many thanks to Norma Geggie, Anita Rutledge and Ernie Mahoney for their work on this Committee.

The Society's regular activities continue to do well. Michael and Fergus continue to craft an eclectic and well attended program of speakers, and our publications continue to be in high demand. Some of our published material and archival photos are about to be featured on the Outaouais Heritage WebMagazine that will be launched in April by the Quebec Anglophone Heritage network. Many thanks to Carol, Adrienne Heron and Michael Copper for spearheading this initiative.

The Society's auction, dinner, and Remembrance Day Ceremony were all very successful again this year and this is due mainly to the contributions of the many volunteers we have come to rely on over the years. Thanks very much everyone.

Finally I would like to thank the fantastic team that make up the Society's Board of Directors. I think we have responded very well to what I think was a busier than usual year, but at the same I think we need to acknowledge that all these great opportunities that are presented to us is stretching our volunteer energy. So as I renew my term tonight as Society President, I hope that I can continue to count on our members and executive to help me find ways to bring in new volunteer energy into the Society. (Marc Cockburn, Feb 2006)

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AWARDS: Presented at the 2006 AGM

Award of Honour

Jean Perras, Mayor of Chelsea, for his effort in ensuring that the Municipality of Chelsea would enjoy the benefits of a cultural policy suitable for all its citizens, and for his support for the work of the Historical Society.

Robert Bussière, Mayor of LaPêche, for his leadership in saving from the wrecker's ball the Fairbairn House, the most historic building in Wakefield, and moving it to Hendrick's Park for development as a museum.

Mary Armitage for dedication in her duties as Treasurer of the Historical Society. Her efficiency and effectiveness contribute significantly to the activities of the Society.

Bent Nielsen for his contributions to the smooth running of the Historical Society over the years. His ongoing assistance, with activity in many areas, has helped substantially in the smooth running of the Society.

William (Bill) Gonzales for his long-time interest in the heritage of LaPêche through his leadership of the municipal Heritage Committee. His efforts have assisted us greatly in

achieving our mission "to promote matters of historical or heritage significance in the Gatineau Valley."

Letter of Commendation

Marcel Marchildon, Director of Planning for the Municipality of LaPêche, for his technical assistance and valuable advice on the relocation of the Fairbairn House.

Pascale Barrette, Municipal Archivist of Chelsea, for her assistance and support, especially in the development and implementation of the programs for the 130th Anniversary Celebration, as well as her positive cooperation with the Society's Archives.

Charles Cardinal, Director of Public Relations, Municipality of Chelsea, for his valued assistance and cooperation in the successful programs promoted and developed by the Society, especially during Chelsea's 130th anniversary.

Bruce Devine, Director of Recreation and Cultural, Municipality of Chelsea, for his untiring effort in the establishment of a Cultural Policy for the Municipality

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 2005/12, 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 31 of *Up the Gatineau!* (a \$7 value, free to members).

From the Newsletter Editor: My sincere apologies for the tardiness in sending out this latest Newsletter. This has been an exiting and busy year for the Society's executive with new initiatives like the Fairbairn Museum project and the expansion of the Society's archives adding to our regular programming and events. The annual reports that normally accompany this issue of this newsletter will be available at the Dinner and published in the June/July issue of the Newsletter.

PUBLICATIONS REPORT:

As part of our mandate to encourage in local history, we publish *Up the Gatineau!*, a local history journal. Our bimonthly **Newsletter** contains information about coming events and other heritage items. As well, we promote other publications and writers dealing with Gatineau-area topics.

Up the Gatineau!

With 31 volumes and a comprehensive *Index for Volumes 1-30* (each volume is individually indexed, as well), a new volume of *Up the Gatineau!* is produced each year. The most recent winner of the **Arthur Davison prize** is **Archie Pennie**, for his article about "Old Mills in Aumond and Point Comfort," published in Volume 30. Archie continues to write and research new topics, but we are also delighted that new writers find new topics to write about, every year! At the Annual Dinner held in June at the Dunnderosa Golf Club, five authors (Carol Martin, Liz Palmer, Archie Pennie, Allan Richens and Preston Wilson) who contributed to Volume 31 were recognized. Members present at the dinner received copies of the publication, while those unable to attend received theirs by mail.

Sixteen local stores carry our publications. We also offer a publications table at our own meetings, and last year sold publications at five other events: the **Gene-O-Rama** and **British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa** (both in Ottawa), the **GVHS Annual Auction** in August, the annual **Craft Fair at Wakefield** in early November, and at the **McCorkell family reunion**. Sales from these special events realized \$576.45.

In 2005, the GVHS sold more than 625 books. Cash Receipts for 2005 amounted to \$3,164.50.

Harold and Margaret Reid manage publication sales, maintaining an inventory of our publications and distributing them. They bring a selection to the Society's regular meetings and deal with telephone, mail and e-mail requests. They can be reached at (819) 827-0138 or by e-mail reidh@travel-net.com

Other Publications and Incentives

In addition to its own publications, the Society provided an interest-free loan to **Carol Martin** for half of the publication costs of her new book, **In Memory of Chelsea's Historic Cemeteries**.

Norma Geggie repaid the publishing loan she had received from the Society for **Wakefield Revisited / Wakefield: un deuxième regard**, her most recent publication.

Norma's and Carol's books are also available through the GVHS. Also, complete sets of *Up the Gatineau!*, including the *Index*, are available at a special price. (Please see the inside back cover of *Up the Gatineau!* for a list of publications available through the Society—and remember, these publications make great gifts!)

The Society's **Newsletter**, with information about coming events and other heritage items, is edited by Marc Cockburn, and Shirley Brown has offered to assist with formatting it during the coming year. Contributions from members are always welcome. For the *Newsletter*, please contact Marc at mcockburn@archives.ca For *Up the Gatineau!* Carol Martin can be reached at the HSG address or by e-mail at rjcmartin@primus.ca.

Carol Martin, February 20, 2005

Outlets and stores that carry GVHS publications

Boutique Découverte
Brunet Drug Store (Wakefield)
Dépanneur B.G. Caron (Northfield)
Épicerie Générale du Parc
Gerry & Isobel's Boutique
Jamboree
McClelland & Sons (Poltimore)
Wakefield Bakery

Boutique Santé (Gatineau Memorial Hospital)
Chelsea Freshmart
End of the Line
Famille Charles IGA
Irwin's Store (Kazabazua)
Marché des Artisans de la Vallée (Wakefield)
M & R Dépanneur