

~ Preserving Our Gatineau Valley Heritage ~

Gatineau Valley historical society Newsletter

Winter Meetings - 2008

Monday, January 21st at 7:30 pm

Chelsea Community Centre - 220 Old Chelsea Road, Chelsea, QC

NEW FRANCE: THE SHAPING OF A NEW SOCIETY

Jean-Pierre Hardy, Historian and Curator, Archeology and History, Canadian Museum of Civilization,

An illustrated talk will show how the people of New France (1608-1760) succeeded in forming a new society, distinct from the mother country they had left. In doing so, they had to adapt their traditions, their behaviours, and their ways of doing things, while borrowing from the Native people and the environment.

The presentation will look at the themes of daily life such as: starting a family, finding food, dressing, personal hygiene, transportation, health and sickness, work, defence, trade, education, religion, and culture. In conclusion, a link between the 18th century society and today's will be made.



Monday, February 18th at 7:30 pm

Chelsea Community Centre - 220 Old Chelsea Road, Chelsea, QC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

and

THE FOUNDING OF THE ROYAL NAVAL DOCKYARD ~ 1759-2009

Captain Victor Suthren, Author and former Director, Canadian War Museum

"Halifax, Nova Scotia had been founded as a British settlement in 1749, intended as a counterpoint to the French port of Louisbourg. In 1759, as Britain assembled a fleet in Nova Scotia to carry Major General James Wolfe's army to Quebec and the Plains of Abraham, Rear Admiral Richard Durell formally established the Royal Navy Dockyard at Halifax, beginning a permanent Navy presence there that continues to this day. In July 2009 a major weekend pageantry event involving 60 tall ships, a flotilla of historic longboats, and hundreds of costumed re-enactors will commemorate the Founding and launch Canada's own Naval Centennial celebrations."



Monday, March 17th at 7:30 pm

Chelsea Community Centre - 220 Old Chelsea Road, Chelsea, QC

THE HEALEY FARM - AN NCC RESTORATION STORY OF IRISH SETTLEMENT IN THE GATINEAU VALLEY

David Maitland, Manager, Maintenance and Rehabilitation Services, National Capital Commission

He will speak on the NCC's conservation and adaptive reuse approach for the Healey Farm. The Farm's structures, located near the Herridge shelter, north of Harrington Lake, once housed an original homesteading family of the region. Conservation efforts have helped rehabilitate the farmhouse, which will become a day lodge to serve cross-country skiers, hikers and mountain bikers on one of Gatineau Park's most popular trails.

Fairbairn Museum Community Memories Project

The project is proceeding well, with the first phase of the research work nearly complete. The goal of the project is to submit the Virtual Exhibition to Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) by the end of March 2008 after which it will be posted on the Virtual Museum of Canada website. (www.virtualmuseum.ca)

Project Coordinator Fabian Mugny has selected some photos from the GVHS Image Bank, and the steering committee has identified a number of interesting collections with photos of the Gatineau Valley in other local repositories including Library and Archives Canada, *Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec*, *le Centre régional d'archives de l'Outaouais*, and the Hydro Québec Archives.

The next phase of the project is to gather the material and begin writing captions for each of the selected items (photos, documents, maps, audio and video) and to create the storylines for each of the themes that will be highlighted in the Virtual Exhibition. Before beginning this phase, we would like to hear from Society members about any research and writing that has already been done regarding to the different themes of our project.

The working title of the exhibition is: ***The William Fairbairn House: A Witness to Change Along The Gatineau.***

The themes that will be explored are:

- The Fairbairn Story (history of the Fairbairn Family)
- The Fairbairn House
- The Wakefield Grist Mill
- Trades of the Gatineau Valley (agricultural history, lumbering, etc.)
- Village Life (overview of the villages of the Gatineau Valley during the time of William Fairbairn - he arrived in Wakefield in 1834 and died in 1872)
- People of the Gatineau Valley (William Fairbairn contemporaries)
- Transportation (Gatineau and La Pêche rivers; railway; highway)
- Hydroelectric development (damming of the Gatineau River)
- Possibly a theme about sports and activities (skiing, swimming, hunting, fishing, etc.)



Falls at Chelsea - ca. 1882
James Topley, Photographer
Library & Archives Canada PA-009377



Bird's Eye view of the Gatineau Mills - July 1883
James Topley, Photographer
Library & Archives Canada PA-027068



Skiing up the Gatineau - ca. 1882
James Topley, Photographer
Library & Archives Canada PA-009250

Do you know where we could find information relating to our themes? Maybe you know someone who has done some research on these topics, or maybe you could provide us with records, sources, articles, bibliographies on one or more of these themes. As well, if you have already written relevant articles, or if you are willing to write an introduction for one particular theme, please let us know.

Our aim is to involve the community in the production of the Virtual Exhibition, so if you have any information or ideas concerning our themes which could be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact Fabian Mugny at 613-822-6763 or email at fabian.mugny@fairbairn.ca.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Remembrance Day 2007

For over 20 years the Gatineau Valley Historical Society has maintained the grave of Private Richard Rowland Thompson, the only Canadian to be awarded the Queen's Scarf by Queen Victoria over a century ago. The society hosts his former Regiment, the Royal Canadian Regiment 3rd battalion, Mike Company, Petawawa, who mounted the vigil and provided an honour guard of 50 officers and men

About 300 people remembered Private Thompson and all of the fallen from wars past and present on a clear and crisp November 11th. The wreath-laying was led on behalf of the Government of Canada, by the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Pontiac MP and Minister of Transport. He was followed by the Royal Canadian Regiment's Lieut. D. Ward; Canadian Forces Health Services Group's Col. Richard Pucci and chief Warrant Officer Pierre Fortier; Municipality of Chelsea's Mayor Jean Perras; MRC Public Security's Capt. Michel Régimbald; Regional Association of West Quebecer's John Trent; and Carol Martin for the Gatineau Valley Historical Society.

At the Chelsea Cenotaph, wreaths were laid by Mayor Perras, Audrey Trudeau and Harold Milks for his brother Earle Milks, who is named on the cenotaph.

The service at the Pioneer Cemetery was chaired by GVHS President Marc Cockburn, with prayers by Larry Dufour for St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church and Rev. Christine Piper, St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church. The homily was given by RCR Padre Laudenorio and the final blessing was given by Ms. Michelle Stotyn from Chelsea United Church.



Christmas Traditions at the Historic Grange in Cantley



About 60 members of The Gatineau Valley Historical Society and friends of all ages met on December 10th for an evening of carol singing in The Grange.

Bob Martin "tickled the ivories", Beth MacFie played violin and her antique sleigh bells and Carol Martin led the singing. Musical interludes by others playing on the piano and fiddle were enjoyed by everyone as they sipped the mulled drinks and delicious treats contributed by the guests.

The historic Grange shone in the glow of the magnificent Christmas tree, the flickering fire and candles, and the warmth of people sharing the spirit of the season together. This evening was a revival of GVHS carol singing

evenings hosted by Bob Phillips for many years. Many thanks to The Grange de la Gatineau and GVHS for such a wonderful evening.

I am researching early gliding activity on the Eardley Escarpment undertaken by a number of NRC employees during WW II. Any recollections, photos etc. of this activity would be sincerely appreciated.

Please contact **Duncan Marshall** - 819-827-2077 or duncan@aerialphotographs.ca.

Rose-Marie Ralf has written a piece on Farm Point in English and French entitled - A View into the Gatineau Hills: Let us Reminisce / *Farm Point : un people qui a grandi...mais sans oublier*. It is available in the Archives.

Visit our website - www.gvhs.ca

Executive 2007

President:

Marc Cockburn - 819-459-2004
cockburn.marc@gmail.com

1st Vice-president:

Michael Cooper - 819-459-2787
cooperm@wakenet.ca

Past President:

Ernie Mahoney - 819-459-1180
ernieomani@hotmail.com

Secretary:

Linda Bardell - 819-827-0095
lbard@sympatico.ca

Directors:

Carol Martin - 819-827-1633 - Publications
rjcmartin@primus.ca

Allan Richens - 819-827-1616 - Cemeteries
allanrichens@sympatico.ca

Fergus MacLaren - 819-827-0799
fergus_maclaren@cac.gc.ca

Richard Adams - 819-827-0589
richardadams@canada.com

Margaret Phillips - 819-827-1969
phillips.margaret@gmail.com

Archivist:

Jay Atherton 819-827-1703
jayatherton@sympatico.ca

2008 Calendar of Events

- **April 21** - The Rideau Canal, World Heritage Site, Pam Buell, Parks Canada
- **May ?** - Annual Dinner (date to be decided)
- **June 7** - Heritage field trip to the St. Lawrence River, featuring Seaway history, the Lost Villages, hosted by Don Kenny, originally from Kingsmere in Chelsea.
- **August 23** - Auction

Purpose

"...to promote matters of historical or heritage significance in the general area of the Gatineau Valley."

The Gatineau Valley Historical Society is a charitable organization which has acted to conserve and foster interest in history and heritage in the Gatineau Valley

**~ 2008 Membership fees are now due ~
If you have a highlighted "2007" on your mailing label, please fill in the application and forward the current year's dues to the address below.**

Gatineau Valley Historical Society ~ Membership Application

Box 1803 Chelsea QC J9B 1A1 819- 827- 6224 www.gvhs.ca

- *Up the Gatineau* - our annual local history journal
- Access to our archival material
- GVHS newsletter
- Regular meetings on local and national heritage topics

Membership Fees (per family): 1 year - \$15.00 2 year - \$25.00

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone (Home) _____

New Member -

Renewal -

E-Mail _____ **Would you like the newsletter emailed to you?**

Areas of Interest:

Auction

Cemeteries

Publications

Youth Programs

Archives

Executive

Special Events

Web Site