

~ Preserving Our Gatineau Valley Heritage ~

# Gatineau Valley historical society Newsletter

## Spring -Early Summer Meetings - 2008

*Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm*

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

### The Journey to World Heritage



In June of 2007, the *Rideau Canal* became Canada's newest World Heritage Site. Join **Pam Buell**, Communications Manager, Parks Canada Eastern Ontario and project manager for the UNESCO designation, to explore why this treasured national historic site is now on the world stage and what this means for its future.

Society member **Ken Bouchard** of Wakefield will set the scene for our guest speaker by showing the photos of his row up the Rideau Canal in August 2007 in his 17 foot 2-person gig (a small, historic rowboat).

*Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm*

### First Ever GVHS Ski and Banquet

Ski Vorlage, 65 Chemin Burnside, Wakefield, QC

To celebrate the end of this historic Winter of 2008, please join us for a lovely spring evening of old-time schussing, vorlaging, and stem christies followed by a buffet dinner away from the black flies by the roaring fires of the lodge.

This year, a special invitation has been extended to the Wakefield Elementary School grade five teachers, children and their parents to join us at our Annual Dinner to celebrate the results of the Heritage Fair projects they prepared with assistance from GVHS and Musée Fairbairn Museum Coop.

~ Helmets will be mandatory~

So, mark you calendar on May 26<sup>th</sup> and keep an eye on the weather. More news and information on the *First Ever GVHS Ski and Banquet*. will be available in the local media, via email and on the GVHS website—[www.gvhs.ca](http://www.gvhs.ca).

(Rain checks will not be issued if the lifts are not operating)



More coming activities...next page

## "Come visit the St. Lawrence Seaway as it celebrates its 50th!"

**Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**



GVHS member Don Kenny invites us to visit South Stormont County. We will assemble at his place near Long Sault, Ontario for a light lunch supplied by Don and his family.

Major points of interest on the tour will include:

- The **Lost Villages Historical Museum** site, which offers a glimpse of what life was like before the completion of the St. Lawrence Seaway 50 years ago.
- The **Cornwall Community Museum and Genealogical Centre**—discover Cornwall, where Ontario began more than 200 years ago.
- **St. Andrews West**—the oldest parish in the area with a rich history, many fine buildings and monuments. The cemetery in St. Andrew's is also one of the

oldest in Ontario. It is the resting place of such notables as John Sandfield MacDonald, the first Premier of Ontario, and Simon Fraser, the famous explorer.

- Rustic **Quinn's Inn**, built in 1865 as a stagecoach stopover, has been beautifully restored and functions as a dining room and pub. The Saturday Buffet includes seafood and prime rib, salad bar and dessert table. Great food and great value. We can arrange an early dinner—5:00 p.m.—for those who are interested.

### **Plan to join us. You'll be glad you did.**

We thank Don and his family for this generous invitation.

Please circle your calendars, and note the registration process below. To facilitate Don's catering, we ask all planning to attend to register with:

**Michael Cooper, by May 16th. Phone: 819-459-2787 or  
email:cooperm@wakenet.ca**

Carpools will be arranged, starting from Wakefield and Chelsea. Please indicate your interest in carpooling when registering, indicating:

1. Will carpool from \_\_\_\_\_, need X seats, or
2. Will have X seats available, driving from Chelsea or Wakefield.



### **In Memoriam**

*Klaus Decker  
Murray Dempsey  
Alice Hudson  
Doug Liddiard*

**Doug** was an enthusiastic GVHS member of long standing, as was **Murray**. **Alice Hudson**, who, though not recently a GVHS member, was featured twice in Volume 29 of UTG!, in an article by Allan Richens about local women in wartime, and about her family's trip from Chelsea to Edmonton and back in a 1915 model-T Ford.

**Klaus** was another long-time GVHS member and supporter, and author of an UTG article about his wartime experiences In Volume 22 of *Up the Gatineau*. They were all wonderful persons who will live on in our memories.

## President's Report—Annual General Meeting—Feb. 18, 2008

**P**resident **Marc Cockburn** welcomed members to the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Gatineau Valley Historical Society with the following words:

"Executive reports will be in an upcoming Newsletter, so this evening I mostly want to thank all the GVHS members and friends who have supported the Society's mission in the last year. Everyone from the Executive Committee to our occasional volunteers have contributed to another successful year, which was highlighted by the restoration of the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery, the success Archie Penney's book *Historic Treasures*, and the launch of the Fairbairn Museum Coop.

Furthermore, the Society's core activities such as our monthly meetings, the archives and publications have been greatly enhanced with the introduction of our electronic newsletter and by the revival of our website at [www.gvhs.ca](http://www.gvhs.ca). We think that these two tools will go a long way in aiding communication and I invite everyone to go to the website to learn about the Society's current events and news about the Society.

Although we had a productive year, the Executive has recognized the need to increase our revenues and our volunteer base. Our annual Auction receipts have been down in the last few years and we will be looking at ways to leverage that popular event to gain more proceeds. Furthermore we are constantly on the lookout for individuals willing to take on volunteer roles with the Society. If you have any suggestions in regards to these two current challenges, please don't hesitate to let us know.

I would like to take a moment to mention someone who has been an important ingredient in the Society during my tenure on the Executive Committee.

Years ago, **Jay Atherton** stood over my desk at the National Archives and recruited me into the Society. I think he was my DG at the time, so it wasn't like I was going to say no!

As you know, Jay stepped down as Society Archivist this year and even though he has received all the honours the GVHS offers, I would like to add my appreciation for his knowledge of the history of the community, his leadership, loyalty and positive approach in all matters. He has been an inspiration to all of us who have had the good fortune to work with him. Thanks and good luck Jay."

### Election of 2008 GVHS Executive Committee

President: Marc Cockburn	(year 1 of 2)
First Vice-president: Richard Adams	(yr. 2 of 2)
Second Vice-president: Vacant	(yr. 2)

#### Directors -

Carol Martin	(yr. 1)	Michael Cooper	(yr. 2)
Alan Richens	(yr. 1)	Margaret Phillips	(yr. 2)
Shirley Brown	(yr. 1)		

#### Executive Committee Officers -

Past President: Ernie Mahoney  
Secretary: Linda Bardell  
Treasurer: Mary Armitage

### CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION

- Presented to **Erik Rask** in appreciation for his efforts in renovating the GVHS website.
- Presented to **Shirley Brown** in appreciation for her efforts in innovating the delivery of the Society Newsletter.

Both the website and newsletter greatly enhance the Society's means to make known the history of the Gatineau Valley; to communicate with its members; and to assist the wider heritage community.

- Presented to **Richard Hofer** for his leadership and assistance to the Gatineau Valley Historical Society's efforts to restore the meaning and essence of the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery after it was vandalized in December 2006.
- Presented to **Paul Fydenchuk** for his leadership and assistance to the Gatineau Valley Historical Society's efforts to restore the meaning and essence of the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery after it was vandalized in December 2006.

The Society has been tremendously heartened by the response it received from members of the local and

wider community and it is pleased to know that this community continues to recognize and cherish its significant historic places.

### HONOURS AWARDS

- Presented to **Fergus Maclaren** in appreciation for his dedicated service to the Society Executive. As a member of the GVHS Executive Committee, Fergus has contributed sound judgment and advice to all the Society's activities and has assisted in crafting an eclectic and interesting speakers program to an ever increasing audience of GVHS supporters.
- Presented to **Harold and Margaret Reid** for distribution and sales of our publications. Their presence at Society meetings, as well as representing us at genealogy and history events in the Ottawa-Gatineau area, is much appreciated. Thanks to their dedication and interest, our publications are also distributed for sale to 17 stores and boutiques. We are very grateful for their enthusiasm and work on behalf of the Gatineau Valley Historical Society.

## Executive 2008

### President

Marc Cockburn - 819.459.2004  
cockburn.marc@gmail.com

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president:

Richard Adams - 819.827.0589  
richardadams@canada.com

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president

Vacant

### 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

Margaret Phillips - 819.827.1969—Program  
phillips.margaret@gmail.com

Michael Cooper - 819.459.2787—Program  
cooperm@wakenet.ca

Shirley Brown - 819.827.1999—Newsletter  
browncrest@sympatico.ca

### Interim Archivist

Marc Cockburn

Visit our web site - [www.gvhs.ca](http://www.gvhs.ca)  
Email the Society at [info@gvhs.ca](mailto:info@gvhs.ca)

### 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 Region since its founding in 1962.

**2008 Membership fees are now due.**

**The application form is available on the web site.**

## Publications Report - 2007

The GVHS *Newsletter*, with information about coming events and other heritage items, is produced by **Shirley Brown**. It is now sent electronically to members who have provided e-mail addresses, a convenience that also allows us to send reminders about forthcoming events! It is also posted on the web site by **Eric Rask**.

In 2007, Volume 33 of *Up the Gatineau!* presented an article in both French and English. **Anita Rutledge's** story of French Presbyterians—*Les Suisses—of Duclos*, was ably translated by **Germain Bertrand**. We also published *Historic Treasures: Up the Gatineau!*, a collection of 30 articles by **Archie Pennie**, 10 new ones and 20 published over the years in *Up the Gatineau!*.

**R.J. (Bob) Hughes** received the **Arthur Davison Prize** for his article, "The Great Fire of 1870," published in Volume 32. The GVHS sponsored **Norma Geggie's** application for a publication grant from Quebec's Ministère de la Culture et des Communications towards her revised edition of *The Extra Mile: The Journals of H.J.G. Geggie*.

### Publications Sales:

We continue to sell publications directly at GVHS events, and at 17 stores and boutiques in the region. We also had a GVHS presence, selling publications and responding to inquiries for historical information about our area at 5 events: the Gene-O-Rama sponsored by the Ontario Genealogy Society, the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa conference (BIFHSGO), the Wakefield Craft Fair held at Vorlage, the Pioneer Cemetery Fund-raiser and the GVHS Auction. Total sales at these five events realized \$970.50.

Continued interest in the Gatineau Valley Historical Society is reflected in the sales figures for 2007, and over 950 books were sold including two complete sets of *Up The Gatineau!*

Total sales: \$6,080.00 Direct sales - \$2,845.00 Retail sales - 3,235.00

Carol Martin