



GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE LA VALLÉE DE LA GATINEAU

The Gatineau Valley and Its Railway

Speaker - Bruce Ballantyne

Monday, March 27, 2023
Venosta Station, 8 ch. Station, Venosta QC

refreshments at 6:30 pm - talk at 7:00 pm
or virtually via [Facebook live-streaming at 7:00 pm.](#)

For more than 80 years, from the 1880s to the 1960s, the railway to Maniwaki was critical to the Gatineau Valley's economy—from shipping goods and natural resources in and out, to ferrying locals, cottagers and tourists to and from the Valley.



Photo credit: Venosta station, circa 1930. Courtesy of James Irwin

Train historian Bruce Ballantyne will give us a glimpse of what it was like to work for the railway, and to travel by train along this once-important Canadian Pacific branch line. He will also speak about the train stations that were once a popular presence along the line.

Bruce is a multiple contributor to Up the Gatineau! and a past speaker to GVHS members on the topic of trains. His interest in railways was nurtured as a child by visits to the village of Messines to watch the train come in and to pick up the mail. He has been a member of the Bytown Railway Society since it was formed in 1969, has written multiple articles for its magazine, "Branchline," and is on its editorial board.

Reservations are mandatory for in-person attendance because of the limited space.

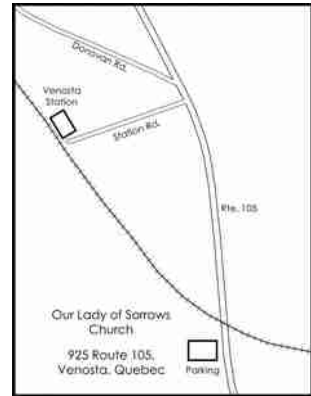
Please contact GVHS board member Della Lacharity by phone at 613-794-9143 or by email at jasmagjac@yahoo.ca

This talk will be live-streamed on Facebook starting at 7:00 pm - [click here](#) for the link. You do not need a Facebook account to watch this presentation. The talk will be saved on the GVHS website for future viewing.

This event is in support of the Be and Become Youth Organization's effort to restore the [Venosta Station](#) for community-based activities.

Parking is available at the nearby Lady of Sorrows Church. See map...

Carpooling is encouraged, including from the church parking lot.



A River Runs Beneath Us – The Paugan/Opwàgan Albums

Speakers - Don Kealey and Marc Cockburn

Tuesday April 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm
St. Michael's High School, 26 ch. Principal, Low, QC

"Everybody's talking about something frightening and exciting. Somebody's going to build a dam. Right here. And the falls will disappear."

These words from the title character in Brian Doyle's *Mary Ann Alice* expresses the child-like wonder and anxiety about the looming natural and social upheaval that would soon change life forever when the Paugan/Opwàgan Dam was built in 1926-28.

Don Kealey and Marc Cockburn will present a series of rare photos, maps, documents, and aerial photos drawn from the McCord Museum, Hydro Quebec Archives, the GVHS, and the NAPL to illustrate how the Gatineau River appeared and changed during the 10 years leading to the construction of the Gatineau Power Co. Power Dam, and how it affected the lives of local farmers and vacationers in the area.

Don Kealey is the well-known local author of *Low Municipality - Reflections of the Past*. Marc Cockburn, the Past President of the GVHS, has done research and presentations on the flooding of the lower Gatineau River.



Sheila Thomson celebrated her 100th birthday

Longtime local historian Sheila Thomson celebrated her centennial birthday in January 2023. Sheila was a dogged researcher who wrote an extensive history of the early Chelsea settlers, based on numerous interviews of old-timers. This 1965 paper is available for reference in the GVHS's Pat Evans Archives. [Read more](#)



Facebook



Website

•Pat Evans Archives•

**Chelsea Library
downstairs**

**Monday - 10-12
Wednesday - 1-3**

Watch the slides from Past President Marc Cockburn's AGM presentation on Feb. 22, 2023 - [click here](#)

GVHS Board Members

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Landon Mackenzie Pearson - 1903-2023

The GVHS sends its condolences to the family of the Honourable Landon Mackenzie Pearson on her recent passing on January 28th. [Read more](#)

Coming Events



**June 3 ~ Kitigan Zibi Traditional
Pow Wow**

**Late June ~ Launch of volume 49 ~
*Up the Gatineau!***

~ Welcome to our New Members ~

**Bill Davis, Ottawa ON
Brian Doyle, Chelsea QC
John & Chantal Parkes, Chelsea QC
Mary Trafford & Susan Owen, Chelsea QC**