



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.

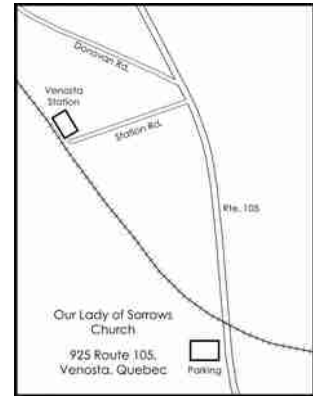
Please contact GVHS board member Della Lacharity by phone at 613-794-9143 or by email at jasmagjac@yahoo.ca

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

President
Gilbert Whiteduck

Vice President
Frances Curry

Secretary
Toby Sanger

Treasurer
Shirley Brown

Directors
Linda Payne Bardell
Cindy Duncan McMillan
Della Lacharity
Erik Rask
Louise Schwartz

Past President
Marc Cockburn



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**

Announcement ~ February 2023



GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE LA VALLÉE DE LA GATINEAU



**Virtual Annual General Meeting
via Zoom**

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Please send an email to membership@gvhs.ca to pre-register for the AGM.

A notice with a link to the meeting documents and with details about joining the virtual AGM will be sent to you prior to the meeting.

Nominations for the Board of Directors will be accepted until February 15, 2023
Contact info@gvhs.ca

We are looking forward to seeing you at the 2023 Annual General Meeting!

[Our spring program information will be detailed in our next newsletter in the coming week.](#)



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A River Runs Beneath Us – The Paugan/Opwàgan Albums

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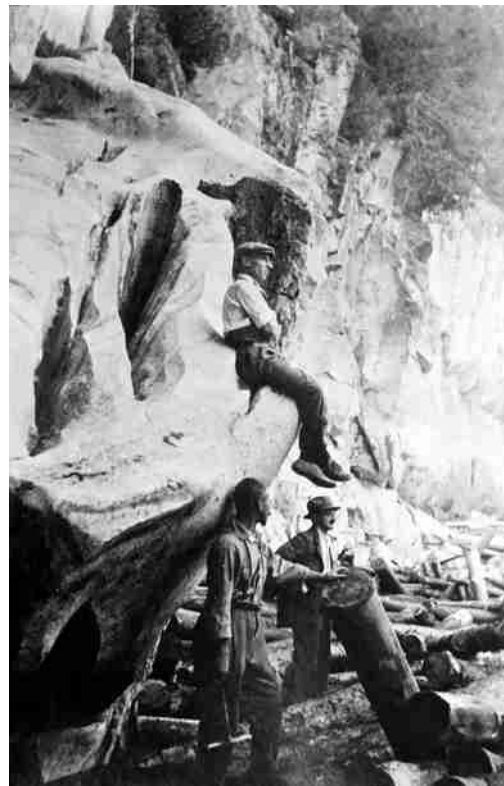
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New Board Member

GVHS is seeking a new Board member to fill a one-year vacancy.

The Board needs a variety of skills, with a strong emphasis on media expertise, administration skills, governance experience, teamwork, as well as those connected to local heritage organizations and other diverse communities. The Board

of Directors meets monthly and Directors are expected to serve on at least one committee (archives, website, communications, program, publications) and serve the organization in other capacities.

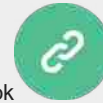
The Nominating Committee is accepting applications until April 16. Interested individuals should submit a brief written statement about why they want to serve on the Board of GVHS to info@gvhs.ca.

~ Welcome to our New Members ~

John Calvert, Ottawa ON
Fiona Hennessy, Chelsea QC
Wayne Houlzet, Dorval QC
Robert & Janet Watt Lafleur, Chelsea QC
Stephen Legault, Gatineau QC
Jeff Stubbins, Ottawa ON



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Coming Events



June 3 ~
Kitigan Zibi
Traditional
Pow Wow

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

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No Drugs, Alcohol, and Animal
Pas de drogues, d'alcool et d'animaux

Odeyimin Kizis
JUNE/JUIN
3 & 4
2023

Grande entrée chaque jour à midi
Grand entry at 12:00 each day
Dance registration daily
Inscription des danseurs chaque jour

KITIGAN ZIBI
Traditional
POW
WOW
Traditionnel de
KITIGAN ZIBI

tambour hôte: Smoketrail
co-hôte: Black Bear
tambours invitées:
Eagle River
Whitetail
Dave Jock Akwesasne Water Drum
danseurs en chef:
Wesley and Tracy Cleland de
Wiikwemkoong
directeur de l'aréna: Awema Tendes
aînés: TBA
MC: Gabriel Whiteduck

Host Drum: Smoketrail
Co-Host: Black Bear
Invited Drums:
Eagle River
Whitetail
Dave Jock Akwesasne Water Drum
Head Dancers:
Wesley and Tracy Cleland from
Wiikwemkoong
Arena Director: Awema Tendes
Elders: TBA
MC: Gabriel Whiteduck

Vous trouverez des renseignements sur
les fournisseurs et l'inscription sur le site
Web du pow-wow traditionnel de Kitigan
Zibi @ www.kzpowwow.ca/

Vendor information and registration can
be found at the Kitigan Zibi Traditional
Powwow website @
www.kzpowwow.ca/

Kitigan Zibi Cultural Center
34 Makwa Mikan,
Maniwaki, Quebec

Contact: Robin Cayer at: 819-425-4623
Web : www.kzpowwow.ca

BUS TRIP TO THE 2023 POW WOW - Saturday, June 3, 2023

Join the Gatineau Valley Historical Society on Saturday, June 3, as we travel by school bus to Maniwaki to experience Kitigan Zibi's annual Pow Wow.

Cost: \$30 - payable in advance - e-transfer or PayPal - Sorry, no refunds.

Departure: 11:00 am - Chelsea Elementary School, 74 ch Old Chelsea Road, stopping at the Centre Wakefield-La Pêche, 38 ch. de la Vallée de Wakefield at 11:20 a.m.

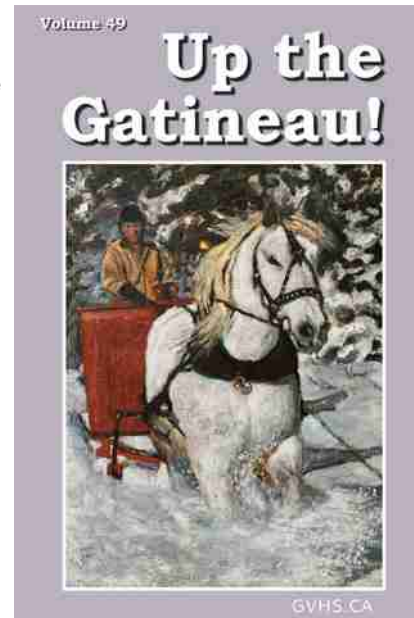
Returning: 4:00 pm from Kitigan Zibi, with similar stops in Wakefield and Old Chelsea.

To reserve your seat before May 25th, contact Shirley Brown at 819-827-1999 or browncrest04@gmail.com

Coming Soon...

The 49th volume of Up the Gatineau! is now with the printer, and we hope to start distributing complimentary copies to GVHS members by mid-June. With 10 articles and a poem - all with historic and/or current day photographs, maps or other images - there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Here's a sneak peek of the volume's cover, featuring the late artist, John Eaton, at his Rupert farm with his Percheron horse, Goya. This 2022 painting is the fine work of Chelsea artist, Ed Robinson.



Meditative Walk

On Saturday, June 10, 2023 there will be a meditative walk led by GVHS President, Gilbert Whiteduck of Kitigan Zibi to raise awareness of the history of the Algonquin Anishinabeg in this region and to celebrate the official naming of the community path, Nakweyamàdiwin Mikàns, as the first community path in

Chelsea to be named an Algonquin Anishinabeg name, meaning "Friendship Trail".

The meditative walk will start at the Meredith Centre in Chelsea, through Quartier Meredith, along the community path, and will finish at St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, 537 Route 105.

People are asked to gather at 1:00 p.m. at the Meredith Centre so the walk can begin at 1:30 p.m. At the end of the walk Gilbert Whiteduck will speak about the history of the Algonquin Anishinabeg.

Refreshments will be served.

Welcome to our New Members

Tim Appleby, Wakefield QC
Jake Blair & Marian McGrath, Chelsea QC
Joan Bruce-Nibogic, Metcalf ON
Sara Cheslock, Low QC
Charlotte Cockburn, Wakefield QC
Mary Farrell, Montreal QC
Lynne Forrest, Alcove QC
Marcus Klee, Ottawa ON
Denzil Laporte, AB



Facebook



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**Closed until September
or by appointment**
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