



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU
BOX 485, CHELSEA, QUE. J0X 1N0

1987

APRIL NEWSLETTER

**NEXT MEETING: MONDAY
APRIL 20, AT 8.00 P.M.
IN THE WEST HULL
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Rideau Street Convent Chapel, often mentioned in these pages, is not only a monument of national importance; it is a dramatic story on our doorstep. With the Chapel now being re-erected in the new National Gallery, Charles Hill, Curator of Canadian Art of the National Gallery, will give a timely talk entitled: "A Future for the Past: The Rideau Street Convent Chapel"-- with a twin projector slide presentation. We look to a great climax for our year of lecture meetings.

LAST MEETING

Cecilia Paine drew us back to the era of Mackenzie King and to the gardens which were such a precious part of his life. She drew us also to summer with unusual slides of early Kigsmere days as well as the garden restoration which she directed. It was a delightful evening with another capacity audience.

**MEMBERSHIP: NOT A LAST
GOOD-BYE**

Although memberships expire on December 31, we send the *Newsletter* to all of last year's members until April. This is explained by our naturally generous nature and by the fervent hope that you will renew your memberships so that we can continue to be friends. If there is a red mark on this page, please take desperate measures-- even Canada Post-- to send in that fee. If you make it

\$15, you will be spared an uneasy conscience next spring when we weep our annual tears. If you like writing cheques every year, it is only \$8.

If through any good reason such as death or prolonged imprisonment you cannot renew promptly, please do not insult the unpaid help by demanding to know why you didn't receive your *Newsletter*. We want to keep you on our list....

We welcome as new members Michael Daley, Charles Lynch and Claudy Mailly. We greatly appreciate the adherence of Ms. Mailly as part of the stellar band of parliamentarians (Speaker John Fraser and Barry Moore) now supporting us. We await a reply to our invitation to another Gatineau neighbour who we hope also shares our ideals for preserving the Canadian history which lies around us....

TOUR #2 !!!

You will remember that the great success of our first historic tour encouraged us to plan two tours this year, one in spring, one in fall. This is the first and last notice of tour #2, Saturday, May 9 from 0930 to 1600.

This will concentrate on the lumber industry and Hull. We have a rare invitation for a tour of the historic interior of the Eddy establishment which few or none of us has ever seen. The plan (still formative) is to have the remainder of the morning in the environs, lunch at an historic restaurant and an afternoon at other historic sites in the Hull area. This time we are

planning NOT to use a bus, but to provide everyone with a self-guide and to rendezvous in private cars from point to point.

Alas, logistics in the Hull plant must limit this tour to 25. The fee will be only \$10 per person plus the cost of lunch. The first 25 people to put their deposit cheques of \$10 in the hands of the Secretary will be assured tickets. If all places are not taken before April 20, the last tickets will be available at the April meeting. Do not worry if you have no car: we will put you in touch with a registrant who has. Further details are available from **Carol Martin** (827-1633).

Finally, please note that this will be one of our more strenuous expeditions, with considerable walking and stairs in the Eddy plant. If this causes problems we suggest skipping this tour and enrolling in the next bus tour, this autumn. For those who come, comfortable walking shoes are important.

AUCTIONS, speaking louder than words

We have been rightfully proud of our auctions which have been yielding ever more each year: we made over \$4,000 last August.

That seemed pretty impressive until we read about the auction conducted at the Drill Hall March 7 in aid of the Rideau Street Convent Chapel. The revenue was \$53,432.80!!! That is tremendous, and we rejoice in the success of the Friends of the National Gallery. They mustered 300 volunteers to be involved with the set-up, selling and clean-up, and heaven knows how many on a phone committee.

Let this be a challenge to us. Although August 15 may seem far away, it is never too early to start talking it up, or to start laying aside items for it. If you have never volunteered to help, you would be welcome on either the Auction Committee (which starts meeting in May) or at Auction time,

or both. Please phone **David Castleman** (827-1610). The company is as good as the cause. The first 300 callers will be given preference...

THE MUSEUM

If you ignore the flood caused by burst pipes in the MacLaren House, things are just fine at the Museum. The damage to our collections was not serious, apart from water on prints and photos owned by **Stuart Geggie**, and the NCC will have the building put to rights by the time you read these lines.

While they are at it, they are kindly taking the first steps in our expansion plans by dekitchenizing (you heard it first in the *Newsletter*) the east wing. That means volunteers will be ready to start painting the first warm day. Are you one of them?

Amicable and productive discussions have continued with the NCC about the Mill. We are moving towards an integrated operation of the MacLaren House and Mill with Historical Society volunteers-- a great new opportunity and responsibility for the Society. Both buildings will be open on weekends and public holidays through the summer. If you have not yet signed up for one, two or three guiding shifts during the season, please alleviate our nervousness by phoning **Stuart Geggie** now. (459-2393).

BRIDGE, ANYONE?

Anita Rutledge, member of the Society, writes as a representative of the Community Association of Wakefield to see if we would be interested in the proposal to rebuild the historic Gendron Bridge as a footbridge on the present piers after the new bridge is opened. There being no dissent at the last meeting, we indicated our support. **Myrtle Gordon** has kindly volunteered to represent us on the Bridge Committee.

BOOK TRACE

Jean Walther of the CEGEP de l'Outaouais library (770-4012, ext 343) would much appreciate help in leading him to three publications:

Robb, A.B. History of the Wakefield Village, Wakefield Women's Insitute, 195 (25 pp.)

Edelweiss Valley Story, Wakefield, June, 1962 (6pp and map)

Roy, Anastase: Maniwaki et la vallé de la Gatineau, Ottawa, Immprimerie Le Droit, 1933 (259 pp.)

Mr. Walther kindly offers to let any Society member use for research the material he has collected on the Hull-Gatineau area.

OTHER BOOKS

Vice-president Tony German, who is a mover and shaker of the Ottawa Book Festival, reminds us of that important occasion April 26-May 1. The events being too numerous to list here, members are invited to check in the press or at public libraries and bookstores, or phone 749-6565 for more information.

WHAT A BLAST!

Heritage Canada Foundatiion Executive Director Jacques Dalibard has written Environment Minister Tom McMillan a sharply critical letter about his Heritage Day statement. M. Dalibard voices his disppointment with the government's failure to move on "urgent and long-standing problems in preserving federally-owned and federally-regulated heritage structures". The Federal Register is held to have severe limitations, and neither crown corporations nor crown regulated structures (like railway stations) are bound by government safeguards,

DALY EXERCISE

March 17 will be remembered by non-Irish historians as a climactic day in the tortured history of the historic Daly Building. At a final ceremonial meeting, the Friends of the Daly Building were given a preview of the three designs proposed for its future. The Friends were well pleased. On the two following days, the public in unexpected numbers accepted the NCC's invitation to comment on the plans and drawings. Many of the doubters expressed enthusiasm for the new Daly, and everyone who pays taxes can rejoice at having both history and \$720,000 plus 30% of the rent per annum, instead of more grass. The final dividend is the retirement of the Chairman of the Friends of the Daly Building, usually known as the Daly Llama.

HAVE A NICE MAY

With Historic Tour #2 on May 9, and the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary celebration on June 27, there will be no May meeting, and the next *Newsletter* will arrive in early June.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS-1

The Québec Ministry of Cultural Affairs has published a series of fact sheets on buildings and sites given an official classification. This month's picture is of the Wright-Scott House at 28 boulevard Alexandre Taché, Hull.

This was the property of **Philemon Wright** until 1839 when it passed to his son **Tiberius** and then to his daughter **Nancy Louisa**. The main part of the house was built about 1852 for Nancy Louisa and her husband John Scott, the first mayor of Ottawa. It was in the Scott family until 1964. It remains a private home.

