



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE GATINEAU

NEWSLETTER

JULY 1989

Box 485, Chelsea, Québec JOX 1N0. Telephone (819) 827-4432

Purpose of the Society:

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

HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPENED FOR 1989 SEASON

Canada Day, July 1, on the porch of the Maclaren House: a swipe of a broadaxe cut a ribbon, officially opening the Historical Museum for the new season. Wielding the instrument (the symbol of our Society) was Fergus Maclaren, a great grandson of James Maclaren.

Dr. Stuart Geggie reminded the attendees of the origins and significance of the mill and house that form the Historical Museum. Entertainment followed: a display of authentic step dancing by Jane Courtney and her troupe from Gracefield. (Incidentally, Jane runs the Mini Marché in Gracefield. We hear that her home made bread is delicious!)

Master of Ceremonies Charles Landon expressed thanks to Mayor Hervé Leblanc of Lapêche and the municipality's Secretary, Jean-Jacques Séguin for their support, as well as to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, who loaned the Society the sound system for the day.

At 12:00 noon, 200 numbered balloons were released in the Lapêche River above the dam. The first to make it through the

rapids to the bridge at Wakefield was number 24, which had been purchased by the Jon Purcell family. The second was number 152, sponsored by James Jones. Prizes of \$100 and \$25 were awarded.

A beautiful day for an opening. Come and visit the Museum, which is open on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays over the summer.

- Jay Atherton

BARN DANCE - JULY 29 AT THE DRURY-ROSS FARM (MASHAM ROAD)

Have you bought your tickets yet for the social event of the season, or are you:

- planning to invite some business colleagues and charge the tickets to the PR account;
- planning to make up a party with your best friends;
- planning to come with your spouse or "significant other" for the roast hip of beef dinner (and you'll skip the dancing, thank you);
- looking forward to dancing - round and square and whatever - 'til dawn (bar closes at 3:00 a.m.);

- going to phone the Mill now to reserve your tickets - 459-1239
- only \$15.00 each?

The meal alone is worth \$15.00 (remember the good deal at the annual meeting?).

This will be a memorable barn dance. See you there!

- Ann Chudleigh

ANTIQUA AUCTION - AUGUST 26

In our May Newsletter we drew attention to the Society's annual Antiqua Auction, to be held in conjunction with the West Hull Festival on Saturday, August 26.

This major event will be held in the gymnasium of Chelsea Elementary School. Participants may view the items starting at 8:30 and the auction itself begins at 9:30 a.m., probably lasting until 1:00. Entry to the Auction through the Festival grounds will be free until 10:00 a.m., after which a small entrance fee to the Festival grounds will apply.

Please save items for the Auction and encourage your friends and neighbours to do the same. Articles for sale should be delivered to the School for registration on Friday, August 25, between 2:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Tax receipts for donations will be issued after the event. For further information contact Yvonne Jurgens (827-3635), Charles Landon (459-3626), or David Castleman (827-1610).

- Charles Landon

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PLEASE PLANT SOME TREES...

No dirt. No backache. You'll never find an easier way to do it.

Graham Lochhead and his Scout Troop have again done terrific service by tree planting at our Pioneer Cemetery. It is part of our long-range plan to have evergreens line the entire perimeter of our property so that the Pioneer Cemetery will always be a special oasis, however adjacent land may be developed.

We have just learned that any of us can sponsor a Scout tree planter. If we offer, for example, 25 cents, and our young tree planter manages 20 trees in the season, we will make a contribution to Scout funds of \$5. This money will be used for summer camp, supplies, and other vital scouting activities.

If you planted any of the 300 trees now in the rocky, root-lined soil of our cemetery, you will know what a blessing it is to have these people on our side. Besides, if you contribute to their work, you will have done your bit to maintain this important historic site, which our Society has guaranteed to preserve in dignity forever. Your donation, however modest, will mean a lot to the Scouts, for it is the best way of showing we appreciate their work.

If you do not know the name of a Scout to sponsor, you have two choices. You can name a figure of so much a tree, and ask Graham to assign a Scout to earn it. Or you can donate a fixed amount.

Will you kindly ring the Historical Society number (827-4432) now and let us know which it will be? Cheques may be made payable to the Society - marked "TREES" - at your convenience. We want to tell the Scouts promptly just how much we appreciate what they are doing for us.

- R.A.J. Phillips

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NEW MEMBERS

Our Society welcomes the following members, who have joined our ranks during the past six months:

Diane ALDRED
Mr. & Mrs. William CURFOOT-
MOLLINGTON
George B. FORTIER
Eleanor Street GOLDEN
Craig LAUBER
Pierre-Louis LAPOINTE
Graham & Karen LOCHHEAD*
Madeleine & Jacques MERCIER
Donna-Rae MOLCAN
William MURRAY
Gail NELSON
Michel POLQUIN
Steve STEWART
Mr. & Mrs. W. WEYNEROWSKI

(* Graham and Karen Lochhead will be departing the Gatineau late in August for a four-year posting to Australia.)

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Our Membership Committee has been hard at work verifying the status of memberships. If you see a RED DOT on your address

label, our records indicate that you have not renewed for 1989/90. Please send your remittance (\$8.00 for one year, \$15.00 for two) to the address on our masthead.

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QUESTIONNAIRES PLEASE!

Have you completed your questionnaire (included in the May newsletter) and sent it in? We need your advice to help us plan for the next year. Please send it to the address at the top of page 1 as soon as possible.

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LAPÊCHE FORMS HERITAGE COMMITTEE

With the active support of the Society and in accord with provincial regulations, the Municipality of Lapêche has established a committee to review buildings, properties, land, and other items of historical interest in the municipality, with a view to preserving their identity and historical significance.

Dr. Stuart Geggie has been named the Society's representative on this committee.

- Charles Landon

The Historical Society of the Gatineau Newsletter is published monthly. Editor is Jay Atherton. Comments and/or contributions are welcomed and encouraged, either by telephone (827-1703) or by mail (R.R.3, Wakefield JOX 3G0).
