



# March 1989 NEWSLETTER

## Purpose of the Society

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

### NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 20  
8:00 p.m.  
West Hull Community Centre  
Old Chelsea  
"The Canadian Heraldic  
Authority:  
Developing a Heraldic System  
for Canada"  
with  
Robert Watt  
Chief Herald of Canada

A member of the Heraldry Association since 1969, Robert Watt holds a B.A. and an M.A. degree from Carleton University (both in the field of Canadian History). From his initial position as an archivist at the Public Archives of Canada in 1969 and 1970, Mr. Watt went on to become Vancouver City Archivist (1971/72) and Director of the Vancouver Museum (1973/1988) until his appointment as Chief Herald of Canada last year. An experienced speaker, Mr. Watt brings many years of experience in the field to his topic.

The meeting will be preceded by a Social Half Hour beginning at 7:30

**BRING A FRIEND!**

### 1989

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Over 100 members of the Society attended the Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting held on Heritage Day, February 20, at the Kingsway Park Golf Club on Mountain Road. The fact that the event took place in a building dating from 1812 added a special flavour to the evening.

The General Meeting itself was preceded by an Awards Banquet, featuring traditional Canadian dishes: tourtière, ragout, turkey, salads, and sugar pie. Special guests included the Mayor of West Hull, Judy Grant, several of our monthly speakers over the past year, and ~~the Society's~~ Arthur Davison.

### AWARDS

Arthur Davison himself presented the Arthur Davison Prize to Joanne MacDonald for her article "Gatineau Labyrinth - The Laflèche Cave", which appeared in the 1988 edition of *Up the Gatineau*.

Tony German presented Life Memberships to P.M.O. (Pat) Evans, who has been a member of the Society for 26 years and currently serves as its Archivist; and R.A.J. (Bob) Phillips, a leader in the heritage movement in Canada, a founding director of Heritage Canada, and a former President of our Society.

Bob Phillips then presented Outstanding Achievement Awards to Diane Aldred for her history of Aylmer and excellent work with the Aylmer Heritage Association; and Jacques and Madeleine Mercier for their devoted work in preserving the Stevenson House in Wakefield.

An Award of Recognition was presented by Rolf Latté to Pierre-Louis Lapointe of the Archives nationales du Québec, founding President of the Institut d'histoire et de recherche sur l'Outaouais.

### ANNUAL MEETING

After a brief break in proceedings, the annual business meeting began at about 8:30 p.m. with a review of the year's events by Co-President Ann Chudleigh. Special recognition was accorded to four members who had assisted the executive over the past year: Anne Fleming, Rae Moore, Rick Hofer, and Elizabeth Carlton.

The Chairman of the Search for History Committee, Rolf Latté, assisted by Pierre-Louis Lapointe, described (with slides) the "Canton de Hull" project designed to accumulate all known data on the early settlement based on census and notarial records. The project will produce a series of coloured maps to illustrate the makeup of the township between 1842 and 1891.

Rolf Latté then presented a cheque to the sponsors of the "History of the Outaouais" project, Pierre-Louis Lapointe, Chad Gaffield, and André Larose, and expressed our Society's support for this jointly-funded initiative.

### FINANCES

Elizabeth Carlton, Society Treasurer, distributed copies of her financial report for the year 1988, which may be summarized as follows:

<b>Revenue</b>	
Memberships	1,684.41
Donations	56.05
Grants	
Challenge 88	4,914.00
Municipalities	500.00
Gouv. du Québec	19,500.00
N.C.C.	5,000.00
Challenge 87	626.00
Special Projects	
Auction	3,902.23
Friends of Museum	68.48
Bus Tours	720.00
Publications	2,592.45
Miscellaneous	
Coffee Fund	55.50
Interest	3,103.17

**Total Revenue** 42,722.29

<b>Expenses</b>	
Administration	10,306.93
Publications	2,621.76
Museum/Mill	
Wages	20,050.00
Exhibits	470.55
Office	272.74
Printing/Pub's	3,915.53
Telephone	646.73
Pioneer Cemetery	165.04
Remembrance Day	401.90
Special Projects	
Auction	1,011.14
Bus Tours	437.61
Canada Day	660.45
Elizabethan Concert	850.99
Scots Celidh	443.00
Search for History	7,000.00
Grants/Bursaries	250.00

**Total Expenses** 49,504.37

The Treasurer also reported that the Society's total assets as of December 31, 1988, stood at \$48,015.43. Noting, however, that the Society

had operated at a deficit of \$6,702.08 in the past year, she urged the new Executive to examine closely its priorities during the coming year.

Following passage of the financial report and approval of the appointment of John Purcell as Auditor, the meeting then debated the idea of raising membership fees immediately and instituting a Life Membership. It was agreed that the Executive should conduct a thorough review of the financial situation and propose revisions to the membership fees at a monthly meeting.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The meeting accepted the report of the Nominations Committee, thereby electing the following slate of officers for 1989:

President	Ann Chudleigh
1st Vice President	Charles Landon
2nd Vice President	Joanne MacDonald
Directors	Carol Martin Elizabeth Macfie Stuart Geggie Katharine Fletcher Eric Fletcher
Past-President	R.A.J. Phillips

(The full listing of all elected and appointed officers will appear in the April Newsletter.)

**PROGRAM AND PUBLICATIONS**

Joanne MacDonald summarized the program for 1989, as it is known at this time:

**March 20** - Robert Watt, Chief Herald of Canada

**April 17** - Pierre-Louis Lapointe on Reverend John Brady

**May** - Opening of the Mill and Museum

**July** - Musical Events at the Museum

**November 11** - Remembrance Day Ceremony

The Bus Tour will likely take place in Cantley/Limbour or north of Wakefield.

Members with ideas for speakers for monthly meetings are asked to telephone the Society at 827-4432 (leave a message on the answering machine) or Joanne MacDonald at 827-1795.

The 1989 issue of Up the Gatineau will probably be based on the Papers of Joe Boyle, as edited by Stuart Geggie - stories and information concerning logging in the Outaouais, including some interesting photographs. The 1989 edition will also contain an index of past issues.

The Membership Secretary, Donna Rae, has indicated her intention to conduct a survey of the membership to determine interests and uncover volunteers for our various projects.

**THANKS & APOLOGIES**

Our thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting such an outstanding event. Indeed, its success in terms of numbers gives rise to an apology to the twenty-five members who were not able to participate in the banquet due to a shortage of space at the tables. Next year we shall ensure that this is not a problem.

Jay Atherton

### UPDATE: THE DIGESTOR TOWER

Members were interested to read in the Ottawa Citizen of February 21 of interesting developments concerning the Digestor Tower on the grounds of the new Canadian Museum of Civilization. On the weekend of February 18 and 19 the Museum and Carleton University's School of Architecture sponsored a "charette" or architectural brain-storming session to come up with ideas on how to save the 33-metre-high limestone tower.

Winners of the competition were Ottawa architect Michael Lundholm and five assistants. Their plan would see a wooden latticework built up two sides of the tower to let visitors climb up and touch the structure. A sound system inside the tower would reproduce the sounds, human and mechanical, of the tower in operation - as it would have sounded earlier this century.

More information in the next Newsletter.

- Jay Atherton

### UPDATE: THE FAIRBAIRN/MCNALLY HOUSE

The search continues for a solution to the problem of how to save this building, situated in the path of the planned highway bypass around Wakefield. Pressure from the membership would help. Lapêche Council is being urged to undertake an initiative to identify all heritage buildings in the municipality, including the McNally House. Anyone with ideas should call Charles Landon (459-3626).

- Jay Atherton

### MACKAY HOUSE IN ROCKCLIFFE IN DANGER

The January issue of the new publication of

Heritage Canada, Impact, informs us that Berkenfels, the oldest home in Rockcliffe will be torn down in two years if a buyer cannot be found. The home was built in 1862 by the son of Thomas Mackay, a Scottish stonemason who worked on the Rideau Canal with Colonel John By and constructed the residence that is now Rideau Hall.

Berkenfels sits on 9.5 acres of land; annual maintenance costs are \$100,000. The heritage value of the building stems from its close association with the establishment of the Village of Rockcliffe and its villa-like architectural design.

- Jay Atherton

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Members are reminded that all memberships (except those covering the second year of a two-year membership) have expired. If you have not yet renewed, please do so (address: Box 485, Chelsea, J0X 1N0). The membership fee is a modest \$8.00 for one year, \$15.00 for two years.

If you are unsure of your present membership status, call our office (answering machine - leave a message) at 827-4432.

The Society welcomes new members. Encourage your friends to join and support our interesting heritage activities.

The Historical Society of the Gatineau Newsletter is published monthly.

Editor is Jay Atherton (827-1703).

Comments and/or contributions are welcomed and encouraged.