

**THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU
LA SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE LA GATINEAU**

Box/C.P. 485, Chelsea (Qué) J0X 1N0
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Newsletter / Bulletin

December / décembre 1990

Our Next Meeting:

Monday, Dec. 10, 6:00 p.m.

Kingsway Golf Club
Mountain Road

CHRISTMAS DINNER & ANNUAL MEETING

Reminder! Have you booked reservations for the Society's annual dinner and meeting, this year with Christmas decorations? The date is Monday, December 10, and the place, the Kingsway Golf Club on the Mountain Road. The Club has a new chef and Steve Stewart promises another splendid buffet.

Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m., to be followed by the annual meeting at about 8:00 p.m. and readings by Society authors. Throughout the evening, Society publications will be on sale in the Club library.

To make your reservations, please call the Society's answering machine at 827-4432, and leave your name, telephone number, and the number in your party. The cost is \$15, including tax and service, payable at the door. We look forward to seeing you there.

- Ann Chudleigh

How to Get There

The Kingsway Golf Club is situated directly north of Aylmer on the Mountain Road, about four kilometres beyond the intersection of Mountain, Notch, and Vanier Roads.

Notice of Meeting

Article III of the Society's Constitution provides for an annual meeting to take place in January or February of each year. This paragraph constitutes "notice of meeting", to permit the Society to hold its annual meeting a month early, in December instead of January.

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Coming Events

Annual Dinner and Meeting

Monday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.

Kingsway Golf Club

(See notice above)

There will be no meeting in January

Heritage Day

Monday, February 19

Heritage Day Debate

Watch for information in the next *Newsletter*

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Membership News

Welcome to the following new members of the Society:

Keith Lachance
Douglas & Marilyn Liddiard
Barbara Tevlin
John Farmer
Mike Lyscom
Wayne Shouldice
Anne McSheffrey

Can anyone help us locate a member who seems to have moved: John C. Barry, formerly of 169 Mackay Street, Ottawa?

Membership expired or expiring? Check the date on your address label. Renewals (covering all family members) cost \$15 for one year, \$25 for two years. Please send a cheque, made out to "Historical Society of the Gatineau", to the address on our masthead.

Why not consider a gift membership to a friend, to mark the Christmas season? A special certificate will be provided, in an envelope convenient for mailing.

Executive Meeting Summary

From the Executive Meeting held on November 5:

First draft of Procedures Manual (containing duties of officers, terms of reference of committee, etc.) reviewed. To be updated and added to regularly, with a view to having a complete manual ready early in 1991.

Yvonne Jurgens agreed to take responsibility for sale of publications.

Arrangements for annual meeting on December 10 agreed to.

Treasurer reported that all financial matters were in order.

Search for History Committee given green light to proceed with plans for another debate on Heritage Day (February 19).

Future monthly members' meetings will be in Chelsea United Church. Agreed that there will be no January meeting.

In-depth discussion on future of Mill and Museum. A number of options presented. Ad hoc committee to be appointed to enumerate options, with costs, and present alternatives to executive as soon as possible.

Society has received an Award of Merit from Minister of State for Youth, in recognition of our contribution to student summer employment.

Next meeting December 3 to review plans for annual meeting on December 10.

- Jay Atherton

Christmas Gift Ideas

The Historical Society offers a number of interesting publications that would make ideal Christmas gifts for family and friends:

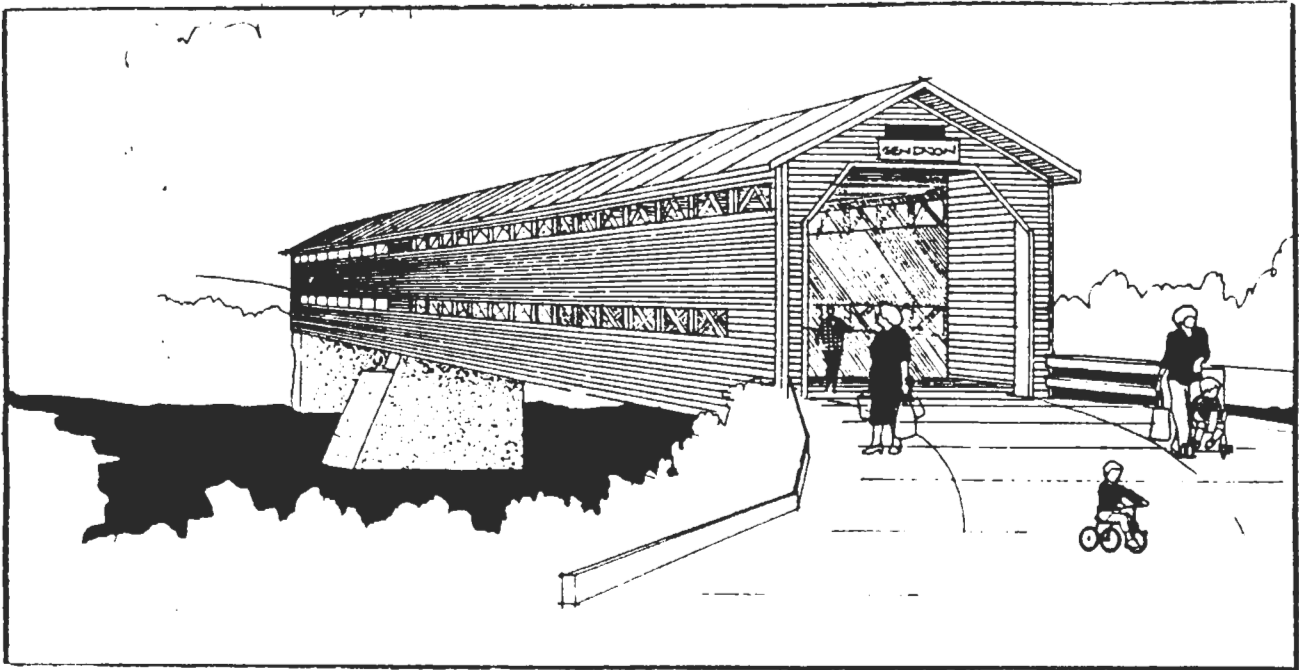
Courtney Bond's *Hurling Down the Pine*, the story of early logging days in the Gatineau (\$11.95).

Historical Walks: the Gatineau Park Story, by Katharine Fletcher - a history of pioneers, recreation, and industry, with walks (including maps) for every level of hiker (\$10.00).

NEW: *Wakefield and its People: Tours of the Village*, by Norma Geggie (see review above) - (\$8.00).

The journal of Wakefield's Dr. Harold Geggie, *The Extra Mile*, edited by his son, Dr. Stuart Geggie (\$10.00).

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Wakefield Covered Bridge Committee

On October 24 the Wakefield Covered Bridge Committee, now a committee of the Historical Society of the Gatineau, held a public meeting to present its plans for rebuilding an exact replica of the 1915 Gendron Bridge. That bridge was destroyed by arson on July 10, 1984. Plans call for the new bridge to be officially opened on Thanksgiving Day, 1992, for pedestrians and cyclists.

At the meeting, Bob Phillips spoke eloquently and passionately about the importance of the bridge as an evocative symbol that touches people and that will make Wakefield a special village in the National Capital Region.

The cost of rebuilding the bridge is estimated at \$600,000; this includes gifts-in-kind such as volunteer labour and donated construction materials. The Committee's action plan calls for 20% of the funds to be raised from corporations, businesses, and community groups and institutions. Another 10% is to come from families and individuals, and 20% from special events. This will all be matched (50%) by government grants. The main feature of the fund-raising strategy will be the "buy a beam, buy a board" campaign, which will be

launched in the spring.

The Committee appealed to community members and associations to become actively involved in the project through contributing ideas, time, and talents, goods, and services - and/or buying a board or a beam. Financial contributions are tax deductible. Is there some way you can "help make it happen"?

- Ann Chudleigh

Co-Chair, Fundraising Committee

Christmas Gift Ideas (cont. from p. 2)

Norma and Stuart Geggie, *Unto the Hills*, a history of the United Church of Canada in Alcove, Wakefield, Cascades, and Rupert (\$5.50).

Historical Map of West Hull, black and white, with names of early landholders (\$10.00).

Up the Gatineau!, the Society's annual publication. Back issues are available. This year's issue features articles

on Richard Rowland Thompson, Teresa Meness of the Maniwaki Algonquins, and excerpts from an 1888 notebook. (\$4.00)

Publications may be ordered by mail at the Society's address (given on page one) or by telephone (827-4432).

Update: the Digester Tower

HSG members will recall the involvement of the Society (and this *Newsletter*) in the campaign a year ago to ensure the preservation of the Digester Tower on the site of the Canadian Museum of Civilization. What is the current status of this building?

George McDonald, Director of the Museum, has informed me that the Tower has been "stabilized", that is, is now not in danger. While the Museum does not have funds to develop the structure in any way in the foreseeable future, discussions are under way on a number of possibilities. However, we can be sure that the Digester Tower is safe - and will remain so.

- Jay Atherton

Quote of the Month

"I shall cheerfully bear the reproach of having descended below the dignity of history."

- Lord Macaulay

The Historical Society of the Gatineau *Newsletter* is published monthly. It belongs to the membership and should be seen and used as a vehicle of communications between and for the members of the Historical Society. Comments and/or contributions are welcomed and encouraged by the editor, Jay Atherton, either by telephone (827-1703) or by mail (R.R.3, Wakefield, QC J0X 3G0).

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