



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE GATINEAU

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1990

Box 485, Chelsea, Québec J0X 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."

OUR NEXT MEETING:

A HISTORICAL DEBATE

MONDAY, FEB. 19

"HERITAGE DAY"

Heritage College (CEGEP)

205 Laurier, Hull

The Search for History Committee and
Heritage College present

The First Annual Philemon Wright Debate

7:00 p.m. - Refreshments (Cash Bar)

7:30 p.m. - Debate

8:30 p.m. - Discussion, allowing the
audience to take on the debaters

THEME: "PHILEMON WRIGHT - BENEVOLENT
AUTOCRAT OR CARING VISIONARY?"

".. in essence a benevolent autocrat
who ruled his little kingdom with a
paternalistic hand."

Bruce S. Elliott

"A natural leader and a practical
man, he was also a visionary."

Shirley E. Woods Jr.

What type of man was Philemon
Wright? What forces motivated his
determination to see our region
developed?

The answers to these and similar
questions will be at the heart of
the first Annual Philemon Wright
Debate.

This family event will follow the
rules of formal debating. Under the
watchful eye of a moderator, four
speakers, two representing each side
of the question, will set out to
establish that Philemon Wright was
either a tyrant or a visionary.
They will be debating the following
resolution:

Be it resolved that in his
dealings with the early
settlers of Hull, Philemon
Wright was a benevolent
autocrat.

Participants will include Peter
Gillis, Pierre-Louis Lapointe,
Michael Newton, Bob Phillips, and
even old Philemon himself!

This debate is presented under the
joint sponsorship of the Historical
Society of the Gatineau's Search for
History Committee and Heritage
College. It is intended to be both
entertaining and enlightening, and
if successful will serve as the
first in a series of Heritage Day

events leading up to the Bicentennial Celebration of Philemon Wright's arrival, which will be marked in the year 2000. Audience members will have a chance to comment or ask questions of the debaters and at the end of the evening a vote will be taken to establish which side of the proposition prevailed.

Refreshments, including wine (cash bar), will be offered before and after the debate so as to help the participants get in the proper frame of mind. There will be no admission charge, although guests will be invited to make a voluntary contribution to The Search for History Committee to help defray the costs of this and other projects.

Was Philemon Wright a benevolent autocrat who ruled his little kingdom with a paternalistic hand, as Bruce Elliott has suggested, or was he rather the natural leader, practical man and visionary that Shirley Woods portrays?

Come and find out. Bring a friend!

- Bill Young

HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL MEETING

Almost one hundred members of the Society attended the Annual General Meeting, held at the Kingsway Park Golf and Country Club on Mountain Road on Monday, January 22. In addition to enjoying an excellent meal, those who attended participated in a productive business meeting.

Ann Chudleigh opened the meeting with her farewell report as President. She thanked for their

support and energy those members of the Executive who were stepping down: Katharine and Eric Fletcher, as well as Joanne MacDonald and Charles Landon, the two Vice Presidents. Yvonne Jurgens has agreed to take on the Treasurer's duties for Gail and Steve Stewart. Ann also outlined a few of the challenges facing the Society, including the uncertain future of the Mill and Museum and the need to bring more volunteer energy onto all the Society's committees.

Following formal adoption of the financial report (summarized below) the meeting appointed David Castleman as the auditor for 1990. Those present then debated the issue of membership fees. It was pointed out that the old rates were not covering the costs of serving the membership. Because the Society appeared to be living beyond its means, the meeting unanimously approved a resolution to raise membership fees to \$15 for a one-year membership and \$25 for two years, beginning immediately. (See the message below concerning payment of membership fees.)

Honours and awards were presented: an Award of Achievement to Carol Martin for her substantial contributions to the work of the Society over a number of years; an Outstanding Achievement Award to Lise and Bill Jack for their renovation of the historic Dunn's Hotel (now the Dawn House) in Old Chelsea; and an Honourary Life Membership to Stuart and Norma Gergie for their initiatives in research and publications on the history of the Gatineau.

The members of the new Executive for 1990, all elected by acclamation, are:

President: Douglas Rowland (see biography alongside)

1st Vice President:
Elizabeth MacFie

2nd Vice President:
Molly Waite

Members at Large:
Stuart Geggie
Carol Martin
Allan Richens
Jacques Mercier
Joan Gherson

In closing the business portion of the meeting, those present expressed special thanks to Ann Chudleigh for her strong leadership and dedication as President, and Charles Landon for his support to the President over the past year. There followed a narrative by Moiya Wright on the origins of the Society in 1962 and a showing of Stuart Geggie's "Grandmother's Kitchen" video, supplemented by related artifacts.

- Jay Atherton

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL REPORT

(Copies of the detailed report may be obtained from the Society's Office, by calling the number appearing on our masthead.)

INCOME STATEMENT AND COMPARISONS

	1989	1988
Revenue	\$41,747.98	\$42,722.29
Expenses	<u>\$47,272.81</u>	<u>\$47,193.06</u>
(Loss)	(\$5,993.17)	(\$4,470.77)
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$48,257.42	

MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE

(1) Doug Rowland (President)

Our new President, Doug Rowland, attended the University of Manitoba, where he received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Political Science. Following service at sea with the Royal Canadian Navy in 1963 and 1964, Doug attended McGill University, where he undertook doctoral studies in Canadian Government and International Relations.

Between 1964 and 1974, Doug was directly involved in politics with the New Democratic Party, as Director of Urban Organization in Manitoba, Executive Assistant to the Federal Leader, Associate Secretary to the Cabinet and Special Assistant to the Premier of Manitoba, Ed Schreyer, and Member of Parliament for Selkirk (1970-74).

Doug's career with the federal government began in 1974 as a Distinguished Visitor at the Staff Development Centre at Touraine. From this post he went on to become Director General of the Staff Development Branch of the Public Service Commission between 1976 and 1978. He then served as Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet for Planning Analysis and Research (1978-80); Director of the Parliamentary Centre for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (1980-83); Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Executive Director, Aboriginal Services Review at the Ministry of State for Social Development (1983-84); Special Advisor to the Principal of the Centre for Executive Development at Touraine (1984), Chairman of the

Interdepartmental Working Group on Conflict of Interest in the Privy Council office (1984-85); and Director of Planning and Systems, Senior Personnel Secretariat, PCO (1986-87). In 1987, he joined Canada Post Corporation, where he is currently the Corporate Manager of Customer Services.

Doug sits on the Board of Directors of the Centre for Legislative Exchange, and is Secretary of the Association of Former Parliamentarians. He is also a member of the Naval Officers' Association and, of course, the Historical Society of the Gatineau.

- Jay Atherton

1990 AUCTION SALE

Members are reminded that we will be looking for good quality items for our annual auction sale this coming summer. In addition, we have arranged to store your items safely until then, if you want to clear them out soon. Just call the Society's office (827-4432) and leave a message.

Don't wait for Spring - do it now!

WAKEFIELD MILL VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Arthur Dunn is looking for volunteers willing to commit themselves for a couple of Saturdays in March to help clean up the Mill. There is general work to be done, as well as some heavy work (moving equipment), and other special tasks.

We also need some people with special skills (such as woodworking, carpentry, sign-making,

illustration, research, and interpretation) to back up a general committee. If interested, please call Arthur Dunn at 225-4149.

- Jay Atherton

BOOK REVIEW: HISTORY OF CANTLEY

Robert A.J. Phillips. The History of Cantley - L'histoire de Cantley
48 pp. English and French
ISBN 2-9801655-0-6
c 1989 Municipalité de Cantley, 8,
chemin River, Cantley, Qué J0X 1L0
Cost: \$7.95

This soft-backed, beautifully produced publication joins the ever-growing number of local histories of communities, institutions, and structures in the Gatineau Valley and its environs which are being researched and published. The repute of its author is widely known to most prospective readers of this history under review, yet having perused the well-written and illustrated booklet two or three times I cannot escape the feeling that I have been somewhat cheated by its brevity. This discomfort persists although its author clearly states in the foreward, and we are reminded again that the work "is only the beginning of Cantley's history. The best pages are yet to be written." In other words, the author leaves the reader anticipating that there is more to follow this "appetizer".

While the illustrations were excellently produced - and as a bonus a map of the area was provided - I would have been happier to see more pictures of the people who were Cantley's settlers, or at least some of their descendants.

Apparently Colonel Cantley's earthly body is safely laid to rest. The spirit of the dead officer, however, manages to survive in legendary annals. R.I.P. "Colonel".

- Patrick M.O. Evans

OTTAWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY INTRODUCES COL. BY AWARD

The Historical Society of Ottawa, in its November 1989 Newsletter, announced the creation of "The Colonel John By Award for History". It will take the form of a bursary of \$500 and a medallion to be awarded to a third year history student for research in the history of the National Capital Region. The award will alternate between Carleton University and the University of Ottawa, beginning with Carleton in the year 1989/90.

The Society hopes to be able to publish the work of the winning candidate in its pamphlet series.

A good idea - similar to our Society's Arthur Davison Prize for the best article in Up the Gatineau!, which was not presented this year because of the special nature of our annual review (containing one lengthy memoir, rather than several smaller articles).

- Jay Atherton

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"If men could learn from history,
what lessons it might teach us!"
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please check your Newsletter mailing label to see if your membership expired at the end of December 1989.

If so, please complete the enclosed Membership Form, including the section on volunteer activities, and return it with your cheque for \$15 for one year or \$25 for two years - per household.

If you are one of the 25 early birds who have already sent a cheque for \$8 or \$15 (the old rates) for 1990, please be good enough to complete the form and send a second cheque for the balance. We hope you will understand the problems of making the transition fairly to the new rates. Thank you.

Please don't turn Marilyn's hair grey;

Return your payment right away!

- Ann Chudleigh

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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, QC J0X 3G0).

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