



HSOG 10/26

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

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Newsletter / Bulletin

July-August / juillet-août 1991

Annual Auction and FleaMarket

Saturday, August 17

Chelsea Community Centre

Viewing starts at 8:30 a.m.

Auction starts at 9:30 a.m.

Auctioneer: Revel Stewart

Proceeds support the work of the
Historical Society.

Call for Items:

Articles for sale will be received on
August ¹⁶~~20~~, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Antiques and collectibles for the
auction are welcome from any
source; flea market items from
Society members only please.
Call Colin Chisholm at 827-0512.

Newsletter/Bulletin

Editor: Jay Atherton

Contributions are welcome

HERITAGE ROUNDUP

"Québec Regional Report"

The past year has been a time for reflection and dialogue for those involved in heritage conservation in Québec. Discussions on Québec's future centred mainly on our culture and identity. The Ministry of Cultural Affairs made public the results of a study on the financing of cultural organizations (Samson-Bélair Report) and struck a committee (the Arpin Committee) to define the cultural policy of the Québec government. In all these discussions, however, heritage had little or no place. We are still waiting for a heritage policy, announced several years ago. A certain pessimism prevails in organizations involved in conservation. While heritage is more and more endangered, we encounter increasing difficulties in finding financing and mobilizing support.

In view of this, members of several groups decided to organize a heritage States General, with the objective of bringing together all interested parties for a giant meeting in November, the *Heritage Forum 1991*.

Héritage Montréal started the ball rolling in April '90 by setting up REZO, a group of conservation organizations in the Montréal area. A follow-up to this conclave will be held on May 18, 1991; in the meantime REZO has published a directory of all interested parties in the area.

The CMSQ can take credit for bringing together conservation people from all over Québec at its annual meeting last December where an organizing committee was formed for *Heritage Forum 1991*. Since then, over 500 names have been listed as potential participants. Consultations will be held with individuals and organizations to assess the status of conservation and to bring to light current problems in an effort to structure discussions for the Forum. This initiative demonstrates that we have to take charge in defending our own cause and that collective mobilization is the way to obtain results.

Other events of note this year in Québec: important collaborative agreements have been signed by different partners, principally agreements between the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the cities of Montréal and Québec, which total



more than 100 million dollars over a five-year period. They will help promote conservation and emphasize the value of our heritage resources and assist in publicizing them as well.

Other collaborations are expected to bring promising results in future years. Indeed, the School of Architecture at the University of Laval, in cooperation with the City of Québec, will undertake a training program in restoration.

This same school of architecture, along with Heritage Canada's Main Street office in Québec, has also developed a continuing education program in revitalization which will help sensitize a greater number of municipalities to the importance of conservation. ...

The news of a \$3 million grant from the federal Department of Communications, to continue the Main Street program, was warmly received in Québec municipalities, several of which had been waiting for a reply for several months. Eight new cities have already signed a three-year agreement. This makes us optimistic about the possibility of obtaining funds to finance the cause of heritage.

Let us hope that in the year to come we will see some results. Discussions and deliberations now getting under way should lead towards the adoption of definite positions, directions and, let us hope, concrete action plans. Finally, young people in particular

should be made aware, as early as possible in their lives, of the need for conservation.

- *Impact* (Heritage Canada), May 1991

CHA Regional History Certificates of Merit

The Canadian Historical Association has announced its annual regional history certificate of merit awards. These awards are given for "meritorious publications or exceptional contributions by individuals or organizations to regional history in Canada.

Camil Girard and Normand Perron won an award for their *Histoire du Saguenay-Lac Saint Jean*. The other Québec region certificate was won by the *Revue Cap-au-Diamants* for five years of consistent high-level contributions to Québec's history.

- *Impact* (Heritage Canada), May 1991

[... and for the Wakefield Bridge Committee supporters]

Historic New Brunswick Covered Bridge to be Rebuilt

In early January the covered bridge at Point Wolfe, New Brunswick in the Fundy National Park was accidentally destroyed. The loss was decried by many heritage groups. These organizations, including Heritage Canada, lobbied the Canadian Parks Service (CPS) to rebuild the structure in recognition of the role the covered

bridge plays in New Brunswick's heritage. A local heritage group, the Albert County Heritage Trust, galvanized community support by spearheading a fund-raising drive. The Trust was overwhelmed by local and national support. Many of the area's residents, according to the Trust's president, Mary Majka, "have a tremendous, sentimental attachment to the bridge." People from across Canada, who had visited Point Wolfe in the past, sent in contributions. Others offered to donate time and labour to rebuild the bridge itself.

This groundswell of support seemed doomed, however, because Canadian Parks Service policy discourages reconstruction with the replication of every detail of a structure. According to its Cultural Resource Management Policy, replication is not a viable alternative, as it is seen to "cheapen the real," giving the observer a false sense of history. However, recognizing the great support for rebuilding, the CPS struck middle ground and agreed that a new bridge could draw on the context of the old.

Robert de Cotret, federal Minister of the Environment, recently announced that a new, wooden covered bridge will be built on the site using similar materials and of a design similar to the original, but meeting modern safety standards. Thus the bridge will be wider and will be supported on a concrete base.

The Albert County Heritage Trust, instrumental in saving two other New Brunswick covered bridges, has decided to use the money it has collected to erect an interpretive exhibit explaining the history of this bridge site. A plaque with the names of everyone who contributed to the cause will be included in the permanent exhibit. As Mary Majka noted, the Point Wolfe bridge is not just a bridge, "...but a landmark, a symbol of the past which people want to keep in their memories."

- *Impact* (Heritage Canada), March 1991

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1-800-668-1867

Heritage Canada has announced that it has installed a toll-free line, 1-800-668-1867, to provide all Canadians with easy access to information on its programs and membership. Heritage Canada is a national, non-profit, membership-based organization, established in 1973 to encourage Canadians to identify, protect and enhance their cultural, built and natural environments. Programs are designed to help communities manage their heritage resources. Want more information? Just call:

1-800-668-1867

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Following the recent launching of the booklet "Touring the Two Chelseas" I purchased a copy for my own bookshelf. Later the same day I settled down to examine my new treasure, which is based on my research for the book "A Tale of Two Chelseas".

As you may imagine I was more than a little surprised to find errors on page 12. Firstly, on the right gate the spelling (as one faces the burying ground) is CEMETARY, not cemetery. The error makes the remark in the text on spelling nonsensical. Secondly, the photograph is not that of the Rev. Asa Meech but of his son John Dockstader Meech. Thirdly, the text beside the photo' indicates the birth and death dates of Rev. Asa Meech as (774-1849). In any case it is 1775.

The Preface of the booklet pays tribute to a number of people who had a hand in its production. I should imagine that they would like to distance themselves, as do I, from the shoddy proofreading.

With my archival colleague, Anne Goodeve, I examined the photographs borrowed to illustrate the booklet. We noted that the one of Rev. Asa Meech had been marked for production, nevertheless it was replaced.

While I'm at it, perhaps I should mention that under the photo' on page 11 it indicates that the same

location was used for the photo' on page 5. This is relatively true, except that Brook's Creek flows between the two locations.

Perhaps I should now draw the proverbial veil over this sad affair.

Patrick M.O. Evans
31 May 1991

ARCHIVES

Hours of Service (Up to Labour Day)

By appointment only, during the following hours:

Mon. 10:00 a.m. - noon
Tues. 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Wed. 10:00 a.m. - noon
Thur. 5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Fri. 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

HISTORICAL BOOKS,
PHOTOGRAPHS,
GENEALOGICAL AND OTHER
RECORDS

ALL OF THE GATINEAU

Archives situated in Chelsea
Municipal Council Chamber under
the Library in Chelsea, Québec.

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