

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

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Newsletter / Bulletin

March / mars 1994

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, March 21
8:00 p.m.

Chelsea Community Centre
Old Chelsea, Québec

Prof. André Cellard
History Department
University of Ottawa

"Amerindians of the Ottawa Valley"

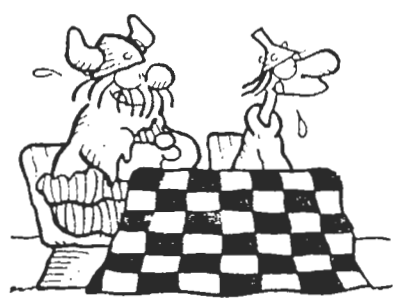
The native people of our area before the arrival of the European settlers; the early relations between the original peoples and the French explorers.

Come and bring a friend!

Refreshments at 7:30; meeting at 8:00.

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT HERITAGE DAY BANQUET

Seventy-five members, family, and friends attended the annual Heritage Day Banquet of the Historical Society on Monday, February 21. The success of the evening has been credited to three factors: the favourable facilities provided by the large general purpose room of Chelsea Elementary School (large, airy, bright, cheerful, with excellent acoustics); the catering for the dinner, supplied by Les Délicatesses d'Old Chelsea; and the informative and entertaining after dinner talk.



The Corporate Archivist of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Ernie Dick, supplied the talk, on the theme of "An Earful of Canadiana" - tapes of early recorded sound, with informative commentary.

Thanks to everyone involved in organizing the evening.

ANNUAL AWARDS

The President of the Historical Society, Jay Atherton, presented a number of merit awards at the Annual General meeting, which followed the banquet on February 21.

Letters of commendation, in recognition of a significant contribution to the aims of the Society, were given to:

- Ann Chudleigh and Charles Landon, for their valuable leadership as co-presidents in 1988 and as president (Ann) and vice president (Charles) in 1989; and
- Malcolm (Mike) Nelles, for his service to the Society's Archives over a period of some years.

The *Arthur Davison Prize*, for the best article in the 1993 edition of *Up the Gatineau!*, went to Hans Honegger and Warren Major for their interesting article, "The Gilmour House."

Outstanding contributions to heritage preservation, work in research, or the work of the Society are recognized each year through the presentation of *Awards of Honour*. This year's recipients were:

- David Castleman, for his long and faithful association with the Society, including his work latterly as chair of the Finance Committee; and
- Chelsea Elementary School.



The citation for the award to the school reads as follows:

An AWARD OF HONOUR to the CHELSEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, where the idea had birth of procuring a tugboat which had previously been used to control the floating logs in the river, which practice had recently been brought to an end, after almost 150 years.

A double purpose, it is hoped, is to provide a new play structure at the school and to remind today's pupils and students in the future, of the reason why the vessel had been built originally.

The activities of the tugboat, and others like it, had been in our grandfathers' and great-grandfathers' time the means of putting food on the family table and clothes on the backs of the family, through the wages earned in the lumbering business.

The Society's president will present this award to the school at a special ceremony to be held in May.

Finally, the Society's highest award of recognition, an *Annual Life Membership*, was presented to Carol Martin, in appreciation of her long and varied services to the Society. Mrs. Martin is current editor of *Up the Gatineau!*

Congratulations to everyone - and thanks to the Awards Committee, chaired by Patrick Evans, assisted by Elizabeth Macfie and Anne Goodeve. Good work!

NEW EXECUTIVE

At the Annual General Meeting, the members elected the following Executive for 1994:

President:	Jay Atherton
1st Vice President	Carol Martin
2nd Vice President	Allan Richens

Directors:	Stuart Gergie
	David Castleman
	George Gould
	Gunda Lambton
	Jeff Atkins

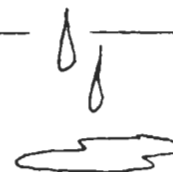


BERTRAND ANNOUNCES GRANT FOR COVERED BRIDGE PROJECT

At the Heritage Day Banquet of the Historical Society, Robert Bertrand, member of Parliament for Pontiac-Gatineau-Labelle, announced a grant of \$26,000 to the Wakefield Covered Bridge Project. The Bridge Committee will match this grant from its own funds. The result will be the creation of 14 jobs, 262 weeks of employment, and completion of the sawing and stockpiling of the lumber to be used in the bridge construction.

Things Archival

AQUA
AQUA



Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink. This has been, so far, a hard winter to take because of the very low temperatures. It has caused havoc with frozen pipes in many a household and in business establishments in the area.

Our archives, underneath the Library in Chelsea, has not escaped the attacks of Jack Frost this winter. As you may know, the archives are housed in two cupboards at either end of what was the town hall. One of the cupboards is next to the washroom, with its collection of pipes, tanks, etc. etc. This caused what Noah knew well: FLOODING.

Fortunately, our storage room, next door to the washroom, suffered only slightly. Some of our pictures, which were mounted on stiff cardboard, got a soaking from a burst frozen pipe, which caused them to buckle when they dried.

With careful handling, which involved resoaking and peeling off the cardboard, we managed to get all but one flat again. You may rest assured that this will not happen again to your picture collection as new storage has been located in the same building.

Thanks to Mayor Judy Grant for her personal interest and to several municipal employees who assisted us with the rescue operation.

Pat Evans, Archivist and Researcher

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CHALLENGES FOR 1994

The following is the text of the message delivered by the President of the Society at the Annual General Meeting:

You will be relieved to hear that my remarks are going to be brief. You will already have seen the Annual report, so I need only convey my thanks to some people and spend a few moments commenting on a few of the challenges facing us next year.

Of course, I must express my gratitude to the entire executive and board of directors for their support and good work over the past twelve months. In particular, I want to thank Valerie Hiscocks, who is leaving the board at this time. Her work with Gunda Lambton on the Program Committee has been exemplary - we shall all miss her friendly and positive personality - but expect to see her and Jeff regularly at our membership meetings.

I have worked closely over the past year with four efficient ladies, to whom we all owe debts of gratitude: Yvonne Jurgens, who did double duty as Treasurer and Membership Secretary until her departure last summer (we hope she thinks of us now and then from sunny (and warm) Indonesia); Patricia Lavergne, Yvonne's successor as Membership Secretary; Mary Lamoureux, who has cheerfully taken on the task as our Treasurer; and our efficient and friendly Secretary, Muriel How.

Special appreciation is due to Harky Milks, for his generosity in allowing us to use his advertisement in The News on several occasions over the past year to spread the word about our program and events. Finally, an expression of gratitude to Judy Grant, the Mayor of the Municipality of Chelsea, for her help and involvement - in particular with the work on the two historical cemeteries, but just in general for her enthusiasm and for being there when we have needed her. Thanks also to the Mayor of Lapêche, Marie-Hélène Courtemanche-Boyle, and our Member of Parliament, Robert Bertrand, for their interest and support.

— which takes us to the future, to consideration of the challenges before us in 1994. In addition to our regular activities (which, of course, are important), there are five particular areas that deserve special mention.

First, the initiative to complete the work on the Protestant Burial Ground in Old Chelsea - the resting place of a number of our early citizens, including the Reverend Asa Meech. The Cemetery Committee will be endeavouring to complete the task of cleaning up the cemetery, with a view to having it in tip-top shape by next fall.

Secondly, our Archives/Research Committee will be looking for a means of expanding its scope by involving someone from the east side of the Gatineau River; a related concern is to expand the committee's potential by adding a member with fluency in the other official language. Volunteers or those with suggestions are invited to approach Pat Evans.

Thirdly, James Strate, the coordinator of our annual auction, will be looking for someone to look after the coordination of the volunteers - so that he can devote his attention to the physical side of things - i.e. getting in the stuff to be auctioned, etc. If anyone has an interest in helping us out in this way with the auction, give James Strate a call (827-2237).

The Bridge Committee will be continuing its fundraising, and expects to make real progress with sawing the logs for the reconstructed bridge - and possibly to make start at actual construction. A considerable challenge.

Finally, the Wakefield Mill and Museum. We shall be sorting out where we stand with the National Capital Commission, then planning and implementing our program for the summer of 1994. This will involve a large amount of work, as well as cooperation with the community of Wakefield. Again, if anyone is interested in helping, please let us know.

I think all of this should keep us busy over the next year!

Up the Gatineau! AVAILABLE

Those members who did not pick up their copy at the recent Banquet and General Meeting will find the latest edition of *Up the Gatineau!* in the same envelope as the newsletter.

Special thanks to editor Carol Martin, all the authors, and advisors and helpers Stuart and Norma Geggie, Ann Chudleigh, and David Geggie. Carol would love to hear from anyone interested in contributing to next year's issue. Give her a call at 827-1633.

Membership

To ensure the best use of our resources, we shall be deleting from our mailing list all names and addresses of those who have not renewed their membership by the end of March.

Please check the address label below. If it has a coloured mark indicating that your membership has expired, please renew, either by mail or at the next meeting on March 21. The fees remain \$15 for one year, and \$25 for two (family membership - a bargain!).

The Historical Society of the Gatineau *Newsletter* is published monthly as a vehicle of communication between members of the Historical Society. Contributions are welcome, care of the address of the Society or by telephone (or fax) to the editor, Jay Atherton (827-1703).

Distribution: thanks to Rae Moore and Marjorie Evis.



IMPORTANT!

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