

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

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Newsletter

HS04 10/31

November - December 1996

Coming Events

Nov. 11: **Remembrance Day Ceremonies** -
Pioneer Cemetery, Chelsea, 10:45 a.m.
Wreaths to be laid by Municipality,
Historical Society, Royal Canadian
Regiment, and Robert Bertrand, M.P.

Nov. 18: **"Wildest Rivers, Oldest Hills -
Stories and Songs of the Gatineau
and Pontiac"** - Gunda Lambton
introduces her latest book, complete
with readings and examples.

Refreshments at 7:30; presentation at
8:00. *Chelsea Community Centre.*

Dec. 2: **Carol Singing at the Grange** -
Annual Christmas festivity, held jointly
with the members of Aylmer Heritage,
at the home of Bob Phillips, Summer
Road, Cantley. 7:30 p.m. refreshments
will be served. For information, call the
Society number (827-4432).

And some events to look forward to in 1997:

Jan. 20: **"Centenary Snapshots"** -
remastered films of Canada's heritage,
with Bill O'Farrell of the National
Archives (see article on page 3). 8:00
p.m. *Chelsea Community Centre.*

Feb. 17: Annual General Meeting
Featured speaker: Jake Warren.

March 17: **"How the Algonquins Lost Their
Hunting Territory,"** a presentation by
John Thompson.

Crawleys Entertain Capacity Crowd

One of the best-attended meetings on record
saw and heard an entertaining presentation by
Michael and Sandy Crawley - daughter and
son respectively of film-makers Budge and
Judy Crawley - at our September meeting.
Script by Michael ("Mikey") Crawley;
presentation by Sandy Crawley.

The program featured the showing of a twenty-
minute video containing a selection of classic
Crawley film snippets. Our 1996/97 program
was off to a good start.



Painters of the Outaouais Featured at October Meeting

Jim Burant, an internationally known expert on
Canadian documentary art, illustrated and
explained a number of contributions to the
pictorial view of the Outaouais at our October
meeting. The examples were taken from Mr.
Burant's home institution, the National Archives
of Canada. The bilingual meeting was held
jointly with members of the Société de l'histoire
de l'Outaouais.

Auction Financial Report

Final figures are now available on the results of this year's Antique Auction. The event this year was unique in that the majority of the items auctioned came from the collections of the Maclaren House/Wakefield Mill Museum.

Net proceeds were as follows:

Auction	\$ 8,911.61
Collectibles	312.00
Flea Market	620.39
Bake Table	<u>157.31</u>
Total	<u>\$10,001.30</u>

The success of this year's event is due to a number of factors, in particular the nature of the items being auctioned. Other positive influences included a good auctioneer ("Hoss" Bertrand), excellent weather, and a crew of hard-working volunteers.

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CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

Plan now to get those ideal Christmas gifts for friends or relatives who have lived in or visited, or are just interested in, the Gatineau.

Hurling Down the Pine - the definitive history of the logging trade on the Gatineau River, by Courtney Bond - a marvellous value at \$5.00.

This year's and previous issues of *Up the Gatineau!* - priced at \$5.00 for volumes 19-22, \$2.00 for earlier volumes.

Also available: *Touring the Two Chelseas* or its French-language version, *Un tour des deux Chelseas*, by R.A.J. Phillips - \$5.00.

Call and pick them up directly from Gudula or Duncan Marshall at 827-2077, 8 Chemin Jenness, Cascades. If ordering by mail through the Society address, please add postage and handling charge of \$1.50.

TWO OTHER GIFT OPTIONS

Be at the Windmill, by Mary Tanguay - an entertaining historical novel about one family's direct involvement with the wave of Irish immigration to Canada in the nineteenth century. The main character in the novel settles in Bytown during the time of the building of the Rideau Canal. A good read!

Of Irish ancestry, the author teaches in the English Department at the University of Ottawa. The cover illustration is by former Chelsea resident, artist Patrick Fordyce.

"The Wildest Rivers, the Oldest Hills" - Stories and Songs of the Gatineau and Pontiac, by Gunda Lambton and Venetia Crawford. To be introduced to the Society on November 18 (see notice on page 1), when autograph copies will be available for sale.

Both books are produced by a local publisher, Voyageur Publishing. Cost of each: \$14.95 - available at Books Canada, 71 Sparks Street, Ottawa, and other fine book stores in the National Capital Region.



Book Distribution Coordinator Still Sought

We are still looking for someone to help coordinate sales of *Up the Gatineau!* through local area book stores.

Anyone interested in helping us out, please contact Hilda Gillen at 729-1616.

CENTENARY SNAPSHOTS

To mark the 100th birthday of movies, The Movie Network (TMN) MOVIEPIX and the National Archives of Canada have created *Centenary Snapshots*, a collection of nine archival short films depicting life in Canada at the turn of the century.

Over one hundred early short films of Canada, preserved as paper prints, were identified in the vaults of the American Library of Congress by researchers from the National Archives in 1994. In the early days of film making, works done on paper were protected by copyright laws, while those produced on film were not. The transference to paper proved to be fortuitous, because otherwise these early images would have been lost years ago, due to the volatile nature of the original film stock.

Funded by a \$400,000 grant from MOVIEPIX to the National Archives, the images have been recaptured on video, and a portion of them is available to the public. The images include the great Toronto fire of 1904, the Musical Ride (1901), a panoramic view of the Gorge Railway (Niagara River gorge - 1901), and the heavyweight championship boxing match in 1907 featuring Canadian Tommy Burns.

The video *Centenary Snapshots* is available for \$10.00 plus shipping and handling through the office of the Friends of the National Archives, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa K1A 0N3. Telephone (613) 992-9367.

(Incidentally, the *Centenary Snapshots* project will be the topic for our January meeting, when Bill O'Farrell of the National Archives will talk about the technical and archival aspects of the project, and show the video.)



CORRESPONDENCE

... from Eric Mahoney, Edmonton, Alberta
(5 August 1996):

I am from Fieldville originally, but live in Edmonton now. I left the Gatineau in 1945 but I try to go back regularly and I enjoy the *Up the Gatineau!* very much.

I got interested in my ancestry 60 years too late. I just came back from a trip to Ireland. I located the area we came from, but that's as far as I got so far. My mother Violet Mahoney (Low), Norman Mahoney and Mrs. Emmitt Mahoney are the last of the older generation from Fieldville and the Stagsburn Road. They all live in Low. Norman ... has a good memory for the old days and its a pleasure to talk to him. I learned from Norman that the corner where the Stagsburn school used to be was called the "Cork turn" because of the number from Cork that settled in the area. It's in conversation that a lot of interesting stories come out. The person telling the story most times does not realize that it is a bit of history.

A little humour for your files:

My great uncle Charles Mahoney had a hotel at Bouchette. In the spring when the log drivers came into town they came to his hotel to drink. They wore boots with corks (metal spikes) in the soles to keep them from slipping on the logs. They had a ritual that they enforced. There was a wood beam inside the hotel and anyone that could not kick it was forced to drink at a table away from the rest. The tall and lanky fellows had no trouble kicking the beam (you could see that it was all splintered from the corks), but the shorter men would try and would end up on their backs on the floor, so they would go back to their table and drink for a while, and when they go up the courage they would try again and again land on their backs and the ritual would start all over again.

(This is a story that came to me just a couple of years ago. I did not know Uncle Charles [Charlie] Mahoney.)



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

THE YEAR 2000 - A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

The year 2000, in addition to being the last of both this century and the second millennium, will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the arrival of Philemon Wright, his family, and colleagues on the site of what is now Hull.

How should we mark this event? Randolph Gherson posed this question at the last Executive meeting, on October 7. Randolph, Carol Martin, Jay Atherton, and Dave Castleman agreed to meet together for a brainstorming session on this topic. (Date and time not yet determined.)

Should we be thinking of some sort of special event or thematic publication? What about a joint project with the Société de l'histoire de l'Outaouais, or the local office of the Archives nationales du Québec, or the municipal archives of the City of Hull? A fund-raising campaign to set up a Society office, or to establish an endowment? There are numerous possibilities, and ample time to plan and ensure a successful outcome.

Any members interested in joining us in this discussion? We would love to have wider participation. Those wishing to participate or to put forward proposals are invited to call Jay Atherton (827-1703), Dave Castleman (827-1610), or Randolph Gherson (827-0050).

Billings Estate Museum Wins Award of Excellence

Recently the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) presented a special award to the Billings Estate Museum in Ottawa. The Society recognized the efforts and innovations of the Museum in "outstanding community programming" by presenting staff with the prestigious "Museum Award of Excellence for 1995."

The Society chose the Billings Estate Museum as a "perfect example of a museum that works for its community." The Billings Estate has been offering a wide range of high quality public programs and exhibits for over 20 years, and this public recognition is well deserved.

The award was presented to staff at the President's Luncheon during the OHS Annual Conference, which was held in Ottawa in May.

(From *Fanlight*, the newsletter of the Billings Estate Museum, September 1996.)

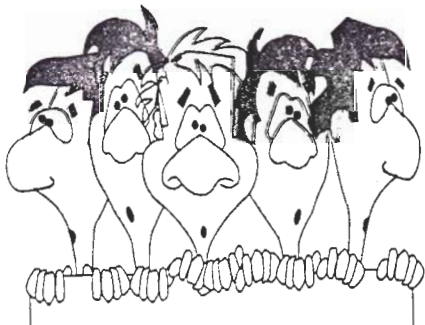


ARCHIVES COMMITTEE TO PLAN ACTIVITIES

The Society's Archives have developed over the years, thanks to the hard work of Patrick Evans and his helpers. To build on this solid record of achievement, the President, Carol Martin, has asked Jay Atherton to undertake a review and study of its current status and likely future directions. Jay is an archivist with considerable experience working for the National Archives of Canada.

This work has begun. Jay has been meeting with Pat Evans and his Archives volunteers: Anne Goodeve, Annette Brand, and Ann Fleming. Their discussions have dealt with the mission of the Archives, its priorities, and what organizational structures are required to ensure success. The group quickly recognized that a permanent Archives Committee was required immediately to provide direction and liaison with the Executive.

At the next Executive Meeting, on November 11, Jay Atherton will be presenting a report with recommendations and a request for the establishment of an Archives Committee. The Executive undoubtedly would like to see representation on the Committee of people interested in the development of the Archives. If YOU are interested in this aspect of the Society's work, give Jay Atherton a call at 827-1703.



THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

BYTOWN MUSEUM EXHIBIT

The Bytown Museum's current exhibition, "Shedding Some Light on Bytown," lights up lamps from the Algonquin period, the pioneer era, kerosene, and up to early electrical lamps. The exhibit will be available until the Museum closes for the season on November 29. The Museum is located at the Rideau Canal locks next to the Chateau Laurier. It is open Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

New "Ecomuseum" Opens Doors in Hull

A new museum of interest to Society members is now open in a historic location in Hull. The site is the 94-year-old pump house on Brewery Creek, right next to the bridge on rue Montcalm (the bridge displaying a piece of the Eiffel Tower - can you find it?).

The Ecomuseum deals with the global and local history of the environment. Visitors will find themselves descending a spiral staircase from which they may view illustrations and authentic fossils illustrating the birth of the solar system and the evolution of the earth.

In addition to the permanent exhibits, the museum also contains temporary displays on such topics as the lumber industry, the Great Fire of 1900, and the history of transportation.

The Ecomuseum is situated at 170 Montcalm and is also accessible from Papineau Street. The admission fee is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for children over six years.



Membership News

Welcome to the following new members::

Mary Macdonald, Ottawa
Harold "Harky" Milks, Chelsea
Howard McConnell, Vancouver
Jim Burant, Ottawa
Lorraine McKay &
Rod Restivo, Chelsea
Cam Guerin, Chelsea
Jack Martin, Wakefield

And a reminder to all current members to check the date on the address label of your Newsletter. If your membership is expiring, please send a cheque to the Society at the address above (one year \$15; two years \$25).

Chelsea residents are certainly aware of changes in the format for postal addresses. The staff at the Chelsea post office are working with the Historical Society to try to bring our mailing list up to date. If we need any help from the members, we shall be in touch.



The *Newsletter* is published regularly by the Historical Society of the Gatineau. Contributions and comments are always welcome. Editor/compiler is Jay Atherton (827-1703). Distribution: Rae Moore and Marjorie Evis.

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