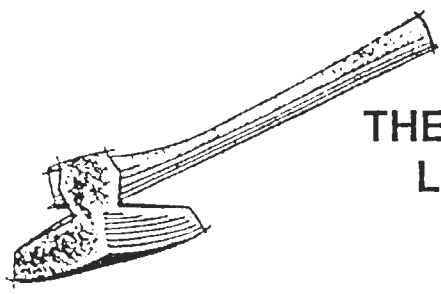


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# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU LA SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE LA GATINEAU

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## Newsletter

January - February 1997

### Coming Events

Jan. 20: **"Centenary Snapshots"** - the fascinating story of the repatriation of an important part of Canada's film heritage: images of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Yukon Gold Rush, and more, repatriated from paper copies in the U.S. Library of Congress.

**Bill O'Farrell** of the National Archives will explain the technical details and show the results.

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

Feb. 17: **Annual General Meeting**  
Featured speaker: Jake Warren:  
"Diplomats of the Valley;  
Reminiscences and Reflections."

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

REGARDING REFRESHMENTS

Members attending monthly meetings are reminded that the refreshments are supposed to be self-supporting. Please do not hesitate to donate to this cost; a handy basket will await your generous offering.

Thanks!

### President's Message

In these winter days of early darkness, I am cheered by the glowing and colourful lights which decorate houses and festoon trees in our community. And there is just enough of that white winter staple, snow, to soften outlines, to reflect and lighten the landscape. For many in our community, Christmas and New Year's are a time of religious significance and of renewal, as we start another year. They are special times when we feel close to, and take time for, family and friends, but also when we pause in our busy lives to reach out to the stranger and the needy. It is a time of reaching out and remembrance. And in this December/January newsletter, on behalf of the executive of the Historical Society of the Gatineau, I would like to reach out to all of you, and wish you a joyous and safe holiday season.

- Carol Martin

### Gunda Lambton Presents Gatineau and Pontiac Folklore

The November 18 meeting of the Historical Society featured a presentation by Gunda Lambton concerning the book that she recently co-authored with Venetia Crawford on the folk tales of the Pontiac and the Gatineau.

Beginning with a tribute to Canadian folklorist Edith Fowke (to whom the volume is dedicated), Mrs. Lambton went on to describe the book's origins and development. Her presentation also featured interesting readings from the text.

Autographed copies of the book were available for sale at the meeting. Those wishing to

obtain a copy (available at most booksellers in Ottawa - and several may be obtained from the Society itself - at a cost of \$14.95) should note its title: *The Wildest Rivers, the Oldest Hills*.

Mrs. Lambton also graciously presented a copy of her talk to the Society for deposit in its Archives.

### ***Eileen Castleman, Society Win Awards***

At the annual Excellence Gala on November 29, the Municipality of Chelsea honoured long-time Historical Society member Eileen Castleman by naming her Citizen of the Year. A resident of Chelsea for 32 years, Eileen has worked as a volunteer for such groups as Quail House, the Nearly New Sale, the Library, the Chelsea Craft Sale, St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, Gatineau Memorial Hospital, and the Historical Society. A well deserved award.

Congratulations also go out to the Historical Society itself, named this year to the Founders' Club, in recognition of its thirty-five years of existence in and contribution to the community.

### ***History of Outaouais Expected in Spring***

Those who attended the Annual general Meeting a couple of years ago will recall the interesting presentation by Professor Chad Gaffield of the University of Ottawa, chief author of an "official" history of the Outaouais region. While the French-language edition of this important and interesting book has been out for some time, no version in English has yet appeared. (We understand that the publication of a regional history in both official languages is indeed an exception to the rule; those on the other regions of the province are all appearing in French only.)

For some reason, financial or otherwise, publication of the English text was delayed.

However, Jeff Atkins recently was able to reach Professor Gaffield, who assured him that its appearance was now scheduled for the Spring of 1997. About 900 pages in length, its cost will likely be similar to that for the French-language version: around \$50.

### ***Membership News***

Welcome to the following new members:

Jayne Elliott  
Catherine O'Keefe

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).



### ***Archives News***

At its regular meeting on November 11 the Executive of the Historical Society learned that Jay Atherton had agreed to succeed P.M.O. Evans as society Archivist. Pat Evans has supplied sterling leadership to the Archives over a period of years; Jay Atherton has thirty-five years' experience in the field of archives. The transition will be gradual, with both "archivists" running in harness together until the moment seems appropriate for a formal changeover.

### *Colonel By Plaque London Unveiling*

We have received notice that the **Historical Society of Ottawa** has received approval to erect a plaque to honour Colonel John By on the wall of St. Thomas's Hospital, on the bank of the Thames River across from Westminster in London, England.

The date of May 28, 1997, has been selected for the unveiling of the plaque. The Canadian High Commissioner in London, the Honourable Roy MacLaren, has agreed to attend and be the principal speaker. The Chief Royal Engineer and other officers of the Royal Engineers will be in attendance. The Society has also invited the Duke of Wellington to speak (the first Duke of Wellington was responsible for sending Colonel By to Upper Canada to build the canal).

The Historical Society of Ottawa plans to organize a tour to England for this event. Members (and presumably others) interested in going should reserve the period of May 15 through June 15 until the Society can obtain information on travel and accommodation. Further information will appear in future newsletters.

### *Prescott Barracks Wins Heritage Award*

The Stockade Barracks in Prescott recently received the prestigious 1996 Heritage Conservation Award issued by the Ontario Archaeological Society. The Award was presented at a ceremony at Queen's University in late October. It is presented annually to a private company that has shown sympathy to significant archaeological resources.

The Stockade Barracks is a renovated building dating from the early nineteenth century. Located at 356 East Street in Prescott, it houses a traditional restaurant that serves authentic food from the War of 1812 period. Those interested in viewing the building (or sampling its wares) should call in advance at (613) 925-4894.

### *A Christmas Message From the Outaouais Alliance*

The Historical Society and all its members received very friendly Christmas greetings from the Outaouais Alliance (of which we are a supporting member).

Thanks to the Alliance - and good luck in its future endeavours!

### *Inauguration of Canadian Irish Studies Foundation*

*Nuacht*, the newsletter of the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal (November) informs us of the launching of a major new endeavour: **The Canadian Irish Studies Foundation**. The immediate objective of the organization is to inaugurate a formal program leading to a Minor and/or Major in Irish Studies at Concordia University. The Foundation's patrons are His Excellency Paul Dempsey, the Ambassador of Ireland, The Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of Finance, and The Honourable Jean Charest, PC, MP.

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Irish Famine, the Government of Ireland, the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, and Concordia University Irish Lecture Series co-hosted a special evening of lectures on the Famine, held at Concordia University on December 11.

For those interested, the address of the Foundation is 1155 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, Montréal, Québec H3B 3V2. Telephone/fax number is (514) 489-7122.





### ***Three Interesting Heritage Meetings***

The most recent bulletin (*Patrimoine*) of the **Commission des biens culturels du Québec** describes three interesting events concerning our province's heritage that took place earlier this year.

The first was a colloquium held in Quebec City on May 25, organized by le Conseil des monuments et sites du Québec on the theme *Le patrimoine bâti: seconde vie, double vie* ("Built heritage: second life, double life"). The program dealt with practical and interesting ways in which heritage buildings can be put to modern use.

On the theme *Patrimoine industriel at musée du site* ("Industrial heritage and the on-site museum"), the Association québécoise pour le patrimoine industriel met on May 30 and June 1 in Saguenay-Lac Saint-Jean. Those attending visited several local sites. As the bulletin explains, the concept of site museum can permit a site to live and evolve while respecting its historical development.

The same preoccupations attended the colloquium held on June 8 by le Comité francophone d'Icomos-Canada, on the theme *Un patrimoine à la dérive* ("a developing heritage?"). This meeting discussed the respective roles of the provincial government and municipalities concerning the protecting of our heritage. In particular those present dealt with the future of the historic Légaré mill in Saint-Eustache.

Concern for protection of our heritage is clearly widespread, with battles being fought on all fronts!

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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