

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

Box/C.P. 485, Chelsea (Qué) J0X 1N0
(819) 827-4432

Newsletter

March - April 1997

Next Meetings

Monday, March 17, 8:00 pm

"How the Algonquins Lost Their Hunting Territory"

Speaker: **John Thompson**

Monday, April 21

"Reflections on Historical and Modern
Changes in Canada's North"

Speaker: **Fred Roots**

Our monthly meetings are held in the **Chelsea Community Centre**, Old Chelsea, with refreshments at 7:30 and the meeting getting under way at 8:00. Please come, and bring a friend!

Spring Banquet: May 12

Plans are going ahead for the annual Spring banquet, to take place this year on **May 12** at **Moorside**. Featured speaker will be **Frank Macintyre**. The house (Prime Minister Mackenzie King's summer residence) will be open for tours.

Cost: \$27 (taxes and gratuities included). Those interested in attending should book soon, by calling the Society number shown on the masthead.

New Society Secretary and Treasurer

Members will have read in the last *Newsletter* that **Eileen Castleman** has accepted the post of Secretary of the Society. You will be interested to know that we now have a new Treasurer as well. She is **Bonnie Adams** of Kirk's Ferry.

Thanks to both Eileen and Bonnie for agreeing to take on these responsibilities.

**Society Elects New Executive
and Presents Annual Awards**

At its Annual General Meeting on February 17 the Historical Society elected a new Executive Committee for 1997. The officers are **Carol Martin** (President), **Ernie Mahoney** (First Vice President), and **Randolph Gherson** (Second Vice President). The Directors at large are **Allan Richens**, **David Castleman**, **Bruce Lister**, **Anne Fleming**, and **Susan Hanley**.

The Society also presented its annual awards for 1996. An Honorary Life Membership was presented to **Norma Walmsley**, in particular for her leadership role in connection with the reconstruction of the Wakefield Covered Bridge. The other recipient of a Life Membership was **Jay Atherton**, in recognition of his services as President over the past five years.

Awards of Honour were presented to **Allan Richens**, recognizing his many contributions to the Society over the years; **Neil Faulkner**, for his invaluable work in seeing to the engineering details of the Wakefield Bridge construction; **George Gould**, in recognition of his devotion to the development of the two protestant cemeteries in Chelsea.

Recipients of Letters of Commendation were **Robin MacLeod** and **Mario Breton** for their work on the Wakefield Covered bridge project; **Vincent Hendrick**, who contributed a parcel of land for a park near the Bridge; **Annette Brand**, for her work with the Archives over the past few years; **Diane Ross**, who provided urgently needed storage space for the holdings of the Wakefield Mill and Maclaren House museums when they were forced out of those buildings by the NCC; and **Alain Piché**, recognizing his outstanding contributions to the Friends of the Gatineau River.

The winner of the Arthur Davison Prize for the best article in *Up the Gatineau!* is **Dr. Hans Gergie** ("The Instant Commando, or Hot Sweet Tea"). Congratulations to all our award winners.

Honours and Awards, 1985 - 1996

The information below was supplied by Patrick Evans, from research in the records held in the Archives. Anyone with additions or corrections to bring to our attention, please feel free to do so.

Honorary Life Membership

(For outstanding and prolonged contributions to the Society by a member.)

- 1987 Courtney Bond, Moiya Wright, Arthur Davison, Philip Journeau
- 1988 Sheila Strang
- 1989 Bob Phillips, Pat Evans
- 1990 Stuart and Norma Geggie
- 1991 Rolf Latté
- 1992 Ray Daly
- 1993 Carol Martin
- 1994 Gunda Lambton
- 1995 (no award)
- 1996 Norma Walmsley, Jay Atherton

Award of Honour

(For an outstanding contribution to the work of the Society or the preservation of heritage or promotion of history in the region.)

- 1987 Corneliu Kirjan, Jean Pigott
- 1988 Jon Purcell, St. Stephen's Church
- 1989 Bill and Lise Jack
- 1990 Ed and Lyd Ryan, Diane Aldred
- 1991 Tony German, Ernie Mahoney, Andy Tommy, Rae Moore, Marjorie Evis
- 1992 Gunda Lambton, Elizabeth Macfie, Paul Fydenchuk, Gilles Lachance, Colin Chisholm (posthumously)
- 1993 David Castleman, Chelsea Elementary School
- 1994 Janet Benedict, Enid Page
- 1995 Anita Rutledge, Judith Grant, Malak Karsh
- 1996 Neil Faulkner, George Gould, Allan Richens

Letters of Commendation

(For a contribution to the Society's aims worthy of special recognition.)

- 1993 Mike Nelles, Anne Chudleigh, Charles Landon
- 1994 Anne Goodeve, Michael Reford, William Place, Joan Gherson
- 1995 Theresa Winfield, James Strate
- 1996 Annette Brand, Mario Breton, Vincent Hendrick, Robin MacLeod, Alain Miché, Diane Ross

Arthur Davison Prize

(For the best article in the most recent issue of *Up the Gatineau!*)

- 1985 Sheila Strang
- 1986 Pat Evans
- 1987 Lyd Ryan
- 1988 Lillian Walton
- 1989 (no award)
- 1990 Joanne MacDonald
- 1991 Carol Martin
- 1992 Stan Cross
- 1993 Hans Honegger and Warren Major
- 1994 Norma Geggie
- 1995 Norma Geggie
- 1996 Hans Geggie, M.D.

Chelsea's Cemetery

Allan Richens

The Historical Society for many years maintained two cemeteries: one in Old Chelsea (the Protestant Burial Ground) and the other in Chelsea (the Pioneer Cemetery). Two years ago the Society passed responsibility for the Protestant Burial Ground over to the Municipality of Chelsea. This took place only after much effort to bring the site up to its current condition.

The Society now has care and custody of only the Pioneer Cemetery in Chelsea; the title to this parcel is in the Society's name. A small Cemetery Committee meets from time to time to attend to the spring clean-up, the summer brush cutting as needed, hedge trimming, and preparations each fall for the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11.

The Society has a lay-out of the cemetery with a description, insofar as this is possible, of each known individual who is buried there. This plot plan can be seen at our Archives, located in the Old Council Chamber below the Chelsea Library. There is also in existence a pamphlet describing the site and a story of some of the pioneers buried there - in particular, private Richard Thompson, winner of the Queen's Scarf for service in the South African War.

The Pioneer Cemetery is located at the north end of the village of Chelsea, just off Highway 105, near Church Road. It can be reached any time, as there is no gate and there is parking for a few cars just up the lane. The cemetery is a lovely, quiet, shaded area - well worth a visit on a summer's day.

OTTAWA BRANCH
Ontario Genealogical Society

Presents the 16th annual

GENE-O-RAMA
March 21 - 22, 1997

Nepean City Hall - Council Chambers
101 Centrepointe Drive, Nepean, ON

Registration: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door
For information call 725-9440

***Phillips on Thompson - Latest Pamphlet
by Ottawa Historical Society***

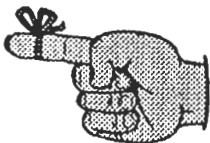
The latest in the Bytown Pamphlet Series published by the Historical Society of Ottawa is "Richard Thompsom, the Scarf, and the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery." The pamphlet contains a concise summary of Richard Rowland Thompson's life and the work of the Historical Society and others to preserve his memory.

The Bytown Pamphlet Series is published three times a year by the Historical Society of Ottawa. Individual pamphlets are available for purchase for \$2.00 at the Society's Bytown Museum (beside the Ottawa locks of the Rideau Canal) or from the Society itself, at P.O. Box 523, Station B, Ottawa K1P 5P6 (phone and fax: 234-4846). Annual membership rates for the Society are \$25 single, \$35 family, and \$5 student.

Membership News

Welcome to new members **Jake Warren, Joan Garnett, Bonnie Adams,** and the **Old Chelsea Gallery.**

Note to current members: check the mailing label to see if your membership has expired. If it has, please renew now (\$15 for one year; \$25 for two years). Also please note the membership form attached to this *Newsletter*. Use it to renew, or pass it on to a friend.



In Search of Railway Stations



Bruce Ballantyne is looking for information on any surviving railway stations (regardless of location or present use) from CP's Maniwaki branch line. In collaboration with the Bytown Railway Society he is developing an inventory of stations across the country for eventual publication.

Bruce has already located eight (Cascades, Farm Point, Wakefield, Brennan's Hill, Venosta, Clemow, Orio, and Ellard) and is wondering if there are any more. He has heard that Burnett station still exists. If others exist, he would like information on their descriptions, what they are now being used for by their present owners, and directions where to find them.

If anyone can help, Bruce can be contacted at (613) 592-8735 or by e-mail at ballantyne@sos.pwgsc.gc.ca. He is also looking for information on other stations in Western Quebec.



Archives News

Jay Atherton

Coincident with the date of the Annual General Meeting, February 17, Jay Atherton succeeded Pat Evans as the Society's Archivist. Pat has devoted many years to maintaining the Society's memory bank. The motion of gratitude adopted unanimously at the recent general meeting is partial recompense to him for his efforts on our behalf. (Incidentally, Pat stays on as "Honorary Archivist Emeritus").

The Archives is situated in the basement of the new Municipal centre, below the Chelsea Library, in what used to be the Council Chamber. Hours are 9:30 to 12:00 each Wednesday morning. Visitors should call ahead (Jay Atherton at 827-1703).

Future issues of the *Newsletter* will contain information on the Archives, its holdings and future plans.

Correspondence

A distant member of the Society, Gordon Roy Fairbairn, wrote us in January from Aldergrove, BC:

It was with great sorrow that I learned that the mill built [in Wakefield] by my 2X Great Grandfather William Fairbairn had to be abandoned as a heritage building. I can understand the financial aspect though. We are always crying to decrease the debt and stop the spending, but still ask for more money.

I was ecstatic when I heard that the original house was saved. My father William, grand father James, and great grand father William were born in that house. When I was there I took a great deal of photos and video tape of the house. Thanks to the kindness of the inhabitants, Lewis and Ruth McNally, I was able to take pictures inside as well.

... I remember my father telling me about the Fairbairns going off to the gold rush in B.C. [Kootenays, 1897] They came back with lots of gold, but spent it all having shooting matches and putting up great prizes, forgetting about the mortgages to finance the trips. Some even went several times. ...

In 1994 I travelled to England and Scotland to look up my family history. In Yetholm, where my 2X great grandfather William came from, I found that there were two sisters there, Jean and Frances Wanless, who were both married the same year (1813). Jean married William Fairbairn and Frances married Adam Lindsay. Both families came to Canada shortly after (although Frances never made it to port of embarkation and is buried in Yetholm. My grandmother was a Lindsay. So, both of those sisters were my 2X great grandmothers. Weird eh?

We have responded to Mr. Fairbairn informing him that in fact the Wakefield Mill retains its designation as a heritage building; the National Capital Commission is anxious to find a tenant who can develop the property in a way that completely respects its historical integrity.

(The house referred to is of course the Fairbairn McNally house moved recently by Andy Tommy and sitting on the land adjacent to the new bridge across the Gatineau River north of Wakefield.)

- J.A.

West Quebec Post, February 12:

Heritage Fair in the works for West Quebec

By Ernie Mahoney
Hull

For many years area schools have been participating in Science Fairs, that have highlighted student, or sometimes parents' interest in science. At the end of May, student history buffs will have the opportunity to strut their stuff and pay homage to history through a Heritage Fair.

For the first time, West Quebec students, ages 9 to 14, will have the opportunity to participate in a Heritage Fair to be held at the Museum of Civilization in Hull on the weekend of May 23-24. This will coincide with Fairs being conducted in all ten provinces. The only other site chosen in Québec is at Sherbrooke.

The Heritage Fair Program, sponsored with \$5,000 seed money by The CRB (Charles R. Bronfman) Foundation, the folks who bring you the familiar vignettes of history shown on television, links material that students cover in the classroom to what they see at home, on television and in their community.

Based on the premise that students learn more effectively when they are actively involved in the experience, the Heritage Fair program encourages students to seek out the living history surrounding

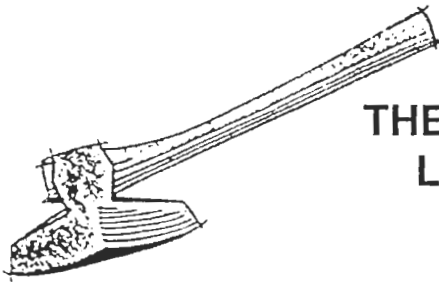
them and to develop their own ways of communicating the stories they discover.

This can take many different forms; three-dimensional models, videos, plays, puppet shows, songs, paintings, carving and poetry. At one Fair, a young girl was very proud of the T-shirt picturing history of her town. The student's imagination knows no bounds!

In addition to student participation the Heritage Fair program represents the opportunity for the project to make the public more aware of the history around them. The Fairs, open to the public, attract a wide cross-section of the community.

Although the Fair is non-competitive, students are selected from the Regional Fairs to participate in the National Fair, to be held this year in Kingston, July 17-21. It provides a showcase for students' work from all the local Fairs. It provides the opportunity for students from across Canada to meet one another and visit a place that otherwise they might not see.

An active organization committee will release its plans next week. The Historical Society of the Gatineau and the Aylmer Heritage Association will be participating.



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

Box/C.P. 485, Chelsea (Qué) J0X 1N0

PURPOSE

".. to promote matters of historical or heritage significance in the general area of the Gatineau Valley."

ACTIVITIES

- ▶ monthly meetings; expert speakers
- ▶ newsletter
- ▶ historical visits
- ▶ annual antique auction and flea market
- ▶ notification of local history/ heritage events
- ▶ annual journal *Up the Gatineau!*
- ▶ special historical publications
- ▶ Pioneer Cemetery, Chelsea
- ▶ Wakefield Covered Bridge Committee

PLEASE JOIN US AND HELP TO PRESERVE THE HERITAGE OF THE GATINEAU

Name _____ Address _____

Telephone _____

FAX _____ Postal Code _____

Membership is for the whole family.

1997 - includes *Up the Gatineau!* (\$15) _____

OR two years, 1997-98, two editions of *Up the Gatineau!* for \$25. _____

New Membership _____

Renewal/previous member _____

Areas of Interest

The activities of the Society rely upon support and help from the membership. To participate in areas that are of interest to you, please indicate your choice below:

Auction _____ Cemetery preservation/records _____

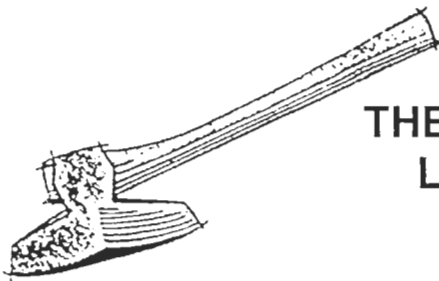
Publicity _____ Historical Research _____

Publications _____ Historical Visits/program _____

Special Events _____ Membership _____

Other ideas/ areas (please specify) _____





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OBJET

< ... promouvoir des sujets ayant un attrait historique et patrimonial dans la région de la vallée de la Gatineau.>

ACTIVITÉS

- réunions mensuelles; conférenciers connus
- bulletin d'information
- visites historiques
- vente annuelle d'antiquités à l'encan, marché aux puces
- renseignements sur les activités patrimoniales et historiques locales
- l'annuaire *Up the Gatineau!*
- publications historiques spéciales
- Cimetière des pionniers à Chelsea
- comité du pont couvert de Wakefield

JOIGNEZ-VOUS À NOUS ET AIDEZ À CONSERVER LE PATRIMOINE DE LA VALLÉE DE LA GATINEAU!

Nom _____ Adresse _____

Téléphone _____

Télécopieur _____ Code postal _____

L'adhésion s'applique à la famille entière.

1997- incluant *Up the Gatineau!*(15\$) _____

OU deux années 1997-98 - incluant *Up the Gatineau!*(25\$) _____

Nouvelle adhésion _____

Renouvellement/ ancien membre _____

Domaines d'intérêt

Les activités de la Société dépendent de l'appui de ses membres. Inqiquez les domaines d'activités qui vous intéressent.

Encan _____

Cimetières _____

Publicité _____

Recherche historique _____

Publications _____

Visites historiques/programme _____

Événements spéciaux _____

Adhésion _____

Autre (veuillez spécifier) _____

