



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

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Newsletter

July - August 1997

Coming Events

Mon., June 16:

Tour of Covered Bridge

A guided tour of the restored Gendron wooden bridge in Wakefield, conducted by **Neil Faulkner** (see article in latest issue of *Up the Gatineau!*). Tour starts at **7:30 pm** from the park area on the east side of the bridge. Those interested can repair to the "Wunderbar" afterwards for appropriate liquid refreshments (cash bar).

Sat., June 21:

Tour of Burke-Ginns Farmhouse and Barns (Cantley)

Tour conducted by the current owners, Anne and Jim Ginns. **10:30 a.m.** 260 Ste. Elizabeth Road, Cantley (east off highway 307). See article on page 2.

Sun., June 22:

Wakefield Bridge Jamboree

2:00 - 8:00 p.m. Music, step-dancers, fiddlers, singers. Featuring "Raccoons on Ice" band, Gail Gavan, Joe Sullivan, Davey Drummond, "Boulder Road" band. Tickets \$10 (children under 10 free). Refreshments and food booths. Plenty of parking available. (East side of river.)

Sat., June 14:

Brockville & Area Heritage House Tour

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Eight historic buildings. Tickets \$15 each; call The Brockville Museum at (613) 342-4397. Sponsored by the Friends of the Brockville Museum.



Annual Antique Auction August 16

Mark the date in your calendar: Saturday, August 16 is the date for the 1997 Auction of antiques and collectibles. Location: St. Stephen's Church grounds, Old Chelsea. Watch for the advertisements and notices in the local newspapers.

Spring cleanup time is upon us. Keep an eye out for "priceless" but unnecessary items that you think might be of interest at the auction - and set them aside now.

We also will be needing volunteers to help with the auction and the accompanying flea market. Usually lots of fun for those involved.

For information, or to volunteer (items or your time), please call **Randolph Gherson** (827-0050).

Archives Develops Priorities and Plans for 1997

Society members working in our Archives held an informal planning session on April 23. (Participants: Pat Evans, Anne Goodeve, Annette Brand, Joan Gherson, and Jay Atherton.)

The Archives mission is to support the Historical Society's stated *Purpose*: to promote matters of historical or heritage significance in the general area of the Gatineau Valley. In support of this objective, the Archives acquires, preserves, and makes available the permanently valuable records of the Historical Society itself as well as records from other sources ...

documenting the development of the region and its people. It also undertakes research on the history of the Gatineau and the holdings of the Archives.

The overall "objective" for 1997 is to have all the supporting elements in place for the long-term development of the Archives. Specific goals (aimed at achieving the above objective) are:

- ▶ preparation of a formal Archives Policy, to contain the mandate of the Archives, related policy statements, and definitions of roles and responsibilities;
- ▶ preparation of a "Guide" to the services and the holdings of the Archives;
- ▶ development of an accommodation plan, in consultation with the municipality (especially the municipal library);
- ▶ improved access to, and increased donations to the small reference library of the Archives;
- ▶ improved access to the holdings of photographs and other pictures;
- ▶ preparation of a strategy for the longer term development of the Archives, including issues concerning funding.

The Archives is usually open every Wednesday morning in the basement of the Municipal Library (the "old council chamber"). During the month of July, however, the Archives will be closed.

Any members wanting further information on the above goals, or about the work of the Archives, are invited to contact **Jay Atherton** (827-1703).



BURKE FARM: a Cantley Heritage Property

Jim and Anne Ginns have invited the members of the Historical Society to visit their heritage farm site at 260 Ste. Elizabeth Road in Cantley on Saturday morning, June 21, at 9:30 a.m.

Located on the west side of St. Elizabeth Road (referred to be old-timers as Burr Road, or the Burr), the original grant of land was made to James Burke by letters patent dated 19 December 1866. The farm remained in the Burke family until 1960. The current owners, Jim and Anne Ginns purchased the property in 1969. Part of the land contains the remains of a small mica mine (with a good road leading to it).

The first building on the site was a log cabin, apparently located a couple of hundred feet north-northeast of the large barn. No trace of its location remains. It is likely, however, that logs from it were used to build the walls and rafters of the summer kitchen, now the living room of the current house.

Built around 1880, the house is "almost two storeys." The foundation has several large stones upon which thirty-foot cedar tree trunks were set as floor joists. The finished floor in the original kitchen is tongue and groove 3/4 inch maple. The walls are 4 x 4 inch studs at 3-foot centres, with 1 inch horizontal planks on inside and outside. The core is "insulated" with "farmer's cement" or grouting. The summer kitchen was added on the north side, presumably a few years after the house was built.

The other existing buildings are:

- the large barn, 75 x 25 feet, built in 1904;
- the stable/equipment shed, 50 x 25 feet, with loft;
- the sheep shed/chicken coop, 40 x 12 feet;
- the equipment barn, 30 x 16 feet, now a garage, workshop, and woodshed; and
- the creamery, 12 x 20 feet.

Thanks to Jim and Anne Ginns for their generosity in offering this tour of their historical property.

What's in a Name?

Our last newsletter asked for advice from the members concerning a possible change of name of the Society, with a view to avoiding confusion (many refer to us as "the Gatineau Historical Society," suggesting that we might be the historical organization of the City of Gatineau).

Two options were presented:

- Gatineau Valley Historical Society, and
- Historical Society of the Gatineau Valley.

Advice received so far is unanimous - but we have received only two responses. What is **your** opinion? Please contact either Carol Martin or Jay Atherton at the following numbers:

Carol Martin
Tel.: (819) 827-1633
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Jay Atherton
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British Isles Family History Fall Conference

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa is again sponsoring a conference, to be held September 26-28, in Ottawa City Hall. Keynote speaker will be Robert C. Starrat. Topics to be covered include:

- Scots-Irish "New England Planters" in Nova Scotia;
- Tracing Family History - Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England;
- Computers in Genealogy;
- Heraldry and Family History;
- The Irish in Lanark County;
- Forced Emigration: Military Convicts.

To receive a brochure with details and a registration form, contact BIFHSGO. P.O. Box 38026, Ottawa K2C 1N0.

Pontiac Artists' Studio Tour June 7, 8 & 14, 15

The Pontiac Artists' Studio Tour is an annual juried art exhibition. This year nine artists are featured at seven studios scattered throughout scenic Pontiac County. Artists will be pleased to discuss their work with visitors. Purchases can be made directly from each artist.

The tour route is marked by road signs featuring a logo of magenta and blue brush strokes on a white background. Visitors need only follow these arrows and look for the balloons marking each studio entrance.

Brochures containing Tour maps may be picked up at most merchants in Aylmer, Shawville, Quyon, Luskville, Ladysmith, and elsewhere throughout Pontiac County.

New Members

WELCOME to two new Society members:

Kathleen Jones, Southfield, Michigan, and

Mary Adams, Victoria, B.C.



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; e-mail: jather@ccs.carleton.ca). Pat Lavergne keeps our mailing list up to date. Distribution is handled, very ably, by Rae Moore, Marjorie Evis, and Charis Palmer.