



GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE LA VALLÉE DE LA GATINEAU

---

## "The Halifax Explosion: The Untold Story of Canada's Worst Disaster"



with speaker Ken Cuthbertson

Monday, April 16, 2018 at 7:30 pm

Library, Centre Wakefield La Pêche

[38 Chemin de la Vallée de Wakefield, Wakefield](#)

Just over one hundred years ago, on December 6, 1917, a French munitions ship and a Norwegian war relief vessel collided in the harbour at Halifax, Nova Scotia. The accident sparked a fire and an apocalyptic explosion which levelled half the city, killed 2,000 people, and injured 9,000 more.

Ken Cuthbertson recounts the untold story of Canada's worst disaster. It's a haunting tale that in many ways is uniquely Canadian. It's also a cautionary tale that all Canadians should know.

Kingston-based author-editor Ken Cuthbertson has more than 35 years' experience writing for newspapers and magazines in Canada, the U.S. and the U.K and is the former editor for the Queen's Alumni Review magazine. His latest publication is The Halifax Explosion: Canada's Greatest Disaster.

---

## ~ Annual Dinner & Awards Evening ~

Monday, May 28th 2018

[Camp Fortune Main Lodge, 300 ch. Dunlop, Chelsea, QC](#)

5:30 p.m. ~ Bar opens 6:15 p.m. ~ Dinner

Buffet Dinner (taxes & tip included) ~ \$50.00

~ Launch of the 44<sup>th</sup> edition of Up the Gatineau! (pick up your copy)

~ Presentation of awards recognizing members and others in the community for significant contributions to the Society or to local history



Guest Speaker **Danielle Siemens** of the Art Gallery of Alberta in Edmonton will be our featured after-dinner speaker. She will give us a brief preview of her research on Canadian photographer and amateur field-naturalist Rosemary Gilliat Eaton (1919-2004). Gilliat Eaton lived in Ottawa for about a decade in the 1950s and '60s and rented Shilly Shally cabin in Gatineau Park during that period, documenting the comings and goings at her cabin, in photographs and journals.

Photo - Rosemary Gilliat in front of Shilly Shally, 1958. © Library and Archives Canada. Reproduced with the permission of Library and Archives Canada. Source: Rosemary Gilliat Eaton fonds/e4311156.

**Reserve your place - Contact Suzanne Gibeault by May 26<sup>th</sup>**  
at [suzkgibeault@gmail.com](mailto:suzkgibeault@gmail.com) or [819-827-9260](tel:819-827-9260)

You can also register online - [Click here](#) - and pay by cash/cheque at the door.

Please let Suzanne know by May 26<sup>th</sup> if you have reserved but will not be able to attend, as we are charged for the number of places we have reserved.

## Historic Gatineau River GVHS Fund-raiser Cruise on the Chrysalis II paddle wheeler

Saturday, June 23rd - 5pm to 7 pm  
(rain date - June 24th)

**\$100 per person with a \$75 tax receipt**  
~ limited to 48 members ~

**Complimentary light refreshments with wine & beer will  
be served.**



**Commentary on the Gatineau River historic sites will be provided as we cruise down the river  
from Burnett to the Chelsea dam & back.**

**To sign up email Shirley Brown ~ [browncrest@sympatico.ca](mailto:browncrest@sympatico.ca)**  
Parking & boarding information will be supplied at a later date to all attendees.

**Please note: you need to be fairly mobile as access to the top deck is via steep stairs.**

### **The Wright Papers ~ now on our website**



The Wright Papers are a collection of over 600 documents held by David F. Wright of Chelsea, Quebec.

They are concerned primarily with the business affairs of Philemon Wright (1760-1839) and his son Ruggles (1793-1863) and include original land transfer records, court documents, letters, ledgers, wills, family correspondence, and many other related records.

The digitization of these documents and catalogues was done in 2015-2016. The GVHS wishes to acknowledge the dedicated effort of Society members Erik Rask, Stephen Adcock, Suzanne Gibeault, and the late Pat Evans for realizing this mammoth project, and we are thankful to David F. Wright for lending the material to the Society to digitize.

*Here is the link: [www.gvhs.ca/wright/](http://www.gvhs.ca/wright/)*

### **AGM Reports**

Here is a link to the AGM reports tabled at the meeting on February 19, 2018 [Read more...](#)



[Click for more photos on our Facebook page](#)



Facebook



Website

### **•Pat Evans Archives•**

**Closing for summer on  
May 17th**

**Chelsea Library  
downstairs**

**Monday & Wednesday  
1:30-3:30**

or by appointment  
[819-827-6224](tel:819-827-6224)

[info@gvhs.ca](mailto:info@gvhs.ca)

...

The Board has decided to put the **annual auction** on hiatus for this year as we explore other sources of fundraising.

...

### St. Elizabeth Cemetery Tour

~ Discover the historic graves of Cantley ~

Sunday, May 27, 2018 at 2:00 pm

Your guides will tell the history and stories of Cantley's early families. This bilingual tour is offered by Cantley 1889 free of charge to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Elizabeth's Parish.



### Rencontres du patrimoine

April 21, 2018, 9 a.m.  
Taché Pavilion of UQO,  
[283, Taché blvd., Gatineau QC](#)

Local history and heritage enthusiasts are meeting for the third **Rencontres du patrimoine**, a one-day event to be held in Gatineau (Hull).

Over a hundred people gathered in 2014 and 2016, and they hope to welcome even more this year for this special event. Attendees will hear about recent historical research projects and preservation initiatives in the region. Networking between amateur and professional historians from around the Outaouais will be highlighted.

Les Rencontres du patrimoine is organized by **Société Pièce sur pièce, Réseau du patrimoine gatinois et de l'Outaouais, Ville de Gatineau and Université du Québec en Outaouais (UQO)**.

**All the presentations will have simultaneous English translation.**

Registration starts March 25, and costs \$35 (lunch and snack included).

For more information, email [info@piecesurpiece.ca](mailto:info@piecesurpiece.ca), or check the Facebook page [Rencontres du patrimoine](#).

## Board of Directors

President  
Marc Cockburn

Vice-president /  
Publications  
Louise Schwartz

Treasurer  
Shirley Brown

Secretary  
Suzanne Gibeault

Linda Bardell

Webmaster  
Erik Rask

John Udvarhelyi

Frances Curry

Cantley 1889  
Margaret Philips

Contact us: [info@gvhs.ca](mailto:info@gvhs.ca)

We are always looking for volunteers for our archives.

Contact [info@gvhs.ca](mailto:info@gvhs.ca) for more information