

GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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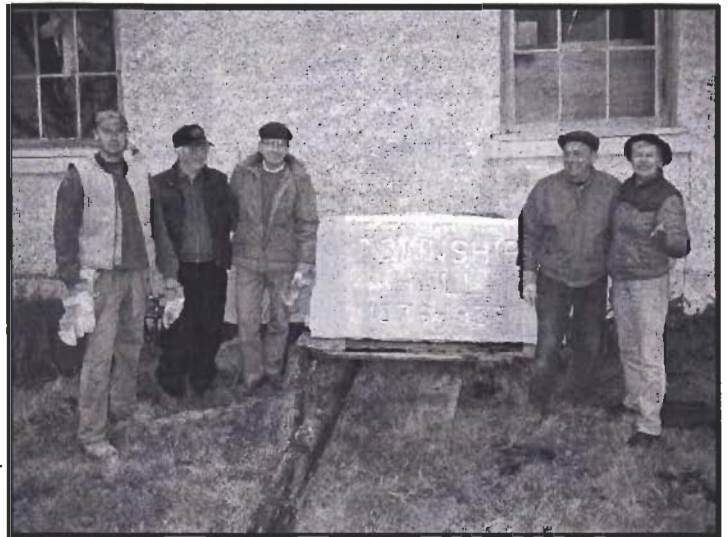
Hendrick family and GVHS volunteers preserve historic memento from Chelsea's Old Town Hall (by Carol Martin)

On Wednesday, November 24, 2004, a volunteer group of GVHS members worked to save a tangible part of Chelsea's heritage, the "Township Hall" sign from this old building, which was replaced in 1956 by a new brick hall built further along on Old Chelsea Road. The original hall was later moved to property owned by Leo Hendrick.

The executor of the estate of Mr Hendrick, with the assistance of Vince (his brother) and Gert Hendrick, were enthusiastic about the possibility of preserving a piece of the old hall, and concerned that time was running out, since the property was being sold. When volunteers from the Society visited the site, it was evident that the building had deteriorated, but the sign seemed to be almost intact.

With a quickly-organized work party, and the expertise of Jeffrey Reid, son of GVHS members Harold and Margaret Reid, the sign was carefully removed. Volunteers included Carol Martin, Harold Reid, Bent Nielsen, Peter Kreuser, and Vince Hendrick. As we cheered (and breathed a collective sigh of relief) we were amazed to see, behind the sign, a fan light, which had been covered over by the stucco work and yes, we were able to remove it as well.

Does anyone recall, or better still, have a photo, of Chelsea's old municipal hall before a coat of stucco was applied to cover the original clapboard? We surmise that the stucco was probably applied in 1938, since this is one of the dates inscribed in the finished stucco above the entrance door. We are hopeful that someone in the region may have a photo for the GVHS Archives.



Volunteer work crew standing by "Township Hall 1876 - 1938" sign.
L. to R. Jeffrey Reid, Vince Hendrick, Harold Reid, Brent Neilson,
and Carol Martin. (missing Peter Kreuser)

Coming Events

Tuesday January 18th, 7:30 PM

Locomotive Hall, Museum of Science and Technology, St. Laurent Bld., Ottawa.

Rail Tales

Our January public event will move to a Tuesday evening, and cross the Ottawa River. The GVHS is partnering with the Bytown Railway Society for an evening of rail nostalgia. "Rail Tales" will be an opportunity to reminisce, to revive memories of steamers and flag stops, continents crossed and cultures encountered, of lovers arriving and soldiers departing... So we ask you to bring both your memories and memorabilia - photos, menus, dried roses, and tales of exploits and mishaps. Refreshments will be served in the Club Car. Carpools will be arranged, Wakefield at 6:30 pm at the Library, Chelsea at 7:00 pm. at Chelsea Elementary. For more information, call Michael Cooper at 459-2787.

The Municipality of LaPêche recognizes twelve historic buildings

At a December 10th ceremony, the Municipality of LaPêche presented historical plaques to the owners of twelve historic buildings designated by the LaPêche Heritage Committee, chaired by Wakefield Councilor Bill Gonzalez. The GVHS commends the Municipality of LaPêche for its continuing support of this important program. Many thanks to Society members Anita Rutledge, Norma Geggie and Doug Nesbitt for conducting the research that led to the designation of these heritage places. The following is the text from the citations which accompany the twelve plaques.

Cecil Brooks House (Mr. Paul Lauriault and Mrs. Shirley Erickson, owners) Farrellton. First owner Cecil Brooks, house and barn built around 1860. Second owner Alphonse Lauriault bought in 1921 for six thousand dollars with nine head of cattle plus machinery. Third owner Alphonse Lauriault's son Arthur Lauriault and wife Lola then after Paul Lauriault and Shirley Erickson. *(Research by Doug Nesbitt)*

Fred Shouldice House (M. Brian Sargeant/ Mme Lucille Martineau, owners) Rupert. This house is located on lot 30, range 5, township of Masham. House was built around 1889. It was then owned by Fred Shouldice, next owner Dave Thompson then Tom Harvey. *(Research by Doug Nesbitt)*

Galerie Le Corbeau bleu (Mrs. Réjane Villemaire, owner) Wakefield. It is believed that Robert Earle built this two storey residence prior to 1890. It sat level with the street which stretched a short way back from the Gatineau River. This is thought to have been named James Street before the completion of Valley Drive. When highway #11 was built through the Village of Wakefield in the 1930s, it passed directly in front of this building. The original occupants of the house are not known, but there is a possibility that Foster Earle may have owned and occupied it after selling his Commercial House Hotel to the Misses Lindsay in the 1920s. In 1940, it was owned and occupied by Findlay Stevenson, and then by his son, Harold. The building was purchased in the 1980s by Jon Purcell. The house has undergone some exterior and interior changes to accommodate a fine arts gallery – Le Corbeau Bleu, the small verandah in front being converted into the entrance of the Gallery. Many of the original features of the turn-of-the-century home remain. *(Research by Norma Geggie)*

Hugh McGarry/ Erasmus Trowsse House (Mr. Martin Brooks, owner) Wakefield. Hugh McGarry is shown as an original settler into Wakefield Township in 1830, occupying part of lot 1, range 1. His property possibly extended on both sides of the Gatineau River, and, subsequently he moved to the east bank and the property on the west bank of the river was acquired by Erasmus Trowsse. The Trowsse family lived on this property for several generations. The present house was no doubt a « second » house on the property and may have been built by Erasmus Trowsse. Subsequent owners were Bernard and Trudy Smith in the 1970s and '80s. *(Research by Norma Geggie)*

Joseph Bélisle/ Dr. Harold Geggie House (Mr. Dion Mrs. Betty Dion, owners) Lac des Loups. This original pioneer log building possibly dates from the mid-1800s. It is believed to have been located in East-Aldfield, Québec. In the depression year of 1938, Dr. Harold Geggie purchased two abandoned log buildings from Joseph Bélisle, and had them transported to a site purchased from Cléo Mayer, overlooking Wolfe Lake. Each log was numbered prior to the building being dismantled. The construction took place between May 7th and May 22nd, 1938, with a large crew of local craftsmen. At a time when work was impossible to find, and medical bills mounted up (prior to medicare), the men were paid at a rate of 2 dollars per day, plus 2 dollars marked off their longstanding bills. The smaller building which had served to shelter animals, was adjoined to the larger standard two floored rough-hewn-log structure of the original house, and became a roomy kitchen. As well, the men peeled logs, and used their own artistic skills in making furnishings, beds, tables, and an open staircase. Local stones were used to construct an open fireplace, and a long-submerged log rescue from the lake, served as a mantle. The cottage remained in the Geggie family for about forty years. *(Research by Norma Geggie)*

La Grange 1898 (The McClinton Barn) (Mr. Adam Shapero and Mrs. Sari Kline, owners) Wakefield. This building dates back to 1898 when it was built as the main barn on William McClinton's 100-acre farm on the southwest fringe of Wakefield Village. William, a bachelor, lived in the adjacent white frame house until his death in 1915. On his deathbed he left the farm to his brother John McClinton, who with his wife, Rose Stevenson, twin sons Lorne and Lloyd, and daughter Alice, continued the farming operation. By the early 1970s the then surviving members of the McClinton family retired and sold the farm and its buildings to three separate buyers – the house to one family, the barn and out-buildings to another, and the fields to land developers. Cecile and Fern Bouchard bought the barn and adjoining machine shed and granary, and with the help of local builder Oswald Koch, undertook the task of transforming the large barn into a luxurious home for themselves on the upper level – an with an apartment on the ground floor. Shafts of light from eight new dormer windows gave the interior of the home a cathedral-like feel. Finally, the exterior was painted bright red, and the barn-home became a landmark in the area. Following Fern Bouchard's death, in 2001 Cecile sold the barn-home to Pierre Boissonneault who did further renovations making it the attractive and unique « La Grange 1898 Gite Touristique », or Bed and Breakfast, it is today. La Grange 1898 was sold to Adam Shapero and Sari Kline in 2004. Note : The farm that existed on this property was first settled by the pioneer Moncrieff family in the 1830s. *(Research by Anita Rutledge)*

The Lake settlement House (Mr. Louis Charles Massicotte, owner) Rupert. This small log house was built around 1837, when « The Lake Settlement » 1 km east of Rupert was active. When activities shifted to Leslie's Corners (1860), now known as Rupert the house apparently became a stopover for travellers riding on horseback from Duclos-Wakefield and Masham-Farrellton. This little residence went through many changes with time and fashion. The interior was changed or renovated, whitewash was applied on top of the Original cedar logs, then some type of wallpaper and later, tongue-and-groove onto dry-wall. More recently, it was turned back into the open concept it once was. From logs to clapboard, back to logs on the exterior. Also the house was moved back 10 meters and laid on a foundation with basement. Tradition has it that this little house is the oldest in the village. *(Research by Doug Nesbitt)*

Stanley Dunn House (M. Stanley Dunn, owner) Wakefield. This small house differs from those around it and is believed to have been constructed prior to 1900. The building has no basement, is flush with the street, and backed by Landers' Creek which runs from the site of John Landers' property close to Vorlage, to the Gatineau River. Around 1900 it was occupied (possibly rented) by Micheal Daly who was foreman on the railway and working in the Wakefield area. Subsequent owners or occupants were : Thomas Nelson, Roger Cartier and Thomas McClinton. The present owners are Mr. And Mrs. Stanley Dunn. *(Research by Norma Geggie)*

Maxwell/McNally House (Mrs. Shirley Maxwell-McNally, owner) Wakefield. The grey brick house was built by George Townsend about 1900, as part of a guest house and livery stable business. The brick was most likely made by Erik J. Erickson who had emigrated to the Wakefield area from Denmark in 1892. In 1919, the Townsend family sold the property for \$2500 to Mr. Erickson, who was operating a sawmill at Alcove and installing wells lined with his hand-made brick. By the mid-1920s the home had been rented and was being run as a boarding house by Mrs. Thomas (Mary) Rutledge and her two daughters, Elizabeth and Ann (a local teacher). Mr. Erickson remained in the house as one of the boarders until his death. In the 1930s the property was purchased by Elizabeth Rutledge and her husband Tom Maxwell ; their daughter Shirley Maxwell-McNally and her son Kyle McNally still reside in this neat, stately-looking house on the bank of the Gatineau River. Noteworthy is the two-storey veranda with its decorative trim, sheltered by an extension of the roof of the house. Also interesting are the decorative stone wall inlays under the peak of the roof at both ends of the house. It has five bedrooms and a large dining room. *(Research by Anita Rutledge)*

McSheffrey/Daly Farmhouse (Mrs. Agatha Daly, owner) Wakefield. This house was built in 1902 by a Norwegian immigrant named Rhumberg, with help from Henry Easy of Wilson's Corners. It was built for Joseph McSheffrey and his family. By 1939, Joseph decided to give up farming and sold the house and farm to his brother Dennis McSheffrey. Dennis did not occupy the home, and within a few years sold the property to Frank Daly and his wife Agatha Holmes, and here they raised their family of nine. The home is still occupied by Agatha and her son Michael. The original 1902 three-bedroom house has an add-on kitchen and bathroom on the ground floor, which was built ca 1935 ; otherwise the house remains much as it was when constructed. Noteworthy is the thick wooden front door, well marked by a century of use, but still solid and unpainted. The Daly family call the style of their house Dutch Colonial. Note : Frank Daly's ancestors came from Kikenny, Ireland, and settled on a farm at Lac Daly near Brennan's Hill. *(Research by Anita Rutledge)*

Moncrieff/McClinton Farmhouse (Mrs. Allison Woods, owner) Wakefield. This beautiful old farmhouse, near the entrance to Wakefield Village, was most likely built by Foster Moncrieff ca 1870 to replace an earlier log house. The Moncrieff family settled on this land in the 1830s. William McClinton, a bachelor, owned the farm after Mr. Moncrieff died in 1885. William's sister, Margaret also lived here. When William died at age 60, in 1915, the house and farm were left to his brother, John McClinton. Eventually , John's twin sons, Lorne and Lloyd, and his daughter Alice, inherited the property. By the early 1970s the McClintons decided to give up farming and sold the land, the house, and the barns, to three separate buyers. Since then the house has changed owners several times. Families with the names of Watson, Porter and Jung, have owned it. This well maintained house is spacious with an open front entrance and living and music rooms on either side. It has five bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a large country kitchen. A sunroom was added beside the kitchen about 30 years ago. Except for the sunroom and some decorative features the house has not been changed. The wide floorboards have been finished and protected, and the original four-pane windows are still in place. *(Research by Anita Rutledge)*

Robert Nesbitt House (Mr. Maurice St-Pierre, owner) Wakefield. Burnside Avenue was surveyed in 1891 into building lots, by James Moffatt, PLS, for James MacLaren. Shortly afterwards, construction began on many of the lots. This brick residence may have been built around 1900 by the owner, Robert Nesbitt. This building with verandah in front and along one side, has been enlarged somewhat over the years. Mrs. Nesbitt was one of the several owners of the property, including Drummond and Audrey Stevenson. *(Research by Norma Geggie)*

Chelsea Cooperative Nursery School Celebrates 40th Anniversary!

Calling all Chelsea Cooperative Nursery School (CCNS) alumni, former teachers and parents! The CCNS is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this school year 2004-2005 and would like to gather together some material to mark the occasion. We are looking for old photos, documentation and of course personal memories of this vibrant little school in our community. According to our records the CCNS was established in 1964. It has grown over the years to become an important community institution offering preschool children an opportunity to step out into the word and explore their community in a nurturing and stimulating environment. If you have any information regarding the CCNS please contact Helen MacKinnon at hmackinnon@sympatico.ca or by calling 827-6668.

Looking for a great Christmas Gift for someone?

GVHS publications make ideal gifts for Gatineau-area enthusiasts. New in 2004 is a comprehensive index covering all thirty volumes of *Up the Gatineau!* Our most recent volume of *Up the Gatineau!* is number 30.

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Note: Memberships in the Gatineau Valley Historical Society include a subscription to the Newsletter and *Up the Gatineau!* Membership rates: within Canada: \$25 for two years, \$15 for one year; within the USA: \$35 for two years, \$20 for one year.

GVHS Image Bank photos on display at Wakefield Library

Starting in January 2005, the walls of the Wakefield Library will be adorned with historical photos from the GVHS Image Bank. Rotating exhibitions will be mounted on different themes such as transportation, industry, schools, and fashion. The first exhibition focuses on the people of Wakefield from about 50 years ago. The exhibitions are being coordinated by Norma Geggie, Anita Rutledge, and Adrienne Herron. The photo beside is a sample from the first exhibition.

A Quilting Bee by the Anglican Church Guild

Guild members of Wakefield's Church of the Good Shepherd get together to stitch a new quilt. From left: Willo Shouldice, Ruth Blaze, Annie Wells, and Edna Clark. c. 1960.

This picture is one of a series on the Wakefield area by photographer Hilda Wills Maxwell. All were taken in the 1950s and 1960s. Originally they appeared on the covers of a popular family magazine which ceased publication in the mid-60s. The GVHS Archives recently acquired the photos from Hilda.

