

~ Help Preserve Our Gatineau Valley Heritage ~

Gatineau Valley historical society

Newsletter

Coming Events

Sunday, November 11th, 10:45 a.m.

Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery, 587 Route 105, Chelsea
GVHS Remembrance Day Ceremony



Members and friends of the Gatineau Valley Historical Society are invited to attend one of the most poignant of the thousands of Remembrance Day ceremonies held across Canada on November 11th. The GVHS has hosted the Remembrance Day service at the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery since 1986 to keep alive the memory of **Private Richard Rowland Thompson, Queen's Scarf**, who is buried in the tiny cemetery. As in past years, Private Thompson's old regiment, the Royal Canadian Regiment, stationed in Petawawa, will form a guard of honour.

Visit the *Canadian War Graves Exhibit* at the Chelsea Library from October 1st to November 20th.

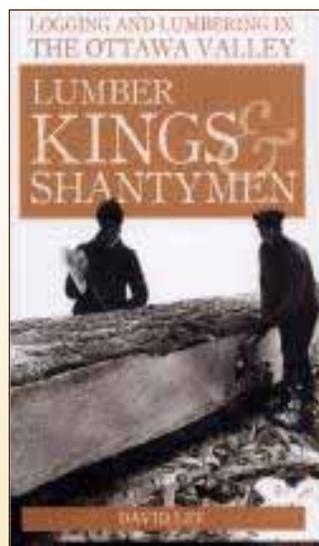
Monday, November 19th, 7:30 p.m.

Chelsea Community Centre, 220 Old Chelsea Rd., Chelsea, QC
"Logging and Lumbering on the Gatineau River "

David Lee's presentation, *Logging and Lumbering on the Gatineau River*, will be an in-depth history of the region and the economy that dominated its formative years, as well as an examination of the environmental impact on the region's natural resources.

He will begin with pioneer lumbermen such as the Wright family and then talk about the Gilmour Company which had large sawmills at Chelsea and Hull. He will then move on to other lumbermen who brought saw logs down the Gatineau River but had their mills elsewhere.

David Lee of Ottawa, was born and raised in the Ottawa Valley, and educated at Carleton and Queen's universities. He has worked as an historian with Parks Canada and has published numerous articles on Canadian history, as well as a volume on



the history of the Gaspé region of Quebec.

He wrote *Lumber Kings and Shantymen* in 2006. The book follows the history of the Ottawa River from the economic hub of Montreal through the rapidly developing cities of Ottawa and Hull, and out to the settlements of Arnprior, Renfrew and Pembroke.

It chronicles the building of Philemon Wright's timber fortune, the rapidly growing pulp and paper industry, and the towns that grew around these industries. It also tells of the people who built the industry with their own hands: the French and Irish shantymen and lumberjacks who spent their days weathering harsh conditions and dangerous jobs, and their nights drinking and brawling.

More coming events on page 2....

Christmas Traditions at The Grange

Monday, December 10th, 7:30 p.m.

Members of The Gatineau Valley Historical Society and Heritage Aylmer are invited to share an evening of carol singing, music and Christmas treats in the historic ambience of The Grange, Cantley.

To help with the spirit of the evening, we encourage you to bring...

- your voice ...or musical instrument.... to join the piano and singing
- for the Potluck Refreshment Table, a plate of your favourite seasonal treats. (If it's something you make yourself, and you bring a copy of your recipe(s), we will compile them for sharing with members at a later date.)

Directions to The Grange of the Gatineau, ch Summer, Cantley (819-827-3164)

(ch Summer runs west off hwy 307 towards the river – follow signs for soccer park),

1. **Coming from Ottawa, Hull, Chelsea:** hwy 105 to the Alonzo Wright Bridge – after crossing the bridge turn left (north) on hwy 307 for about 5 km – ch Summer is the next left after Depanneur 307

2. **Coming from Wakefield and north:** cross Gatineau River on hwy #366 to hwy 307 – turn right (south) through Cantley – ch Summer is next right after the Pro Hardware/Cantley Pizza

Once on ch Summer, follow the signs to La Grange (the end of ch Summer, past Parc Mary Anne Phillips) (for a map, see www.grange.ca (brochure))

◀ (GVHS thanks *The Grange* for donating its space for the revival of this special event) ▶

September 23rd - Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery - Restoration Ceremony

On a beautiful autumn Sunday afternoon, GVHS President Marc Cockburn welcomed invited guests and members of the local community to a Restoration Ceremony at the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery. He also extended a special greeting to Mrs. Jean Pigott, former Chairperson of the National Capital Commission, and long-time supporter of the Society's efforts to maintain Chelsea's historic cemeteries.

He noted that the last time the community gathered at the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery and War Cenotaph was on November 11, when we paused in a peaceful and tranquil moment of remembrance for the men and women who have served, and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace.

Not long after that solemn ceremony, the peace and tranquility of this important historic site were spoiled by a senseless act of vandalism. A deed which only served to dishonour the bravery and heroism of the Canadian veterans and war dead commemorated in this site, and the memory of Chelsea's pioneer families who are buried here.

Honoured guests who spoke to the gathering included Mayor Jean Perras of the Municipality of Chelsea, Stéphanie Vallée, Member of the National Assembly of Quebec (MNA) for Gatineau, and Gerry Philippe, representing the Honourable

Lawrence Cannon, Member of Parliament for Pontiac. The prayers of gathering, blessing and conclusion were offered by the Reverend Christine Piper, rector of St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, Larry Dufour of St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church, and the Reverend Jane Griffiths, rector of Chelsea United Church.

In his concluding remarks, Marc thanked all the individuals who supported the Society's efforts to repair the damage that occurred to the cemetery last December.

"As President of the Society, I am very lucky to be part of an incredible team of individuals willing to step-up and volunteer their time and effort to realize these kinds of accomplishments. In particular, I thank Carol Martin and Allan Richens for their dedication and efforts in the last year to restore and maintain the essence and meaning of the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery."

The Society has been tremendously heartened by the response it received from members of the local and wider community and it is pleased to know that this community continues to recognize and cherish its significant historic places.

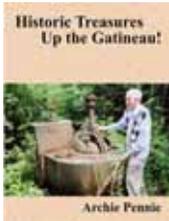
The ceremony ended to the strains of bagpiper Andy Moore playing marching tunes from the Boer War period, followed by refreshments and a guided tour of the site and an invitation to all to return for the Remembrance Day Ceremony.



Audrey Trudeau, Grete Hale and Jean Pigott share a quiet moment beforehand at the Restoration Ceremony

GVHS Publications make great Christmas gifts !

Three NEW publications for 2007



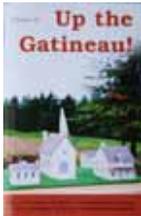
Historic Treasures Up the Gatineau!

Thirty articles about scientific "finds," historic people, places and events in the Gatineau Valley.

Archie Pennie has received two awards from the Gatineau Valley Historical Society. In 2002 he received an award of honour that recognized his prolific contribution to *Up the Gatineau!*, the Society's annual journal. In 2005 he was awarded the Arthur Davison Prize for his article "Old Mills at Aumond and Point Comfort."

Archie's aptitude for finding and writing about "historic treasures" has resulted in this collection of 10 new, never-before-published articles, along with 20 that have appeared over the past 25 years in *Up the Gatineau!*

..... \$10.00



Up the Gatineau!
Volume 33 (2007)..... \$7

The Extra Mile - The Journals of H. J. G. Geggie, M.D., edited by Norma and Stuart Geggie 1987, revised by Norma Geggie (2007)

.....\$16.00



Other recent publications available from GVHS:

Historic Map of Chelsea -1875 (1997 edition) - showing Municipality of Chelsea (West Hull) land ownership as indicated by the 1875 valuation roll \$6.00

Gatineau Valley Railway Stations, poster 11 in. x 17 in \$8.00

In Memory of Chelsea's Historic Cemeteries -Chelsea's community development is linked to its well-preserved cemeteries and the people buried in them; includes walking tours, cemetery plans, and extensive index of names on monuments and from burial records. Carol Martin, 2005 \$14.50

A Place Apart: A Search for the Pioneer Cemeteries of the Lower Gatineau Valley - A brief history of traditional cemeteries from Hull to Lac Ste-Marie, Quebec, as well as private and unmarked burial grounds in the Gatineau. Norma Geggie, 1999 \$8.00

Wakefield Revisited - A short history of the Village of Wakefield and the families significant in its development. Norma Geggie, 2003\$12.50

Wakefield: un deuxième regard - Un bref historique du peuplement de Wakefield. Norma Geggie, traduit par Jean K. laFlamme, 2003 \$12.50

These publications can be purchased at the GVHS meetings on November 19th and December 10th. Complete sets of *Up the Gatineau!* and back issues of all volumes are also available on request.

For shipping costs, please contact us in advance (see below) to obtain the amount to add for mailing your order.

e-mail: reidh@travel-net.com
 telephone: (819) 827-0138
 or write to: Gatineau Valley Historical Society
 P.O. Box 1803, Chelsea, Quebec, J9B 1A1

Report of the 44th Annual Auction

August 18, 2007 was a cool but sunny day, as the GVHS held its 44th annual auction on the grounds of St. Stephen's church in Old Chelsea. The antique auction, bake table, flea market and silent auction realized a profit of \$3153.17. As well, publication sales and memberships sold at the auction amounted to another \$280.00.

A big, big thank you to the all the volunteers who prepared the site and cleaned up afterwards; registered the auction items; and manned all the activities the night before the auction and the auction day itself - you all helped make this annual event such a success. Thanks to the 106 registered bidders, and everyone who bought something at the auction, and to St. Stephen's Church for use of their premises.

Special thanks to all those who donated the items sold at the auction, and to the **many local** businesses who supported the silent auction. Again, thank you, everyone.

~ W A N T E D - A R C H I V I S T ~

Society members will be interested to know that Jay Atherton has indicated his desire to retire from the position of *Society Archivist*, effective December 31. In the next few months, Jay is leading a search for additional volunteers to work with those already involved in various capacities, including those of the Society Archivist.



Executive 2007

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Activities requiring volunteer help include description of the holdings, maintenance of the Image Bank, service to clients, preparation of small public exhibits, cataloguing and maintaining the books and other published material in our library, and managing the overall Archives program - serving as Archivist.

Anyone interested in helping out is invited to contact Jay Atherton, either by telephone (819-827-1703) or by e-mail jayatherton@sympatico.ca.

~ Help Preserve Our Gatineau Valley Heritage ~

Membership includes the following benefits

- *Up the Gatineau* - our annual local history journal
- GVHS newsletter
- Access to our archival material
- Regular meetings on local and national heritage topics

Purpose:

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

The Gatineau Valley Historical Society is a charitable organization which acts to conserve and foster interest in history and heritage of the Gatineau Valley Region.



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Thanks SB