



GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE LA VALLÉE DE LA GATINEAU

...preserving and promoting awareness in the history and heritage of the Gatineau Valley since 1962

www.gvhs.ca

~ **WINTER • SPRING MEETINGS** ~

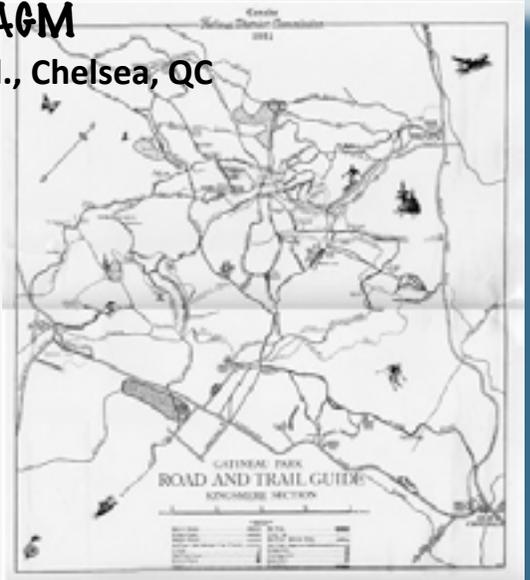
Monday, February 18, 2013 at 7:30 pm

The Early Days of Skiing in Gatineau Park with Charles Hodgson
Archives Open House & AGM

Chelsea Library, 100 Old Chelsea Rd., Chelsea, QC

Charles Hodgson, who collected and made available electronic versions of hundreds of old Ottawa Ski Club newsletters through the GVHS website, will tell us some of the lesser known stories from the early days of skiing in the Gatineau. Did you know that skiers and the NCC have had a love-hate relationship for nearly three-quarters of a century now? Where exactly do you think the Pink Lake ski lodge was located? Why doesn't Frank's Trail appear on many of the early maps?

The Society AGM and elections will be held and our annual reports distributed. Nominations for the Executive will be accepted until February 15, 2013 – contact info@gvhs.ca.



Monday, March 18, 2013 at 7:30 pm

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Author Brian Doyle

Library, Wakefield Community Centre, 38 Valley Drive, La Pêche, QC



Brian Doyle's first-person narratives depend on eccentric characters and repetitive comic episodes and they prove significant themes about tolerance, love and reconciliation.

Inspired by his children, his first books, *Hey, Dad!* (1978) and *You Can Pick Me Up at Peggy's Cove* (1979), describe symbolic journeys to maturity. *Angel Square* (1984), *Spud Sweetgrass* (1992) and *Spud in Winter* (1995) are mysteries investigating racial tolerance and social responsibilities. In *Covered Bridge* (1990), efforts to preserve an old bridge highlight the clash between past and present values, as well as the need for tolerance. Brian Doyle's two Canadian Library Association Medal winners are even more complex. *Up to Low* (1982) blends a tall tale, black humour and religious symbolism to explore the mysteries of love and death. *Easy Avenue* (1988), a novel of manners, illustrates various meanings of "success."

Monday, April 15, 2013 at 7:30 pm

La Grange de la Gatineau, 80 chemin Summer, Cantley, QC J8V 3J3

What lies beneath: Cantley before the great flood

Please join us for a joint meeting of the Gatineau Valley Historical Society and Cantley 1889

Society President, **Marc Cockburn**, will take us on multi-media voyage up the Cantley side of Gatineau river, using Google Earth and archival photos and maps to reconstruct how the river looked before much of its natural and built environment was flooded in 1927, as a result of the construction of the hydro dams at Chelsea and Farmer's Rapids.

Come early to see a display of artifacts and images from the river and the logging era, and to stroll along, or view, the Gatineau River shoreline of La Grange.



Family Heritage Day

Cantley

Sunday, February 24, 2013

2 pm at Ste-Elisabeth Parish Hall 1889
47 Ste-Elisabeth Road, Cantley, QC J8V 3E8

Discovering History in Cemeteries
an illustrated talk by Carol Martin

Everyone is invited to our tea party – an illustrated talk, our annual meeting and some sharing of family photos, archives and memories of Cantley's early years.

Cantley 1889 is looking for contacts for material for our archives; you are encouraged to bring photos and momentos of your family's past.

...free admission, everyone welcome (donations and memberships gratefully accepted)

Coming in March!



The GVHS broad axe, its history, and its role as part of the larger story depicting the pioneering spirit of settlers in

the Gatineau Valley, has been selected by the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) as one of 100 objects in its SOFTI (Significant Objects for Telling Identity) project.

The history behind the GVHS symbol and logo has been researched by Dave Yuill and Carol Martin, and will appear as an interactive on-line resource and a DVD distributed to public libraries across Canada.

Welcome to the new Managers of Publication Sales

After 10 years of excellence in distributing and managing our ever-growing inventory of GVHS publications, **Harold and Margaret Reid** are taking a well-deserved retirement. The Society Executive extends its appreciation of the Reid's sustained contribution to our publication program. Many thanks to Harold and Margaret for a job well done. The Society Executive is pleased to announce that **Dave Dunphy and Shirley McGlashan** have agreed to take on these responsibilities. Members can meet Dave and Shirley at the publications table at one of our upcoming talks in 2013.

Save these Dates for 2013

Monday, May 27 - Annual Dinner
Saturday, June 15
Saturday, August 17 Auction
Monday, September 16

Monday, October 23
Monday, November 11
Monday, November 18

Membership fees are now due for some members. If you have a notice either by email or mail, please send your current dues to GVHS using the form on the last page of the newsletter.

~ In Memoriam ~

Rae Moore (1928-2012) and Don Moore (passed away January 2013)

In August 2012 **Rae Moore**, a long-time volunteer with the Society, passed away. Born in Shawville, Quebec, and raised in Kirkland Lake, Ontario, Rae arrived in Ottawa in 1945. She married Don Moore in 1951 and they raised four children. The Moores resided in the Kingsmere area and Rae became active in many facets of Chelsea's community life.

She acted as secretary to the GVHS executive for many years, as well as looking after the mailings of its quarterly newsletter and baking for the bake table at the annual antique auctions. She also volunteered with many other local non-profit organizations, including being the secretary of the Chelsea School Committee and cooking with Chelsea Senior Dinners.

Rae volunteered with the Chelsea Library for over 25 years. In recognition of her longevity as a library volunteer, at its October 2012 meeting the council of the Municipality of Chelsea passed a resolution offering its condolences to her family and highlighting her community contributions. Rae was a reserved individual—quiet, but always smiling and willing to pitch in.

The Society Executive has been saddened to learn, just a few days before publication of this newsletter, that Rae's husband of over 60 years, **Don Moore**, has passed away unexpectedly. Don had been a GVHS member since its founding in 1962.



Don had deep roots in the municipality of Chelsea, operating a family moving business that serviced many residents and cottagers for over 55 years. He had a wealth of knowledge of, and love for, the Gatineau Valley's history and was a regular presence at the Society's monthly talks, often sitting in the front row and posing questions of interest to the speaker of the day. In 2006, as a former volunteer firefighter with the municipality, he wrote on "My Knowledge of Fires in West Hull" in Volume 32 of Up the Gatineau!

Ray Daly (1912-2012)



Ray Daly, an honorary member of the GVHS, passed away on Wednesday, December 19, 2012, in his 100th year. For a time, Ray also served on the GVHS executive committee, and about twenty years ago was active in organizing and managing its museum in the MacLaren House at Wakefield.

Ray was a farmer at Farrellton and an employee of the federal government, also serving terms as mayor of Wakefield Township and volunteering for numerous community projects and health care causes.

Ray was the husband of Gertrude McSheffrey and father of Gerard, both left to mourn his loss. He is predeceased by brothers Victor and Leo, and sister Mary.

Jay Atherton (December 17, 1936 - November 6, 2012)

Jay Atherton, former President, Archivist Emeritus, and Honourary Life Member of the Gatineau Valley Historical Society, died in November 2012, after a short illness. Born and raised in Vancouver, Jay graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1961 with a degree in history. Following this, he came to Ottawa to enter the federal public service as an archivist with the Public Archives (now Library and Archives Canada). Jay's first assignment in his new job was the Mackenzie King papers, suitably presaging his attraction for the Gatineau hills so beloved by King, and for Chelsea in particular, where he and Peggy, spent nearly 40 years in a house they designed and had built on Pine Road at Cascades.

Jay's name first appears on a membership list of the Gatineau Valley Historical Society in the 1980s, and he became the Society's Newsletter editor in October of 1988, a role he continued until 2000. In 1992, a year before his retirement from the federal public service, Jay became President of the GVHS, and continued in this position until 1995. He became the Society's Archivist in 1997, and therefore an ex-officio member of the executive, until 2007.



(L to R) Jay with RJ Hughes

Jay's involvement with the GVHS was wholehearted and multi-faceted. Jay continued to edit and produce the Newsletter while he was President, and later developed a procedures manual for the Society Archives. With his wife Peggy, he produced the first master index for 25 volumes of *Up the Gatineau!*, and five years later updated it to become a 30-volume index. Beginning in 1995, and continuing until 2006, he indexed each subsequent volume of *Up the Gatineau!* For a time he headed up the GVHS annual Auction committee, and later helped organize volunteers for it. During his time as the Society's Archivist, he successfully led a search for permanent quarters for the growing GVHS Archives to its own room and a storage area in the Chelsea Library, where it has been located ever since. In 2004 Jay also proposed the Society's name change from the Historical Society of The Gatineau to the current Gatineau Valley Historical Society, to better reflect the Society's mandate and geographical focus.

Throughout his life and career, history and archives were Jay's passion. In his case, they offered a discipline in which he could demonstrate his penchant for organization and his ability to deal with people, qualities that advanced his career in various senior manager positions. Jay obtained his M.A. in history from Carleton University in 1982 while still employed at the National Archives of Canada, and finally retired from government employment in 1993.



Peggy & Jay

Jay's activities following retirement continued the path he had already set for himself. In his varied activities with the GVHS he marshalled a multiplicity of personal skills and effectively managed volunteer efforts to support the needs of the Historical Society. But he also continued to support his other history interests, including editing the Library and Archives' publication *Archivaria* from 1993 to 1996, and membership (and Presidency for a time) in a "Friends" group created in 1994 to support his former department's mandate. He developed a university archives at Carleton University. He continued to be involved in the Association of Canadian Archivists, which he had helped found. He also served as a member of Chelsea's municipal committee on culture and heritage.

The Gatineau Valley Historical Society has been fortunate to have Jay as a builder, leader, and mentor for more than 30 years. Along with the awards and honours he received for his career and other voluntary activities, he held the Society's most responsible position and received its highest award. We remember his warm and gentle personality and are grateful for his many and varied contributions and the resources he created.

Allan Richens (1931-2012)

Allan Richens became a GVHS member in the 1980s, served as a Director for more than 30 years and received an Honourary Life Membership in the Society in 2000. Biographical notes from several articles he wrote for the Society's annual journal, *Up the Gatineau!*, sketch an outline of his early days.



Allan cleaning a gravestone in the Old Chelsea Protestant Burial Ground

Born in Niagara Falls, he grew up in North Bay and Ottawa, where he graduated from Lisgar Collegiate. He spent several years in the 1950s with the Royal Canadian Navy, serving on ships sailing from Halifax. He moved to Gleneagle, Chelsea, with his wife, Joyce, in 1958, where they raised two daughters, Jennifer and Janet.

In January 1999, Allan recounted his boyhood experiences of "Skiing Up the Gatineau," a talk that developed into his first article for *Up the Gatineau!* Several other talks and articles followed, on themes that reflected Allan's activities: sailing, skiing in and around the Gatineau Park, and military topics. Always a man of action, Allan not only wrote about these themes, but took action on related activities. For example, he noted that Chelsea lacked a war memorial, so he collected names and stories about Chelsea residents who had died in wartime service, and worked with the Municipality and the GVHS to have a Cenotaph erected at the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery. And then he went on to organize displays on wartime topics at the Chelsea Library for Remembrance Day.

One of his favourite cross-country ski circuits took him to visit a long-abandoned log farm house located slightly off the beaten track: the Healey Farm. His discussions with officials at the NCC about this property led to an article about this family's experiences, and also to push the NCC to restore and reopen the building as a day lodge in 2008.



Sometimes he found ways to meld several of his interests. For example, he organized an annual hike, inviting members of Golf Club, Yacht club, and Historical Society on this outing, where they learned snippets of historical information at key points along the way as they enjoyed the outdoor activity. Allan both loved to walk or ski the historic trails in Gatineau Park, and wanted others to appreciate and know more about their history. A high school reunion stimulated him to seek out George Wattsford and encourage him to write the story of his family's life at Kingsmere Lodge (from the 1920s until expropriation in 1948) for *Up the Gatineau!* Allan then went on to persuade the NCC to have a plaque erected at "Wattsford's Lookout" overlooking their former property. For many years he was responsible for coordinating maintenance of the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery. As an extension of this concern about local cemeteries, he also became involved in a municipal committee charged with overseeing the Old Chelsea Protestant Burial Ground.



In addition to his important contributions to the Gatineau Valley Historical Society, Allan was a founder of the Gatineau River Yacht Club and long-time member of the Larrimac Golf Club. In the 1970s he was a local school commissioner, and in the 1980s a Chelsea Councillor. His long-standing commitment to the community earned him recognition as a Chelsea Founder in November 2001. One of the last events in which he participated took place in September 2012, when Allan spoke about early years of the Gatineau River Yacht

Club at a joint celebration of the 50-year anniversaries of the GRYC and the Historical Society, an occasion that coincidentally highlighted two of his great interests and contributions.

Executive 2012

President

Marc Cockburn - 819-459-2004
cockburn.marc@gmail.com

Past President

Carol Martin - 819-827-1633
rjcmartin@primus.ca

1st Vice-president

Bob McClelland - 819-827-0540
mccfarm@magma.ca

2nd Vice-president/Treasurer

David Yuill - 819-827-0851
david.yuill@sympatico.ca

Secretary

Linda Bardell - 819-827-0095
lbard@sympatico.ca

Directors

Shirley Brown - 819-827-1999 - Newsletter
browncrest@sympatico.ca

RJ Hughes - 819-827-3766 - Auction
rjchelsea@yahoo.ca

Meredith MacLean - 819-827-0605 - Program
meredithmac5@gmail.com

Erik Rask - 819-827-1234 - Web Master
erikrask@gmail.com

Louise Schwartz - 819-827-1429 - Publications
schwartzla@rogers.com

Welcome to New Members

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| • Lorie Armstrong | • Carole Mallows |
| • Donna & Bill Burr | • Art Mantell |
| • Robert H Cunningham | • John Marshall |
| • Pamela Currie | • Barry O'Connor |
| • Pierre Dionne | • Helen E. Parson |
| • Denise Giroux | • Jane Peddie |
| • Hélène Higgins-Dumouchel | • Alain Piché |
| • Louis André Hubert | • Brian Scott |
| • George & Francis Kinloch | • Sonia Wesche |
| • Peter Knowlton | • Ellie Wilkinson |

Archives: Chelsea Library • downstairs

Hours:

Monday & Wednesday

Thursday

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

or by appointment - 819-827-6224

Wanted - Board Secretary

The GVHS Executive Board needs a new secretary. After 6 years of excellent and faithful service, Linda Payne Bardell is stepping down. We need someone to join the GVHS Executive team to record the minutes of our interesting meetings - about 10 per year, and to assist with event and meeting arrangements.

If interested please contact Marc Cockburn - cockburn.marc@gmail.com for more information before Feb. 14, 2013.

Gatineau Valley Historical Society Membership Application/Renewal Form

Box 1803, Chelsea QC J9B 1A1 ~ 819-827-6224 ~ www.gvhs.ca

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

Membership Fees (per family): 1 year — \$15.00 2 year — \$25.00

New Member _____ Renewal _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/town _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

Email Address _____ The newsletter will be emailed to you.

I would like to help with: Auction__ Archives__ Cemeteries__ Executive__ Publications__