

Number: 2017 - 03



GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE LA VALLÉE DE LA GATINEAU

The Ottawa Valley's Great Fire of 1870

Speaker: Terence Currie

Monday, September 18, 7:30 p.m.

Chelsea Library, [100 Old Chelsea Road, Chelsea QC](#)



The Ottawa Valley's great fire of 1870 has been a puzzle to historians for decades. It started in Almonte and eventually burned as far south as Burritts Rapids, east to Ottawa, and across the river to Aylmer, Ironside and Templeton before it was stopped. Terence Currie has produced the first detailed description of the fire that destroyed 3,000 farms and killed 13 people.

Terence Currie was raised on the family's homestead farm in Fitzroy Township. For many years he taught at Almonte High School and upon retirement fulfilled a long-held ambition by returning to the University of Ottawa to obtain a Master's Degree in History.

[read more -](#)



The Irish and Gaelic Language in Canada and the Ottawa Valley

Speaker: Danny Doyle

Monday, October 16, 7:30 p.m.

Larrimac Golf Club, [1148 route 105, Chelsea QC](#)

Mr. Doyle explores the Irish language in Canada and the fate of Irish Gaelic immigrants to this country. Bringing together census data and historic accounts, he shows the prevalence of the language-- once spoken from Newfoundland through to the Yukon -- and discusses the reasons for the language's abandonment and near-total exclusion from the Canadian folk memory,

unlike other immigrant languages.

Danny Doyle (Dónall Ó Dubhghaill) holds a Masters Degree in Arts Conservation and works as an archaeological conservator for the Government of Canada. He has lectured on the Irish language in Canada numerous times, as well as through the Irish Language [Department?] at Ulster University. He is also a published Gaelic poet and winner of the 2016 *Oireachtas Gaeilge Cheanada* Award for Poetry.

«La Montée Lauriault et le chemin Kingsmere à Chelsea»

par Michel Lemaire

Lundi 23 octobre 2017 à 19h30
Bibliothèque de Chelsea, 100ch [Old Chelsea, Chelsea QC](#)



Jusqu'aux années 1950, le chemin Kingsmere était relié au chemin de la Montagne par la montée Lauriault, et les fermiers de Hollow Glen pouvaient grimper l'escarpement, tous les dimanches, pour se rendre à l'église Saint-Stephen d'Old Chelsea. La montée Lauriault constituait l'une des ouvertures sur la vallée de la rivière des Outaouais pour les pionniers des collines de la Gatineau. Aujourd'hui, ce vieux chemin est fermé et disparaît dans les bois comme le souvenir de Jean-Baptiste Lauriault, Michael Mulvihill ou Lyle Beamish.

La présentation sera en français, mais M. Lemaire sera heureux de répondre aux questions en français ou en anglais. *Notethat most of the documents of his presentation will be in English.*

Until the 1950s, Kingsmere Road was linked to Mountain Road by Lauriault's Hill Road, and the farmers from Hollow Glen would climb up the escarpment every Sunday to go to St. Stephen's church in Old Chelsea. Lauriault's Hill represented one of the entrances to the Ottawa Valley for the pioneers of the Gatineau Hills. Today, this old road is closed. It has disappeared (into the woods), along with the memory of Jean-Baptiste Lauriault, Michael Mulvihill and Lyle Beamish.

Please note that this presentation will be in French, but M. Lemaire will answer questions in English or French.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

at the graveside of
Pte. Richard Rowland Thompson,
the only Canadian to receive the prestigious
Queen's Scarf

Saturday, November 11, 2017
10:30 a.m.
Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery and Cenotaph
587 Highway 105, Chelsea QC
(just north of the Freshmart)



~In Memoriam ~



The GVHS is saddened to share the news of the peaceful passing of Honorary Life Member **John Duncan Marshall** at the Wakefield Hospital on August 13, 2017 at the age of 77. Duncan was a long-time member of the Society and contributed multiple times to our local history journal, *Up the Gatineau!* He won the Arthur Davison Prize in 2002 for his outstanding article in [Volume 27](#) entitled Early Aerial

Photography of the Gatineau River Valley.

See the the [Ottawa Citizen](#) notice

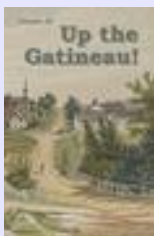
We were also saddened to learn of the recent passing of Honorary Life Member **Eileen Castleman**, on June 21 at the age of 91. GVHS members will note that this closely follows the February 2017 passing of her husband, David Castleman, who was also an honorary life member. For several decades the Castlemans were dedicated and hard-working GVHS volunteers who significantly contributed to our mandate of promoting and preserving Gatineau Valley history and heritage.



See the [Ottawa Citizen](#) notice

~ Annual Dinner & Awards Evening ~ May 30, 2017

Outside, the thunder rumbled and the rain pelted down, but the storm didn't keep anyone away from the GVHS's Annual Dinner May 30 that Camp Fortune. Eighty-



four people dined on a tasty buffet in the spacious lodge, transformed into an elegant banquet hall for the occasion (with nary a ski boot in sight!)

Besides being a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends in a relaxed atmosphere, the evening marked the launch of the latest edition of *Up The Gatineau!*. Louise Schwartz, the editor for the past six years, has produced yet another fascinating edition.

Read more -[Award winners](#)



Facebook



Website

•Pat Evans Archives•

**Chelsea Library
downstairs**

Opens September 18

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

or by appointment

[819-827-6224](tel:819-827-6224)

info@gvhs.ca

**We are always looking for
volunteers for our
archives.**

**Contact info@gvhs.ca for more
information**

Board of Directors

President
Marc Cockburn

Vice-president
Bob McClelland

Treasurer
Shirley Brown

Secretary
Suzanne Gibeault

Linda Bardell

Auction - August 19, 2017

For the past 54 years, the **GVHS Annual Auction** has re-homed many antique and collectible treasures. 2017 was no exception - the scope and quality of the items was as interesting and eclectic as always.



The weather was perfect: sunny and clear. This year we had an extra drop-off day on August 11 which gave us a chance to advertise some of the items that were available through FaceBook in conjunction with Hendrick Farm. [Read more...](#)

~ Welcome to New Members ~

Jon Dellandrea, Toronto, ON
Cynthia Elomaa, Chelmsford, ON
Stephen Ferguson, Wakefield, QC
Simon Hatcher, Lapeche, QC
Catherine Jensen, Ottawa, ON
Brigitte Lemay & Tom Reifesel, Chelsea, QC
Karen Macleod, Ottawa, ON
Pam Scobie & Martin Eeles, Wakefield, QC
Linda Sullivan, Chelsea, QC
Jean Thie, Wakefield, QC
Thomas Wright, Ottawa, ON

~ Upcoming Fall Events ~

October 1-Folk Picnic at Meech Creek Valley with the Municipality of Chelsea
November 4 - 5- Wakefield Christmas Craft Fair at Vorlage for the Des Collines Health Foundation
November 25- "Bill Mason: A Life in Nature" at the NCC Gatineau Park Visitor Centre with Friends of the Gatineau Park (details will be available soon)

Webmaster
Erik Rask

André Renaud

Andrea Rowe

Publications
Louise Schwartz

Contact us:info@gvhs.ca

If you missed the Ian Tambllyn Play



You can see it at the locations below -

~Friday, September 8 - 7:30 p.m. -[Mill Road Space](#),Chelsea, QC

~ Saturday, September 9 -1 p.m.-
Cantley en fête, Terrain de la Mairie,[8, ch River,Cantley, QC](#)

~ Sunday, September 10 -4:15 p.m.-
[The Ta Da Festival](#),Wakefield, QC