



GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE LA VALLÉE DE LA GATINEAU

2017-3

Fall Newsletter

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.

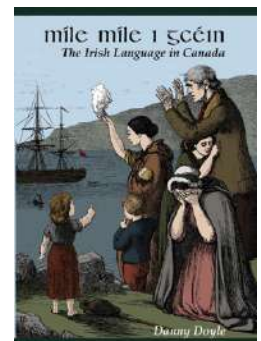
The Irish and Gaelic Language in Canada and the Ottawa Valley

Speaker: Danny Doyle

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

Larrimac Golf Club, 1148 Route 105, Chelsea, QC J9b 1P4

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, 100 ch 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. *Note that 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)**



~ 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 30th at 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.

The GVHS also presented a number of awards to outstanding community leaders who have contributed their time and energy in various capacities to the GVHS:

Special Awards

- The annual **Arthur Davison Prize** (named for an important earlier President) recognizes the best article from the previous year and went to **Michael Lait** for his outstanding article in Volume 42: *A Lake with Two Names: The Harrington Lake (Lac Mousseau) Toponymy Controversy*.
- Anyone who's been part of the GVHS for any length of time knows of the late Carol Martin's inspiring and unsurpassed commitment to the GVHS (including 21 years as editor of *Up the Gatineau!*). Her absence was keenly felt at the dinner by those who knew her. A new award in her name and honour, the **Carol Martin Award**, has been created to recognize a significant, cumulative contribution to *Up the Gatineau!* over a sustained period and was awarded to **Frances Curry**, an author, editor, indexer and genealogist with whom Carol worked on earlier issues.

GVHS Awards

- **Linda Bardell** received an honorary lifetime GVHS membership for her many contributions to the Society;
- **Paul Gessell**, a retired journalist with the *Ottawa Citizen*, was given an Award of Honour for his editorial work for several years on *Up the Gatineau!*
- Awards of Honour also went to **Shirley McGlashan** and **Dave Dunphy** who have distributed the Society publications for the past five years;
- **Ian Tamblyn** was awarded a Certificate of Commendation for spreading the history of the region through his recent series of plays;
- **Claude Gervais** also received a Certificate of Commendation for his role in sharing the history of Farm Point with the public last year.

A highlight of the evening was the performance given by guest artist Ian Tamblyn. He performed songs from the trilogy of highly entertaining plays he's written over the last three years; through a series of vignettes, they reflect historical events of the region that have often relied on past editions of *Up the Gatineau!* for stories and details. His latest work, *A Summer...A Fair*, is focused on the Cantley Picnic that took place annually for over 100 years and attracted up to 3,000 people each time. Says Tamblyn, "Nobody knows where it is [referring to how spread out Cantley is], but everyone seemed to know how to get there!" In short: a wonderful time was had by all!

Some Photos from the Annual Dinner ~



Ian Tamblyn



Shirley Mc Glashan & Dave Dunphy with Bob McClelland



Susan Courage with Carol Martin Award winner, Frances Curry



Marc Cockburn & Linda Bardell



Arthur Davison Award winner, Michael Lait with Susan Courage



André Renaud & Claude Gervais



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Auction Report - Saturday, 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.

Once again, Revel Stewart, of Cobden, ON, was auctioneer. Shirley Grant Brown, Marc Cockburn, Amanda Dexter and a host of volunteers were involved in the Live Auction, Silent Auction and Bake Table.

Thanks to Dave Dunphy, Shirley McGlashan, Shirley Brown, Louise Schwartz, Marilyn Liddiard, Diane and André Renaud, Adrienne Herron, Rene Neilsen, Brian Beesley, Margaret Phillips, Bruce Jones, Suzanne Gibeault, Bob McClelland, Brigitte Lemay, Marg Tardiff, Heather Wright, Wes Jamieson, Jennifer Baizana and Janet Bradley. This was our sixth year at Hendrick Farm, and we are very grateful to Sean McAdam and Fred Brisco for the use of this wonderful site.

There were 110 registered bidders and 35 donors for the live auction and 12 silent auction donors. A special thankyou goes out to all who produced the scrumptious baking for the bake sale table.

What sold? An antique microscope fetched \$225.00. There were 5 steamer trunks that found new homes. Bidders snapped up a cabinet displaying 'birds of the world' plates, a piccolo, a Lionel train set, and three spinning wheels and a sword. The 'pièce de resistance' was a large butter churn that one sat on – auctioneer Revel Stewart was so taken with it, he bought it. There were also numerous old tools, axes, scythes, saws and ice tongs that were very popular.

The live auction grossed \$6,416.00; the bake sale made \$600.00 and the silent auction bids were \$720.00 for a total of \$7,760.00. After expenses, we netted \$4,553.00

Thank you to our Silent Auction Donors

Camp Fortune
Chelsea Pub/Biscotti
Klü-a-nē Esthétique
Larrimac Golf Club
Les Fougères
Le Resto

Les Saisons
Mayor Caryl Green
MJ.MD Pizza de Luigi
Nearly New - Chelsea
O'Brien House Hotel
The Low Down



~ 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*.



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.

Board Members

President

Marc Cockburn

Vice-president

Bob McClelland

Treasurer

Shirley Brown

Secretary

Suzanne Gibeault

Linda Bardell

Erik Rask

André Renaud

Andrea Rowe

Louise Schwartz

~ 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

● **Pat Evans Archives** ●

Chelsea Library - downstairs

Opens September 18

Monday & Wednesday - 1:30-3:30

or by appointment - 819-827-6224 or

info@gvhs.ca

~ 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)



The Gatineau Valley Historical Society - Membership Application/Renewal Form

 Box 1803 Chelsea QC J9B 1A1
  819-827-6224
  info@gvhs.ca

Benefits of membership -

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

Membership Fees (per family - January-December) -

1 year - \$20.00
 2 year - \$35.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

* Email _____ The newsletter will be emailed to you.

I am interested in volunteering:

Auction Archives Cemeteries Publications Special Events

* Please give us your email address if you have one - it helps with our mailing costs.