



SUMMER 1987 NEWSLETTER

**NEXT GATHERING: ANNUAL AUCTION,
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 AT 0830 AT THE
WEST HULL COMMUNITY CENTRE,
OLD CHELSEA**

THE ANNUAL AUCTION

The auction is the financial foundation for almost all our activities. Its continuing success has made possible not only our many new programs of recent years, but has allowed us to keep membership fees well below the cost of postage and the publications distributed.

The Auction is a huge effort in which we ask as many members as possible to share. David Castleman and his Auction Committee have the organizational work well in hand. Here is the help they need:

- **spreading the word:** please tell your friends about the auction at every opportunity, in the hope that they will be donors or buyers
- **distributing posters:** in your office or community, could you put up small posters (8 1/2 x 11) available from Dave Castleman (827-1610)?
- **contributing antiques, collectibles, or stuff to the fleamarket:** you will receive either half the sale price, or a charitable receipt for the full value. Please see list of suggestions below. (Please bring articles to the Community Centre between 1000 and 1900 hours on Friday, August 14.)
- **volunteering help:** on Friday and Saturday, August 14 and 15 we need many volunteers for a wide variety of tasks.

Volunteers are required for receiving goods, recording and organizing the

inventory on Friday August 14. On Saturday morning, people are needed to oversee the articles while the public viewing is in progress, plus people to work on the bills, cashiers and general office duties.

Please participate by volunteering your time. There will be four shifts both Friday and Saturday to accommodate everyone's busy schedules. Telephone David Morisset at 827-1758 to book a convenient time. Thanks so much!

- **come, bring your family and friends for a great morning on August 15.**
- **mention your appreciation when you meet special donors (restaurateurs, artists etc.):** the generosity of public figures, artists and commercial establishments has become an important factor in the success of the auction. Lists of special donors will be available at the auction.

The special donations add special interest. Not only have we again most of the distinguished artists and crafts people who have helped in the past, but new benefactors appear. How about bidding for the Prime Minister's tie ("the Meech Lake Cord")? Or tea privately with the Honourable John and Mrs. Fraser in the living room of the Farm? Or could you be the winner of the year's literary blockbuster— a collection of the books written by members of our Society?

Among suggestions for auction items are: bottles, stoneware, tins, pictures, books, picture frames, tools, harness, old clothespins, wooden barrels, wooden wheels, wooden wagons, non-plastic toys,

cooking moulds, cutlery, egg baskets, sad irons, lanterns, stained glass, wickerware, pre-1940 chairs, bird cages, chamber pots, pre-1945 magazines, inkwells, washbasins and jugs, old dinnerware, farm implements, dressing table items, non-synthetic yard goods, woodenware, scrubbing boards, walking sticks, woodboxes, churns, afghans, shawls, pre-1940 calendars, wooden cheese boxes, milling stools, old trays, silverware, fine china, candlesticks, lecterns, hair wreaths, iron bedsteads, sleds, buggies, old fire dogs, historic lapel buttons— and much, much more.

LAST MEETING

It was a great party to mark our twenty-fifth anniversary, and to open the museum for the year. The threatening weather gave an anxious time to **Pat Evans** and his industrious committee, but virtue was rewarded by a hot, sunny afternoon.

The happy prelude to the ceremonies, as well as the principal entertainment, was provided by the Buckingham Mayo Irish Dancers who were marvellous in sight and sound.

The first of the Society's Honorary Life Memberships were presented to our Founding President, **Moiya Wright**; to our long-time President **Arthur Davison**; to our long-time auditor **Phil Journeaux** (through his daughter); and to author **Courtney Bond**.

The first two Awards of Honour were given to **Cornelieu Kirjan** for the Québec Ministère des Affaires culturelles; and to **Jean Pigott** for the National Capital Commission. The first was for the Ministry's work in recording the history of the region, and the second was specifically for the Mill and MacLaren House. All these handsome documents were prepared by **Katharine** and **Eric Fletcher** and their computer; since the recipients were the only

other persons to see them, we reproduce our Award of Honour at the end of this *Newsletter*. **Jean Pigott**, our landlord, joined with **Stuart Geggie** in declaring the Museum open for the year.

Mary Anne Phillips was helped by **Claudy Mailly, M.P.**, in wielding the Society's broadaxe to cut the birthday cake. Then it was cake and muffins, punch, tea and coffee for all while the musicians played and the dancers danced.

The museum was a whole new experience. Highlight was the new bedroom repainted, with superb hand stencilling by **Barbara Thain, Norma Geggie** and **Jill McGregor**. The former multi-purpose west room had become a proper parlour where some were lucky enough to catch **Beth MacFie** (author of much of the party's success) setting a Victorian mood at the grand piano. New exhibits were everywhere.

It was a great beginning for the Museum's second year, and the Society's twenty-sixth.

THE MUSEUM AND THE MILL

Other things have changed on Mill Street. We are now operating both the Museum and the Mill. A combined entrance ticket to both is \$1.50. They are open on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from ten until five. We urge every member to pay a visit. Even if you saw the MacLaren House last year, it is worth a return call to see what Curator **Stuart Geggie** and his volunteers have wrought.

Stuart Geggie (459-2393) would deeply appreciate more offers of help in staffing both buildings. It is not an arduous job. You meet interesting people, and it is a real contribution to our work. Won't you phone him and volunteer for at least one shift a year?

SUMMER PROJECT

When you visit the museum, chances are that you will meet **Jennifer Nielsen** or **Jamie Creskey**, our two summer students. Helping organize and run the museum is their biggest job of the summer, but they are also spending some time on Cemetery maintenance and oral history.

FINANCES

With this *Newsletter* we enclose the 1986 Financial Statement. This is an unusual procedure, for we normally enclose the unaudited statement with the Annual Review in January. As a consequence of the difficulties in financial administration last year it took a long time and hard work by many people to provide an accounting. In the circumstances we thought it prudent to await an audited statement, and also to invest even more effort in seeking to trace apparent anomalies in the balance sheet.

This statement represents our best collective effort to state the financial situation on December 31, 1986. Even though it is the conclusion of the Executive that we shall have to write off some losses in the handling of cash, members may at least be reassured to note that in a year of great administrative difficulty and substantial new program development (museum, cemetery, publications) we have shown a modest profit.

Needless to say, the lessons of 1986 have led us to establish new forms of regular financial reporting and control. Although we cannot predict the next balance sheet, we assure sound handling of funds.

The warm gratitude of the Society is owed to **Mark Cuddy** who undertook the very difficult job of auditing our books as a voluntary contribution to the Society; to our Treasurer **Anne Fleming** who has had to cope not only with current finances but long research into the problems of last year; and

to Vice President **Jon Purcell** who has shared his expertise to help establish new standards of financial administration.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome as new members **Margaret Brown Penelope Geldart**, **Christine Johnston** and **Cathy Pawley**.

JULY 1

To mark our living history, this year we repaired to Wakefield. There we were bowled over by the quality of the writing, direction and performance of Canada's newest operetta, *Canada Goose*, having its world premiere at the Wakefield School. Within hours its show-stopping song "Look at Me, I'm a Canadian" was on national radio. If the show's rich music is not on Parliament Hill next July 1, Canada will be missing something wonderful.

Congratulations to **Manon Tambeau**, **James Drynan**, music-writer **Margaret Drynan** and the Wakefield School cast.

A PLAQUE ON BOTH YOUR HOUSES

Congratulations to the Municipality of West Hull which marked July 1 by distributing the first of its plaques to mark century-old houses. Councillors chose a bold, bilingual plastic marker which is far from costly. It is a program that will bring pride to owners of historic buildings, and that will add interest to wanderings through this rich part of the Gatineau. We hope other municipalities will follow this good example.

MARCH PAST

For a pleasant excursion into unique local history, try a visit to the Pinhey estate just beyond Kanata. (It is well signed from the March Road.)

This treasure was almost lost a dozen years ago, but happily the persistent efforts of diverse supporters have triumphed in

the completion of the first stage of renovation. This was a tiny mirror of English gentility precariously anchored to the Upper Canadian frontier. You will find it charming and moving. Any day from noon to six you can picnic there, or buy snacks. Enquiries may be made at (613) 832-1700.

DINNER AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S

At the Moorside Tea Room on Saturday evenings the NCC invites you for a garden tour, dinner and a talk relating to Mackenzie King by a distinguished authority. Tickets costing \$17 each are available from the Tea Room or from the NCC Information Centre at 14 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa.

Talks will be given by Blair Neatby (*Canada Looks Abroad*, July 25), Edwinna von Bayer (*Flowers and Follies*, August 8); Earl Curley (*Spiritualism*, August 15) and Heather Robertson (*King's Women*, August 22)

The first lecturer (on July 4) was so appalling that no one would buy tickets to hear him, and the evening had to be cancelled. From then on everything has looked up.

It is a fine program to enrich the summer of any history-minded Gatinois.

We'll see you at the Auction on August 15 – or better still on the day before, when you bring your Stradivarius for us to sell.

R.A.J.P.

Outstanding Achievement Award presented to the N.C.C. at the 25th anniversary party.

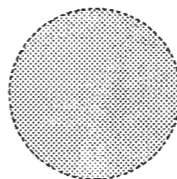


THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE GATINEAU

**The Historical Society
of the Gatineau
is pleased to present its
Outstanding Achievement
Award to the
National Capital Commission
in recognition of its preservation
of the Wakefield Mill and of its
support to the historical museum
in the adjacent MacLaren house.**

**La Société historique
de la Gatineau
veut rendre hommage
à la
Commission de la
Capitale nationale
pour la préservation du moulin
de Wakefield et pour son appui
pour le musée historique dans
la maison MacLaren.**

R.A.J. Phillips
President
June 27, 1987



le président
le 27 juin, 1987