



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE GATINEAU

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1989

HSOG
10/24

Box 485, Chelsea, Québec J0X 1N0. Telephone (819) 827-4432

Purpose of the Society:

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

ANTIQUA AUCTION - FUN FOR ALL AUGUST 26

The Society's 27th auction will be held at Chelsea Elementary School on Saturday, August 26, in cooperation with Festival Chelsea. Note the day and come along for some fun.

Articles for the sale will be received on August 25 only, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. Consignors will be asked to register by filling in a small form.

Antiques and collectibles are welcome from any source; fleamarket items from Society members only. To get the best price all items should be cleaned and as attractive as possible. Small items should be in shallow boxes so they stay together and are easily seen. Where possible, include notes on the history of the articles.

Viewing of the antiques and the fleamarket will start at 8:30 a.m. Bidders' cards will be available at this time. The auction itself should start at 9:30 and end about 1:00 p.m.

Parking will be available on the Old Chelsea Road and the roads of the private development across from the School.

Talk to your friends about the auction, encourage them to donate and

participate on August 26. (If the weather is good, bring a lawn chair to add to your comfort.)

For special arrangements to pick up antiques and collectibles in advance, please call any committee member: Yvonne Jurgens (827-3635), Charles Landon (459-3626), Ann Chudleigh (827-1560), David Castleman (827-1610), or Rolf Latté (232-2808).

- Yvonne Jurgens

AUCTION IDEAS

What are antiques and collectibles? These are the kinds of things that make an auction interesting. Look around: you'll be surprised what other people may treasure. Here is a random list to start you thinking:

- old style wooden clothespins
- feed bags for horses
- old benches
- harness, chains, bells
- horse shoes
- bottles, glass, stoneware
- tins, jars - especially with a label
- flour, starch, biscuit tins
- pails (especially wooden)
- pictures
- picture frames
- wooden barrels & baskets
- coat hooks (pre-plastic)
- old bedsteads

OUR NEXT MEETING:

SEPTEMBER 18

7:30 P.M.

St. Elizabeth Hall
Cantley

"Cantley's Past"

with

R.A.J. (Bob) Phillips

An interesting presentation among beautiful surroundings. Come early - St. Elizabeth Church will be open for visiting at 7:00.

The meeting will be open to all residents of Cantley, as part of their 100th anniversary celebrations.

JULY 29 BARN DANCE -
A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

And a good time was had by all. The night was clear and fresh - perfect for a few rounds of square dancing called by Andrew Kelly to music by the Back Road Band. Of the 175 in attendance, mostly Wakefield locals, a core of about 25 danced until 1:00 a.m.

Decorated with cedar boughs and fresh wet sawdust, the barn smelled wonderful. The band, the bar, and seating for 200 were all under one roof.

The highlight of the evening, the roast beef supper, was served buffet style outdoors. Twelve huge roasts, which had been turning on the spits for hours, were carved up and laid out along with three salads and French bread - all served on china plates (no cardboard here). Date and

coconut squares, iced brownies, and coffee completed the meal.

The meal was followed by a raffle for a plane ride for three over the Gatineau hills in the fall. Glinis Cohen was the winner - a just reward for having served on the salad crew all afternoon. And then back to more dancing, both round and square.

What's more to be said? It was a great party! As of writing (the morning after, to meet a press deadline), the profits had not been calculated. And the cleanup is scheduled for 11:00 a.m.!

None of this would have been possible without the Ross family, particularly Di who organized, David who cooked and set up, Tom who is a professional bartender, and Leith who did a million jobs. The Ross's extensive circle of friends, including the Bill Crosses, John Eaton, and Molly Wait, were also called on and they delivered. Many thanks to all who helped and to all who attended. The Mill and Museum need our support.

- Ann Chudleigh

VOLUNTEERS FOR ANNUAL AUCTION

We are delighted to report that we have a good number of volunteers who have agreed to help with the auction on August 26. This is most encouraging.

We are anxious that all volunteers have a good briefing on what will be required of them. For this purpose there will be a meeting of volunteers at 7:30 p.m. on August 14 at the Community Centre (Old Chelsea), when we will run through the procedures and answer any questions you may have on what will take place.

We are still uncertain of the number of volunteers available for the cleanup - a vital part of the day. For to six persons are required for one hour's work beginning at 2:00 p.m. Call Charles Landon (459-3626) or Yvonne Jurgens (827-3635).

- Charles Landon

A PARTICULAR VOTE OF THANKS

Visitors to the Museum may have noticed the fresh appearance of the front hall and two front rooms. Denis Lavoie, a museologist and member of the Museum Committee deserves a particular vote of thanks for spearheading this rejuvenation. During 7 weekends in May and June, Denis and Tom Ross slaved away washing, plastering, scraping, painting, and cleaning and laying carpet. A number of other volunteers and the summer students helped too - and we certainly appreciate their contributions - but the hard physical labour was performed by Denis and Tom. A vote of thanks for a job well done.

Incidentally, Denis was also responsible for the interesting exhibit in the first room: "Our Treasures" will be changed periodically to show off some of the more valuable and interesting items in the collection.

A second vote of thanks goes to Mill Committee member Arthur Dunn, who, assisted by his son Julian and Tom Ross, organized a cleanup of the ground floor of the Mill - previously cluttered with belts, ropes, and odds and ends. Arthur also wrote some explanatory notes on machines and milling processes which will soon be translated and on display.

Two other rooms in the Museum are the result of hard work by two faithful Society members: Bill Cross and Stuart Geggie. The "Cross Room" (in the annex) displays more of the treasures, illustrating the holdings of a country store, with a fine showing of light farm tools. "Our Roots" is the theme of the front, left room. Photographs, genealogical charts, and documents illustrate seven generations of several families still living in the area. Special attention is paid to the Stevenson and Woodburn-Rogers families. Thanks to Bill Cross and Stuart Geggie.

We are also most appreciative for the work of a new member, Bill Curfoot-Mollington, who prepared a text for use by the Museum greeters and offered training sessions on welcoming and guiding visitors. Bill was active at the Todmorden Mills Museum in Toronto and is now a docent (guide) at the National Gallery. We are fortunate that he has shared his research and educational skills for the benefit of the Museum and its visitors.

To all, a particular vote of thanks from the President.

- Ann Chudleigh

MEET THE MUSEUM STAFF

Have you met the staff at our Museum and Mill this summer? Here they are:

TOM ROSS, manager of the mill's summer operations and general facilitator and idea-man (remember the balloon race on Canada Day?) has just completed his second year studying Economics at Carleton University. Interested in scuba diving, hockey, and other sports, Tom plans to start his own frozen yogurt

franchise sometime this fall.

Tom's sister, LEITH ROSS is currently in her last year of a BA in Geography at McGill. Her interests include sailing, travel, and scuba diving. Leith finds especially enjoyable the chance to work with Dr. Stuart Geggie and exercise her creativity.

MARIE-PIERRE ASTELL, from Victoriaville, has received her bachelor degree in Sociology from the University of Ottawa and will be starting work on a masters in the Sociology of International Development. Her interests include reading, sports, and travel. Marie-Pierre informed me that she finds most interesting the fact that the staff is continually meeting people coming from different regions of the country. In addition, she finds the natural setting of the Museum and Mill "simply marvellous": "je n'en demanderais pas plus pour un été...!"

Marie-Pierre's partner at the Mill is ANGIE COLLINS, who is going into her last year of high school at Philemon Wright. Angie's interests include downhill skiing, swimming, and travelling. She appreciates the opportunity provided to her this summer to meet people and to improve her ability to speak French.

Four lively, committed young people running our facilities for us. Come on over to the Museum and Mill and say hello!

- Cyrus P. Blott

A PARTY TO HONOUR OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any organization, particularly ours as we have no paid employees to provide services for the 400 people on our mailing list.

During the past year many members have served on the Executive or Society committees or given their time and energy to organizing or serving at the Museum, Mill, Canada Day celebrations, Barn Dance, Auction, or Remembrance Day ceremony.

We want to thank these volunteers by inviting them to a wine and cheese party on Saturday, September 9, at the Maclaren House Museum from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Museum is freshly painted and the garden has been tended, to provide an attractive setting for this event.

If you feel that you have done something extra for the Society this past year, please consider this your invitation to join us. We suggest you bring your own chair. For further information, please call Marilyn Lister at 827-4432.

- Ann Chudleigh & Charles Landon

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 17 - 19: 18th annual Brockville Antique Show and Sale, sponsored by the Brockville and District Historical Society. At the Brockville Country Club, Hwy 2, 1 km. west of Brockville.

September 15, 16: Ottawa Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society Renfrew County Workshop, Calvin Church Hall, Pembroke.

October 26 - 28: 16th annual Heritage Canada Conference, Vancouver, B.C. Theme: "Diversitas - diverse people creating diverse places."

The Historical Society of the Gatineau Newsletter is published monthly. Editor is Jay Atherton.