



# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1989

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."

## Annual Meeting

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

8:00 p.m.

West Hull Community Centre  
Old Chelsea

The Society is facing some important decisions. All members are urged to attend.

The meeting will be preceded by a social half hour beginning at 7:30.

## Nominations for 1990 Executive

Members are reminded that nominations for the four vacant positions on the Executive (President, Vice President, and two Members at Large) should be conveyed to the Secretary at 827-4432 or 827-4244.

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## Heritage Day - February 19

A special program is being arranged. Keep this date in mind and watch for details in the February Newsletter.

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## Remembrance Day Ceremony

November 11, 1989, was a cold, windy, and wet Saturday, when we paid our annual tribute to the fallen at the grave of Richard Thompson in the Pioneer Cemetery in Chelsea.

Despite the weather, some 100 members of the public and military were present for the short and moving ceremony. A smart and impressive detachment from the Royal Canadian Regiment Battle School Petawawa, commanded by Major Kemp, was present, accompanied by a piper who played a lament before the service. Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Mr. Cecil Hughes of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, who kindly agreed at very short notice to provide this essential accompaniment.

Prayers were offered by the Regimental Padre as well as Father André Gauvreau of St. Stephen's Church and the Reverend Liard Eddy of Chelsea United Church.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Royal Canadian Regiment, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Branch 214 (Wakefield) of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Municipality of West Hull, and the Historical Society of the Gatineau. (The Society's wreath was made by Nicole

Lewis of Alcove and donated by Katharine Fletcher and Beth Macfie.)

Following the ceremony the Regimental Detachment was given a well-earned and welcome lunch at Chelseas Restaurant, organized and paid for by General Reg Weeks, with contributions from the Society and private donors. Special thanks to Reg for his support.

- Charles Landon

### **Presentation to Heritage College**

In 1988 the Society received a request from Heritage College for a donation to their Endowment Fund. Ever wanting to get value for our money, we suggested in return that, if a student(s) would do some research related to the Gatineau as part of a history, geography, or humanities course, we would publish the results in Up the Gatineau! and make a small contribution to the Endowment Fund.

We are now pursuing this possibility with Bill Young who, conveniently, is the Academic Dean of Heritage College as well as Secretary of our Search for History Committee. At the urging of the Committee and to spur on the College and students to do original research, on November 22 I presented a collection of HSG publications to the Board of Governors of Heritage College for their library. Beth Macfie and Pat Evans are discussing the design of a bookplate to go in these books and any other future donations. We hope our investment will encourage some student interest in historical research related to our community.

- Ann Chudleigh

### **Shocking Situation Revealed**

In a recent letter to the editor of the Ottawa Citizen, Ginny and Wayne Jenkins of Prince George, B.C. expressed their disappointment with the new Canadian Museum of Civilization, especially the shortage of artifacts on display. "Where are our national treasures?" they asked. Their letter concluded:

"We did find a small museum at Wakefield which provided us with a more satisfying experience. Even though it was closed for the season and we could only peek through the windows, the McLaren Grist Mill and Miller's House means more to us than all the 'pretending artifacts' of the air-conditioned comfort of the new Museum of What."

The Society thanks Ginny and Wayne for their vote of confidence. Stuart Geggie has offered to give them a private tour of the Mill and Museum on their next visit to our region.

- Jay Atherton

### **"Grandmother's Kitchen" Project Under Way**

Members will recall the initiative, with the support of a grant from the Province of Quebec, to take a collection of artifacts and a video to the local elementary schools. The purpose is to increase interest in our past, using a comparison of a modern day kitchen with one that would have existed in 1900.

Stuart Geggie informs me that the project is now under way, several school visits have been made, with a

positive response. A more complete report will appear in the Society's Annual Report, to be distributed early in January.

- Jay Atherton

## **Auction Items Sought**

The Society is completing arrangements for a year-round storage facility for items for the annual auction and flea market. Members are asked to set aside items as they find them. Details on the storage location and arrangements for pickup will appear in the January Newsletter.

## **Lapêche Heritage Committee**

During the Summer the Municipality of Lapêche appointed a Committee on Heritage. Dr. Stuart Geggie represents the Society, and another HSG member, Malcolm Nelles, is also a member of the Committee.

One meeting has been held, at which the Committee discussed the pressing problem of the McNally/Fairbairn house on the outskirts of Wakefield (threatened by the new section of highway A-5). The committee intends to become active in the future. Members wishing information or with suggestions are invited to call Dr. Stuart Geggie at 459-2393.

- Jay Atherton

## **Last Minute Stocking Stuffers**

The 1989 edition of Up the Gatineau! would make a great stocking stuffer for almost everyone on your Christmas list. J. E.

Boyle's account of his life and times in the bush from 1923 until he sold the last of his lumber companies in 1968 is fascinating reading and so vivid you can imagine being right there - a true adventure story!

The cost is \$3.95 plus \$1.05 for mailing. To order, please send a cheque for \$5.00 payable to the Historical Society of the Gatineau.

Other publications available for Christmas presents:

Historical Walks: the Gatineau Park Story - Katharine Fletcher's history of pioneers, recreation, and industry "up the mountain" has walks for every level of hiker (\$9.95).

Hurling Down the Pine - the story of logging days in the Gatineau by Courtney Bond (\$9.95).

The Extra Mile - the journal of Wakefield's Dr. Harold Geggie, edited by his son, Dr. Stuart Geggie (\$9.95).

When ordering, please add \$1.05 postage for each item. These publications cost \$11.95 for non-members.

- Ann Chudleigh

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The Historical Society of the Gatineau Newsletter is published monthly. Editor is Jay Atherton. Comments and/or contributions are welcomed and encouraged, either by telephone (827-1703) or by mail (R.R.3, Wakefield, QC J0X 3G0).

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## Membership Renewals

If your address label below shows a membership expiry date of 89/12/31 would you please send a cheque for \$8.00 made payable to the Historical Society of the Gatineau, to cover your membership for 1990. Please note that, until further notice (and discussion at the General Meeting), the Society will not be accepting \$15.00 two-year memberships.

- Marilyn Lister

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