



# MAY 1989 NEWSLETTER

## Purpose of the Society

**“...to promote matters of historical or heritage significance in the general area of the Gatineau.”**

### SEEKING YOUR OPINION

What do you like about the Historical Society? Is it doing the kind of work you would like it to and could it do better? Are there changes that you would like to make? Your interest and participation will help make it the kind of organization you want.

Please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire included with this Newsletter and send it back by June 1st to the Historical Society, Box 485, Chelsea, Quebec J0X 1N0. If you would prefer to answer orally, please call: Carol Martin 827-1633, Marilyn Lister 827-4244, or Stephen Stewart 827-4403.

The results of the survey will be presented in a Newsletter later this year, and will provide a springboard for discussion at one of the meetings.

### WHAT'S NEW AT MACLAREN HOUSE MUSEUM?

Plans for our museum are well in hand. Three new exhibits will replace and add to those of other years. Mr. Denis Lavoie of Parks Canada is organizing a display, using our own artifacts, to show the range of items that we have, emphasizing their diversity. This exhibit will be mounted in the “parlour”, on the right from the entrance. Most of the existing furniture and paintings will be stored for future use.

Cliff Quince and Bill Cross are establishing a blacksmith shop, such as was common in the area when horses were in greater use. The forge, anvil, and tools from the blacksmith shop of the late Harry Carruthers of Kazabzua will be the central feature. They were donated by his son, Doug.

The third exhibit will be a photographic portrait of our ancestors, featuring people, their homes, farms, and surroundings of 1900. The people will be identified, as well as the sites. This display will be in the room on the left of the entrance, where there will also be a showcase housing early cameras and photographic equipment. Donations and/or loans of photos are requested, as well as the loan of any early photographic equipment that members may have. We will look after everything and return items when appropriate.

Volunteers are very necessary to get the year off to a good start, and to staff the museum when it is open. (We also need people to paint the blacksmith shop after the room repairs have been completed.) Please call Stuart Geggie at (495-2392) or President Ann Chudleigh at (827-1560).

- *Stuart Geggie*

### JULY 1 CEREMONIES AT MACLAREN HOUSE

Come to the annual July 1 celebrations at MacLaren House, featuring a concert, a step-dancing group from Gracefield, and a bread-baking contest. Prizes will be awarded for the best quality bread, and members will be able to participate in an auction for the (yum!!) loaves.

Watch the local newspapers for details.

### JULY 29 - BEEF N' ENTERTAINMENT

On Saturday, July 29, the Society is sponsoring a roast beef dinner at the farm of Di and David Ross on the Masham Road (just beyond the Wakefield Mill). Hips of beef will be roasted outdoors and served up to hungry guests. Entertainment and dancing to live music follows.

Watch the July Newsletter for details. Time 8:00 p.m. till the last guest leaves. Tickets will be cheaper in advance but available at the door; a tax receipt will be issued for part of the ticket price.

This benefit evening is to raise funds for program costs at the Mill and Museum. Our longer term arrangements with the NCC for these two buildings are currently under review, even threatened, and new exhibits and improvements cost money. Plan to support these heritage resources in our community and have a rousing evening's entertainment at the same time!

Mark July 29 on your calendar now.

- *Anne Chudleigh*

### **1989 AUCTION SET FOR AUGUST 26**

The last Saturday in August has been agreed upon as the date for the Society's 1989 Auction. As you do your Spring cleaning, keep this event in mind. We'll need small items for flea market and older, larger, more valuable items for the auction. Pass the word to your friends and neighbours. Details, such as time and location, will appear in the July Newsletter.

And a special vote of thanks to Yvonne Jurgens, who has agreed to serve as coordinator for this year's auction.

- *Charles Landon, Ann Chudleigh*

### **NEW PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Members will be interested in two recent books by Joan Finnigan MacKenzie of Aylmer.

Tell Me Another Story (McGraw-Hill Ryerson) contains the results of oral history tapings, partially funded by a grant from the Society. Included are interviews with H.F. Harris of Gatineau Point; David Hayes, who worked for

many years as a Bell service man in the Gatineau; Edgar Boyle of the Boyle Lumbering Company at Maniwaki and Davidson; and Charlie Kenny of Buckingham. Another chapter contains stories and legends on Gatineau personalities, particularly the Lannigans.

Finnigan's Guide to the Ottawa Valley (Quarry Press) has a number of references to the Gatineau area. Among her various literary activities, Mrs. MacKenzie is working on two commissioned plays for the opening of the Canadian Meseum of Civilization, both set in Western Quebec.

- *Jay Atherton*

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Members are reminded that all memberships (except those covering the second year of a two-year membership) have expired. If you have not yet renewed, please do so (address: Box 485, Chelsea, J0X 1N0). The membership fee is a modest \$8.00 for one year, \$15.00 for two years.

If you are unsure of your present membership status, call our office (answering machine - leave a message) at 827-4432.

The Society welcomes new members. Encourage your friends to join and support our interesting heritage activities.

The Historical Society of the Gatineau Newsletter is published monthly. Editor is Jay Atherton (827-1703). Comments and/or contributions are welcomed and encouraged.

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