



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE GATINEAU

NEWSLETTER

HSOG 10/24

NOVEMBER 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."

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Members and their friends are warmly invited to the Society's Remembrance Day Ceremony on Saturday, November 11. The ceremony, at the Chelsea Pioneer cemetery, off Highway 105 just north of Chelsea, begins at 10:45 a.m.

Wreaths will be laid at the grave of Private Richard Thompson (see the article below) by representatives of Veterans' Affairs, the Royal Canadian legion, West Hull, the Historical Society, and the Royal Canadian Regiment. Col. Strome Galloway, Commandant of the Regiment, and forty soldiers from the Regiment will be present at the ceremony; afterwards they will be the guests of the Society and Major General Weeks for lunch at Chelseas Restaurant.

- Ann Chudleigh

Pte. Thompson & Pioneer Cemetery

Private Richard Thompson was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1877. He emigrated to North America when young and moved to Ottawa in 1899. Following enlistment in the 43rd Ottawa and Carleton Rifles, Thompson served in the South African (Boer) War with extreme distinction,

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Next Meeting

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

8:00 p.m.

West Hull Community Centre
Old Chelsea

"THE DIGESTER TOWER AND
THE CAMERA OBSCURA"

with

Denis Fairley &
Yvonne Lammerich

The "Camera Obscura" has been around since the seventeenth century. It is essentially a mirror and lense mounted at the top of a tower in such a way that an image of the outside landscape is projected on a white surface inside.

A considerable tourist attraction in several locations in Europe, there is no example of this precursor of the modern camera in Canada. Denis Fairley and Yvonne Lammerich have been studying the possibility of using the Digester Tower in Hull for just this purpose.

Come and discover more. Bring your friends.

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

(Private Thompson, cont.)

winning the Victoria Cross and the Queen's Scarf). He was invalided home in 1900, but returned to South Africa where he became a lieutenant in the Constabulary.

Thompson later worked in diamond mining in Kimberley, where he married Bertha Alexander, a member of an old Gatineau family who had served as a nurse during the War. They returned to Canada, then to Buffalo, New York, where Richard Thompson died of appendicitis on April 6, 1908. His widow brought his body home to Ottawa. To civic acclaim, a funeral service was conducted with full military honours in the historic Cartier Square Drill Hall and his body brought with solemn procession to a small private cemetery in Chelsea, Quebec. Private Thompson was buried there, next to members of his wife's family.

- from the Newsletter of the Historical Society of Ottawa

NCC Gatineau Park Plan

Public consultation on developing a revised Gatineau Park Master Plan has now reached the third of three phases. A draft Master Plan was unveiled during public meetings the week of September 11 - 15. Following are a few highlights selected on the basis of the Society's interests.

The draft Master Plan seeks to establish an "acceptable equilibrium between the demand for environmental preservation and public use." To achieve this it proposes two conservation zones in the west and centre of the Park, two "use" zones

in the south-east triangle, and a "Discovery Zone" along the north-east and north sides. The Plan focuses development in the use and Discovery zones on the Park's periphery rather than in the central core.

New Developments

One of the concepts outlined in the Draft Plan is the development of an interpretive and recreational network linking the three centres of attraction: the Parkway Loop, Lac Philippe, and Lac La Pêche. This link could be a new trail for hikers, skiers, and mountain bikers/cyclists.

In addition to planning a "discovery route" (details to be supplied in subsequent sector plans), the possibility is raised of developing the Wakefield gristmill and the Carbide Wilson ruins. (No mention of the McLaren House. We are currently negotiating three-year leases for the Mill and Museum - details to follow in a later Newsletter.)

Transportation

For the time being, no additional roads are planned inside the Park boundaries, although the present parkways may be linked to the Mackenzie King Estate and Meech Lake. Certain transportation routes serve as regional links: Notch, Eardley-Masham, Laramée-McConnell, and Saint Raymond-Mountain Roads. They will not be enlarged or allowed to provide access to the park (i.e. no stopping and no parking rules will be in effect).

Official Residences and Conference Centres

Key recommendations include:

- defining a maximum area required to ensure the security of the Prime Minister's Residence;
- considering temporary use of the O'Brien and Willson Houses/Conference Centres as display areas during inactive periods;
- integrating the residence of the Speaker of the House of Commons in the development program of the Mackenzie King Estate.

Private Properties

Key recommendations include establishment of the following criteria for acquiring private properties:

- in the short-term, acquisition of waterfront properties and those over 10 acres;
- in the long-term, acquisition of isolated individual lots and peripheral lots;
- in the very long-term, acquisition of existing residential enclaves.

Priorities would have to be defined for the short- and long-term acquisition programs.

Residential Leases of NCC Properties

Among the suggestions are:

- phasing out the leasing of residential properties owned by the NCC;
- preserving buildings that are representative of local or national heritage providing they can be used to support activities in the Intensive Use and Discovery Zones;
- preserving farm buildings, whether rented or operational, as they are reminders of the Park's history.

And last, but most essential, it is recommended that the Park be given an official status. Such a status could permit legalizing the zoning, confirming the boundaries, and assuring appropriate regulations. How appropriate!

After all, the Park is only 51 years old!

- Ann Chudleigh

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An Historical Tour

We have received notification that the Historical Society of Ottawa in conjunction with Congress Travel is planning an Historical Tour of South-East England to take place during the first two weeks of June 1990, and is inviting members of other historical societies to take part.

The itinerary includes Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, Churchill's Cabinet War Rooms, a guided Dickens Walk, a cruise down the Thames to see Wolfe's statue at Greenwich, Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells, the site of the Battle of Hastings, and Lt-Col John By's grave and estate.

Estimated cost, including transportation, accommodation in first class hotels, breakfast, and some other meals, is \$2,000. If interested, contact Mr. H.H. Sills, President, Historical Society of Ottawa, Box 523, Station B, Ottawa K1P 5P6. Telephone 225-4185, or the Bytown Museum at 234-4570.

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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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EXECUTIVE 1990

Although it is some three months away, it is not too early to start thinking about next year's Annual General meeting - particularly as at the time of writing four members of our eight-person Executive have indicated that they cannot continue to serve. These are the President, both Vice Presidents, and a member-at-large.

These positions must be filled if the life of our Society is to continue. A Nominating Committee has been formed. All members are urged to call in suggestions to the Secretary at the Society's Office (827-4432).

Surely out of a membership of 300 we can find four volunteers!

- Charles Landon

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