



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE GATINEAU

NEWSLETTER

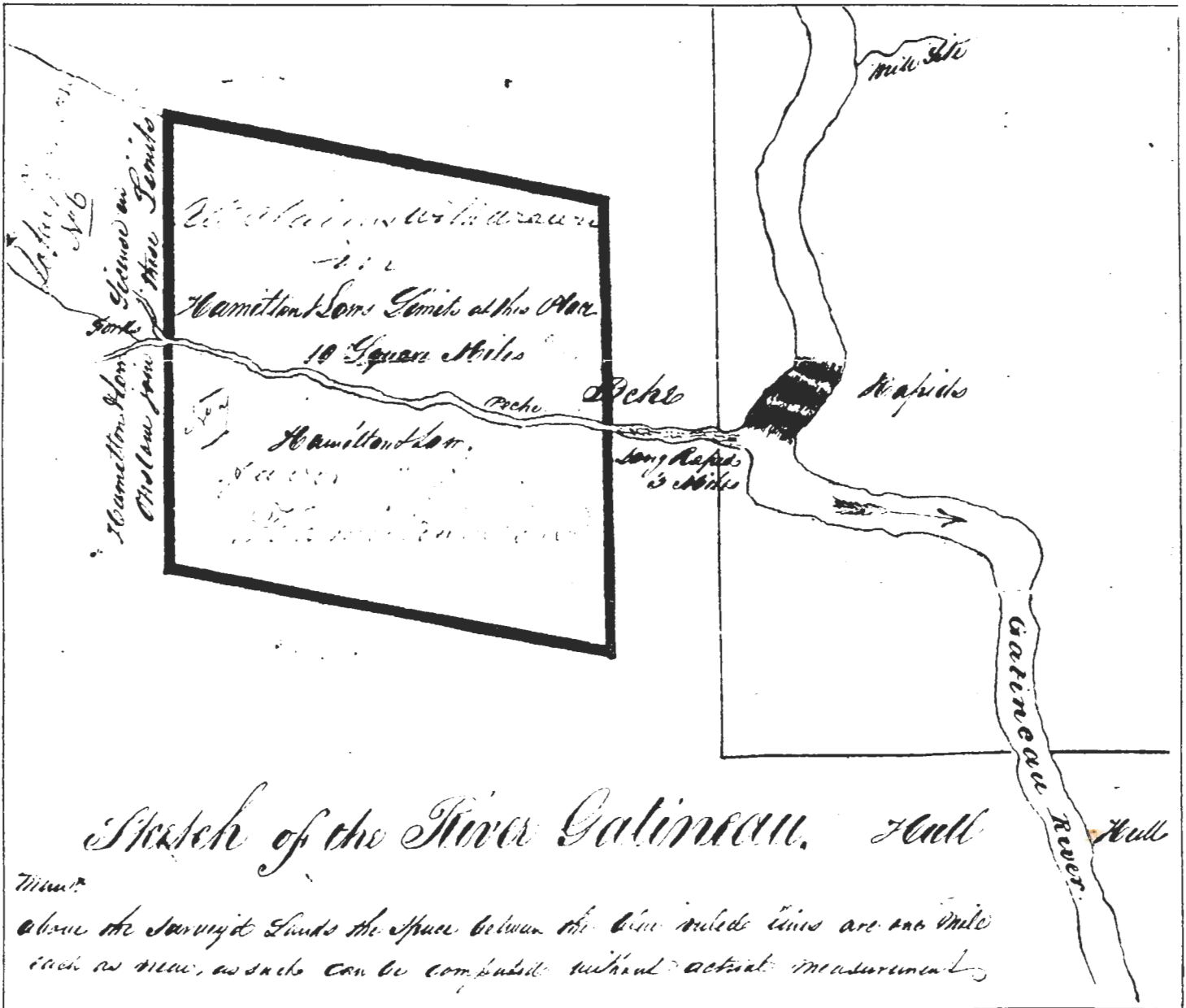
MAY - JUNE 1990

(Printed on recycled paper)

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."

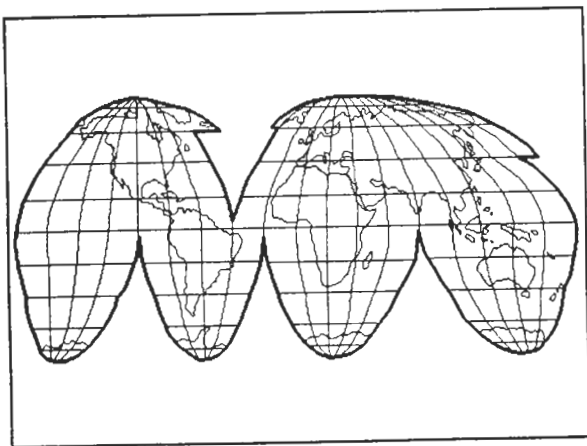


OUR COVER

Detail of a manuscript map, titled "Sketch of the River Gatineau," in the National Archives of Canada (NMC 8957), showing the junction of the Lapêche and Gatineau Rivers. Inside the rectangular area on the Lapêche River is the following notation in ink: "Hamilton & Lows Limits at this Place 10 Square Miles," and in pencil, added at a later date: "All claims withdrawn in favor of Hamilton & Low."

This anonymous plan, which has been dated circa 1843, was one of the original maps seen in the Archives' Cartographic and Architectural Archives Division after the tour of the "Discovery of the World" exhibition on April 4. The tour was given, and the copy of the map provided, by Edward Dahl, Early Cartographic Specialist with the National Archives.

Members of the Society wishing to consult maps may visit the Division or obtain further information by phoning the Division at 995-1079.



HSG BOUNDARIES

While we are on the subject of mapping in the Gatineau, it is useful to recall the boundaries of the sphere of interest for our society. To distinguish our territory from that of other historical groups, and to focus our attention in a sensible way, the Society some years ago decided that its mission was to concern itself with historical events within a band stretching fifteen kilometres on each side of the central line of the Gatineau River, from source to mouth.

It has been suggested that this geographical concept, presented graphically, could make a good design for a logo or similar symbolic device for the Society.

Any artistically inclined members who would like to offer up such a design for consideration?

HISTORICAL MAP - MUNICIPALITY OF WEST HULL

This is a correction of the article appearing in the April issue of the newsletter.

"The property acquired by William Ryan was that now known as the restaurant called L'Orée du Bois, which is of course on the Kingsmere Road. This is the birthplace of William Ryan's son Edmund."

To those concerned please accept my apologies. I knew better, but was careless.

Patrick M.O. Evans

PRESCOTT HISTORIC BUS TOUR - SPACES STILL AVAILABLE

As we go to press, there are still spaces available for the historical tour by bus of the Prescott area on Saturday, May 26. The tour, arranged with the Grenville County Historical Society, will include visits to several heritage sites and a short bus/walking tour of historic Prescott.

Cost of the entire tour, including bus fare, admission fees, morning coffee, and lunch, will be \$20 per Society member, \$25 for non-members.

If interested, call Marilyn Lister at 827-4244.

CONGRÈS ANNUEL DE L'ASSOCIATION DES ARCHIVISTES DU QUÉBEC

Le XIX^e congrès annuel de l'Association des archivistes du Québec se déroulera à Hull, du 6 au 8 juin 1990. Le thème est "Le respect des fonds à tous les stades de vie des documents."

Le congrès et la plupart des événements sociaux qui y sont rattachés auront lieu à l'Hôtel Plaza de la Chaudière à Hull. Pour information: Michel Houde, Édifice commémoratif de l'ouest, 344 rue Wellington, bureau 5078, Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0N3 (tél.: 995-2373).

IT'S THE PITS!

What is the most important place in Cantley? (No rude replies, please.)

Beyond any doubt, it is an unlikely spread of gravel, sand, and stone on

Route 307 about 2.5 km north of Mont Cascades Road or the Cantley General Store. It is generally known as the gravel pits.

At this spot, many people know one side of the road for Cantley's famous water spring. That's the place, but it's not what is important.

The gravel pits are important because this is one of the few spots in the world where the earth's history for several million years is clearly revealed. There are all sorts of fascinating clues which the amateur detective can use to figure out what was happening a long time earlier than even the dinosaurs or Canada Post. The history is all there in stone and fossils from the time this was a sea until the end of the last Ice Age.

Every year, hundreds of scientists come - many from great distances - to see this remarkable site, and then to write learned papers about it. To them Cantley is one of the few really important places in the world. (Sorry, Ottawa!)

But how many of us know anything about it? As the fame spreads, what will we do when Grandmother Cassie comes into town shouting "Forget the grandchildren. Explain to me the famous Cantley pits!"?

Fortunately, Cantley's Cultural Property Committee, in collaboration with the Historical Society, is coming to your rescue. On Monday, June 18 at 1930 hours, will be the first public meeting ever held on the site. Speaking at it, one in French, one in English, will be two leading experts on geological history, Dr. David Sharpe of the Geological Survey of Canada, and Professor Jean-Marc Soucy of Ottawa

University. They will explain the significance of what you can see from the highway, but never looked at. They will show you the pieces of the puzzle which tell the story of our earliest world. We promise you it will be fascinating. You can dine out on your knowledge for the rest of your life.

Admission is free to all. Rain will not deter us. After the explanation on site (and very soon after, if it rains) we will re-assemble in the St. Elizabeth Parish Hall to see photographs and literature, to meet the speakers, to drink coffee, and to say hello to our neighbours.

Remember: Monday, June 18 at 1930 hours at the gravel pits.

R.A.J. Phillips

A HISTORIC EVENT...

...involving an historical name. On April 3 the Quebec Government approved "Municipalité de Chelsea" as the proper name for the former West Hull - or, as it was officially known, "Municipalité du Canton de Hull Partie Ouest".

The name hereabouts dates from the early 1800's, when Josiah Chamberlin built mills on the Chelsea Creek. (According to our Society archivist, P.M.O. Evans, the name was copied from Chelsea, Vermont.)

Welcome to the new Chelsea!

"HURLING DOWN THE PINE" - COPIES STILL AVAILABLE

Courtney Bond's Hurling Down the Pine, subtitled "The story of the Wright, Gilmour and Hughson

families, timber and lumber manufacturers in the Hull and Ottawa region and on the Gatineau River, 1800-1920", was first published by the Historical Society in 1964. It is a highly readable, most interesting narrative on the origins of our area. The author, Major Courtney Bond, was for some years historian at the NCC, and is an acknowledged expert on the history of the Outaouais region.

Copies of the 1987 edition of Hurling Down the Pine are still available from the Society's office in the West Hull Community Centre, Old Chelsea, at a cost of \$9.95 for Society members (\$11.95 for non-members).

1990 AUCTION SALE

Remember the date and location: Saturday, August 18, at the West Hull Community Centre. Members with items for the sale, that they would like to store until August, should call Di Ross at 459-2372.

What sorts of things are suitable for the auction sale? Here is a partial list of suggestions:

pictures
picture frames
wooden pails.
wooden barrels & baskets
old benches
horse shoes
bottles, glass, stoneware
tins, jars with a label
flour, starch, biscuit tins
old bedsteads
etc.
etc.
etc.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

To paraphrase U.S. President John F. Kennedy, "ask not what the country can do for you, but what you can do in the country".

The Historical Society is providing the following interesting, stimulating, and challenging opportunities to members:

Chair, Publicity Committee: to coordinate initiatives to make the Society and its activities better known. If interested, call Beth Macfie, 459-3169.

Chair, "Refreshments" Committee: to lead a group of committed members dedicated to ensuring that those attending the monthly meetings go neither hungry nor thirsty. Call Marilyn Lister, 827-4244.

Manager of the Museum and Mill: to head a committee of members devoted to the efficient operation of the Mill and Museum. In this case, get in touch with Molly Wait, 459-3168.

INVITATION TO A LAUNCHING

A "launch" can be either a particular type of motor vessel, the ceremony attending the appearance of such a vessel, or festivities associated with the publication of a book (perhaps one about such vessels). This article deals with an example of the third definition.

Members of the Historical Society are invited to launching of Commander Tony German's history of the Canadian Navy, titled The Sea Is At Our Gates. The event will be held between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6 (which, you may recognize, will be the 46th

anniversary of D-Day, the Normandy landings in World War II).

Location: the RCN Association on Victoria island, off Booth Street. The Band of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets Corps Falkland will be present.

Members are cordially invited. So that the organizers have an idea of how much food to put out, those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP Food For Thought Books at 236-3361.

PHILLIPS MEMORIAL FUND

Members may wish to consider making a donation to the Historical Society of the Gatineau at this time in honour of the late Mary Anne Phillips. Persons making a donation to the Society at any time are provided with a receipt for income tax purposes.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"It has been said that though God cannot alter the past, historians can; it is perhaps because they can be useful to Him in this respect that He tolerates their existence."

- Samuel Butler

Those taking the Prescott Historical Bus Tour are asked to meet at Chelsea School at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 26.

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).

The Historical Society of the Gatineau
Box 485
Chelsea, Québec
J0X 1N0

P.M.O. EVANS
Membership Expires: 00/12/31
BOX 124 R.R. #1
CHELSEA PQ CAN
J0X 1N0

CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRY DATE

... on the mailing address label above. If your membership has expired, or is about to do so, PLEASE send us a cheque to renew your membership: \$15 for one year, \$25 for a two-year period. And remember - this fee covers all your family. Your spouse, children, cats, dogs, even the canary can benefit from a single HSG membership. The address is on our masthead.

PLEASE NOTE: This will be your last newsletter unless we receive your cheque.