



HSOG 10/25

# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU LA SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE LA GATINEAU

Box/C.P. 485, Chelsea (Qué) J0X 1N0

## *Newsletter / Bulletin*

October/octobre 1990

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### **Our Next Meeting:**

Monday, Oct. 15, 8:00 p.m.

Chelsea United Church

ALAN RAYBURN

### **"Place Names of the Gatineau Area"**

A native of Brampton, Ontario, Alan Rayburn joined the federal Department of Mines and Technical Surveys in 1957. From 1973 until his retirement in 1987, he served as Executive Secretary of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. A known expert on tombstone research, Mr. Rayburn has also written for the *Canadian Geographical Journal* since 1983.

His presentation will deal with the area from Buckingham to the Pontiac and north to Mont Laurier, based on information found in government files.

Refreshments from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Bring a friend!

### **Coming Events**

#### ***November Meeting:***

Monday, November 18

PATRICIA KENNEDY  
National Archives of Canada

### **"Sources for Genealogical Research"**

### ***Christmas Party***

Monday, December 10

Annual Meeting & Christmas Dinner

Kingsway Park Golf & Country Club

### **September Meeting: Buckingham Revisited**

The Society's Program Convenor, Joan Gherson, had arranged that this general meeting should take place in Buckingham. This seemed especially appropriate during the Centennial Year of Buckingham: perhaps we could learn something of its early history.

A small contingent from this Society ventured to Buckingham in the evening of Tuesday, 18 September. Preceding the formal part of the evening an enjoyable social period, with light refreshment, was participated in by Society members, their guests from Buckingham and other organizations. President Doug Rowland called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. In his opening remarks the President expressed thanks on behalf of the Society to the Town Council for the use of the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, and in a few words explained our presence, after which he introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Patrick Ryan. The President's introduction revealed that Mr. Ryan, in 1949, had been the first to write a history of Buckingham from its inception to 1900.

Mr. Ryan introduced his subject by indicating that prior to 1823/4 the future townsite was familiar only to the Algonquin Indians, nomads who passed through the area. The speaker then covered the establishment of various industrial companies and firms which provided jobs for



those who were attracted to the area and were induced to settle in the burgeoning district. These included the squared log era, followed by sawn boards and the pulp logging operations. A part from France came to mine phosphate. For a short while this enterprise exceeded lumbering in the economic field. A high grade ore graphite mine was in operation between 1866 and 1894. It was the custom to deliver rock to participating households to shave the rock for graphite - an early cottage industry. One of the larger industries was that of James Maclaren and Sons, who established a pulp and paper mill. The Maclarens soon became the power behind the throne at Buckingham. Mention was made of the strike at Maclaren's which got out of hand when two employees were shot and killed when the army was ordered in.

Bricks were manufactured in a small way, and a modest match factory was also established. Farming was also an early means of putting food on the family table, with surpluses being sold for added income. Farming of course was seasonal, as the farmer went to the shanties for the winter's cut and spring drive, leaving his spouse and older children to maintain the farm in his absence.

Mr. Ryan continued with the establishment of churches and schools, describing the considerable give and take that prevailed between Roman Catholics and Protestants, and again between the English and the French, so that harmony was little disturbed.

The speaker amiably fielded questions directed to him. The President requested Bob Phillips to thank the speaker, which he executed gracefully, also taking the opportunity to plea for the formation of an historical society in Buckingham.

Prior to the close of the meeting Joan Gherson asked to take the time to show a video portraying images of the structures and street scenes so well described by Patrick Ryan.

Adjournment ended a good evening in good company.

- P.M.O. Evans

## Museum & Mill News

This summer saw the presentation of two new exhibits in the Maclaren House Museum. One, organized by Fergus Maclaren and entitled "Medicine in Rural Quebec in the early days", is on loan from Le Musée Laurier in Arthabaska, Québec. The other was a display of costumes from the 1890's to the 1930's. Tableaux included themes such as "Wakefield Beach, 1910-1920", a family group from about 1900, and a dressmaker's room from the first quarter of the twentieth century. The garments were loaned or donated by a number of people, notably Mrs. **Vera Taylor**, Mrs. **Phyllis Patterson**, and Mrs. **Betty Davison**, all of Ottawa.

The Museum received a record number of artifacts, including a wooden hay fork and a cradle scythe (from Mrs. **Marilyn Craig** of Rupert and Ottawa) and a hand-made ice hammer for removing ice and snow from horses hooves (from **Ann Gilbert** of Rupert). In addition a beautiful quilt, made by her great grandmother in 1863, was donated by Mrs. **Claudia Bell** of Ottawa.

We only succeeded in obtaining the services of two students this summer: **Angie Collins** and **Stephanie Moore**, from Low and Kazabazua. However, thanks to the hard recruiting and coordinating work of **Doreen Peters** of Cascades, we had a roster of faithful volunteers to help out on weekends.

**Arthur Dunn** and his son worked on the Mill, cleaning and bringing in a great number of large machines that the NCC had in storage. Unfortunately, there was a serious shortage of volunteers to help Arthur in his efforts to develop the Mill further. Mr. Dunn is a true milling expert and we are most fortunate to have his expertise and enthusiasm. We hope that he will continue to take an interest in our Mill, at least as a consultant and a source of inspiration.

On a personal note, I should mention that I resigned last year from the position as Honorary Curator, but since a replacement could not be found, I have continued. We

need someone not necessarily with expertise, but with imagination, to take over. I would hate to see the Museum die. Built for a farming community in great need, it grew with the community and must remain a centre of our heritage.

- Stuart Geggie

### **"Artists in their Environment" - Second Annual Gatineau Studio Tour**

Members of the Gatineau Historical Society are warmly invited to participate in "Artists in their Environment", a fall studio tour of the Gatineau Hills.

Eighteen artists and craftspeople will be displaying their work in ten studios, mostly in the Wakefield area. The studios will be open to visitors on Saturday, October 13 and Sunday, October 14, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. There will be the opportunity to learn more about the artists, make direct purchases, and at some studios to watch demonstrations of the artists at work.

An additional dimension to the tour will be the launching of a new book by local historian and weaver Norma Geggie. Norma will be available in her studio to sign copies of her latest book, *Wakefield and its People - Tours of the Village and Area*. The book includes a brief history of Wakefield and surroundings as well as a record of the families who have made a contribution to village life.

A map indicating the location of the studios and detailed brochures containing biographies of the artists will be available at "L'Armoire des artisans" in Wakefield.

To visit the studios simply follow the map on October 13 and 14, and watch for signs along the way. The participating artists and craftspeople look forward to meeting you.

- Maureen Marcotte

### **Wakefield Covered Bridge Committee**

At its meeting held at the Wakefield Mill on August 13 the Society's Executive accepted the Wakefield Covered Bridge Committee as a sub-committee of the HSG.

In its presentation the Bridge Committee pointed out that the Committee's purpose - to construct a replica of the historic Gendron Bridge on its original piers - coincides with the objectives of the Society.

In view of this, the Committee argued, it was logical for the two organizations to work together for the benefit of both, "it being understood that the Bridge Committee would operate independently, and not depend on the HSG for financial or human resources."

The Covered Bridge Committee has an established group of members dedicated to building a "Gendron" footbridge across the Gatineau River. However, the Committee does not want to create the impression that it has all the help and expertise it needs. Especially welcome at the present time are persons who can offer technical and professional advice and assistance.

Offers of assistance should be directed to the Wakefield Covered Bridge Committee, Box 444, Wakefield, QC, J0X 3G0 - or by phone to (819) 459-2773.

- Anita Rutledge

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### **A National Best-Seller**

The May-June issue of the Newsletter announced the launching of *The Sea Is At Our Gates*, the history of the Royal Canadian Navy written by Society member **Tony German**. Has everyone noticed what has happened since? The book was on the Canadian best-seller list all summer. (A swell Christmas gift, don't you think?)

- Jay Atherton

## ***Things Archival - "Wonders Never Cease"***

Betty Davison, wife of long-time President of the Society, Arthur W. Davison, is currently preparing to vacate their Sandy Hill residence after an occupation of many years. Arthur is far from well and requires constant care. Under the changed circumstances Betty no longer feels able to cope with an ailing husband, a very large house and the demanding commitments made upon a first rate artist.

Arthur Davison was very thorough in all that he undertook. At all times he was a perfectionist to whom second best was not good enough. Among his many interests were architecture, history, heritage buildings, and Little Theatre, perhaps being the chief. He kept excellent records and his correspondence was manifold.

As Betty has said many times, "Arthur never threw out anything." We in the Society are indeed fortunate that Arthur had this "pack rat" tendency. One of Betty's recent "finds" was the Minute Book of the Society from its inception in July 1962 to 10 January 1967. This is truly an asset because it supplements the records in the archives of the Society, which are rather sketchy about the early meetings and projects of this organization. Perhaps it will be no surprise that cemetery clean-up had top priority in the early days. Today's members are still playing their parts in cemetery clean up and maintenance in the 1990's, in partnership with the Municipal Council, aided and abetted financially by the NCC.

- P.M.O. Evans

## ***Up the Gatineau! - Old Issues Wanted***

Members with old issues of *Up the Gatineau!*, available for use in local libraries, are asked to call our Secretary, Muriel How (827-1274) - or get in touch with her by mail (Box 7066, Vanier, Ontario K1L 8E2).

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## **Quote of the Month**

"Indeed, history is nothing more than a tableau of crimes and misfortunes."

- Voltaire

The Historical Society of the Gatineau *Newsletter* is published monthly. It belongs to the membership and should be seen and used as a vehicle of communications between and for the members of the Historical Society. Comments and/or contributions are welcomed and encouraged by the editor, Jay Atherton, either by telephone (827-1703) or by mail (R.R.3, Wakefield, QC J0X 3G0).

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