



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

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*Newsletter / Bulletin*

HSOG 10/27

October/Octobre 1992

COMING EVENTS

Next Meeting Monday Oct. 19th 8 pm  
at Chelsea United Church, Mill Road, Chelsea.

The speaker will be Mr. Donald Hogarth, professor of geology at the University of Ottawa. Professor Hogarth, who has a long-standing interest in the Gatineau, will present a talk on the history of Gatineau mining, with the help of slides and samples of minerals. This should be an interesting evening, so plan to attend.

The speaker for the meeting on November 16th will be Chelsea's mayor, Judy Grant. We have had many favorable comments on M. Jacques Lecours's slide presentation on the Gatineau power dams in September. Mr. Lecours has been so kind as to pass on some documentary material to our own archives (a framed and signed photograph of Thomas A'Hearn and a notebook) and has extended an invitation to any one interested to visit the archives of Hydro Quebec in Montreal.

The program committee for our monthly meetings is always grateful for suggestions from members regarding future speakers, or for ideas from our members who would like to speak on subjects of interest to our society. Many of you are familiar with historical events and family histories about which we would like to hear.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, here we are into the autumn of the year once again - the most beautiful season in the Gatineau. Our summer featured two bang-up affairs. The auction, chaired this year by James Strate and held in a new location (St. Stephen's Church in Old Chelsea) was a great success. What a wonderful location - and James has agreed to come back and do it again for us next year. On top of that, Andrew Geggie organized our efforts at the Wakefield Mill and the McLaren House like they have never been organized - clearly the best summer we ever had in terms of attendance.

We are now into negotiations with the National Capital Commission regarding renewal of the leases for the Mill and Museum. Several of your executive members (including Allan Richens and Stuart Geggie) are putting their heads together to come up with the most effective bargaining strategy. Times are tough and the NCC is feeling pressures - which it is trying to pass on to us. As soon as more specific details are available for the members, they will be made available. Certainly, the details will be spelled out at the time of our Annual General Meeting.

Speaking of which - the Annual General Meeting will be held this year on Heritage Day, February 15th, site to be determined. We have several options under consideration, each of which has something to offer. More information in next month's newsletter.

Our monthly meetings have featured very interesting speakers: Jacques Lecours' presentation on the three power dams on the Gatineau River, with fascinating photography of the construction work, enthralled a large audience at our September meeting. An equally large audience should be on hand for Donald Hogarth's talk about the local mines, on October 19th. November's speaker will be Chelsea's mayor, Judy Grant, with reminiscences of her early years in the Gatineau. And don't forget the Remembrance Day Service at the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery on November 11th. Further details on this event in the next newsletter.

Further details coming up later this winter, also, on a surprise tour of a special location of historical interest right in the National Capital Region. Can't say what it is right now - but Carol Martin will have the details for us soon. Should be a good one!

I hope I'll see you at our next meeting. Why not bring along a friend. We live in a beautiful area with a fascinating history. Let's make more of our friends and neighbours aware of it.

Jay Atherton.

#### NEW MEMBERS

The Historical Society of the Gatineau welcomes the following new members: Anette Brand, Eric Green, Ian Arnold, Paul Lefebvre, Mr. and Mrs. Hildebrandt.

#### WAKEFIELD COVERED BRIDGE PROJECT.

By the time you receive this newsletter, you may have taken part in one of the Wakefield Covered Bridge Project's most important undertakings. For those who did not attend this well-advertised event on Saturday, October 10th, here are some of the details:

Before the Official Ceremony, for which several of the participants arrive on the Wakefield steam train around noon (in a special coach generously reserved by Mar Grondin, the train's operator) an all-day sawing operation is planned, beginning at 10 am in the area north of the railway turntable. Operators of a portable sawmill will demonstrate the sawing of boom logs and other logs for use as bridge timbers.

On the bridge site, the bridge engineer, surveyor and dignitaries, dressed in period costume, will use old survey implements and Canadian Pacific Forest Products tugboats to lay the survey line for the new bridge across the river.

Bridge Patron Barry Moore, M.P. and Bridge Committee Chairman, Ivan Hale, will publicly recognize major donors of logs, materials, services and financial support to date. LaPêche Mayor, Jean-Pierre Brunette, will officially present the municipal building permit for the new covered bridge.

A centre-line layed across the river will launch the construction phase of the new Wakefield Covered Bridge. Soon, this familiar landmark should be part of our landscape again, thanks to the long hours of work by the Covered Bridge Committee.

The Historical Society of the Gatineau wishes to extend special thanks to the Covered Bridge Committee for being able to use the Committee's photo-copier to print our Newsletters.

PHOTO CONTEST: The closing date for this contest is December 31st 1992. There have been some donations/offers for prizes. Results will be judged before the Annual Meeting/Heritage Day and will be shown at that occasion.

UP THE GATINEAU! Carol Martin hopes to produce the 1993 issue by Heritage Day. A number of contributions have come in, but she is always pleased to hear from members who have ideas for new articles, or have a completed article. Telephone her at 827 1633.

ARCHIVES. Our archives continue to be open as through the summer, but now also by appointment with Pat Evans (827 2675). The same applies to the archives of the Ottawa Historical Society at the Bytown Museum (which after Thanksgiving is open Mon-Fri. 10 - 4). For an appointment call the Bytown Museum or Pat Evans. For those involved in historical research there is also the Outouais branch of the Quebec Archives, which is constantly augmenting its collection of general historical documents and individual family trees. These archives are in the basement of 170 Hotel-de-Ville, Hull and are open weekdays from 8.30am to 4.30pm..

HISTORICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GATINEAU: M. Sylvain Perron of Histourix Promotions L.B.P.C.Inc. received over one hundred questions from four members of our society (Stuart Geggie, Pat Evans, Jay Atherton, Gunda Lambton). Gunda Lambton has vetted the final version of these questions, which, in conjunction with many other interesting ones from the Pontiac, Papineau and other neighbouring regions should make up a most instructive board game. M. Perron will invite us to the official press conference on this venture and meanwhile extends his thanks for our efforts.

CEMETERY: The cemetery committee has arranged for the entertainment of members of the army who help to prepare the Chelsea pioneer cemetery for the Remembrance Day service (Nov.11th at 11 am). Refreshments will be served at the council chambers of the Municipality of Chelsea, courtesy of the Municipality, whom we herewith thank for this service.

BULLETIN BOARD:

Ottawa Historical Society:

Nov.9th History Group 40th Anniversary Lecture by Laretta Black, Glebe-St.James 2 pm

Nov.27th Military Significance of Rideau Canal by Richard Passfield. Glebe-St.James, 2 pm.

Nov.30th: Bytown Museum's last open day in 1992.

Dec.7th :An Unusual Musical Christmas. Glebe-St.James 2 pm

Dec.13th Sunday: Spirit of Christmases Past tours, workshops, carolling; Billings: 12 to 5pm

Ottawa Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Fri-Sun Nov.6-8. 2nd "Scottish Cultural Weekend" at Presbyterian Centre, Gracefield. Full day genealogical presentations/workshop; Scottish country dancing etc. Weekend \$ 60 (children \$ 25) meals & accomodation. Contact Hugh Reekie(613) 728 5343.