



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

Box/C.P. 485, Chelsea (Qué) J0X 1N0  
 (819) 827-4432

*Newsletter / Bulletin*

April / avril 1993

**Next Meeting**

Monday, April 19, 8:00 p.m.

Community Centre (La Pigeonnière)  
 Old Chelsea

"The Contribution of the Women's Institutes  
 in West Quebec"

The Women's Institutes have played a major role in the social and cultural life of our area since the early years of the century. **Helen Routliffe** of Fort Coulonge is Vice President of the Pontiac County Women's Institutes. She will speak on the general history and function of the Women's Institutes, with particular reference to their projects in West Quebec. **Frances Stevenson** will give details on the history and special contributions of the Institutes in Wright, and **Elaine Welock** will describe the contributions of the W.I. in Wakefield.

All those who have been involved in the Women's Institutes of the Gatineau are particularly welcome to attend this meeting of the Historical Society, which pays tribute to their history.

*Please note the location for the April meeting - the same as for the March reunion: the newly renovated Community Centre in Old Chelsea, next to the new MRC (Municipalité régionale des collines) headquarters building.*

Refreshments at 7:30 / Meeting at 8:00

**Coming Events**

April 25 - Community Consultation on the future of the Wakefield Mill and the Maclaren House

May 17 - monthly meeting - speaker: **Ruth Latta**, "Writing Your Memoirs"

June 21 - special function at the Wakefield Mill: "Show and Tell", with an expert on antiques.

Sunday, April 25

**Community Consultation**

*The Future of the Wakefield Mill  
 and Maclaren House Museum*

Earle de Wakefield Pub, Wakefield

Sunday Brunch, 11:00 a.m. (\$8.50)

Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Reservations recommended for the brunch  
 (call 459-3273)

The Historical Society is putting its plans together for the preservation of the Mill and Maclaren House, now and in the future. It is seeking assistance and involvement from the residents of Wakefield. Come and see how you might help us preserve this unique part of our heritage.

(For further information on the meeting and plans for the Mill and Maclaren House, call Jay Atherton at 827-1703.)

-o0o-

**IN MEMORIAM: ARTHUR W. DAVISON**

Arthur W. Davison, one of the founders of the Historical Society of the Gatineau, died peacefully in hospital on March 2. Many of our current members will remember his life and contribution with great respect and fondness.

A tribute to Arthur Davison, by Patrick M.O. Evans, appears on the next page.



## THE ROMANS CAME ACROSS THE CHANNEL

### ALL DRESSED UP IN TIN AND FLANNEL

Every English child learns about the Romans crossing that narrow gap of water passing between France and Britain. Some of the earliest coins in my collection were Roman. As one examined the coins an English boy could not refrain from wondering what Roman boys did and what they wore when they did what they did so long long ago. That was my introduction to history.

When I came to Canada at an early age I tended to scoff at the history of my adopted country. Why all the fuss about a house a mere hundred and fifty years old. There were more exciting things to do - to learn to ski and skate, to actually fire a rifle or a pistol without having a policeman ringing the bell at the front door. However history had become part of my being which could not be shaken.

So when I found that an historical society had been formed in the Chelsea area I soon became a member. At that time Arthur Davison had taken over the presidency from Moira Wright (the first president) upon my second attendance at regular monthly meetings Arthur "told" me that I was appointed the representative from Kirk's Ferry. "Who-me?" "yes, you." I was hooked!

The immediate question was who is Kirk, and why does he need a ferry? I had swallowed the hook, line and sinker. After a reasonable time it was suggested that others might be interested in what I had found out. Arthur's magic had worked again. He was that kind of gentleman.

Sooner than expected "Mr Historical Society" had persuaded me to undertake this, that or the other, such as helping with the annual auction, the bus tour to Rawdon, Que., where a local businessman had a smaller version of Upper Canada Village. Such was the charm of this paragon that others than I succumbed.

The day came when I was asked to take a hand with the Society's annual publication "Up the Gatineau!", a job I would relish. These brain children were, of course, Arthur's. In time I became vice-president. Another person who was "close" to the president was the secretary-treasurer, Sheila Strang,

As the years rolled by, and, as was the custom the Executive met prior to the annual meeting to discuss the nominations for office. The chairman (the president) always said "If it is your wish, I'm prepared to serve one more year", at which Sheila and I exchanged winks. Who would break an old man's heart?

When Sheila and I figured enough was enough (at the end of 17 years) we put our heads together. The upshot was to be a party; not just any party, but a special party for a very special person. Invitations to the Historical Society of Ottawa, the Aylmer Heritage Association, the Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society (we borrowed both meeting night and place), Heritage Ottawa, and our own Historical Society of the Gatineau. All were requested to send limited delegates to a monster gathering at the National Archives. Of course the whole thing was contrived to surprise him, so this end we sought his wife's (Betty) help.

Our gift to our chief guest was the ARTHUR DAVISON PRIZE, suggested by Bob Phillips (to become the next president). The prize not only perpetuates Arthur's name but provides one hundred dollars to the prizewinner for that person's best contribution to "Up the Gatineau!" - the prize to be awarded once each year. Oh yes, we even surprised Betty with a gift.

AND NOW, AS THE ROMANS USED TO SAY: *Vale*

Pat Evans

## List of Officers, 1993

Here, as promised is the current list of officers and committee chairs of our society for the current year:

President: Jay Atherton (827-1703)  
First Vice President: Carol Martin (827-1633)  
Second Vice President: Allan Richens (827-1616)  
Directors: Stuart Geggie (459-2393)  
David Castleman (827-1610)  
Valerie Hiscocks (827-0543)  
Gunda Lambton (459-3134)  
George Gould (827-4309)

Secretary: Muriel How (827-1274)  
Treasurer/Membership Sec.: Yvonne Jurgens (827-3635)

Wakefield Bridge: Ivan Hale (459-2264)  
Mill and Museum: Allan Richens (pro tem)  
Auction: James Strate (827-2237)  
Archivist/Research: Patrick Evans (827-2675)  
Cemeteries: George Gould (827-4309)  
Publications: Joan Gherson (827-0050)  
- *Up the Gatineau!*: Carol Martin (827-1633)  
- *Newsletter*: Jay Atherton (827-1703)  
Finance: David Castleman (827-1610)  
Fund-raising: vacant  
Membership: vacant  
Program: Valerie Hiscocks (827-0543)  
Gunda Lambton (459-3134)  
Convenor: Rene Nielsen (827-1845)  
Publicity: Allan Richens (827-1616)  
Awards: Patrick Evans (827-2675)  
Nominations: vacant  
Volunteers coordination: vacant  
Networking coordination: vacant

*NOTA BENE:* several positions shown above as still vacant. Can you help? If you would like to offer your services, or find out more about some of the tasks listed above, please call Jay Atherton (827-1703).

---

Has your membership expired? Check the address label and look out for a coloured circle around the date. Send us a cheque for \$15 (\$25 for two years), and we'll keep you in our good books!

## New Members

The Society welcomes the following new members:

Shirley and Jim Brown, Larrimac  
Adele Robinette-Street, Kingsmere  
Judy and Bob Webb, Wakefield  
Jenny and Ivan Hale, Alcove  
Norma Walmsley, Wakefield  
Sheila and Harold Townsend, Nepean  
Hugette Poulin, Cascades

Welcome aboard!

## Position Available

**Newsletter Editor** needed. Someone with an interest in communication, ability with a computer, and ideally having access to a laser printer. To turn out the monthly newsletter of the Historical Society. If interested, telephone Jay Atherton at 827-1703.

Brockville and District Historical Society  
22nd Annual

# Brockville

1993

# ANTIQUE

# Show & Sale

at the  
BROCKVILLE COUNTRY CLUB  
on Hwy #2, 1 km west of Brockville

## APRIL 23, 24, 25

Friday Night:	6:30 - 10:00 pm
Saturday:	10:00 - 6:00 pm
Sunday:	11:00 - 5:00 pm

Opening night, \$3.50 (with refreshments)  
Saturday & Sunday, \$2.50

## FOURTH ANNUAL PONTIAC ARTISTS STUDIO TOUR

June 12 & 13                      10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
ADMISSION FREE

Visit twelve artists at seven studios in beautiful Pontiac County.

Bus tours available through Ottawa Board of Education. Contact Shirley Claydon (613/239-2309).

Brochures and maps available at gas stations along Highway 148 West. Look for the magenta and blue tour signs.

For information contact Dale Shutt (819/648-2441) or Ruby Ewen (819/455-2253).

## Genealogical Items

### SCHARFF FAMILY ASSOCIATION

On January 14, 1993, members from several branches of the family lines surrounding Ottawa met in Cumberland, Ont., for what proved to be an informative, worthwhile evening, so much so that a future get-together is in the offing. There is even a possibility that a family association may be formed. Any interested reader may contact them by contacting your O.B.N. editor, who will forward correspondence until plans are finalized.

### SHOULDICES

To all Shouldices of the Gatineau, the following:

1. John Shouldice of Britannia Bay, R.R.#1. applied for membership in the Loyal Orange Society, on 3 Dec. 1907. John at that time was age 35, a farmer, a member of the Church of England (Canada). He was born in Nepean (date unknown).

2. A former Shouldice was host of an inn, Bytown/Ottawa area, in the early 1800's.

(From the *Ottawa Branch News*, Ontario Genealogical Society, January 1993. Address: Ottawa Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 8346, Ottawa, ON, K1G 3H8.)

## Tony German's Book Inspires Movie

Principal photography was completed in December on *Lifeline to Victory*, a \$3,000,000 movie for television co-produced by Primedia Productions of Toronto and Andrew Cochrane Associates of Halifax. *Lifeline to Victory* celebrates the contribution of the Royal Canadian Navy during the Battle of the Atlantic, one of the most protracted and difficult campaigns of the Second World War. The movie is scheduled for completion in time for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic in May 1993. It will be broadcast as part of the commemoration of the Battle on the Global television network on Sunday, May 2.

*Lifeline to Victory* is a fictional story inspired by actual events and research drawn from **Tony German's** best selling history of the Canadian Navy, *The Sea is at Our Gates*. Both the film and the book are a tribute to the men of the RCN and the Merchant Marine who ensured that convoys of supplies and materiel reached the embattled Allies over the six years of war.

Watch for it.

-000-

To all members:

### Phil Journeau's Photo

Have you ordered YOUR copy of the Phil Journeau photo of the Kirk's Ferry area before the flooding of the Gatineau River at the time of the erection of the hydro-electric and control dams at Low, Chelsea, and Farmer's Rapids (about 1926-28)? The photo, on display at the recent Annual general meeting shows the hamlet before it was "drowned". The prices are reasonable:

40" wide \$85    24" wide \$50    20" wide \$35

Contact Allan Richens (827-1616) or Pat Evans (827-2675)

### West Hull Map

Also, there are a few maps left of the area once known as the West Hull Municipality (which includes the east side of the Gatineau River). It shows who owned what property prior to 1875, when the municipality was formed. In some cases the date of acquisition is indicated. The map was

carefully put together by Ed and Lyd Ryan from municipal records.

The maps are black and white - you may care to "antique" your copy with a light wash of tea!

The price is \$10.00

Contact Joan Gherson at 827-0050, or write to the Historical Society of the Gatineau, P.O. Box 485, Chelsea, Que. J0X 1N0

- P.M.O. Evans

## 1993 AUCTION AND FLEA MARKET

This year's annual Auction and Flea Market will be held on Saturday, August 21 on the St. Stephen's Church picnic grounds in Old Chelsea.

Spring is close at hand, which probably means spring cleaning. Save those antiques and collectibles. Instead of throwing them out, set them aside for the auction and flea market.

What are antiques and collectibles? They are the kinds of things that make an auction interesting. Look around: you'll be surprised what other people may treasure. Look in sheds, the backs of cupboards, under the sink.

Here is a random list to start your imagination:

- old style wooden clothes pins
- old benches
- horse shoes
- bottles, glass, stoneware
- flour, starch, and biscuit tins
- picture frames
- lanterns
- stained glass
- chamber pots
- walking sticks
- old farm implements
- preserving jars - pre-1960 (esp. "Beaver")
- washbasins and jugs

We can take your items anytime between now and August 21. Proceeds from their sale may be shared with the donour, or may all go to the good works of the Historical Society (the annual auction is our main source of funds).

For information about the event, to inquire about the provision of items for the flea market or auction, or to help with the organization, call James Strate at 827-2237.

---

The **Ontario Genealogical Society** will hold "Seminar '93" on May 27 - 30 at the University of Toronto. For information or to register contact the OGS at Toronto's First Post office, Box 2, Adelaide St. E., Toronto M5A 1N1. Speakers will include Glenn Wright of the Historical Division, R.C.M.P., Ottawa. Three other speakers are scheduled to lecture on subjects such as English genealogy, using maps for genealogy, and "The Toronto Panorama, 1857".

The **Ottawa Branch** of the Ontario Genealogical Society will publish articles about the early inns and innkeepers of Eastern Ontario. If you have information on this subject, contact Brian O'Regan at Box 8346, Ottawa, Ont. K1G 3H8.

**Quarry Press**, P.O. Box 1061, Kingston, Ont. K7L 4Y5 now publish most of Joan Finnigan and Bernie Bedore's books on the Ottawa Valley and a number of guide books such as:

- *Finnigan's Guide to the Ottawa Valley : a Cultural and Historical Companion* \$10.95
- *Brado's Guide to Ottawa : a Cultural and Historical Companion* \$13.95
- *Bowering's Guide to Eastern Ontario : a Cultural and Historical Companion* \$14.95

**General Stores Publishing House Inc.** is publishing a book on women's memories of World War II: *The Memory of All That*, which includes stories by Gatineau inhabitants. Contact Tim Gordeon, General Stores Publishing House, Burnstown, Ontario, or the book's editor, Ruth Latta, at 908 Dynes Rd., Ottawa K2C 0G8 for information.

- Gunda Lambton

The Historical Society of the Gatineau *Newsletter* is published monthly as a vehicle of communication between the members of the Historical Society. Contributions are welcome, care of the address of the Society or by telephone to the editor, Jay Atherton (827-1703).

Coordination: Yvonne Jurgens  
Distribution: Rae Moore

# Archivist's lifetime work honors the Outaouais

**W**hen someone presents a book to the archives of Hull, that doesn't sound much like news. This time it is.

Hull is not apt to see its like again, nor will most communities. Consider first the form of the gift.

It's not just a book. It's a stack of cards, each filled with invaluable new and original research about the early families of the region. It is hand-recorded in exquisite calligraphy, and the stack of irreplaceable cards is 69 centimetres high.

On those 40,000 cards is recorded the genealogy of all the earliest families that built permanent settlements in the Outaouais, from 1800 when Hull began until about mid-century.

For that so-called book, a nominal value of \$25,000 has been suggested. That is ridiculous. It is the lifetime work of Patrick Evans of Larrimac, a historian, genealogist and the unquestioned authority on the roots of the Outaouais.

Pat Evans's precise spoken English identifies his own roots in Altrincham. He came to Canada from England in 1929 and spent most of his professional career working for the Boy Scouts of Canada. A lifelong bachelor with



**BOB PHILLIPS**

## THE OUTAOUAIS

a keen interest in sailing, he spent most of his leisure hours in the relentless pursuit of the hidden corners where families grew — and spread — and moved to found colonies in America, and eventually in the Outaouais.

He is the author of the 1987 local history called *A Tale of Two Chelseas*, but his major book is the voluminous record of the Wright family, created between 1969 and 1992 with the support of the National Capital Commission. In it he traced the founders of Hull through four centuries: from their Yorkshire beginnings to their life in Massachusetts, to their great adventure in 1800, when they pushed the Canadian frontier to the confluence of the Ottawa and Gatineau rivers.

He gave the local descendants of the Wrights a long and honorable background. Among the many who have had cause to express appreciation is Jean Pigott, late of the NCC.

Pat Evans is the honorary archivist of the Historical Societies of both Ottawa and the Gatineau. He established the archives of the latter, and to both he has given more thousands of hours than even he could count. Not content with painstaking research through records, he is a frequent visitor to the ancestral homes of Outaouais settlers. He has a passion for graveyards where he stands by the hour, writing and sketching the history incised on tombstones.

Pat Evans is not a revisionist historian. He is that classical kind who digs with infinite patience for the facts, recording them without regard for current fashions of political correctness. But in any history, there can lurk the infection of politics.

Pat Evans's work may not please those who downplay the contribution of the English to today's Quebec. In most of the first half-century of Outaouais settlements, the New Englanders, Irish, Scots and English were numerically, politically and socially predominant. They were the builders who, like the Fathers of Confederation, "built better than they knew." The rest of us profited from their character, determination and imagination in making the communities of today.

Most people in the Outaouais know this. They are reminded of their history in West Quebec place names such as Hull, Aylmer, Buckingham, Chelsea, Cantley, Wakefield, which few want to change.

Pat Evans has given a wealth of facts and academic respectability to the proposition that the Outaouais is a joint creation. Long may that truth survive political correctness and the sniping of racists.

Bob Phillips is a Cantley writer who is co-publisher of the *Aylmer Bulletin* and the *West-Quebec Post*.

MRS. A. BRAND  
Membership Expires: 93/12/31  
BOX 163 R.R. 1  
CHELSEA PQ CAN  
JOX 1N0