

HSOG 10/29

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

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Newsletter / Bulletin

September / septembre 1994

Next Meeting:

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETS SPACE AGE

Our first meeting of the season offers an interesting change of pace: a visit to the

GATINEAU SATELLITE STATION

Monday, September 18

8:00 p.m.

Established in 1985 in Cantley, the station is the Gatineau Valley's direct link with the space age.

The station is managed by Doug Banks, a former member of the military now living in Kirk's Ferry. He will be describing the history of the station as well as providing a tour of the facility for members of the Society.

The map on the last page of the newsletter will guide you to a most interesting evening.

SUCCESSFUL SUMMER AT THE MILL

The summer of 95 has gone well at the Wakefield Mill and Maclaren House Museum. Student employees Tanya Saunders and Charles Adams welcomed a larger number of visitors than were received last year. (Exact figures will be provided at a later date.)

The future of the Mill and Museum is still uncertain: negotiations will be undertaken with the NCC during the fall and winter to try to clarify matters. In addition, the Executive will be discussing options for management of this project in future years.

In summary: a good year, but future uncertain.

- Jay Atherton

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL AUCTION

Three hundred people attended the 32nd annual Antique Auction of the Historical Society on Saturday, August 20. They were greeted with a thunder storm just as proceedings were about to get under way. All (including the auctioneer) ran for cover, the storm passed, and away we went.

The results were significant: probably the most profitable auction in the last five years, with \$4,400 net proceeds to the Society (from the auction itself, the flea market, and the bake sale.

The event is not possible without the commitment and industry of a large number of people. While it is not possible to list them all here, specific thanks must go to James and Maureen Strate for their leadership and hard work; Alex McKenzie and Norman Larose of Trudeau Fuels for their help in banner-raising and large pickups of auction goods; Bent Nielsen and his truck; Rae Moore for coordinating the bake sale; Shirley Dufour, Rene Nielsen, and Theresa Winfield for anchoring the flea market pricing and sales; and St. Stephen's Church for allowing us to use its wonderful facilities again this year.

I apologize for not recognizing everyone; just not enough space. Your work was valuable and very much appreciated.

Now all we have to do is start the planning for next year!

- Jay Atherton

THANKS!

...to those public officials and local business who generously supported our Auction on August 20. The public officials were: Rt. Hon. Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada; Hon. Gilbert Parent, Speaker, House of Commons; and Judy Grant, Mayor of the Municipality of Chelsea.

The following local merchants also supported our auction. We strongly encourage all society members in return to support them. Thanks to:

L'Agaric Restaurant, Old Chelsea

Chez Eric - Pâtisserie du Village, Wakefield

Jamboree, Wakefield

Newport Restaurant, Elvis Lives Lane, Ottawa

Antiquités au Vieux Théâtre de Wakefield

The West Quebec Post and Bulletin

Kirk's Ferry General Store

Charles Valu Mart, Route 105, Farm Point

Pro Hardware, Route 105, Farm Point

Harky's Garage, Chelsea

Tulip Valley Motel, Route 105, Cascades

Les Délicatesses d'Old Chelsea

Café Pot au Feu, Wakefield

Hull, Chelsea, and Wakefield Railroad

Larrimac Gold Club

M&R Food Centre, Old Chelsea

Wakefield General Store

Jardin du Treflier, Wakefield

Les Fougères Restaurant, Route 105, Ironside

Freshmart, Chelsea

Expéditions Radisson, Wakefield

Gerry & Isobel's, Old Chelsea

Trudeau Fuels, Old Chelsea

Café Alpengruss, Wakefield

Cordonnerie Chelsea

Video, Etc., Chelsea

Shawn's Service Centre, Chelsea

Dunnderosa Gold Course, Old Chelsea

Boucanerie Chelsea

Parkway General Store, Old Chelsea

Boulangerie du Parc, Old Chelsea

Salon Suzanne, Kirk's Ferry

Mountain Adventures, Old Chelsea

PROTESTANT BURIAL GROUND OLD CHELSEA

October 1 at 3:00 p.m. will be the date and time for the rededication of this last resting place of so many early settlers in the lower Gatineau Valley area.

As many of you may know, this sacred plot has caused concern as time went by, because no person or organization seemed to own the property. It became neglected, memorials were broken, weeds were everywhere, trees grew in places they shouldn't. It was a disaster area!

This society prodded and prodded until action was taken and funds became available. Thus it became possible to repair the stones and generally tidy up this hallowed place. A number of persons are known to be buried here, for which no markers now exist.

The Chelsea Municipality now owns this place. A small slice of your taxes will help to keep it from ever again falling on hard times. The ceremony of rededication, on Saturday, October 1, at 3:00 p.m., will see—rain or shine—the restored site being turned over to the municipality.

Any of you who are interested may come as witnesses. Dress for the weather. Those of you who have ancestors here may care to bring flowers from your gardens to place near your memorials.

Oh, yes! Light refreshments will follow, when we may socialize and rejoice at our achievement. Let it be a gay and colourful ceremony.

- P.M.O. Evans

PROGRESS WITH THE COVERED BRIDGE PROJECT - LUMBER SAWN

The Bridge Committee received final approval for its federal works grant of \$95,000 for job creation in mid-July. The funds are to hire six labourers and one administrative support/secretary for six months. The agreement also provides an additional \$26,000 for related project costs as long as the committee matches these funds.

The committee has hired a Project manager and contracted with a local sawyer to provide training and supervision over sawing operations.

Work started in the Dery Quarry on August 1, using our own 24-foot sawmill and a contracted 16-foot mill. Once set up and trained, the work crew established production levels of up to twenty boom logs per day; the huge pile of 400 logs was quickly transformed into stacks of structural lumber. As of September 2, we had just over fifty thousand board feet of lumber – representing over fifty percent of total requirement.

On August 2 the Bridge Committee made a presentation to the Lapêche Council, seeking their support on a number of issues. As a result, the municipality is providing liability insurance coverage for all volunteers and has provided the new Wakefield Railway Station building (north of the existing turntable and tourist facilities) as a construction office, as well as the surrounding parking area as a work site. The committee believes that the enhanced visibility of operations at this location will help garner additional public support. An office is being set up to accommodate visitors and provide project information.

The sawmills were to be moved to the new site by September 10. We require an additional three hundred boom logs to furnish the required lumber for the bridge; sawmill operations will continue for several months. Concurrently, a jig will be built in Wakefield, so that assembly of the truss sections may begin. We shall be seeking volunteers to help with this work.

The bridge design is being finalized by our consulting engineer, and has been discussed with a major bridge contractor and other interested parties. Our plan is to assemble the trusses in sections at the Wakefield site and, when all the preparatory work at the bridge site has been completed, use a trailer to move the truss sections over to the east side abutment. Here they will be erected sequentially and launched across the

river using a small crane and a wooden barge. In effect, the bridging process will be like erecting a wooden Bailey bridge, as it will be assembled on land and rolled out section by section. A core trained crew will be engaged in this work, with extensive use of volunteers to assist in the basic assembly of the sections and the application of roofing, siding, flooring, etc.

We invite all those who are interested in this project to visit our office in Wakefield to review the plans, and to suggest how our various requirements in skills, labour, materials, and equipment may be met. We can see the way ahead to completion of this community project, but significant additional support will be required to bring it to fruition!

- Neil Faulkner

WAKEFIELD - CHELSEA STUDIO TOUR

September 17-18 & 24-25

An annual autumn tradition: the sixth "Artists in their Environment" studio tour. A chance to visit local artists in their setting, surrounded by the beauty of the Gatineau Hills.

Explore the backroads and the villages in the area, stopping at the 14 studios along the way. There is no charge for the tour. Detailed brochures with maps are available at all galleries and related establishments in the area.

LOCAL CEMETERIES FEATURED

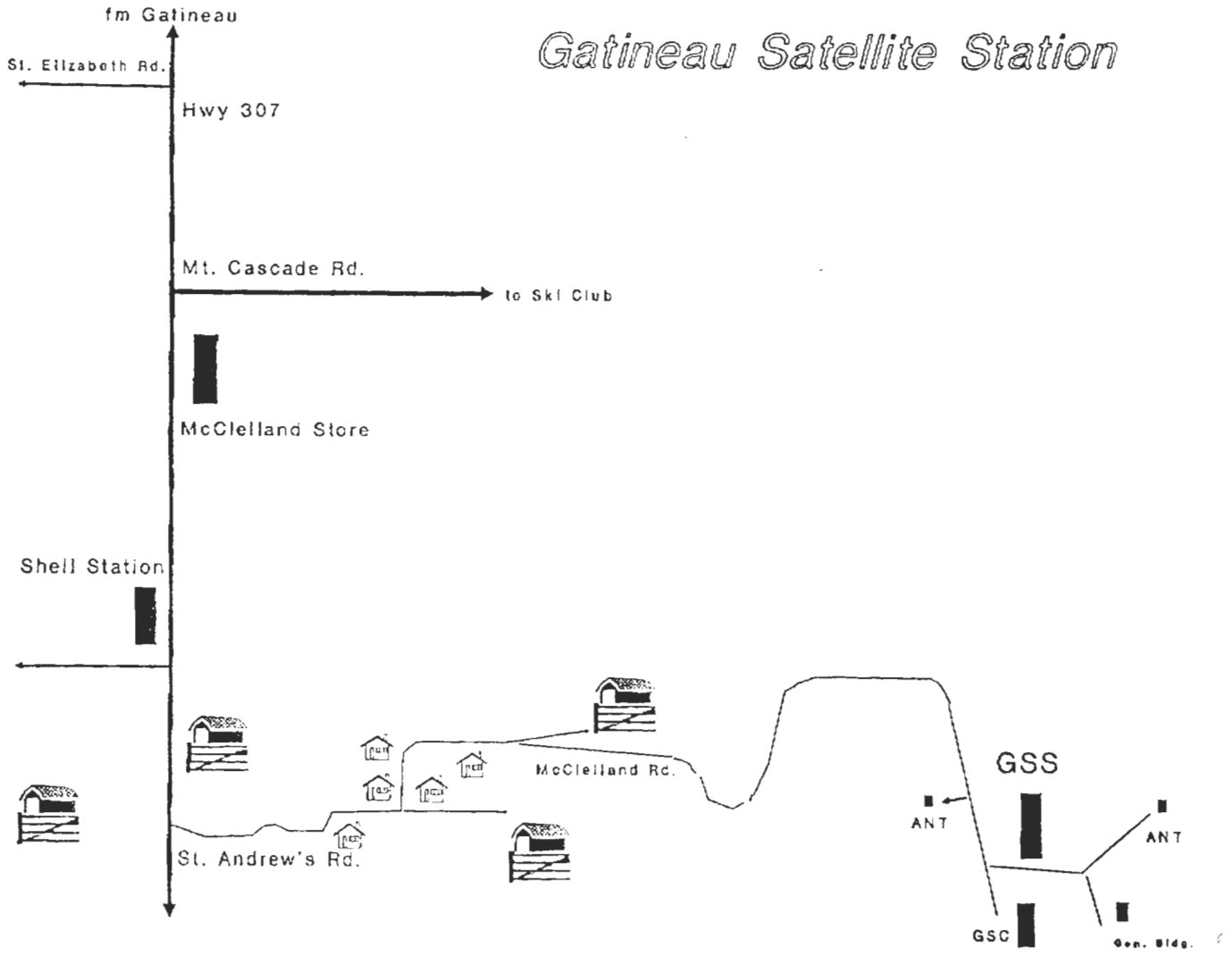
As you will have read recently in this newsletter, our cemeteries really are coming alive. Did you see the feature article in the *Citizen* of August 23: a full page on the peace and quiet found in five historically interesting cemeteries in the national capital region.

Three of the five are in the Gatineau: the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery, the Protestant Burial Ground in Old Chelsea, and the Maclaren Cemetery above Wakefield. (As noted above, formal dedication of the Protestant Burial ground is scheduled for October 1.)

Just for the record, the other two sites described in the *Citizen* article were the Anglican Cemetery in Fitzroy Harbour and Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa.

Good company indeed!

Gatineau Satellite Station



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