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

Box/C.P. 485, Chelsea (Qué) J0X 1N0
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Newsletter

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

December
November 1995

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Coming Events

- December 11 **Carol Singing at the Grange**, Summer Road, Cantley, 7:30 p.m. An annual tradition. Refreshments to be served. For information, or if you wish to attend, please call our Society number (827-4432).
- January 15 **History of St. Stephen's Parish**. Speaker: Larry Dufour. Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the parish in 1995. Refreshments at 7:30, speaker at 8:00. Chelsea Community Centre, Old Chelsea.
- February 19 **Heritage Day - Annual General Meeting**. Election of officers for next year; presentation of awards. Keynote speaker on the Leamy Lake Excavations. Special refreshments at 7:30 p.m.; meeting starts at 8:30. Chelsea Elementary School.
- March 18 Regular monthly meeting - Speaker to be determined. 8:00 p.m. Chelsea Community Centre.
- April 15 **Annual Banquet** - Larrimac Golf Club. Speaker on the history of the Golf Club.

COURTNEY BOND, 1910-1995

Courtney C.J. Bond, an Honorary Member of the Historical Society, and author of *Hurling Down the Pine*, passed away in mid-November. All of us who knew him will miss his cheerful exuberance, his positive approach to life, his sharp intelligence. In commemoration of his contribution to the development of interest in the history of our region, the Historical Society is offering copies of *Hurling Down the Pine* at a special price of \$5.00. A copy of a flyer containing details appears on page three of this newsletter.

-J.A.

Chelsea Excellence Gala

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NAMED GROUP OF THE YEAR

At the 5th Annual Excellence Gala held on December 1, the Historical Society was presented with the award of Group of the Year, in recognition of its contributions to the community over the years. In accepting the award, President Jay Atherton recognized the contributions of the Society's members to its success.

An active member of the Society, **Rae Moore**, was named to the Honour Roll for her outstanding contributions to the community. Other award winners during the ceremony included: Citizen of the Year, **Carl Donnelly** of Hollow Glen; Business of the Year, **Harky's Garage**; Event of the Year, **150th Anniversary of St. Stephen's Parish**.

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLICATION LOANS

From time to time the Historical Society has assisted authors in the publication of works on the history of the Gatineau, by extending loans to them on an interest-free basis. In return, some arrangement is made whereby the Society is given a number of copies of the resulting publication, which it is able to sell as retain the proceeds. While the general principles behind this sort of arrangement have been generally understood, no actual guidelines have been available to guide the Executive in deciding when to approve requests for such assistance. Until now.

Joan Gherson, Chair of the Publications Committee, prepared a set of guidelines, which were discussed and approved at the Board meeting held on September 11. For the information of members, they are given below.

Eligible Projects and Authors

- Any manuscript of a historical nature that is about the Gatineau area as defined by the HSG. Works of fiction are not eligible.
- Authors who are not members of the HSG may apply, but should become members if a loan is granted.

Applications

Letter of application should be accompanied by

- a print-ready document;
- the name of the publisher;
- research background of the author, list of other publications;
- anticipated cost;
- business or marketing plan; and
- indication of other grants or loans.

HSG Assessment of Applications

Applications to be assessed by a committee composed of:

- Publications Committee chairperson;
- *Up the Gatineau!* Editor;
- HSG President (or delegate); and
- An outside evaluator with expertise related to the particular publication (if required).

Assessment may include content, style, likely audience, business plan, or other factors relevant to the project.

Loan Agreement

- Loan agreement to be made with the author.
- The amount of the loan should normally not exceed half the expected cost of the publication.
- The loan may be for a maximum of 2 years, with a partial repayment at the end of the first year.
- No interest will be charged on the loan, but the HSG will receive immediately after publication an appropriate number of free copies for sale to members. The number will depend upon the size of the loan and the price of the publication.

The above are intended only as guidelines for the assistance of the assessment committee.

(Many thanks to Joan Gherson for her good work on this project.)

Hurling Down the Pine

The story of timber and lumber manufacturing in the Hull and Ottawa region, 1800-1920, by the Wright, Gilmour, and Hughson families

by Courtney C. J. Bond

Historian penned his own farewell

By Bob Harvey
Citizen staff writer

Courtney Bond was opinionated to the last. The Ottawa author died last week at the age of 85, but not before writing an obituary of sorts in his last community newspaper column in the *Glebe Report*.

It was vintage Bond, recapping his life as a migrant worker, soldier, mapmaker, and the National Capital Commission's historian, but with a quote from Shakespeare, a phrase or two of German, and a mini-tour of Canadian culture.

He also managed to skewer the British, bemoan the tearing apart of Canada and put the blame for his death where he thought it belonged, on the degradation of the ecosystem.

"I personally, despite care, became a victim of the effects of Earth's depleted ozone," he wrote.

"It is really *menschheitsdämmerung* (the twilight of mankind) down the road... mankind might, with some great heave, achieve the impossible, save our precious planet and species," he wrote.

Bond died as a result of melanoma (skin cancer), and cancer of the lymph nodes.

Originally, he entitled his last column *Swan Song*, but changed it to an even bolder title: *Blow, bugle, an-*



REGULAR GUY: Courtney Bond denied being eccentric

swer, echoes, dying, dying, dying.

Inez Berg, editor of the *Glebe Report*, says Bond knew he was dying, but still wanted to have his say:

"He had a vitality that a lot of people seven decades younger would be hard put to muster," said Berg.

Bond spent 30 years in the Canadian military as a surveyor and cartographer, walking bush trails in Ontario and the Maritimes, and crossing the Prairie Grasslands to make military maps.

Later, he helped make maps used by Canadian soldiers at D-Day in Normandy, and produced many of the maps illustrating official histories of the Canadian Army.

Before retiring from the army in 1965 as a major, Bond had gone to university part-time and picked up a degree in history and French. Later he added a degree in musicology, while working as a historian for the NCC and as a cartographer for the *Canadian Geographic Journal*.

"He was a person with a great deal of imagination and an inquiring mind," says Bob Phillips, a *Citizen* columnist and local historian.

He's known Bond for 40 years and worked with him on one of Bond's many books of local history, *Hurling Down the Pine*, the story of logging on the Ottawa River.

In
Commemoration

Bond's interests were many, including tai chi, sailing, bicycling, and helping the homeless at St. Brigid's.

But he also had an acerbic side.

Charles King, former editorial page editor at the *Citizen*, was one of many editors who felt the lash of Bond's pen during the years he wrote scorching letters to Canadian newspapers.

King and Bond were both active in the Seniors Interest Group on the National Capital Freenet, and when Bond died, King posted a message saying Bond "used to sign his nasty posts to me as 'your nemesis.' I now realize that I enjoyed those nasty arguments. When he called me 'Dora,' I knew it was his term of endearment for me."

In a *Citizen* interview in 1987, Bond said that although many considered him an opinionated eccentric, he didn't agree.

"If your definition of an eccentric is someone who is an oddball, then I don't think I'm an oddball at all."

He said he had taken the opportunity to develop a rich and fulfilling life.

"Most people don't like to see the boat rocked, while I do like to rock it sometimes," he said.

Bond is survived by his wife Elizabeth, two sons — Corky, an engineer in Brockville, and Tim, a director of such television series as *Star-Trek* and *Duc South* — and two grandchildren, Richard and Diane.

No funeral service will be held, but the family expects to arrange a celebration of Bond's life in December.

[Ottawa *Citizen*, November 21, 1995]

SPECIAL SALE PRICE

\$5.00

(MAIL ORDERS PLEASE ADD \$2.50)

Published by

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

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NCC nixes local bid for Wakefield Mill

The National Capital Commission has turned down a proposal by a local Wakefield group to take over the Maclaren House and the Wakefield Mill.

Although the deadline for the proposal was back in April, neither the names of the Wakefield group nor their proposal were ever released. John Batton, a Rupert sculptor and entrepreneur, Wakefield businesswoman Jenifer Nesbitt, who is a co-owner of the Black Sheep Inn, and Michael Courdin, submitted the only proposal to the NCC's call for proposal.

The Wakefield group's proposal was to turn the Mill and Maclaren House into a catering/conference centre with a tea room, museum and artists' studios. Using the open concept of the Mill, conferences, functions and weddings would be held on either of two floors and the historical aesthetics of Maclaren House could be used, for example, for wedding photographs. It also proposed to install a hydro-electric generator using the waterfall to make the buildings electrically self-sustaining.

NOT ENOUGH REVENUE SAYS NCC

The NCC, however, has rejected the proposal stating it did not generate enough revenue for the NCC over the proposed 20-year lease. "The proponent's proposal did not meet the objectives of the proposal call," Diane Dupuis, NCC media relations, told the NEWS, Nov. 17. "We feel it does not maximize the potential of the facilities and revenues to the commission. We feel the facility has

more potential than the submitted proposal."

Batton said the focus of their proposal was to keep the historical buildings local. "Our proposal was based on keeping it local — that we know the Wakefield people, the community, the businesses. It's disappointing, not just from all the time and energy we put into the proposal, but because we don't know who is going to come in (and take it over) — whether they know Wakefield, its history or people."

Dupuis said the NCC received unsolicited proposals after the closing date of the proposal call, but they could not negotiate them until the proposal call process was terminated — which it has now. The NCC has received about five "expressions of interest" which they will now explore as well as sending out "cold calls" to other parties which the NCC feels may be interested in the buildings.

"There is still interest out there and hopefully something will come out of these"

Dupuis said the terms and objectives of the original proposal call — to preserve the structures' heritage values, complement area businesses and generate revenue for the NCC — still stand. According to the 36-page call for proposals document, the NCC expected to achieve an "appropriate" return for the properties and provide it with a reliable long-term income. The commission would maintain ownership and be the benefactor of all improvements once the lease term was terminated. Interested parties had to submit an irrevocable letter of credit from an established bank for \$10,000 as proposal deposit and an upgrade proposal.

The Wakefield group's proposal had allotted \$175,000 in initial renovations. Payment to the NCC was based on three per cent of their gross and rising, commensurate to increased revenues over the period of the lease.

EXPIRED MEMBERSHIPS - LAST WARNING

A COLOURED MARK on the address label below indicates that your membership expired on 31 December 1994. The Society has now carried you for a full year. If we do not receive a renewal by the end of December, your name will be dropped from our mailing list. Send a cheque now (\$25 for two years) to the Society at the address on the masthead. We want to keep you with us, but cannot continue to absorb the cost if you are not interested in staying with us.

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