



~~HSOS 10/30~~

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

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Newsletter

November 1995

HSOG 10/30

Coming Events

November 11 **Remembrance Day Ceremonies**, in memory of Private Richard Thompson and others who have fallen in the service of Canada. Four colour guards from the Royal Canadian Regiment, Petawawa; representative of the Surgeon General's Office.

10:45 a.m., Pioneer Cemetery, Chelsea

Reception following ceremony at the Grange, Summer Road, Cantley

November 27 **Cameron Pulsifer (Canadian War Museum) - "The Queen's Scarf"**

A historian describes the heritage and controversy surrounding this award.

8:00 p.m., Chelsea United Church

A MOVING EXPERIENCE

Saturday, October 14: a beautiful day, but a busy one. A small crew of volunteers worked at removing the contents of the Maclaren House to a suitable storage location. The work went well, with two cube van loads going to Dave and Di Ross's barn. On the following Wednesday, October 18, Don Moore, his moving van, and several workers completed the job. (The historic piano was professionally moved to Gunda Lambton's studio, and the remainder of the items from the Maclaren House and the Wakefield Mill were added to the rest in the Ross barn.)

Representatives of the Aylmer Museum have in the meantime visited the barn, accompanied by Stuart Geggie, and have carefully removed some items for their use on long-term loan. The status of the two buildings, therefore, is that all Historical Society artifacts have been removed, with the exception of the mounted display of farm and lumbering implements on the second floor of the Mill. This exhibit will stay there pending decision as to its ultimate fate.

Thanks to the people who helped with these noble endeavours. Stuart Geggie served as overseer and Andrew Geggie as general coordinator of the cube van. Movers also included Bob Martin, Allan Richens, Muriel How, Bent Nielsen, David Geggie, Paul Lefèbvre, Steve Lefèbvre, Rick Hurst, and Jay Atherton. Bill Place also appeared on the Saturday morning to rescue his demonstration pieces from the Mill (we understand that one of them at least will find its way to Chelsea School, to be used for educational purposes).

What is next for the two buildings? No one seems to know. The National Capital Commission remains on the search for a suitable tenant ("suitable" in this case meaning revenue-generating). We hope that whatever future plans might come into being will include a presence of some kind for the Historical Society.

Finally, what is to happen to the possessions now sitting in a barn? The Board of Directors will have to study this question, taking into account future options for us back at the Mill and House, and come up with some suggestions. Discussion by the membership at the Annual General Meeting would appear to be in order. In the meantime, as Pierre Trudeau probably would have said, the universe will continue to unfold.



Correspondence

Re: "Landikagama," Petit Lac Cayamant, Range 1, Dorion Township

(Excerpts from a letter to the Society from John E. Udd of Nepean, Ontario)

This letter is ... [requesting] the assistance of your Society on ... the history of the above-mentioned property. ... I have a collection of maps of the territory, which show the evolution of the names of the lakes (which is interesting in its own right!).

What I am particularly looking for ... are early records and photographs. I am certain that these must exist, since the original owners were very well known.

The original owner, John William McRae, who died accidentally while cleaning a pistol, on November 29, 1901, acquired the property from the Government of Quebec shortly before the turn of the century. The main lodge, which I now own, was designed by the same person who carved the pews for the Anglican Church at Picanoc (I have the details). John William McRae was the President of the Ottawa Street Railway Company, and other enterprises, at the time of his death. According to the newspapers of the day, the funeral was the largest ever seen in Ottawa, with over 1,000 present.

... A large bronze memorial plaque, to his memory, was installed on the fireplace of the main lodge by the Ottawa Amateur Athletic Association, of which he was the President in 1892-1893. The building, I was once told by an official of the Quebec Government, is among the handful of "oldest" log cabins in Pontiac County.

His son, John Bell McRae (1875-1940) appears to have been the next owner of the property, but this is yet to be verified from a search of the Deeds. Nonetheless, it seems likely that my father, John Clarence Udd, purchased the property from his Estate, following his death, in 1940. My father was, at the time, building the Lord Elgin Hotel, in Ottawa.

The complete history, from my father's acquisition of the property to the present, is well known to me, and I have copies of all deeds, maps, and correspondence that relate to it.

The period of John Bell McRae's ownership, however, requires a lot of filling in. From conversations with members of the Moore family, of Picanoc, who knew the McRaes, I understand that the camp was a "beehive of activity". It was said that a 32-foot steam yacht was operated on the lake and that the property was used for a week each summer by Clergy, for a retreat. John Bell McRae was also the President of the Kagama Fish and Game Club.

My father, and I, in turn, were Presidents of the Landikagama Fish and Game Club. Both "Kagama" and "Landikagama" derive from the original Cree name for the lake, which, translated is "Little [Landi] Porcupine [Kak] lake [Gamaw]". This name, and others, is shown on old maps of the area.

With all of the above as background, I would appreciate any assistance in pointing me in the right directions.... the property is beautiful and is soaked in history. It would be my pleasure to host your Society for an afternoon "at camp" and a talk on where my research has led me this far.

Note: Pat Evans has responded to some of Mr. Udd's questions and thanked him for his kind invitation. Perhaps the Society can arrange an outing next summer. In the meantime, members with any ideas or information may contact Mr. Udd at 89 Ridgefield Crescent, Nepean, Ontario K2H 6T1.

AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The following article is reprinted from the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, October 26. The author is a historian and currently President of York University. She is the author of *The Dream of Nation: A Social and Intellectual History of Quebec* (Toronto: Gage, 1983).

This referendum is about history

QUEBEC / *The illusion created by next Monday's vote is that one can put a definitive end to the historical question, 'How does one be French in North America?'*

BY SUSAN MANN
Toronto

THIS referendum, for all its present polls and future projections, is really about the past. It's about history. Beneath the stark Yes or No required in the referendum, beneath each side's claims that it has the future on its side, lie two versions of Quebec history.

The Yes/Oui history

The Yes version of Quebec history considers the most significant event in Quebec's past to be the Conquest of New France by England in 1760. From then on, New France, now Quebec, was no longer a "normal" society. "*Les anglais*" took over the top positions in the government, the army, the economy. A budding French middle class was effectively impaired in its "normal development" and did not reappear until well into the 20th century.

In 1791, Quebec territory was reduced by division into Upper and Lower Canada. French "Canadiens" were increasingly subordinate to Anglo-Americans.

A revolt against that subordination, in 1837, was soundly defeated, again by "*les anglais*." Upper and Lower Canada were then rejoined, with the express purpose of swamping the "Canadiens" with an influx of English immigrants into the western part of the colony.

A generation later, Britain encouraged the union of all its North American colonies into Confederation, to offset an expansionist United States. The Yes side would argue that any notion of equal partnership gradually disappeared as new provinces joined Confederation and indicated their lack of sympathy for French Canadians.

In the 20th century, French Canada was again reminded of its minority status, as English Canada's ties to Empire meant that French Canadians had to fight in "Britain's war." A referendum on conscription during the Second World War underscored the minority status: English Canada voted yes, French Canada said no.

From such a history are Yes votes fashioned.

The No/Non history

But there's an equally persuasive history of Quebec that supports the No vote. This version suggests that nothing much really changed with the Conquest in 1760.

The English presence, in fact, opened up a vast trading empire in which "Canadiens" could and did participate: trade in furs of which "Canadiens" were the expert suppliers; trade in wheat, which began being grown for export; trade in wood, which Quebec had in abundance.

The creation of Lower and Upper Canada in 1791, with the introduction of elected legislatures, was actually an advance on French political structures. British parliamentary and legal institutions allowed more scope for "Canadien" participation in politics and the economy.

The "rebellions" of the 1830s, far from being "Canadiens" versus the English, were part of a general Western-world distress shared by English Canadians in Upper Canada, with limited popular participation in political institutions.

AS for Confederation in 1867, far from being a large political plot to render Quebec a permanent minority, it permitted the development of political alliances dating from the 1840s into a larger country with two levels of government: English-French alliances at the national government and a French majority in the Quebec provincial government. Property, education and culture, as provincial matters, could be as "French" as the Quebec government wanted them to be.

Confederation can therefore be seen as a long-lived and successful political compromise which allows both for political collaboration and for cultural and linguistic particularities.

Subsequent so-called "snubs" — the Louis Riel affair, conscription, Meech Lake, the Charlottetown accord — which the Yes side says are reminders to "Canadiens" of their minority status, are in fact few and far between, and have in no way hindered Quebec's economic, political and cultural growth.

And far from claiming that Quebec has no power in Canada, this version of Quebec history points to the Canadian Parliament itself, where major Quebec figures have been prime minister: Laurier, St. Laurent, Trudeau and Chrétien, to name four.

The difficulty with a referendum is that it demands a Yes or No answer. The illusion it creates is that one can put a definitive end to the historical question, "How does one be French in North America?" Canadians have in fact been devising different constitutional answers to that question since 1760; Confederation has merely been the most enduring.

The vote on Oct. 30, whatever the outcome, may require us to devise yet another series of answers. We can no more remove Quebec from our midst than we can remove history.

NEW EXECUTIVE TO BE ELECTED AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN FEBRUARY

On Heritage Day, February 19, the Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting. As the current President, Jay Atherton, will not be seeking re-election, the Society will have the opportunity to renew its leadership. A nominating committee, consisting of Jay Atherton, David Geggie, and Muriel How, will be presenting a slate of officers for ratification and/or election. Anyone interested in participating more fully and helping the Society with its activities by serving on the Board of Directors should call Muriel (827-4432).

BRIDGE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Project Coordinator, Robin Mcleod, has been working with volunteers to assemble the trusses for the bridge. The Committee hopes to complete two of the four trusses by the end of November. It is still hoping to receive a federal government grant, to permit it to continue with the acquisition of supplies and hiring of workers.

Anyone wishing to view the progress or to offer help with this interesting reconstruction project is invited to stop by the Bridge Headquarters, located just off Sully Road north of the train station in Wakefield.

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