

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

September - October 1996

HSDG

Fall Program

Upcoming Meetings

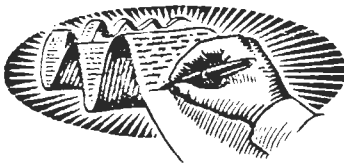
Mark the following dates in your calendar:

Sept. 16: **"The Story of Crawley Films"** with Mikie Crawley - interesting information on a famous cultural institution from our own area - told by a member of the family.

Oct. 21: **"Painters of the Gatineau."** Jim Burant of the National Archives - a bilingual, illustrated talk by an expert in the field. Presented in conjunction with the Société d'Histoire de l'Outaouais.

Both meetings will be held at the Chelsea Community Centre, Old Chelsea, starting at 8:00 p.m. (refreshments at 7:30).

Come and bring a friend!



Newsletter Now Published Bi-Monthly

In an effort to reduce costs (largely mailing), and after consultation, the Society has decided to issue its Newsletter every two months. As members will not be receiving a reminder immediately before each meeting, they are asked to "mark their calendars" in advance.

Auction Thanks

Thanks to all Society members who helped with the annual Antique Auction and flea market held on Saturday, August 17. While final accounts have not yet all been processed, it is clear that the Historical Society ended up with a net profit of around \$8,000 - clearly a record for the event.

The high quality of the items "on the block" (many from the museum in Maclaren House and the Wakefield Mill), together with the excellent weather and bountiful publicity, resulted in a record crowd for the event.

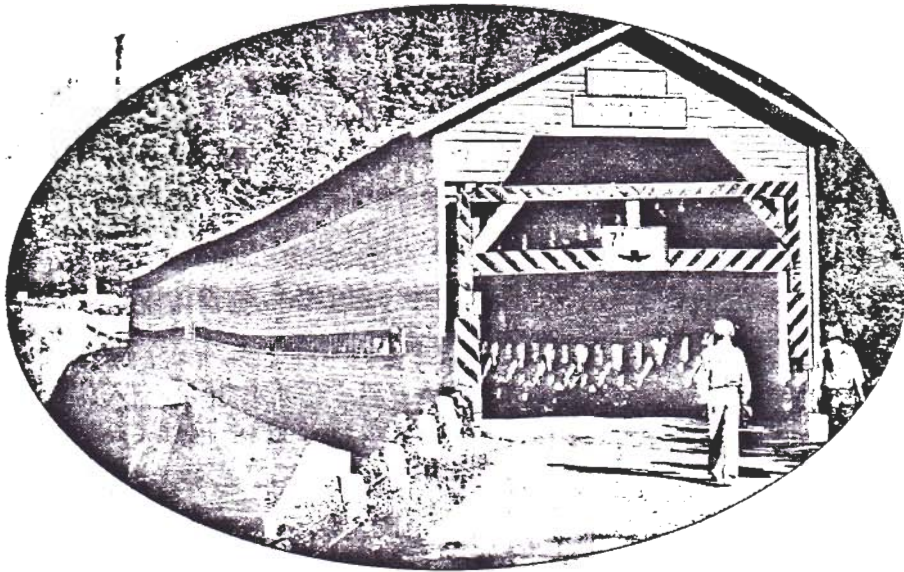
Thanks also should go out to the local merchants who supported the event, and to St. Stephen's Church for the use of their grounds.

Onward and upward!

Covered Bridge Project Update

Work has been in igh gear at the building site in Wakefield since early May. Over 55,000 board feet of boom logs have been sawn and all four trusses have been completed.

As this Newsletter was "going to press," the bridge volunteers were about to take an important step. During September 4 and 5, they were planning to move the two spans - dimensions 144' x 18.5' x 16' - out of the yard and down to the river bank. There they are to be slid out onto scaffolding on three large barges. Taking one span at a time, and with Hydro Québec slowing the flow of the river, the general contractor (W.D. Laflamme Ltée) planned to push the barges up to the bridge site. A large crane would then lift the span



FROM THE OTTAWA
CITIZEN, AUG. 25:

Bridge project faces shortfall of \$100,000

into place on the shore and centre support. The second span was to follow the same route the following day. Whew!!!

During September, the workers hope to finish the flooring, roofing, siding, and painting.

In terms of financial support, 1996 to date has seen cash donations exceeding \$25,000. However, the committee estimates that a final \$100,000 is required to complete the project.

Government funding has helped. Grants have provided the services of two summer students. The National Capital Commission has offered to contribute \$50,000, provided the project completes its overall funding needs.

The project still needs help, in the form of cash, materials, equipment, and volunteers.

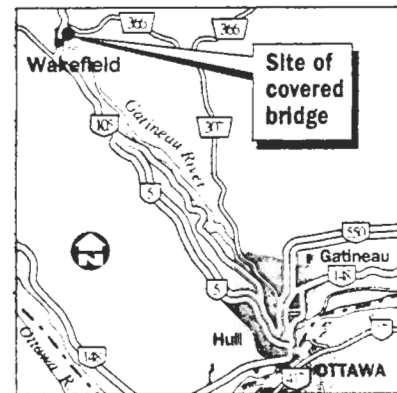
To offer help, visit the project at the Wakefield building site, or call 459-2600.

Dimensions: Total length of 86 metres, over two spans, width of 5.5 metres, and weight of 60 tonnes.

Dates: Largest sections, the four pieces that form the two walls, should be put in place Sept. 4 or 5. Construction should be complete in October.

Look: Bridge will be painted red, with a tin roof, with the same lookout slats along its length. Built of Douglas fir and hemlock.

History: The first bridge was built in 1915, rebuilt in 1981 and destroyed in July 1984. Fire was arson; no



—Citizen graphic



charges ever laid. Named after a long-time member of the Quebec legislature, Ferdinand-Ambroise Gendron.

Character: One of about 15 covered bridges in West Quebec. Bridges were covered not for esthetic reasons but because the roof protected the deck, greatly extending the life of the bridge; also provided shade and made crossing water easier for skittish horses.

Help: Close to \$100,000 is still needed to finish paying for the project. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to HSG-Covered Bridge Project, Wakefield Covered Bridge Project, Box 444, Wakefield, Que., J0X 3G0. Tel. 459-2773.

[A REMINDER]

***Family History Course
October - November 1996***

The Ottawa Family History Centre (FHC), the Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society (OBOGS), and the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) is planning a further introductory course in "Tracing Your Family History." It will take place on five Saturdays commencing 19 October and finishing 23 November (with the exception of 9 November) at the Family History Centre, 1017 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa.

The training sessions will take 3 hours on each Saturday; they will be supplemented by tours of local sources of information on other days, including necessary registration at such places. Participants will receive a binder containing all hand-outs.

The cost for the complete course will be \$35 or \$30 for members of the sponsoring organizations listed above. The fee is to be paid with the application. However, arrangements can be made for post-dated cheques. Cheques should be made payable to the BIFHSGO, which is acting as course Treasurer.

Applications, indicating name, address, telephone number, and interests, along with a cheque for \$35 or \$30 made out to BIFHSGO, should be mailed to

John W. Moody
644 Weston Drive
Ottawa, ON K1G 1V8

The application should also indicate, if appropriate, membership in any of the three sponsoring organizations.

Interested persons should apply early as it will be necessary to limit attendance to 30 on a first come, first served basis. Full details will be provided to registered participants after September 15. For further information call Jack Moody at (613) 731-6369.



[ANOTHER REMINDER]

***FALL CONFERENCE ON BRITISH ISLES
FAMILY HISTORY***

at Ottawa City Hall
111 Sussex Drive, Ottawa
September 27 - 29, 1996

Guest Speakers include:

- Dr. Colin R. Chapman, Vice President, Federation of Family History Societies: That Illusive Marriage; Rites, Records and Customs; Memorial Records; Pre-1841 British Censuses.
- Prof. Michael Maxwell, McGill University: Scottish Migration to Ireland.
- Norman Crowder, Author & Researcher: Military Settlements in Eastern Ontario.
- Brian O'Regan: Irish Family History Sources.

Expert speakers will tell you how to trace English, Welsh, Irish, Scots ancestors. For information, contact: BIFHSGO, P.O. Box 38026, Ottawa, ON K2C 1N0, or telephone (613) 224-9868 and leave a message.

[YET ANOTHER]

***Artists in their Environment
STUDIO TOUR***

Sept. 21 & 22, 28 & 29

The "Artists in their Environment Studio Tour" is an event where artists open their studios to the public in the Chelsea/Wakefield area of West Quebec during the weekends of September 21 and 22, and September 28 and 29. Studio visiting hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This 8th annual Studio Tour features a diverse group of eighteen professional artists. It will display the creative process at work with an intimate view of each artist, and will also offer some hands-on experience set against the vibrant autumn backdrop of the Gatineau Hills.

For further information about this free weekend Studio Tour, drop by local Chelsea/Wakefield area businesses or phone the Studio Tour Hotline: (819) 827-4159.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members of the Historical Society:

Lynne Armstrong
Gregory Beck
George Clarke
Carolyn Gladu
Jane Gledhill
Peter Knowlton
Roger Landriault
Germain & Eldeen Lévesque
Christine Lodge
Elizabeth Logue
Eric & Jean Mahoney
Jean McGlashan
Michel Pharand
Lorraine Purdy
Pierre Richard
Robin Ritchie
Judy Simpson
Candy Stothart
Louise Watson
Mary Wilton



The *Newsletter* is published regularly by the Historical Society of the Gatineau. Contributions and comments are always welcome. Editor/compiler is Jay Atherton (827-1703). Distribution: Rae Moore and Marjorie Evis.

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