



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

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Newsletter

No. 97-7: October - November 1997

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to fulfil it." - George Santayana

Coming Events

Monday, October 20

Speaker: **Ed Quipp**

"Reminiscences"

Monday, November 17

Speakers: **Bob Hughes**
Harky Milks
Harold Reid

"Memories of Chelsea School"

Refreshments at 7:30; meetings start at 8:00. Chelsea Community Centre, Old Chelsea Road.

Tuesday, November 11

Remembrance Day Ceremonies

Pioneer Cemetery, Chelsea, 10:45 a.m. Wreaths to be laid by Municipality, Royal Canadian Regiment, Historical Society, etc. For information contact George Gould (827-4309).

Wakefield Covered Bridge Project Update

All the work on the bridge is finished and the landscaping and fencing at both entrances nearly completed. It has been open to pedestrians and cyclists since Labour Day weekend. The committee has decided to postpone the official opening of the bridge until next spring. This will give members more time to prepare and erect a plaque recognizing major donors, and also to do more fund-raising to pay off outstanding bills.

Soon, the Committee will be advertising for sale all left-over supplies, tools, and equipment. Please watch for details on these items on local bulletin boards and in the local papers. A 22-minute video on the project, entitled "the Bridge" ("Le Pont" for the French-

language version), produced for television by Rooney Productions of Lac des Loups, will be completed in early October. The Committee plans to hold a gala event to screen the film and give local bridge supporters a chance to have a peek before it appears on television. Prints of the video will be available for sale in the near future - certainly in time for Christmas gift-giving.

HSG - What's in a Name?

Since we invited comments about the Society's name, we have received feedback in person, by telephone, and by mail from only ten members. Three responses preferred remaining with the current name, *Historical Society of the Gatineau*. Four liked the addition of the word "valley" at the end: *Historical Society of the Gatineau Valley*. Another three opted for *Gatineau Valley Historical Society*.

We inquired about registering a new name with the federal government (issuance of supplementary letters patent); the cost would be fifty dollars - so it would not break the bank. However, we also learned that a regional municipality in the upper Gatineau, just above La Pêche, is called "MRC de la Vallée de la Gatineau." This area begins just south of Low and extends past Maniwaki to encompass Parc la Vérendrye.

Although the HSG's mandate defines our area of interest as the immediate territory on both sides of the Gatineau River from its source to its mouth, our membership is based mainly in the lower Gatineau from Hull to somewhat north of Wakefield. While we publish articles in *Up the Gatineau!* and encourage interest in the history of the wider region, more of our activities have been concentrated on the lower region. Using the term "Gatineau Valley" for the Society could suggest a linkage with an area that has not been the organization's main focus.

Our Executive reviewed and digested this information on September 15 and arrived at a consensus that the only change to the name should be capitalization of the word "the" to emphasize the fact that our frame of reference is "The Gatineau," not "Gatineau."

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Members will find attached to this newsletter a copy of a proposed revised text for the constitution and by-laws of the Historical Society, for consideration and comment. The proposals are being brought forward at this time in order that they may be in effect for the election of officers at the Annual General Meeting in February.

As the above article indicates, the Executive is not recommending a change in the name of the Society. The changes that are being proposed are explained within the text.

100th Anniversary of Canada's National Names Authority, 1997

1997 marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Geographic Board of Canada and 100 years of continuous work in naming Canadian places. To celebrate this occasion, the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN) - the successor to the Geographic Board - has planned activities in association with its annual meeting during the week of September 29-October 4.

Highlights include:

Geographical Names of Canada: Historical Treasure Chest - an illustrated talk by noted scholar and toponymist Henri Dorion, presented jointly with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, October 2 at 7:30 p.m., in the auditorium of the National Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street. Light refreshments to be served after the talk.

Every Name Tells a Story: 100 Years of Geographical Naming in Canada - a major exhibit illustrating the influences on naming the Canadian landscape, October 1 - November 30; co-sponsored by the National Archives and Parks Canada, at the National Archives.

AUCTION THANKS

Thanks to everyone who made the 1997 auction a success, from Randolph Gherson and his planning committee to the team leaders, auctioneer Hoss Bertrand, the hard-working volunteers, the local authors at the "authors' table," and the donors of auctionable items. Special thanks also to St. Stephen's Church, Fleming Signs of Chelsea for their help with signage, and whoever was responsible for the window of dryness between rain storms. Gross receipts from the auction, the silent auction, the flea market, and the bake sale amounted to \$6,000. Some bills remain to be paid; however, there is no doubt that the net results will be more than satisfactory.

As usual, we are pleased to list the names of the "corporate" donors - those public officials and local business who generously donated services and hospitality for auction, with the proceeds going to support the work of the Historical Society. Thanks to all of these generous people:

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien
Conservative Leader Jean Charest
Robert Bertrand, M.P.
Gilbert Parent, M.P.
(Speaker, House of Commons)
Judy Grant, Mayor of Chelsea

National Capital Commission

West Quebec Post
The Low Down to Hull and Back News

Gerry & Isobel's
Restaurant Les Fougères
L'Agaric
Piccolo Grande ♪
Moorside Tea Room
Video etc.
Soupe Herbe
Harky's Shell
Larrimac Golf Club
Boucanerie Chelsea
Dunnderosa Golf Club
Boulangerie Patisserie du Parc
Dawn House Bed & Breakfast
National Bank (Chelsea)
The Place Next Door

La Pêche Presents Heritage Plaques

On Monday, August 4, the Municipality of La Pêche presented heritage plaques to 21 historic sites. Choice of the sites was made by the municipal Heritage Committee, chaired by councillor **Winnie Johnston**. The members of the Committee have been Ernie Mahoney, Ray Daly, the late Tom Foran, William Gauthier, Reg Clark, Norma Geggie, André Brossard, and Jay Atherton, joined by the most recent appointee, Jean-Charles Gauvreau.

The plaques presented themselves have heritage content, being made from wood taken from historic barns, with the "Heritage/Patrimoine" inscription on slate from old school blackboards. They were fashioned by Bill Davis Trophies, aided by employees at La Lanterne and La Ricochet.

Here is the list of heritage properties recognized in 1997:

- École Ste-Sophie, Lac des Loups (1892);
- Église catholique Ste-Sophie, East Aldfield (1893);
- Maison Pierre-Mayer, Lac des Loups (1885);
- Maison J.C. Gauvreau, Masham;
- Maison Émile Dion, Masham;
- John Pritchard residence, Alcove (1850);
- Maison Simon Martineau, Masham;
- Escott Reid cottage, Masham (1842);
- Maison Bertrand, Kennedy Road, Masham (1885);
- Kingsbury residence, Kennedy Road (1867);
- Fairbairn residence, Mountain Road (1860-1970);
- McKenny House, Lac des Loups (1875);
- Maison Gauthier, Lac des Loups (1880-1885);
- Milton Reilly residence, Alcove (1848);
- McGoey residence, Farrelton (1860);
- James Pritchard residence, Alcove (1870-1880);
- Doctor's house, Wakefield (1850);
- Stevenson homestead, Edelweiss (1870);
- Woodburn residence, Maxwell Road (1850);
- Earle's Hall (Place 1870), Wakefield (1870);
- Maison Paul Larocque, Duclos.

Up the Gatineau!

Preparation of the 1998 edition of our annual publication has begun. Editor **Carol Martin** is interested in receiving contributions. The theme of the new issue will likely be "Industry" or "Commerce" in the Gatineau. Call Carol at 827-1633 or send your text along to the Society's mailing address shown above.

Historical Society Officers - a Directory

For the information of our members, here is a listing of the executive and other officers of the Historical Society.

President	Carol Martin
1st Vice President	Ernie Mahoney
2nd Vice President	Randolph Gherson
Directors	Allan Richens David Castleman Bruce Lister Anne Fleming Sue Hanley
Secretary	Eileen Castleman
Treasurer	Bonnie Adams
Membership	Pat Lavergne
Archivist	Jay Atherton
<i>Up the Gatineau!</i>	Carol Martin
Program	Bruce Lister
Newsletter	Jay Atherton
Publications	Duncan & Gudula Marshall
Cemeteries	Allan Richens
Wakefield Bridge	Ivan Hale

About the Newsletter

The timetable for appearance of issues of the Historical Society *Newsletter* is every two months, on the even-numbered months, that is, February-March, April-May, June-July, August-September, October-November, and December-January. Deadline for submission of items for each newsletter is the middle of the preceding month (e.g. November 15 for the upcoming December-January issue).

Contributions and comments are always welcome. Editor/compiler is Jay Atherton (phone/fax: 827-1703; e-mail: ad910@freenet.carleton.ca). Pat Lavergne keeps our mailing list up to date. Distribution is handled, very ably, by Rae Moore, Marjorie Evis, and Charis Palmer.

Philatelists Take Note!

A reliable source has informed us that the postage stamps appearing on the monthly mailing of our newsletter are often very "collectible."

Historical Society of the Gatineau

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

(September 1997)

[The Constitution and By-Laws were first adopted on 31 January 1980; they were last amended on 28 January 1985. In this text changes or additions are shown in blocked text and deletions as text that has been struck out. As is the case with this paragraph, explanations appear in italics within square brackets.]

*Members of the Society are invited to send comments in writing (Box 485, Chelsea, QC J0X 1N0), or by telephone or fax to either the President, Carol Martin (tel.: 827-1633; fax: 827-5380) or the Past President, Jay Atherton (tel./fax: 827-1703) by **October 31**. A final amended version of the Constitution and By-Laws will be submitted to the Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society on February 16, 1998, for discussion and ratification.]*

I. Name

The Society will be known as The Historical Society of The Gatineau (hereinafter referred to as the Society). *[Note capitalization of "The" to specify the geographic area of concern.]*

II. Purpose

The object or purpose of the Society is to promote matters of historical or heritage significance in the general area of the Gatineau Valley.

III. Membership

1. Membership in the Society will be upon application, approval of the Executive Committee, and the payment of dues.
2. Each member in the Society will pay such annual dues as may be fixed by the Executive Committee.
3. Meetings:-
 - a) An annual meeting of the membership will take place in January or February of each year when the reports of the President and other officers will be read and tabled and members of the Executive Committee elected for the following year ~~two years~~ by direct vote. *[A two-year term of office would provide greater stability and give the Executive Committee a stronger mandate to provide leadership.]*
 - b) Periodic meetings will take place not less than six times a year to further the purposes of the Society.
 - c) Notice of annual and periodic meetings will be mailed to the membership not less than 10 days prior to such meetings.

IV. Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee of the Society will consist of the President, the two Vice-Presidents, and five directors-at-large, all of whom are elected at the Society's annual meeting. **At its discretion, the President and the Executive may invite the immediate Past President to attend Executive meetings, to provide advice and assistance.**

2. The term of office of the members of the Executive Committee shall be two years, with half of the members being elected each year. A member of the Society may serve no more than two consecutive terms in any one of the senior Executive positions (President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President).
3. The President, Second Vice President, and two directors-at-large will be elected in even-numbered years; the First Vice President and three directors-at-large will be elected in odd-numbered years. (To bring this method of election into effect, at the first general meeting following its adoption, half the members of the Executive Committee will be elected for a two-year term and the other members for a one-year term, consistent with the formula indicated above.)

[We have to have a way of "sliding into" the new two-year cycle.]

4. The President will preside at all meetings of the Society, exercise general supervision over the affairs of the Society, sign cheques and other documents and represent the Society at public functions and other meetings.
5. The First Vice President will act as President during the latter's absence and assume direct responsibility of committees, projects or undertakings of the Society as may be delegated by the President.
6. The Second Vice President will assume direct responsibility of committees, projects or undertakings of the Society as may be delegated by the President.
7. The Executive Committee will assist the President in defining the policies of the Society and controlling its activities and generally may exercise the powers of the general assembly between meetings of the membership.
8. Meetings of the Executive Committee will be at the call of the President, or at the request of at least three members of the executive.
9. The quorum of the Executive Committee will be five including the President and a Vice-President.
10. If any vacancy shall occur for any reason, the Executive Committee may by majority vote appoint a member of the Society to fill that vacancy until the next annual meeting. *[A normal clause in such documents, allowing the Executive to fill vacancies as they occur, without waiting until the next general meeting. The appointed person is of course free to seek formal election to the position (or any other) when the time comes.]*

V. Officers

1. At its first meeting following each annual general meeting, the Executive Committee will appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer for the next year and establish the honorarium to be awarded to the incumbent of each of these positions.
2. The Treasurer will collect fees, undertake necessary banking transactions, keep the records and prepare annual and periodic reports, attend meetings of the Executive Committee, manage the Society's investments as instructed by the Executive Committee, undertake necessary activities to facilitate the work of the auditor, and,

with the President, sign all cheques and official documents.

3. The Secretary will serve as the custodian of the seal of the Society, assist in preparing agendas for, attend, and record the proceedings of meetings of the Executive Committee and general meetings of the Society, see that all notices are duly given in accordance with these By-Laws, handle routine correspondence, and sign documents for the Treasurer in her/his absence.
4. In the event of the absence of either the Treasurer or the Secretary, one of these officers may request the other to undertake duties on her/his behalf
5. The length of term for the Secretary and the Treasurer is one year, subject to renewal by the Executive.

[These paragraphs are designed to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the two positions. They are supported by more detailed "job descriptions."]

VI. Committees

Committees may be appointed by the President on recommendation of the Executive Committee to carry out certain functions of the Society as may be required.

VII. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Society will end on the 31st day of December of each year.

VIII. Audit

An auditor (or auditors) will may be appointed by the ~~general assembly at the annual meeting.~~ *[i.e. appointment of auditor is not obligatory, but may be undertaken if thought necessary by the Executive Committee or the membership.]*

IX. Amendments

A two-third majority vote of the members present at an annual meeting or special meeting convened for that purpose may alter, amend or repeal any part of these By-Laws provided that due notice of such alteration, amendment or repeal was given in the notice of meeting to the membership.

X. Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the Society, the residual assets will be turned over to another organization or society whose object or purpose is similar to those of the Society provided it is a registered charity under the provision of para 149 (1) (f) of the Income Tax Act, and provided a resolution is adopted by a 2/3 majority vote of the members present at an annual meeting or special meeting convened for that purpose. **In addition, should a decision to this effect be taken by the membership, the Society's seal will be rendered useless.**