



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

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NEWSLETTER

No. 01-04 August 2001 - September 2001

Coming Events

**HSG Monthly Meeting
Monday, September 17, 2001 7:30 PM.
Chelsea Community Centre**

The 2000/2001 HSG monthly meeting program kicks off with the Society's own Adrienne Heron, who will speak about the HSG Image Bank project. This tool is quickly becoming one of the HSG archives' greatest assets and has become an important medium for preserving the Gatineau's photographic heritage. Adrienne will also provide a demonstration of the system. We also invite members to bring along any old photos which they think could be included in the Image Bank .

**Outaouais Alliance Open House
Friday, September 21, 2001 5-7:00 PM
53 Principale, Aylmer.**

The Outaouais Alliance invites HSG members to join them for refreshments and meet their volunteer Board of Directors and members. Come and find out what they are all about. Information: 682-9602.

**13th Annual Artists in their
Environment Tour
Sept. 22-23, 29-30, 2001
10:00 AM. - 5:00 PM**

Since 1988 Gatineau area artists have opened their studios each fall to visitors and collectors alike to see where they practice their craft. They are a group of 22 professional artists and craftspeople jury selected for the quality and originality of their work. Come visit them in their studios; their creations will amaze you. Brochures can be picked up at local businesses or, visit the web site, www.arttourtchelseawakefield.com

**Another Successful HSG
Auction!!!**

The HSG held its 39th Annual Auction August 18 at St. Stephen's church in Old Chelsea. The event, which has in itself become a historic tradition, drew over 150 people, many of whom walked away satisfied, having purchased everything from maps to school desks to pioneer era tools and implements.

This year's auction collected \$5,300 to help continue the Society's work. This was somewhat less than last year's record total, but still on par with the proceeds of recent years. The auction was again led by professional auctioneer Michael 'Hoss' Bertrand whose good humour and skill served to stimulate some exciting bidding wars for the choice items and to draw some decent bids for items of dubious value.

Another notable aspect of the HSG Auction, is the incredible volunteer effort put in by HSG members. As well as being an important fund-raising activity, the Auction is one of the Society's key social events where many local members pitch in to make the Auction an annual success story. Once again led by Theresa Winfield, the HSG's energetic members gathered in Old Chelsea to help out with the flea market and bake sale, selling HSG publications, running the silent auction, collecting proceeds from the auction, and simply to cart around the items up for bid.

Congratulations to all for a job well done!

Report from the QAHN Conference : June 2001

by Michael Cooper

The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) was founded in 2000 as an umbrella organization to link societies and individuals interested in local, regional and provincial anglophone history in Quebec. The second annual conference was held at Macdonald College in Montreal on June 15-17, with over 100 participating. There were displays from many historical societies, as well as workshops and social activities. The following notes summarize the workshops I attended as the HSG delegate.

Conway Jacks : Mohawk iron-workers.

This son of a Kahnawake iron-worker outlined the remarkable story of the high steel workers, from 1880 on the Mercier Bridge to the Quebec Bridge to New York City, where over 2000 fell to their deaths between 1900-1920. A fascinating presentation, illustrated with family artefacts.

Kevin Robinson: Railways in Quebec.

An illustrated talk about the former extensive rail networks in Quebec, which in 1916 were the largest in North America. At that time, 1 in 8 Montrealers was employed by the railways. Kevin invited us to visit the renewed National Train Museum in St. Constant. For more info, visit www.exporail.org

Alain Lacoursiere: Art crimes in Quebec.

This session proved to be a fascinating insight by the only remaining art crimes policeman into art theft and fraud in Canada. Alain explained the methods of stealing and reproducing art, of stealing to order, and of using art to launder money. He illustrated good and bad copying techniques, and gave us the recipes for aging "new" originals.

Robin Molson: Canadian Heritage of Quebec.

This family Foundation was set up by Senator Molson in 1960 to preserve heritage properties, and they currently own 20 properties from Hudson to Perce. The Molson Foundation has a membership of 200, and dedicates \$500,000 annually to preserving the properties. Some are in use as bed and breakfasts, bakeries, mini-museums, etc., and generate revenue, while others benefit from grants to heritage properties. Robin's slides illustrated their quality and uniqueness, and hence the importance of this thoughtful initiative.

Alexander Reford: The Reford Gardens.

Alex Reford – formerly of Aylmer – gave a slide-presentation on the history and current status of the Reford Gardens, located in Metis-sur-Mer, east of Rimouski. Planned and developed by his great-grandmother, the gardens have become one of the major provincial tourist attractions. Owned and operated for several years by the Quebec government, family members purchased the gardens when the government sold the property. Alex and his wife now operate the 300-acre site with its extensive collection, which is open to visitors from May to October.

Among the displays, the three conservators from the Musee de la civilisation du Quebec were kept very busy evaluating family heirlooms, and their expertise was greatly appreciated. An informative and enjoyable conference, which was followed by the QAHN AGM.

For more detail, visit www.qahn.org

Do You Know?

Here is the latest installment in our series of images from the HSG Image Bank. It is not terribly useful without some detail. The photo of this handsome and self-confident looking gentleman was likely taken around 1910-1920, but that is wild guess. The background looks like a farm in the Gatineau Hills. Perhaps our readers can help us out? If you know, contact Adrienne Herron (827-9125)

