

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

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NEWSLETTER

No. 02-04³ June - July 2002

COMING EVENTS

**ARCHIVES DU PONTIAC ARCHIVES
OPEN HOUSE - JULY 1 to JULY 6**

The Archives du Pontiac Archives is planning their open house, July 1st to July 6th, with the hours: Monday July 1st, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., July 2nd to 5th, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday, July 6th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The archives is located at 137 Centre Street, Shawville, Que. Tel.: (819) 648-7013.

**FIRST ANNUAL OTTAWA
RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB BBQ WITH
OPTIONAL GOLF**

**Le Club du Golf Dunnderosa
July 12, 2002 - BBQ Starts at 7:30 p.m.**

Invitation from the Ottawa Rideau Trail Club, to the Ramblers, Historical Society of the Gatineau, and Adirondack Ottawa. \$15.00 per person for BBQ payable by June 28. Tee offs from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Par 3, 9 holes, cost \$13 per player Clubs and carts rental available. Phone Marilyn Levitan (828-2281) to reserve BBQ tickets and coordinate tee off times. Please reserve by June 28. Golf fee payable July 12 at golf club.

HSG AUCTION - AUGUST 17

Planning is underway for the Annual HSG Auction to be held on August 17 at St. Stephens in Old Chelsea. Again the Society will be counting on the help of volunteers for the organizing committee or on the day of the event, and on donations of items to be auctioned. If you can help, please contact Jay Atherton (827-1703), or Ernie Mahoney (459-1180)

QAHN Conference 2002 — Wrap up

On June 7th to 9th, the HSG hosted the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network's Third Annual Conference at Heritage College. Once again, a brilliant team effort by the Society's dedicated volunteers led to another successful event. Although the registration was not as high as in previous years, our colleagues who did travel to the region for the event, all expressed their amazement at the Society's energy and organizational skill. They greatly appreciated the various social and program events which that took advantage of the many heritage attractions and resources of the region.

The conference began on Friday June 7, with the afternoon devoted to 'Behind the Scenes' tours of the National Archives, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, and the Canadian War Museum - Vimy House. Delegates were treated to tours that went well beyond what the public normally sees. The day was capped off with a reception co-hosted by the HSG and the Regional Association of West Quebecers (formerly *Outaouais Alliance*)

On Saturday the program consisted of varied presentation from representatives from the National Capital Region's public and private institutions, and from Society members who spoke about many of the heritage projects they have led. Many thanks to Neil Faulkner, Bob Milling, Duncan Marshall, Adrienne Herron, Carol Martin, and Judy Grant. Conference attendees certainly left with a greater appreciation for the astounding breadths of the HSG's activities.

The Saturday evening banquet, attended by over 60 individuals, were treated to a rousing and passionate keynote speech by Senator Laurier LaPierre who encouraged the audience to continue their good work in preserving the 'memory banks' of Quebec anglophone heritage.

The weekend was capped off by an excursion aboard the HCW Steam Train to Wakefield, for a

(continued on next page)

tour of the historic sites in the village. They stopped for an old fashioned Strawberry Social at the 1895 Trois Erables. Many thanks to Joanne Postlewaite-Hunter and Jim Fitzgibbons, new owners (and HSG members) of the Trois Erables, for hosting the event.

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee (Co-chairs Marc Cockburn and Michael Cooper, Ernie Mahoney and Jay Atherton) the Society wishes to thank the many HSG volunteers who helped make the weekend a success. They include: Neil Faulkner, Bob Milling, Duncan and , Gudula Marshall Adrienne Heron, Carol and Bob Martin, Judy Grant, David and Eileen Castleman, Anita Rutledge, and Norma Geggie.

Wakefield Parks - A Proposal for Renewal

It has been a busy spring for some of Wakefield's local volunteers, who have been conceptualizing and preparing proposals to revitalize Wakefield's waterfront parks. The plans are inspired by the Village's unique cultural and natural geography, and by the local and national heritage aspects that these public spaces offer.

In some cases, the planning of these projects have been in development over the past ten years and with the recent campaign to recreate the cenotaph, spearheaded by a long time resident and Veteran, Lorne Shouldice (see related item, beside), both parks are ready to pursue all available avenues for funding and assistance. The two parks in question are separate and distinct entities in both history and character. The location and patterns of use are of great importance to the life of the village - culturally, historically, and spiritually. The Parks create a green corridor between the main street (River Road) and the Gatineau River.

Memorial Park: The character of this park in the Village strives to be of a more civic nature. The Cenotaph is located here and with the proposed addition of a commemorative sculpture to the works and memory of Lester B. Pearson, the ceremonial aspect of the park will increased in importance. Also envisioned for this park is a new train platform, a summer pavilion, the planting of Peace Trees, a contemplation garden, and a canoe launch.

Geggie Park: This park, located immediately over the McLaren Bridge at LaPêche Creek. Known for its tall stand of white pine, this park in a more natural state and it is here that the design concept intends to heal the patterns of over use, alter previous interventions and enhance the natural aspects.

Wakefield Cenotaph Restoration Project

Wakefield's cenotaph is located beside the scenic Gatineau River in the heart of the village. It stands proudly in memory of the many young people from Wakefield and surrounding communities who sacrificed their lives for our freedom in the wars of the last century.

On closer examination it will be evident that the cenotaph, which was put in place by volunteers from the Wakefield Legion 25 years ago, has deteriorated and needs extensive repair work and landscaping. Lorne Shouldice -- a veteran of the Legion and one of the original volunteer workers who erected the monument -- is leading a campaign to restore the cenotaph and enhance its immediate surroundings. He is one of the many veterans from the region who want to ensure that the memory of their comrades is not diminished by a crumbling monument.

A group of well-known community volunteers has joined Lorne to set up the Wakefield Cenotaph Committee, and work on the project has begun. Architectural plans have been completed, and approval for the project has been obtained from the Wakefield Legion and the Municipality of LaPêche. In addition, the Cenotaph Committee is a subcommittee of the Historical Society of The Gatineau (HSG).

The project will restore the monument and also landscape a small area around it, intended for quiet reflection within the surrounding Peace Park. Drawings and further details will be posted on village bulletin boards.

The cost of the project has been estimated at approximately \$25,000. To get started, Lorne has donated the seed money to cover set-up expenses. The remaining funds will be solicited from both public and private donors. The Committee expects that all families and friends of Gatineau Valley war veterans, and of our peacekeepers around the world, will want to contribute to the project.

Donations will be accepted at the Banque Nationale in Wakefield, or at the Caisse Populaire Desjardins in Masham. Or they may be sent to Post Office Box 562, Wakefield, Qc JOX 3G0. Cheques should be made payable to: HSG-Wakefield Cenotaph Committee. Tax-deductible receipts are available from members of the Committee.

(Committee members are: Lorne Shouldice, Shirlev Shouldice, Norma E. Walmsley,, Neil Faulkner, Jenny Temple, and Anita Rutledge.)

Correspondence

June 25, 2002

Dear Society Members:

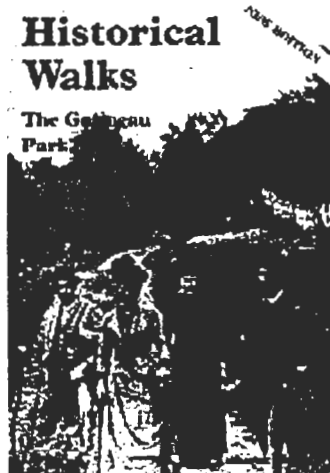
I'm delighted to report that a Toronto-based Canadian publisher will publish the third edition of *Historical Walks The Gatineau Park Story*, the second edition of *Capital Walks: Walking Tours of Ottawa*, and the first edition of a new book I've been working on for years. All will be released in the spring of 2003.

As many of you know, my first book on the history, ecology and hikes of Gatineau Park (*Historical Walks*) launched my professional writing career. After receiving 30 rejections from publishers because I was a first-time, unknown author with what they considered a "questionable" project, Eric and I decided to self-publish it.

Accordingly, I applied for and received a loan from the HSG that paid for the book's printing costs. Subsequent printings (2), including the second edition (1997) were all similarly funded by the Society. In return, I've promoted the Society enthusiastically, and always have included our broadaxe logo on the inside cover page. Since its first publication in August 1988, I've sold almost 12,000 copies of *Historical Walks...* and since 5,000 represents a Canadian best seller, you can see that your faith in the work's relevance was spot-on. It also goes to show how important it is to support new voices: this, I believe, is a critical aspect to the Society's publication program.

At this time, I not only want to thank you all for helping to launch my professional writing career. I also want to invite you to comment on the current second edition of *Historical Walks*, as well as *Capital Walks*. Although out of print, many of you have copies, and many of you, in the past have been particularly helpful, suggesting additions and updates -- particularly to the historical section.

If you have comments, suggestions, updates, for either book, I invite you to mail them to me by "snail mail" or e-mail (see addresses below). Or, just telephone me.



Meanwhile, I thank you all again for your personal encouragement and inspiring support. Believe me, it has meant a very great deal over the years.

Most sincerely,

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Cemeteries Report

Pioneer Cemetery: The cemetery was cleaned-up recently by Bent Nielsen, Bill Allen, George Gould and Allan Richens. All the debris from the winter was cleared away, the grave sites were trimmed and the walk and parking area raked. Another name has come to our attention for the Cenotaph a local man Pte. Gardiner from the First World War, who has no known grave and his name is inscribed on the Menin Gate. We will add his name this summer and also buff-up the old plaques on the site to Pte. Thompson.

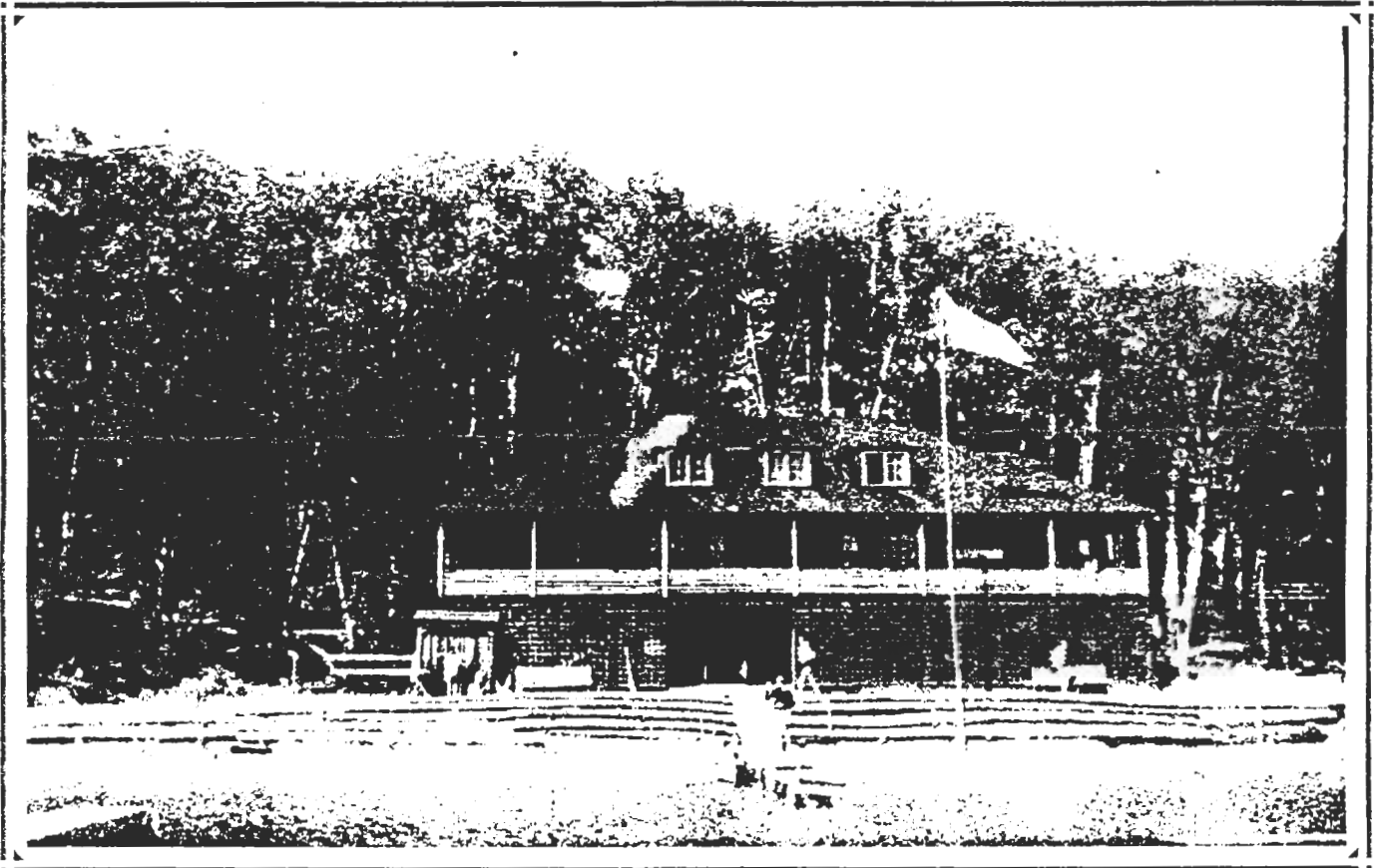
Protestant Burial Ground (Old Chelsea): While the Society is not responsible for this cemetery we nevertheless keep our eye on things and inform the Municipality of Chelsea when required. This year we had a meeting with the municipality in the hope that they will upkeep and repair as needed the several markers etc. that we brought to their attention. Also the entrance to the cemetery should be made more attractive.

Allan Richens

HSG Annual Dinner

Sixty-three lucky members were able to share in our fortieth anniversary dinner on 27th May. We were treated to a generous and delicious meal in the cozy dining room of the Dunnderosa. Our guest speaker, Charlotte Gray captivated her audience with stories revolving around her best seller books: "Sisters in the Wilderness" and "Mrs. King". As well she whetted our appetites for the release of "Pauline Johnson", to be on the shelves in the Fall. Thanks again for one of our best evenings to date. Ms Gray applauded our efforts as a Society in preserving local history; very timely remarks, as those present were able to take delivery of the latest copy of "Up the Gatineau!" Thanks to the editor Carol Martin, and the many contributors for yet another interesting volume. N.G.

DO YOU KNOW?



This image, found among some Geggie family photos, appears to be of a lakefront clubhouse. It has been ruled out to be the Wakefield clubhouse and we are not even sure it is even from the Gatineau region. If any of our readers has an idea of what this structure is and where it was located we would love to hear from you. If you know, please contact Norma Geggie at 459-2393, or you can email her at ngeggie@sympatico.ca.



From the Previous Newsletter

Many thanks to Norma Geggie for sending some detail about the image that appeared in the last issue of the HSG newsletter. Norma writes:

This is a very early image of Wakefield Village looking north from roughly south of where Hamilton's Garage is. The spire is that of the Presbyterian Church which was built in 1861 (and burnt in 1904), the present United Church having been rebuilt on the same foundation. The two buildings immediately south of the Church are the Harness shop of William Poole (the present florist in the village - same building) and Foster Earle's hotel -

present site of Expedition Radisson. A Methodist church was built in 1864 on the site, and foundation, that the present depaneur is, but as this isn't visible (it had a spire), I would place the picture as being c.1862/3. The railway didn't go in until 1892. More detail than you want I'm sure, but that's me. Norma.