

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

<http://collections.ic.ca/gatineau>

Box/C.P. 1803,
Chelsea PQ, J9B 1A1
(819) 827-4432

NEWSLETTER

No. 02-05 : October - November 2002

Coming Events

Monday, October 21, 7:30 p.m.
Chelsea Community Centre

Hugh MacMillan, D.Litt., U.E.
"Archibald McMillan"

Hugh MacMillan is a former liaison officer for the Archives of Ontario (1964 to 1889) and is well known as a pioneer in the acquisition and appraisal of manuscript and pictorial material. He has spent many years researching and discovering lost treasures and is a well known lecturer on family history, manuscripts, Nor'Westers and the fur trade.

Mr. MacMillan will speak about the founding of the first settlement in the area of present day Buckingham. In the summer of 1802, Archibald McMillan sponsored the transatlantic crossing of more than 400 Scottish Highlanders to establish a rural settlement in Templeton, Lochaber, and Grenville townships.

Monday, November 18, 7:30
Hospital Gatineau Memorial Hospital
101 Ch. Burnside, Wakefield

Norma Geggie
"Dr. Geggie's Legacy"

Dr. Harold J.G. Geggie established the Gatineau Memorial Hospital in Wakefield, as: "a fitting memorial to those men and women of the Gatineau area who did not return following two World Wars, and for the use of those who did return to live and work among us."

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the original Gatineau Memorial Hospital on River Road, long time Society member Norma Geggie will lead a presentation of slides and memories about Dr. Geggie's legacy.



Remembrance Day Services

Sunday November 10th, 10.00 a.m.
Wakefield Memorial Park

Opening and dedication of the Wakefield Cenotaph and unveiling of the plaque to commemorate the young men from the Wakefield area who gave their lives to Canada (page 2), followed by the Wakefield Legion's Remembrance Day Service at 11:00 a.m.

Monday November 11, 11:00 a.m.
Pioneer Cemetary, Old Chelsea

Members and friends of the Historical Society of the Gatineau are invited to attend one of the most poignant of the thousands of Remembrance Day ceremonies held across Canada on November 11th. The HSG has hosted the Remembrance Day service since 1986 to keep alive the memory of Private Richard Rowland Thompson, Queen's Scarf, who is buried in the tiny cemetery. It is anticipated, as in past years, that Private Thompson's old regiment, the Royal Canadian Regiment, stationed in Petawawa, will form a guard of honour.

Directions to Pioneer Cemetary:

From Hull-Ottawa, take Autoroute 5, exit 12, turn right and proceed 1 km. east along the Old Chelsea Road. At its intersection with Route 105, turn left and proceed north 1 km.

From Wakefield, use exit 13 from Autoroute 5, follow Scott Road to its junction with Route 105, turn right and proceed south along Route 105. Watch for the sign on the right shortly after a sign announcing Chelsea (Chelsea) and a speed reduction to maximum 50.

Here are the names of those young men from the Wakefield area whose names will appear on the plaque to be unveiled at the Wakefield Cenotaph, November 10, 2002. Many thanks to Anita Rutledge for researching and compiling this list

1914-1918

James Russell Brown, Cdn. Infantry
Iwuy, France - Oct. 11, 1918. Age 23

Robert Willard Carman, Cdn Engineers
Albert, France - Oct. 3, 1916. Age 19

Sebra Kimber Hall, Cdn. Infantry
Iwuy, France - Oct. 11, 1918. Age 27

Robert Henry Neeley, Cdn, Infantry
Miramont, France - Oct. 8, 1916. Age 20

1939-1945

John Donald Bates, RCAF
Leipzig, Germany - Feb. 20, 1944. Age 19

Edwin Albert McCorkell, RCAF
Sardinia, Italy - July 15, 1943. Age 23

Lawrence Joseph McGarry, RDIC
Zutphen, Holland - April 7, 1944. Age 25

James Allan Reid, RCA
Adegem, Belgium - Sept. 7, 1944. Age 21

Sidney Gordon Stephenson, RCAF
Berlin, Germany - Jan. 21, 1944. Age 23

Glen Allen Stewart, RCA
Louisedorf, Germany - Feb. 26, 1945. Age 20

*At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
we will remember them.*



September Meeting Report

The first monthly meeting of the 2002-03 season on Tuesday October 17th got off to very encouraging start with a talk by Olie Olsen and his wife Helene. Both Olie and his wife are ardent recreational walkers and were looking for some challenge when Olie retired from his military service in Army Survey Engineers. It was his wife Helene, who originally suggested that they try and walk across Canada! Once Olie recovered from the shock he agreed to the idea. The planning stage and physical preparation took almost ten years, off and on, and then they were ready to begin the adventure. They started from Tukteyaktuc on the Beaufort Sea, in March of 2000, proceeded down the Yukon with a side trip to Prince Rupert B.C. so that they could step into the Pacific Ocean. The walk continued across Rockies, the prairies and into Northern Ontario. They walked about ten hours a day had a camper van for support and generally lived off the land as they went. They took the northern route through Ontario via Hearst and into Quebec through Alma and on onto the Maritimes. They arrived in St. John's Newfoundland 230 days later to complete their Cross-Canada Tour! The audience of about twenty-five people were entertained and enjoyed the presentation. Rene Neilsen and Rae Moore and Eileen Castleman provided, as usual very delicious refreshments. The meeting adjourned at about 9:30pm.

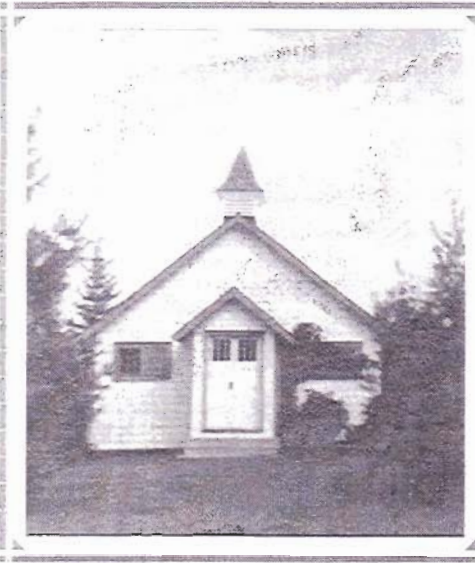
(Allan Richens)

Cemeteries Report

The Pioneer Cemetery has been cleaned-up ready for the Fall. Our bench alongside Pte Thompson's grave was in two pieces and we thought that we had a vandalism problem on our hands. However after conferring with Peter Jensen we found out that the glue used to bind the wood was interior glue which is not suitable for outside use. Peter kindly repaired the bench and it is now in its normal spot. He also said that we could expect to have the same problem with the other one probably next year or sooner! Two new planter pots complete with flowers have been placed at the Cenotaph courtesy of The Gatineau Valley Gardeners (ML) who have undertaken to water them as required. A rock border has also been unearthed which had sunk below the grass level.

Two new plaques will be installed commemorating another Chelsea Resident who died in the First World War.

(Allan Richens)



PROGRESS REPORT. *The Historical Society's Union Mission Church Committee is working to create a unique monument, commemorating the history of Chelsea's churches. This is an update on their work toward salvaging a section of the historic Kirk's Ferry Union Mission Church, which they intend to refurbish and re-erect as a chapel or historical monument.*

In April, 2002, two regional newspapers had dire reports about Kirk's Ferry's **Union Mission Church**. The *West-Quebec Post's* banner read: "Kirk's Ferry Church loses its roof, maybe its future," while the *Low Down to Hull and Back News* reported, "for a 75-year-old Chelsea church, the roof has just caved in."

The white clapboard building topped by a small spire has stood on Brown Road at Kirk's Ferry for 74 years, but its historical significance goes back over a century to 1898. Then, the first Union Mission Church was erected in this hamlet at a location now covered by the waters of the Gatineau River (below Selwyn point). The original church was built to serve religious needs of an increasing number of cottagers who were summering in the area after the railway was built. Services alternated among Presbyterians,

Anglicans, and the United Church; during the week the first building served as the local elementary school. After the power dams at Chelsea and Farmer's Rapids raised the level of the Gatineau River in 1926, the present church was erected. Regular services were held during the summer months until 1979, and occasional services into the 1990s. In April of 2002, part of its roof caved in, after a heavy snowfall followed by several days of rain.

A **Union Mission Church Committee** has been formed under the aegis of the Historical Society of the Gatineau, led by members Harold Reid and Carol Martin, who are also Trustees of the church. The Committee has undertaken to investigate ways in which to commemorate the presence of this church in the community, and in particular to explore whether part of the church could be salvaged as a monument, conserving it as part of Chelsea's built heritage.

Restoration Architect Alan Hopkins volunteered his services to design several versions of a structure that would preserve and use a portion of the existing building. These include using a segment of the church as a rebuilt chapel, or creating a monument using the facade of the church, and providing appropriate signage and plaques to recount the story of this church and Chelsea's other churches. Because the little Union Mission Church had a long-standing history of ecumenism and sharing with the community, the Committee envisages a monument that would respect this aspect of its history. For example, its records show donations made to United Church mission funds and the Gatineau Memorial Hospital. In 1956, when the present St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church was being erected, the Kirk's Ferry Union Mission Church donated to its building fund.

During the summer months, Trustee Harold Reid has worked with volunteers to remove the interior furnishings, including the altar, harmonium, and pews. To date, they have also salvaged the spire, the original doors, windows, and some of the siding.

The Committee plans to involve and work with Chelsea community representatives to explore options for a commemorative chapel or monument. Anyone interested in working with this committee is urged to contact Carol Martin at (819) 827-1633 (e-mail 6993595@ican.net) or Harold Reid, (819) 827-0138. Work plans and projected costs for the reconstituted monument depend on the option and site chosen but are in the range of \$10,000 to \$25,000, part of which will be offset by selling the land and some of the furnishings, including some of the old pews.

Donations to the fund to complete the salvage operations and recreate a segment of the church as a community monument can be sent to the Historical Society of the Gatineau, marked "Union Mission Church Fund;" charitable donations receipts will be provided.

A limited number of the old pews from this church are available for immediate sale, at \$100 each. For information, please Contact Carol Martin or Harold Reid.

(Carol Martin)

Minister Copps Announces the Creation of a World-Class Knowledge and Preservation Institution

OTTAWA, October 2, 2002 -- Minister of Canadian Heritage Sheila Copps today announced the creation, by the Government of Canada, of the Library and Archives of Canada, a new agency that combines the National Archives of Canada and the National Library of Canada.

"The Government of Canada is committed to making history, culture and Canadian voices accessible to all Canadians and to encouraging research, discovery and the sharing of knowledge. The creation of this modern, dynamic, world-class organization addresses an increased public appetite for knowledge about Canada," said Minister Copps.

The new agency announced today will strengthen the visibility, relevance and accessibility of the collections and services of both the National Archives and the National Library. The Library and Archives of Canada will be better positioned as a leading knowledge and information management organization, and it will continue to serve as the repository of federal government records.

Rapidly changing information technology and new media have so fundamentally altered the tasks of archives and libraries that the mandates of these two national institutions had begun to converge.

"The new institution," said the National Archivist Ian E. Wilson, "building on the proud traditions of the National Library and National Archives, will be a vital resource for all Canadians. Its collections will be comprehensive, documenting the full complexity and diversity of the Canadian experience. They will be available to all who may want to draw on them for the protection of their rights, for education, for cultural expression and for leisure."

The Library and Archives of Canada will bring together in one institution all forms of information that is Canadian or about Canada, much of it unique and unavailable elsewhere. In addition, it will provide leadership and support for archives and libraries across the country.

"With this decision," said Roch Carrier, National Librarian of Canada, "the Government of Canada brings together two great institutions into one powerful beacon to serve Canadians in the knowledge society of the 21st Century."

The Minister is pleased that Mr. Wilson and Mr. Carrier will facilitate the transition to the new Agency, while maintaining their substantive positions of National Archivist and National Librarian, respectively.

Do you remember?



This is a clear and sharp photograph of the Farrelton Hockey Team taken we think, about 1950. It was made from a copy loaned to us by Ray Daly. Can any of our members identify the players or establish the year the photo was taken? Contact the HSG Archives.