

GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Feb — Mar 2005

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Coming Events

Monday, Feb 21, 7:30 PM
Chelsea Community Centre

GVHS Annual General Meeting

Speaker: Ches Banks:
"Scenic Rail Tours Up the Gatineau"

Please join the Society as we celebrate Heritage Day with our Annual General Meeting at the Chelsea Community Centre, February 21, 2005.

Following the AGM, Mr. Ches Banks, Senior Engineer for the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield steam train will describe some of his experiences from working on the line since 1974. As one of the first engineers on the original tourist train operated by the Canadian Museum of Science and Technology, Mr. Banks has witnessed the growth of what has become one of the Gatineau's most popular tourism attractions. Among other stories, he will recount the tale of how engine no.909, a 1907 Swedish built locomotive became the only European train to travel on Canadian rails. **Everyone welcome!**

Monday, March 21, 7:30 p.m.

Chelsea Community Centre,

Speaker: Katherine Fletcher

The GVHS is pleased to welcome award-winning freelance writer Katharine Fletcher who will speak about the recently published new editions of her popular historical walking guides of the National Capital Region, including *Historical Walks: the Gatineau Park Story*. For history buffs, nature lovers, bird watchers, and hiking enthusiasts, Katharine's Historical "Walks" continues to be the unique guide to the human and natural history of Gatineau Park. Fully illustrated with maps, archival and contemporary photographs, the book is a one-stop reference and handbook to Gatineau Park.

www.chesleyhouse.com

Mystery Publication Surfaces in Wakefield

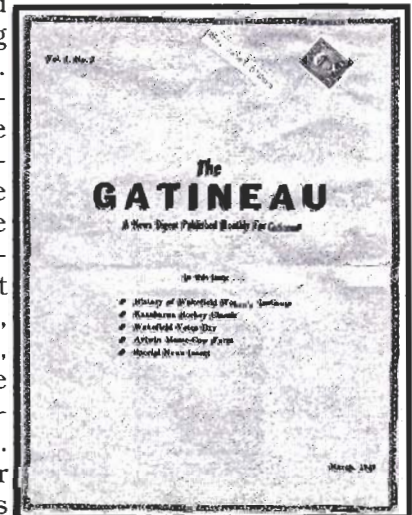
A recent donation to the GVHS Archives has presented Society members with an interesting conundrum.

A 16 page journal called *The Gatineau - A News Digest Published Monthly For Gatineau, Vol. 1, No.2., March, 1949*, was donated to the Gatineau Valley Historical Society from the estate of the late Ed Newton by his daughter Faye Newton-Nixon. The problem however, is that there is absolutely no indication of who/where it was published, although it is professionally written and produced.

Its content is varied and diverse, including the problem that Mr. Newton had with obtaining a liquor license for his hotel in the village of Wakefield. There is also a history of the Wakefield Women's Institute, a story about hockey in Kazabazua, with a hint of scandal, and an account of the finances of that village's United Church. There is also a "hooker page" of 24 business cards from various commercial establishments in the region, not one of which remain in business 56 years later.

But, perhaps the most unique story concerns businessman Freeman T. Cross and his apparently successful effort to cross-breed moose with cows at his Aylwin Camp. The article notes that a cow and a moose produced a young bull, resembling "a buffalo that tipped the scales at 925 pounds for a year old"

Does anyone remember this interesting breeding program? Or can anyone cast any light on the publication? (E. Mahoney)



See Page 3 for excerpt

"Rail Tales" Draws Train Fans From Two Societies

Even a painfully long spell of minus 30 Celsius temperature couldn't chill the enthusiasm of the train fans who attended our evening of "Rail Tales" at the Canadian Museum of Science and Technology on Jan 18. The warm ambiance created by gathering between two giant locomotives inspired storytellers to their feet to convey railway anecdotes, local stories, and to recount their "rail-life" experiences.

The event was organized jointly with the Bytown Railway Society (BRS), the Ottawa based society of 1,400 members whose aim is to promote an interest in railways and railway history. The meeting was held to acknowledge the tremendous work done by many of the BRS' members in documenting the railway history of the Gatineau Valley.

The occasion was expertly moderated by Michael Cooper who heated up the evening with a friendly challenge to draw out the best stories from the audience. A prize of Alex Refords fine book "Au rythme du train 1859-1970" sparked the audience's competitive instinct and a close vote was held at the end of the evening for the best story. Duncan Dufresne's colourful first-hand account of swarms of caterpillars stopping his logging train on the "Maniwaki Sub", crawled into first place, while Allen Richen's souvenirs of his summers as a 16 year old hopping over hopper cars in Churchill, Manitoba came close second.



BRS member, Duncan Dufresne

The evening was capped with the presentation of full size copy of the GVHS's poster *Gatineau Valley Railway Stations* to dual-Society member Bruce Ballantyne, to thank

him for his contributions the GVHS and for helping to bring the two Societies together. Participants voted this a "raily grand evening", and we plan to host the Bytown folks on our side of the river in the future.

A Memorable Train Trip - by Rita Hogan Hendrick

In January 1941 I worked on the Navy payroll for the Federal Government. It was shift work, and Saturday at the end of the afternoon I was eager to get home to my parents. The C.P.R. train left from Union Station around 5:00 p.m., and it took about 45 minutes for it to get to Burnett Station. My brothers were to meet me there with a horse and cutter, and that was how I was to get home. We lived on the east side of the Gatineau, where Mont Cascades is now.

When we got to Burnett, the train didn't stop! By the time I found Hal Bell, the brakeman, and Joe Tunny, the conductor, the train was on the siding at Cascades Station. They apologized, but there was nothing they could do. But they told me that the plow was coming down from Wakefield, and that way I could get back to Burnett. When it arrived, I climbed up behind the big engine, but I had to stand at the door as there was no room inside. I was so cold and covered with snow when I got off at Burnett Station.

My brother had gone home and there was nobody living close to the station. There was a rolled road across the river. I walked across it, and then had to go along the river's edge and up the steep hillside and through the woods to where we lived. I arrived at 10:30 p.m. I didn't think I would make it. I was sure I could hear wolves howling. When I got in the door, I was so cold and tired I couldn't speak at first. This was my most memorable and frightening train trip.

Membership renewal reminder

Please check your membership status code, which is located on the right hand side of the mailing address label on the envelope of this Newsletter. If the code is 2004/12, please renew your membership by sending a cheque for \$25 (2 years), \$15 (1 year). All paid members will receive Volume 31 of *Up the Gatineau!*, due out in June 2005. Also, the Society is currently compiling an email list of its members so that we can better inform our members about events and happenings between Newsletter Editions. If you would like to join our email list, please send a note to David Castleman at davidcastleman@yahoo.com

Thank you for your continuing support of the Society!

Gatineau Valley Historical Society

The Gatineau - A News Digest Published Monthly For Gatineau,
Vol. 1, No. 2 No. 2. March, 1949

Something New . . .

**Moose-Cow Breeding
At Aylwin Camp**

The tourists thought the chef was kidding when he announced the main course — roast of moose cow!

But the chef was on the level and introduced to a group of Ottawans a new meat, the result of four years work by Freeman T. Cross, a resident of Ottawa, who has experimented with moose and cows on his summer camp, at Aylwin, Que.

Mr. Cross decided to raise this strange stock after his Ayrshire cow had wandered about unchaperoned in the bushes and had later given birth to a strange calf which proved to have the qualities of cow and moose.

"Lucky," the calf, was shipped to a bush camp near Baskatong Lake where she supplied the camp with milk. While wandering about in that moose country, she too, apparently mated with a moose and produced a young bull that today very much resembles a buffalo. "Argus", as the animal was named, tipped the scales at 925 pounds for a year old.

The young bull has since been mated with Durham cattle.

The Quebec Government has granted Mr. Cross special permission to keep three bull moose and two cow moose in captivity.

Mr. Cross is also interested in dairying and plans to mate the offspring of a Jersey bull and "Lucky", his first moose-cow calf, with a moose, in order to inject the milk qualities of the Jersey into his moose-beef strain.

Mr. Cross' collection of animals, one of the greatest tourist attractions in the Ottawa area, are being keenly observed by cattlemen from far and near.

WEIGHT CHART

Half Moose Cow 2 years, 8 months	1,025 lbs.
All Cow 3 years, 8 months	825 lbs.
Three quarters Moose Calf 11 months	755 lbs.
All Durham Calf 11 months, 1 day	425 lbs.

There are about 140,000 retail stores in Canada, and they do almost six billion dollars worth of business in a year.



**Gatineau Power
Company**

The two-day storm which swept the Laurentians a short time ago put a tremendous strain on Gatineau power lines, and caused interruptions which were remedied only by terrific effort under the most rugged working conditions by the men of Gatineau. The storm which produced snow, hail, rain, sleet and wind, coated the wires and the power lines and the power poles with ice, loaded them with a weight which in many instances they were unable to endure. In the St. Benoit - St. Placide and the East Settlement areas, some of the broken lines had more than an inch of ice on them. In Cote St. Louis some of the wires were 2½ inches in diameter as a result of the ice. 33 Poles were down between St. Hermas and St. Benoit alone. In all, 64 poles were snapped in the Lachute area.

The work the first day of the storm was hampered by driving cold rain and further difficulties were experienced because broken telephone lines made communications impossible. On Saturday, January 1st — New Year's Day, when most families were gathered in their homes celebrating the New Year — the Gatineau work crews were out in full force replacing poles and erecting wires.

As a consequence, a black-out which many expected to last two weeks was completely lifted within five days and within a few hours in most sections. Power was restored on the last of the broken lines at Cote des Corbells at 4.10 p.m. on Wednesday, January 5th. While the storm which caused this damage was unusual in its severity, it provided one of the many challenges which the Gatineau Power Company is geared to meet to keep the power flowing over its lines. Indicative of the efforts made by our linemen on this occasion was the fact that in many sections Gatineau wires were back in order before some other services, despite the fact that telephone and telegraph workers labored just as hard to repair the damage to their lines.

We live in a rugged country, where the weatherman can do some mighty tough things to make life uncomfortable. When old man winter pulls his worst tricks, we can all be grateful to the hardworking linemen of the telegraph, telephone and power companies who face every type of bad weather to restore the services which we often take so much for granted.

Interesting Notes on

**WAKEFIELD
SHORTS . . .**

The Wakefield Rifle Club nosed out the R.C.M.P. rifle team by one point in a recent shoot held on R.C.M.P. ranges at Ottawa. Double spoon winners were W. D. Johnston and J. R. McFarland (R.C.M.P.) and D. M. Kennedy and C. E. Moore (Wakefield).

Reverend Wesley Morris, R.A., of Chelsea recently screened a film entitled "The King of Kings" for Wakefield residents at the United Church. Rev. Wm. Lloyd pronounced the benediction.

Announcement that the Canada Gazette had carried an official announcement of the application for charter of "The Co-operative Syndicate of Gatineau County Medical Services" (headquarters at Wakefield) was made by Mrs. L. H. Vaillancourt at a recent meeting of the Wakefield Women's Institute. Mrs. J. Hans Geggie was hostess and Mrs. Harold J. Geggie was in the chair.

The branch also received acknowledgement for contributions sent to the Military Hospital at Ste. Anne de Bellevue; the Ottawa branch of the C.G.I.T. and the Poppy fund.

The group also discussed the Federal District scheme and how it would affect lumbering and agriculture in the Wakefield area.

Wakefield United Church recently held its annual Sunday School party for school children and young members of the congregation. Mrs. T. A. G. Sully supervised the program.

Rev. William Lloyd, minister, led a sing song.

Mrs. Bernard Sully was appointed superintendent of the Wakefield United Church Sunday School at a recent election of officers. Other members elected are:

Rev. Wm. Lloyd, assistant superintendent; Mrs. Chas. O'Hara, secretary-treasurer; Trevor Shauldica, assistant; Miss H. Morrison, organist; teachers, Miss Dorothy Earle, beginners, Mrs. Findlay Stevenson; primary, Miss G. Morrison; juniors, Mrs. Bernard Sully and Mr. Lloyd, intermediata.

In Remembrance

*Isobel Mary Wadsworth Ryan
February 17 1918- January 2, 2005.*

One of the first members of the Gatineau Valley Historical Society, Lid Ryan, has left us.

Born in Kamloops, British Columbia, Lid pursued art studies in Canada and England. Following the outbreak of World War II, she joined the CWAC (Canadian Women's Army Corps), "hoping for a life of adventure and consequence." Although she quipped that she spent the war years making coffee in the morning and tea in the afternoon, friendships from that period in her life were pivotal. With Mary and Geoff Scott, she came to Chelsea, where they opened the *Candlelight Restaurant* on the Meech Lake Road.

Lid stayed on in Chelsea for half a century. Here she met Eddy Ryan; they were married in St. Stephen's Church in Old Chelsea in 1954. Lid was not only an artist working in water colours, but she turned her artistic eye to gardening, where her love of colour and beauty were evident in the wonderful garden she and Eddy established at their home on the Kingsmere Road. When the Historical Society was founded, they were early members, and Lid's interest in local history found her researching and asking questions about some of the historic buildings in the Old Chelsea area. Two short items written by Lid Ryan appear in Volumes 1 and 6 of *Up the Gatineau!* (Carol Martin)

History for Kids

There's a new history magazine out there, designed for children. *Kayak*, which bills itself as Canada's History magazine for kids, intends to "fuel a child's endless quest for fun, and a parent's quest for high-quality educational content." You can check it out online at www.kayakmag.ca.

GVHS volunteers recently responded to a local history question from children attending the École Montessori des Quatre Vallées. The children had questions about a cow bone found in the field behind their new school, in Chelsea on Route 105. We used this question as an occasion for a little workshop on doing historical research: finding out land ownership and information about Chelsea people. Carol Martin used historic maps to show land grants, identifying the Church family as original owner of their school site. From the Image Bank Annette Brand showed photographs of members of the Church family and 3 houses lived in by members of this family. Using the Chelsea's 1871 agricultural census, on microfilm, the children could find out the number of cows (and other animals) in this community then. There were a lot of cows, and a lot of butter! We finished by using the library computer to do a genealogical search, "finding" the Church families in Chelsea in the 1881 indexed, on-line census. The students were also interested in our pictures of old schools in the area, and we ended with a request that they photograph their school for the GVHS image bank. (Carol Martin)

New book from Society Member

Drawing on the Land



The New World Travel Diaries and Watercolours of
Millicent Mary Chaplin, 1838-1842

Edited by Jim Burant

Congratulations to GVHS member Jim Burant on the publication of his book *Drawing on the Land: The New World Travel Diaries and Watercolours of Millicent Mary Chaplin, 1838-1842* (Punumbra Press)

"What if Jane Austen had, at age 40, met and married an Army officer and then lived on to be posted with him to Canada? What would she have thought about the New World and the societies she would have found there? We will never know, since Jane Austen died unmarried in 1817, but in the 1830s and 1840s many Englishwomen of similar background and coming from the same social milieu did accompany their husbands on postings to North America. One of these was Millicent Mary Chaplin (1790-1858), a lively and observant woman from the English gentry,

whose diaries and watercolours provide an insightful and intriguing examination of two societies: the boisterous, energetic, and growing American democracy; and the ordered but restless British colonies, which were, if not quite a mirror of the mother country, nevertheless provided a welcome contrast to American egalitarianism. Mrs. Chaplin's experiences also demonstrates the limitations of a woman's life, interests and energies in the early Victorian era, and the spheres in which women were allowed to operate."

Jim Burant completed his M.A. (Canadian Studies) in 1979 at Carleton University, Ottawa and has been at the Library and Archives of Canada since 1972, initially as a summer student and a contract employee, before becoming a photo and art reference archivist on a full-time basis in 1976. He is currently Chief of the Art and Photography Section. In 2001 Jim was awarded the **Arthur Davidson Prize** for his outstanding contribution to *Up the Gatineau!* Vol 26, for his article, *The Picturesque hills and dales: The Gatineau Through Artists Eyes*.