



GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Dec 05 — Jan 06

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Number 2005-06

Coming Events

Monday, Jan 16, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Chelsea Community Centre

*'The Sea Has No End: The Remarkable Life of
Louis-Antoine de Bougainville'*

Soldier, sailor, adventurer, and philosopher, Louis-Antoine de Bougainville was a talented French officer whose remarkable career took him from the boudoirs of Paris to the flintlock battlefields of North America and on to the islands of the South Pacific. Author **Victor Suthren** will speak about Bougainville's career in North America during the Seven Years War and the American Revolution and his adventures in the South Seas.



Victor Suthren is a writer and historian with a special interest in the history of colonial seafaring and exploration. The former director general of the Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, he sails frequently in traditional ships and small boats, retracing epic voyages of the flintlock era. Everyone Welcome!

(Note: This meeting will be held upstairs in the Chelsea Community Centre)

A Note from Chelsea Elementary School

Chelsea Elementary School will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in the Spring of 2006! The Chelsea School 50th Committee are looking for photographs, memorabilia and memories of the past 50 years of the school from alumni and parents. If you have items you would be willing to loan, or memories to share, they would be gratefully received.

You can contact the school at 827-0245, Fax: 827-0622, email: chelsea@wqsb.qc.ca. The mailing address is 74 Old Chelsea Road, Chelsea, J9B 1K9. If you know of any Chelsea School alumni, please pass this information on!

Remembrance Day 2005

For the past 19 years, residents have assembled November 11, at the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery, owned by the GVHS. They are there to honour the memory of one of Canada's war heroes, Private Richard Rowland Thompson, the only Canadian to be awarded Queen's scarf for valor in the Boer war

Troops from the 3rd Battalion, Mike Company, (Para) Petewawa, mounted the vigil, and provided the honour Guard of 60 officers and men.

Among the 300 people in attendance, more than 100 pupils from Chelsea Elementary School took part. The wreath laying included MP David Smith, Major Greg Smith and Pvt. Bulger for the Royal Canadian Regiment, Col. David Hogsberg of the Canadian Forces Health Services Group, Chelsea's Mayor Jean Perras, MRC Police Capt. Michel Régimbald, Jay Atherton for the Regional Association of West Quebecers, Douglas Cowden, nephew of Bertha Alexander-Thompson, wife of Pte. Thompson, and for the GVHS, Ernie Mahoney.

Marc Cockburn President of the GVHS led the services, with prayers from Larry Dufour for St. Stephen's Catholic Church, a homily was given by R.C.R. Chaplain Padre Joe Johns and Rev. Christine Piper, St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church. The final blessing was given by the Landry family for Chelsea United Church.

In honor of the Canadian Flag and the Year of the Veteran, Mr. Douglas Cowden read his poem *Just a Piece of Cloth*. A reception for the RCR was held at the Cascades Club, hosted by the GVHS. (E. Mahoney)

Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery

The Gatineau Valley Historical Society has installed new sign at the entrance to the cemetery along Highway 105. This move was inspired in part by the recent renovation and new signage of the Old Chelsea Protestant Burial Ground in Old Chelsea undertaken by the Municipality of Chelsea recently. The sign is more informative and noticeable and was installed by the Municipal Roads Department as a shared cost with the Historical Society. In addition to the sign the municipality shared the cost of the latest Veteran's Plaque to be installed on the Chelsea Cenotaph. This plaque is in honour of William Reynolds who grew up in Old Chelsea on the Scott Road and who lost his life in the First World War during the battles in France.

"JUST A PIECE OF CLOTH"

- 1 THAT'S ALL IT IS - JUST A PIECE OF CLOTH. YOU CAN COUNT THE THREADS IN IT AND IT'S NO DIFFERENT THAN ANY OTHER PIECE OF CLOTH.
- 2 BUT THEN A GENTLE BREEZE COMES ALONG IT STIRS AND SORT OF COMES TO LIFE, IT FLUTTERS AND SNAPS IN THE WIND ALL RED AND WHITE.
- 3 IT WAS YOUR WHOLE LIFE WRAPPED UP IN IT, THE MAPLE LEAF MAKES YOU FEEL JUST AS FREE AS THE WIND THAT STIRS IT "THE RED BARS" REPRESENTS THE BLOOD THAT WAS SHED AND IS BEING SHED FOR OUR FREEDOM.
- 4 JUST A PIECE OF CLOTH THAT'S ALL IT IS UNTILL YOU PUT YOUR SOUL INTO IT AND ALL THAT YOUR SOUL STANDS FOR AND WHAT IT ASPIRES TO BE.
- 5 FOR ALL OF US IT IS A SYMBOL OF LIBERTY, DECENCY AND JUSTICE.
YES OUR FLAG IS JUST A PIECE OF CLOTH UNTILL WE BREATHE LIFE INTO IT, UNTILL WE MAKE IT STAND FOR EVERYTHING WE BELIEVE IN.

THANK YOU

Suzanne L. Coulson

ARCHIVES ACCOMMODATION

Many members will have seen an article ("Historical Society must pay to stay") by Mike Caesar that appeared in the November 30 - December 6 edition of The Low Down to Hull and Back News. While generally accurate, the article unfortunately leads off with a misunderstanding. The first sentence reads: "It looks like the days of free rent are over for the Gatineau Valley Historical Society." This interpretation is based on the fact that the Society is negotiating an arrangement with the municipality, one of the elements of which would be a one-time donation by the Society in support of the expansion of the municipal library--not to be interpreted as "rent" in any way. The agreement being negotiated will focus on the Society assisting the municipality with implementation of its heritage policy and provision of research services to community residents. In doing so we shall occupy space in the basement of the Library and use some of the services available (telephone, and so on).

The negotiation process is well under way, aimed at reaching a conclusion in January. Details on the agreement and our plans will be revealed in the February - March Newsletter and explained at the Annual General Meeting on February 20. (Jay Atherton, GVHS Archivist)

ARCHIVIST'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Ten days before Christmas, after working in the chilly catacombs of the Chelsea Library, eight Gatineau Valley

Historical Society Archivists descended on Tulip Restaurant in Cascades. Surprisingly, the flock was accompanied by several groupies. After warming up with their favourite nectar and joining in a feeding frenzy of peanuts various rituals were performed:

Carol and R. (Bob) Martin sang two, long archived Christmas songs. These carols were so ancient that a couple of the chords were not available. Sylvia Shawcross distributed Play Doh, introduced in 1956, and conducted a lesson in primitive sculpting which had to be terminated when naughty, anatomically exaggerated figures were produced, accompanied by cries of "More Play Doh!!" and "How do you spell Parton?".

Linda (Spinner) Bardell, one of the few Canada Day marchers to survive the climb to the old Wakefield Clubhouse, gave us an vigorous exhibition of Baton Twirling that unfortunately was cut short when her Sparkle covered Baton flew through the window into a passing salt truck.. One of the hotel regulars who had left, came back for a double shot, complaining "Danny, the highway's all a - glitter!"

Adrienne Herron and Jay Atherton regaled the crowd with several humorous off colour anecdotes from their vast, restricted, adult only, archives. Preston Wilson recited an original twenty year old bawdy poem, and before dinner we all bowed our heads as he read, in a rare display of Piety, his ancestors traditional Grace. R J. (Bob) Hughes kept the flock tittering with old Redneck jokes and tapping their feet with semi erotic lap dancing. All he got tucked down his waistband was fourteen dollars of Canadian Tire money and a nasty looking abdominal fingernail scratch from a extra libidinous contributor.

Annette Brand did a show stopping song and dance version of the 1950 song : "Take Back Your Mink, You Lowlife Archivist !!", from Guys and Dolls. She and Mr. Hughes then danced on, ever so gracefully, to Swing Era music, Circa 1940. Following a tasty dinner, your reporter slipped into a parallel universe and the party imploded. But we all vowed that if we were late flying south we would go through our rituals again next year, so keep your feeders stocked - specially with peanuts.

(Preston Wilson Dec 2005)

Outaouais Heritage WebMagazine

Development of content for the upcoming *Outaouais Heritage WebMagazine* (www.QuebecHeritageWeb.com) is proceeding on schedule. Editor Matthew Farfan has had some excellent collaboration from area historical societies, in particular the Gatineau Valley Historical Society (thanks especially to Carol, Adrienne, and Michael for all their help) and the Aylmer Heritage Association (especially Enid Page). Both groups are lending textual material and archival photographs for inclusion on the magazine. Matthew has also met other groups in the region, and visited numerous historic sites, museums, and attractions. He is currently writing feature articles on some of these sites. He welcomes input from heritage enthusiasts in the area, and may be reached by email at mf@qahn.org or by phone at (819) 876-5047. The launch of *Outaouais Heritage WebMagazine* is tentatively scheduled for next spring.