



GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Oct — Nov 2006

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Coming Events

Monday October 23rd, 7:30 p.m.
La Pêche Arena (Salle Desjardins)
Ste-Cécile-de Masham

Municipality of La Pêche Heritage Plaques Presentations.

All are welcome to join members of the Municipality of La Pêche Council for the presentation of the 2006 La Pêche Centenary Plaques at a reception hosted by the La Pêche Heritage Committee. This special monthly meeting of the GVHS is to support the Municipal Heritage Recognition program which has for the last 10 years compiled an inventory of over 100 centenary buildings in La Pêche.

Following the presentation of the centenary plaques at 7:30pm, Society President and Library and Archives Canada map archivist **Marc Cockburn**, will give an illustrated talk on the historical nature and evolution of the townships of Masham and Wakefield through maps.

Saturday November 11th, 10:45 a.m.
Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery
GVHS Remembrance Day Ceremony

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



(More coming events on Page 4)

2006 Municipality of La Pêche Heritage Committee Centenary Plaques

Gauthier Farmhouse
(Harold Gauthier, owner), Lac des Loups.

The Gauthier Family farmhouse was constructed around 1902. In the year 2006, it still stands in the centre of the village that has grown up around it. The Gauthier property is a landmark at this main intersection in Lac des Loups, mainly because of the old stables near the house and the fine, well-cared-for heavy horses that are always loafing around the farmyard and along the fence separating them from the main road through the village. A highly-visible heritage property! (Research by Anita Rutledge)

**Maison Clarence Kingsbury and the Whipporwill
Campsite (Blair Kingsbury, owner), Masham.**

First owner was Albert Shannon around 1885. Second owner was Dan Kingsbury – 1911. Third owner was Dan Kingsbury's son Clarence Kingsbury – 1952. Clarence farmed and started "The Whipporwill" campsite. Fourth owner is Clarence's son Blair – 2001 and present owner. Blair works at a printing company and operates "The Whipporwill" campsite. (Research by Douglas Nesbitt)

Marshall Brown Farmhouse
(Clare Davidson owner), Wakefield.

The road from Wakefield, now Valley Drive, extended only this distance prior to the building of the Highway #11 (105) in 1946. This hip-roofed house, sitting charmingly askew, preceded the highway. In the 1940s, it served as the farmhouse of Marshall Brown, who operated the farm of the original settler to Wakefield, Joseph Irwin (1829). The date of construction of this building is not known. Jack Shouldice and his wife, Mabel Craig, both of pioneer families in the Gatineau, made their home here in the 1960s. The building has retained its early farmhouse appearance in its present role as a very popular restaurant, harvesting its produce from an extensive

(Continued on next page)

garden, fed by a small stream flowing from the Spring found some 200 yards further up Valley Drive. (Norma Geggie)

**Chalet de Thomas Cameron Bate
(Geneviève Parent owner), Wakefield.**

Set high on the natural rocky outcrop at the south end of the Village of Wakefield, this cottage was built in the late 1890s or 1900 as a summer residence, and afforded magnificent views across the sweep of the Gatineau River. The steeply sloped roof prevented a build-up of accumulated snow during the winter months. The cottage was acquired by Thomas Cameron Bate, who, with his brother Sir Henry Bate, was a prominent businessman in Ottawa from the mid-1800s. In the 1940s it came under the ownership of Marius Lachaine, possibly still being used only seasonally. A recent owner, who used the building year-round was Earl Hanson. The present owner Geneviève Parent

of the Village of Wakefield prior to the amalgamation into the larger Municipality of La Pêche in 1975. For many years the Wakefield Municipal Library, run by volunteers, operated out of the small space not being used by the Fire Department. After the move of the Fire Department to new quarters, an enviable fund-raising campaign, again conducted by enthusiastic volunteers, added to Municipal grants, furnished the extra space afforded. The Library, which continues to gain in stature and in membership, and with a remarkable crew of volunteers, serves a wide area with great satisfaction. (Norma Geggie)

**Senator Bellcourt Cottage (Patricia Bassett et
Philippe Cappeliez, owners), Wakefield.**

After the completion of the rail line to Wakefield and beyond in 1892, land on the rocky outcrop at the south end of the Village of Wakefield became desirable for cottage construction offering

grand views of the sweep of the Gatineau River below. This residence was built as a cottage, possibly for Senator Bellcourt, either prior to, or shortly after 1900. It was owned by noted Quebec historian, Lucien Brault in the 1940s. The house was used as a year-round residence from the 1950's and had various owners : the Lemieux, John Hardie and Gary Elmer families. The present owners have

Townships of Masham and Wakefield, 1927



has done much to retain the original finish, and handsome garden. (Norma Geggie)

greatly enhanced the appearance of this well-situated home. (Norma Geggie)

**R.O. Morris Tannery / Wakefield Library
(Municipality of La Pêche, owner), Wakefield.**

An 1897 Insurance map of the Village of Wakefield shows a structure on this site as a tannery. This was operated by R. O. Morris. Alex Austin's Sash and Door Factory replaced the Tannery in the early 1900s, and the same business was continued by T.A. Bernard Sully around 1911. A Fire Hall was constructed in the space in 1957 after the formation of a Volunteer Fire Department in 1953. The old fire hall also served as a Municipal office for the Municipality

**Maison Bellar-Spruyt
(Tijs and Vivian Bellar-Spruyt, owners), Lascelles.**

First owner was the Chilcott family, Homestead around 1880. They operated a shingle mill. Second occupant was the Guzewska family in 1948. Third and current owners are Tijs and Vivian Bellaar-Spruyt. In 1971 a fire destroyed most of the out-buildings. The Bellaar-Spruyts' now have a bee business. (Research by Douglas Nesbitt)

Report of 43rd Annual Auction



Date: 19 Aug, 2006, 0900-1200

Location: St. Stephen's Church Grounds, Old Chelsea, QC

Weather: Sunny

Auctioneer: Revel Stewart, Cobden, Ont.

Number of Donors: 22 for regular auction and 36 solicited donors for silent auction. Also, several anonymous donations were grouped under one registration number, as we did in previous year. Nine of the donors, or 35%, wanted to receive half of the auction price. However, the many generous donors, whose items raised the most money at auction, donated the full proceeds to the Society. We had a number of donors who were not GVHS members—always very pleasant to have this support!

Number of Registered Bidders: 130 (this is an improvement over the past two years). Of course, many others were there browsing the flea market, book table, bake sale, etc.

Revenue:

Bake Table	\$413.85
Flea Market	\$732.00
Silent Auction	\$1123.00
Auction	\$3833.53
Publications	\$53.00
Memberships	<u>\$95.00</u>

Total \$6102.38
(Less expenses and return to donors
for an approximate **profit of \$4500**)

THANKS to everyone for a successful Auction!

It is always difficult to distribute thanks for the success of an event well done by a large number of people, for fear of leaving someone out. Nevertheless, there are many GVHS members and community volunteers who made significant contributions toward making this annual project a success. Many thanks to the following individuals who lent us a hand again this year:

Rick Adams, Dominique Alie, Betty Allan, Mary Armitage, Jay Atherton, Peggy Atherton, Annette Brand, Linda Bardell, David & Eileen Castleman, Marc Cockburn, Norma Geggie, Anne Ginns, Adrienne Herron, Richard Herron, Bob Hughes, Wes Jamison, Ernie Mahoney, Duncan Marshall, Bob Martin, Carol Martin, Rae Moore, Jonathan Murphy, Bent Nielsen, Rowena Pomeroy, Harold & Margaret Reid, Allan Richens, Natasha Sabalotny, Krista Cooke, Sacha Smirnoff, Jill Watkins, Lois Wilson, Preston Wilson, Rory Winfield, and Teresa Winfield



GVHS Auction volunteer,
Duncan Marshall

A heartfelt thanks to all of you and to any other volunteers whom we may have missed.

Many thanks as well, to the following businesses who generously donated to the Silent Auction:

Larrimac Golf Club, Chelsea Freshmart, Café Soup'herbe, Les Fougères, Chelsea Smoke House, Chelsea Pro Hardware, Chelsea Mayor Jean Perras, Chelsea Auto Repair, Chelsea Post Office, Épicerie général du Parc, Boulangerie dans un village, Chelsea's Pub, La Cigale, Lafleur de la Capitale, Greg Christie's, Doozie Candles, Gerry & Isobel's, National Capital Commission, Le Nordic Spa Scandinave, Dunnderosa Golf Club, The West Quebec Post, Charles IGA, Wakefield General Store, Burro Buracho, Marches d'Artisan, La Tulip Noir, Jamboree

New GVHS Archives facility reopens in expanded Chelsea Library

Many thanks to Society Archivists Jay Atherton and his team of dedicated volunteers for their work in fitting up the new secure facility in the basement of the recently expanded Chelsea Library. The GVHS made a \$5,000 contribution to the Chelsea Library expansion project. The new facility will allow archives volunteers to store and process material in a protected space fitted with surplus shelving and a map cabinet obtained from the Library and Archives Canada.

The Society Archives are open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons between 1:30 and 4:30 pm or by appointment by calling Jay Atherton (819-827-1703)

Monday November 20th, 7:30 p.m.
Chelsea Community Centre

Douglas Cowden: Reminiscences of Growing Up in the Meech Creek Valley.

Long time Society member Doug Cowden grew up on Macdonald Bay near Meech Lake in the 1930's and 40's, in an era when a family relied on 40 acres



of land to raise all the cattle, sheep, pigs and the crops it needed to subsist. He attended the red-brick school on Pine Rd. and in order to attend high school in Ottawa he

traded cordwood for room and board. Using images from the GVHS Image Bank, Doug's talk will recount how he delivered eggs and milk on skis and other unique reminiscences about a way of life in the Meech Creek Valley, a once typical Gatineau Hills farming community whose historical traces are rapidly fading away.

Monday January 15th, 7:30 p.m.
Chelsea Community Centre

Victor Suthren: Captain James Cook.



As a follow-up to last year's fascinating presentation on Louis-Antoine de Bougainville, author Victor Suthren will this year recount the story of the early Canadian years of the another adventurer, Capt. James Cook.

Captain James Cook is very well known for his voyages to the Pacific Ocean, but he also has an important place in Canadian history as the cartographer of the

St. Lawrence River, Halifax Harbour, and, most particularly, the north, west, and south coasts of Newfoundland and the French islands of St Pierre and Miquelon. **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 in Ottawa, he sails frequently in traditional ships and small boats, retracing epic voyages of the flintlock era.

Monday February 19, 7:30 p.m.
Chelsea Community Centre

GVHS Annual General Meeting
Charles C. Hill: Looking at Emily Carr

Charles C. Hill, Curator of Canadian Art for the National Gallery of Canada, will examine the contexts for the presentation of Emily Carr's work during and after her lifetime as outlined in the Emily Carr exhibition held at the National Gallery of Canada in the summer of 2006.

From an identification with the First Nations of Canada to a Western Canadian modernist, Carr has been the subject of much fascination for repeated generations who now question past constructs of her identity by Carr herself and by others.



Monday March 19, 2007
(Location to be determined)

Riverkeepers

Ottawa RiverKeeper Meredith Brown and Gatineau Riverwatcher Neil Faulkner will outline how and what we must do to preserve and conserve our region's historic rivers and tributaries.

Monday April 16, 2007

To be Announced
(Send us your suggestions!)