

# GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER



### Coming Events

**Monday, April 16, 2007 ~ 7:30 p.m.**

The Grange, Summer Road, Cantley, QC ~ a historic location on the Gatineau River

## Our Local Rivers: Care Today = Swim Tomorrow !

**Meredith Brown** ( Ottawa Riverkeeper) and **Neil Faulkner** (Gatineau River Watershed Committee) will explain and discuss the importance of maintaining healthy rivers, and what we must do to protect them.

Directions:

- Cross Alonzo Wright bridge & turn left at the lights onto highway 307
- After passing Chelsea dam on your left go 3.2 km to Summer Rd.
- Turn left & follow summer Rd. to the end

website - [www.thegrange.ca](http://www.thegrange.ca)



**Monday, May 28th, 2007 ~ 6:00 p.m.**

## GVHS Annual Dinner

**Club de golf Dunnderosa**  
**11 Notch Road, Chelsea, QC**

**Guest Speaker:** ***Fred Ryan** - Editor/Publisher of the Aylmer Bulletin, the West Quebec Post, and the Pontiac Journal who has been writing and commenting on community affairs in the Outaouais region for over 20 years.*

**Tickets - \$25.00** Please call Rene Nielson at 827-1845 to reserve your spot.

## New Executive Committee Elected

The Annual Meeting elected a new executive committee. President **Marc Cockburn** continues into the second year of a two-year term. **Michael Cooper** agreed to stand for re-election to the position of First Vice-President. **David Castleman's** term as Second Vice President also ended, but he chose not to run for another term. Jonathan Murphy agreed to stand for election to this position, thereby vacating a director's seat.

Three directors are entering the second year of a two year term: **Carol Martin, Fergus MacLaren,** and **Allan Richens.** **Norma Geggie's** wish not to stand for re-election as a director created a second vacancy. These two positions were filled through the election of **Margaret Phillips** and **Richard Adams** as directors. Ernie Mahoney continues to sit on the Executive Committee, as Past President. See page 4 for contact information for the Executive Committee.

## Annual General Meeting Awards

**A**t its annual general meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> the Historical Society conferred an **Honorary Life Membership** on **Vincent Hendrick** for his support of the Society over many years. In particular the citation recognized Mr. Hendrick's generous contribution of land in Wakefield for the Fairbairn Museum. President **Marc Cockburn** stated that the property in question would add materially to the Museum and increase the attractiveness of the building to visitors.

**Krista Cooke, Tamara Tarasoff,** and **John Kingsley** received letters of commendation for their participation in the Musée Fairbairn Museum Project Steering Committee. Their efforts contributed significantly to the completion of a sustainable business plan for completion of this project.

Also recipients of letters of commendation were **Louise Lebrun, Caryl Green,** and **Peter Jessen** for their help in dealing with the vandalism at the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery in December. Their assistance was seen as

a fine example of civic collaboration at its best. **Bob Hughes** received a letter of commendation for his work in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of Chelsea School. It was as a result of his initiative and follow-through that the community and the school were made aware of this significant anniversary, and the various related events took place successfully.

The Society also presented a letter of commendation to **Preston Wilson,** for his initiative in having his article on the "Meech Creek Valley Girl," which originally appeared in *Up the Gatineau!*, volume 31, serialized in *The Low Down to Hull and Back News.* Preston also generously donated his fee from *The Low Down* to the Historical Society.

As President Marc Cockburn stated at the presentations, all awards recognized initiatives in support of the Society's mission to increase awareness of the heritage and history of the Gatineau Valley.



## Archive News

The usual summer schedule will prevail this year. In other words, **the Archives will be closed from June 15 to September 10.** The volunteers will be using time during the summer to catch up on backlogs. Members or others wishing access to the holdings should contact Jay Atherton (819-827-1703 or [jayatherton@sympatico.ca](mailto:jayatherton@sympatico.ca)), or any one of the volunteers with whom they are familiar.

### Members seeking research contacts...

Katharine and Eric Fletcher are seeking members' help on their research of the human and natural history of the Laurentians and La Petit Train du Nord. If any members know of archives, historical societies or museums in the area, the Fletchers would appreciate hearing from you very much.

Please e-mail (Eric and Katharine Fletcher <[chesley@allstream.net](mailto:chesley@allstream.net)>) or telephone (819-458-2090) or snail mail (4316 Steele Line, Quyon, Quebec J0X 2V0) with names/contact information.

**I**n the summer of 1935 Billy Wilson who at the time owned and operated "The Tip Top Inn" at Cascades QC. decided to start up a newspaper called "THE GATINEAU ECHO" full of local news, jokes, and business advertisers of the day. Six issues were printed, five are presently in the GVHS archives. However after searching trunks and attics for years **Vol. 1 issue 4 dated Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> 1935 has not yet been found.**

We know you spent the winter sorting through personal items! Did anyone come across this missing issue? If so please notify RJ Hughes @ 819 827 3766 or [rjchelsea@yahoo.ca](mailto:rjchelsea@yahoo.ca). It would be greatly appreciated.

## Annual General Meeting - Address from *President Marc Coburn* - February 19, 2007

I want to thank you all for continuing to support of the Society's mission to bring awareness to the history and heritage of the Gatineau valley. Our membership base remains solid at about 300 individuals and families, and we remind you renew your membership as soon as possible. If you are not already a member, I recommend you to pick up a copy of the latest Newsletter and read about the great work being accomplished by the volunteers of the Society, or you can give your email address to **Shirley Brown** and we would be glad to forward you a copy by email. Shirley has thankfully taken over Newsletter production and is doing a nice job so far coping with our floating deadlines. As well, if you have anything to contribute to the Newsletter, such as announcements, short articles or correspondence please contact us since we are always looking for fresh content.

Overall our financial situation, under the guidance of **David Castleman** and **Mary Armitage**, remains solid with a healthy reserve of funds to sustain our current activities for the at least the near future. However, after making some significant investment in our Archives accommodation, the Fairbairn business plan, and our continued support for publication and events such as the Chelsea Remembrance Day service we are finding that our costs are rising while our revenue isn't necessarily keeping up. Our main fundraiser, the Annual Auction, proved again this year that on a good day we can attract a large crowd and that the quality and quantity of the antiques coming out of the community's cottages, garages and sheds still offers the best auction selection in the Gatineau Hills. Thanks again to all the volunteers who made the 2006 Auction a resounding success.

One of the areas of strength that we would like to build on this year, is our publications program. We want to find ways to encourage and make it easier for members and other individuals to publish since I'm guessing that there are probably at least a half-dozen books and articles sitting in this room tonight. At the same time, we would like to think of ways of repackaging **Up the Gatineau** articles into thematic collections and have them translated. Meanwhile our publication continue to sell well and we continue to produce our excellent journal, *Up the*

*Gatineau!* under the editorship of **Carol Martin**.

The Society's Archives under the care of **Jay Atherton** and a terrific **team of volunteers** continue to get used to our new accommodations and to build on the collection with new acquisitions in all media. However, we will soon have to invest in some new computer equipment to handle the extra load and we remain on the hunt for a long term accommodations solution so that we can continually improve our service.

On the downside, we learned just before Christmas that the Society-owned Chelsea Pioneer cemetery had been vandalized, including the desecration of the grave of Private Richard Thompson which has been the focal point of the Society's Remembrance Day Service for 20 years. We estimate it will cost about \$3,500 to repair and we will be appealing for funds to get these repairs done as soon as possible. Again we would like to thank the individuals who have already offered to help out with raising these funds.

I want to once again thank my board colleagues for another interesting and productive year. Unfortunately this year, two of our long-time board members, **Norma Geggie** and **David Castleman**, are stepping down but we expect that they will continue to make significant contributions to the Society.

**Michael Cooper** and **Fergus MacLaren** continue to craft an eclectic speakers series and remain open to trying out some interesting formats and topics. **Allan Richens** joined the Friends of Gatineau Park board on behalf of the GHVS and continues to point-out important historic sites to the NCC. **Ernie Mahoney** is still keeping me out of trouble and Carol Martin maintains her usual dedication and hard work on the Publications and Cemeteries Committees.

Also a very special personal thank you to **Jonathan Murphy** for stepping-up and taking over for me as Chair of the Fairbairn Steering Committee at a time when the project was needing his business and entrepreneurial experience.



### Genealogy – New! *United Church Cemetery, Low, Quebec*

A new publication, listing grave monuments in this cemetery. The author, Chris Doody, has included photographs and many obituaries - an excellent tool for genealogists! Available from: Elsie Bedard, McCrank Rd., Low, QC, J0X 2C0 (tel: 819-422-3606) for \$20.00 Note: this is a fund-raiser for the church. [Information:chrisdoody@dal.ca](mailto:Information:chrisdoody@dal.ca)

**Can you help?** We have received **requests for photographs** of the following persons.— William Debursey Fitzpatrick (1820–1912) and his wife Maria Colbert (1833–?), (lived Alcove, Rupert); Joseph Albert Irwin (1851–1923) and his wife Elizabeth Jane Colbert (1860–1937), (Alcove, Rupert); Samuel "Church" Kenney (1851–?) and his wife Judith Pritchard (1853–1926). If you can assist us, we will briefly borrow any photos you find and scan them for the GVHS Image Bank (and provide copies to the persons who requested them).

### Executive 2007

**President:** Marc Cockburn - 819-459-2004  
 marc.cockburn@lac-bac.gc.ca

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president:** Michael Cooper - 819-459-2787  
 cooperm@magma.ca

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:** Jonathan Murphy - 819-459-4441  
 jmurphy@geocognition.com

**Past President:** Ernie Mahoney - 819-459-1180  
 ernieomani@hotmail.com

**Secretary:** Linda bardell - 819-827-0095  
 lbard@sympatico.ca

**Directors:** Carol Martin - 819-827-1633 - Publications  
 rjcmartin@primus.ca  
 Allan Richens - 819-827-1616 - Cemeteries  
 allanrichens@sympatico.ca  
 Fergus MacLaren - 819-827-0799  
 fergus\_maclaren@cac.gc.ca  
 Richard Adams - 819-827-0589  
 richardadams@canada.com  
 Margaret Phillips - 819-827-1969  
 phillips.margaret@gmail.com

**Archivist:** Jay Atherton 819-827-1703  
 jayatherton@sympatico.ca

info@gvhs.ca

#### Purpose:

*"...to promote matters of historical or heritage significance in the general area of the Gatineau Valley."*

The *Gatineau Valley Historical Society* is a charitable organization which has acted to conserve and foster interest in history and heritage in the Gatineau Valley region since its founding in 1962.

#### 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 2006/12, please renew your membership.

Recipients of the Newsletter can choose to receive the publication by **email** (thereby saving the Historical Society approximately \$1.00 per delivery for copying and postage charges). If this option interests you, please send your e-mail address to our membership circulation coordinator, Shirley Grant Brown - [browncrest@sympatico.ca](mailto:browncrest@sympatico.ca)

#### ~ Help preserve our Gatineau Valley heritage ~

Membership includes the following benefits:

- *Up the Gatineau* - our annual local history journal
- GVHS newsletter
- Access to our archival material
- Regular meetings on local & national heritage topics

### Gatineau Valley Historical Society Membership Application

Box 1803 Chelsea QC J9B 1A1      819- 827- 4432

**Membership Fees:** 1 year - \$15 - includes *Up the Gatineau* (whole family)  
2 year - \$25 - includes *Up the Gatineau*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ New Member -

Telephone (Business) \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal -

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Would you like the newsletter emailed to you?

#### Areas of Interest:

- |                                   |                                     |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Auction <input type="checkbox"/>  | Cemeteries <input type="checkbox"/> | Publications <input type="checkbox"/>   | Youth Programs <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Archives <input type="checkbox"/> | Executive <input type="checkbox"/>  | Special Events <input type="checkbox"/> | Web Site <input type="checkbox"/>       |