

# GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Winter 2010 Newsletter

### Call for Nominations

The Gatineau Valley Historical Society is a charitable not-for-profit organization which has acted to conserve and foster interest in history and heritage of the Gatineau Valley region for over forty years, since its founding in 1962. Our activities range from organizing events to publishing and preserving archival material of local historical interest. We interact with other history and heritage groups in the region, and work as an active, locally-based group to make our resources and assistance available within the wider community.

*We are currently accepting nominations for Directors of the GVHS Executive Committee to be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held on Monday, February 15th, 7:30 pm at the Chelsea Community Centre. Nominations will be accepted before February 5th and can be sent to [info@gvhs.ca](mailto:info@gvhs.ca), or call Marc Cockburn at 819-459-2004 if you would like more information.*

**Job Description:** The Executive Committee assists the President in defining the policies and directing the activities of the Society. Members of the Executive Committee may represent the Society at public functions and other meetings.

If serving on the Executive isn't your cup of tea, the GVHS also has exciting opportunities for members who are interested in making a significant contribution to the Society's mission. We are also currently accepting applications to serve on our sub-committees.

These are:

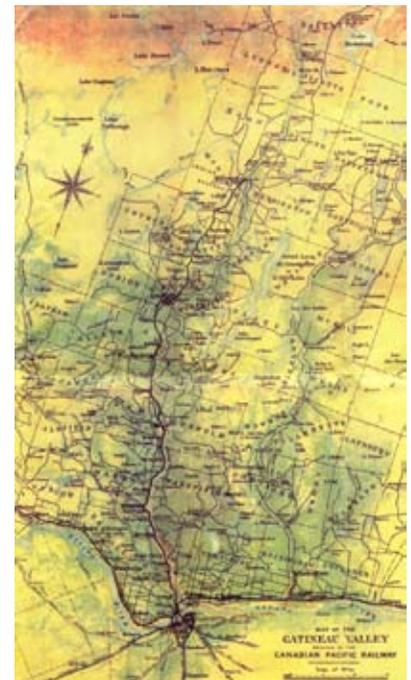
*The Communications and Membership Committee* promotes membership and directs communications with Society members and the larger community through the GVHS website, the Newsletter, print and electronic notices. (Contact Shirley Brown, 819-827-1999 or [browncrest@sympatico.ca](mailto:browncrest@sympatico.ca) )

*The Publications Committee* is concerned with publishing and distributing the annual *Up the Gatineau* and for developing new GVHS publications through interest-free loans to local authors. (Contact Carol Martin, 819-827-1633 or [rjcmartin@primus.ca](mailto:rjcmartin@primus.ca))

*The Society Archives and Website Committee* is responsible for the operations of the Society Archives, including acquisitions, inquiries, physical and intellectual control for records in all media, and for developing historical content and research tools for the GVHS website. (Contact Marc Cockburn, 819-459-2004 or [info@gvhs.ca](mailto:info@gvhs.ca))

As well, we can always use some help on some of our occasional ad-hoc committees for the Society Auction, the Chelsea Remembrance Day Service or for Cemetery maintenance.

*Sincerely*



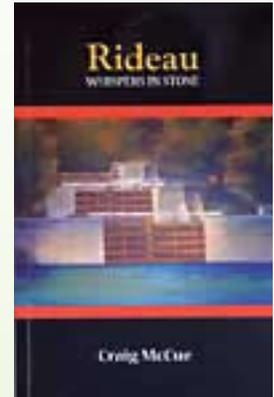
*Marc Cockburn and Michael Cooper*  
Co-Chairs, GVHS Nominations Committee

Monday, January 18, 2010 @ 7:30 pm  
Chelsea Community Centre, Old Chelsea QC

## Presentation and Reading: Rideau, Whispers In Stone

- *Thinnest place at thinnest time... Is where and when worlds intertwine* – (Mike Heenan)

Since first coming to Ottawa in his early twenties Darren Jerome, who wrote *Rideau, Whispers in Stone* under the nom-de-plume of Craig McCue, has been progressively amazed by the quantity and richness of information that pertains to the engineering of the Rideau Canal and Waterway. He has been equally amazed at how little remains, with rare exception, to describe the people who built it.



This has always struck him as both odd and unfortunate given how incredible a story it must have been. It's hard to imagine thousands of workers and their families, from soldiers to navvies to engineers (and their families) pouring into this narrow strip of land between the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers. What a rich, multicultural demographic it must have been.

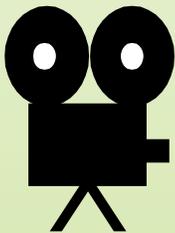
In his presentation he will touch on the unfortunate gaps that exist in the written as well as artistic record of the time. Supported by quotes and examples of drawings from the period, he hopes to expand on some assumptions concerning the nature of the life during this brief period of Canal construction and early use between 1827 and 1832.

This will be followed by a reading from one or two of the fictional short stories in the book itself which attempt to revisit some of the experiences of the time from the perspective of those 'unknown players'.



Monday, February 15, 2010 @ 7:30 pm  
Chelsea Community Centre, Old Chelsea QC

## GVHS Annual General Meeting and Home Movie Night



This meeting will be your opportunity to unearth family and amateur movies from the attic or basement and to present them for the enjoyment of Society members and friends.

Special guest **Caroline Forcier-Holloway** an audio-visual archivist from Library and Archives Canada, will be on hand to show a Crawley family home movie entitled *At the Sandpits*, and to offer advice on preserving home movies. "Although most earlier home movies are silent they can still speak volumes," said Ms. Forcier. "Just as families love to sit around and reminisce by looking at a photo album, similar memories and emotions are stirred when families gather to watch home movies. Home movies were generally created for an intimate audience, yet if we look closer, one might see that these authentic moving images also play another role of documenting historical events or significant activities of a community as captured by amateurs."

**Do you have home movies of this nature that you would like to present at the GVHS movie night?**  
If you have a 5 minute video or digital clip of a home movie that documents historical events and activities of the Gatineau Valley during the 1940s, '50s and '60s, we would be glad to hear from you. Please contact Marc Cockburn at 819-459-2004, or [info@gvhs.ca](mailto:info@gvhs.ca) so that we can make the technical arrangements to view the clips.

Monday, March 15, 2010 @ 7:30 pm  
Chelsea Community Centre, Old Chelsea QC

## Prime Ministers and the Gatineau Valley



**Barry Wilson** recently donated his unique collection of prime ministerial material to Carleton University - signatures of all 22 prime ministers, historic books, election posters and a 19th Century bust of Sir John A. He will talk about the process of pursuing such a collection which began innocently enough on June 25, 1968 and ended with a Stephen Harper signature in 2006, almost 40 years later. He will reveal the strong connection he discovered between the vast majority of prime ministers and the Gatineau Valley.

Barry is the fifth generation living in the Gatineau Valley - he still owns his 1893 family farm beside the Paugan Dam at Low. He has been a journalist working across Canada for 40 years, the last 30 on Parliament Hill for The Western Producer newspaper. He has published four books, the last a Canadian history of the American traitor Benedict Arnold.



## ARCHIVES & YOU! CONFERENCE

Eight members of the GVHS Archives group attended the 5th annual Archives & You! conference, organized by the Canadian Council of Archives, on the weekend of November 27-28, 2009 in Gatineau.

Diane Baillargeon, A/Director, Archives and Records Management Service, University of Montreal, welcomed the attendees. Beginning with breakfast and sustained by lunch, we attended “ask the expert” roundtable discussions and took part in a series of specialist-led workshops, from 8:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Even the titles of some of the workshops were exciting: Archives: Learning Through Fun; Ask an Archivist What He Can do for You; Unexploited City Archives!; Insights and Techniques. Others were practical: Preservation and Archiving Procedures, Copyright, Genealogy, Archives on the Web. There was even a session on inspiring children to do historical research, complete with examples of some projects. We had a chance to share our experiences with others, and to learn from each other.

The second day of the conference offered site visits (we were transported by bus from one to the other) of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, the International Development Research Centre Archives, the University of Ottawa Archives and the CRCCF at the University of Ottawa, and the City of Ottawa Archives.

During the New Year, the GVHS Archives group will be working on accession procedures and standards (including computerized databases of items recently added to our inventory), copyright policies and the GVHS web site.

*Carol Martin*

### Executive 2009-10

*President*

Marc Cockburn - 819.459.2004  
cockburn.marc@gmail.com

*1st Vice-president*

Richard Adams - 819.827.0589  
richardadams@canada.com

*2nd Vice-president*

Vacant

*Secretary*

Linda Bardell - 819.827.0095  
lbard@sympatico.ca

*Treasurer*

Mary Armitage - 819.827.8533  
Archivist Emeritus

Jay Atherton

### Directors

Carol Martin - 819.827.1633 — *Publications*  
rjcmartin@primus.ca

Allan Richens - 819.827.1616 — *Cemeteries*  
allanrichens@sympatico.ca

Margaret Phillips - 819.827.1969 — *Program*  
phillips.margaret@gmail.com

Michael Cooper - 819.459.2787 — *Program*  
cooperm@wakenet.ca

Shirley Brown - 819.827.1999 — *Newsletter*  
browncrest@sympatico.ca

R.J. Hughes - 819.827.3766 — *Archives*  
rjchelsea@yahoo.ca

### Coming 2010 Events

April 19 - Louise Schwartz  
Bee Keeping in the Gatineau Hills

May - Annual Dinner - TBD

June - Excursion - TBD

August 21 - Annual Auction

### Archives are re-opening

**Wednesday, January 6th - 1:30 pm**  
**Chelsea Library - downstairs**

### ~ 2010 Membership fees may be due ~

If you have a highlighted "2009" on your mailing label, please fill in the application below and mail your fees to the address on the form.

If you receive the newsletter by email — there will be a *message in the email* saying your 2010 fees are due. Please follow the above instructions re payment. *If there is no message, then your fees are current.*

### Gatineau Valley Historical Society Membership Application/Renewal Form

Box 1803, Chelsea QC J9B 1A1 ~ 819-827-6224 ~ www.gvhs.ca

- Up the Gatineau! - our annual local history journal
- Access to our archival material
- GVHS Newsletter
- Regular meetings on local and national heritage topics

**Membership Fees (per family): 1 year — \$15.00      2 year — \$25.00**

**New Member** \_\_\_\_ **Renewal** \_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/town \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ The newsletter will be emailed to you.

I would like to help with: Auction\_\_ Archives\_\_ Cemeteries\_\_ Executive\_\_ Publications\_\_