



## GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE LA VALLÉE DE LA GATINEAU

...preserving and promoting awareness in the history and heritage of the Gatineau Valley since 1962

# Winter Newsletter

**Monday, January 19, 2015 at 7:30 pm**

**Chelsea Library, Main Level, 100 Old Chelsea Road, Chelsea QC**

### **The former Basque whaling station in Red Bay, Labrador - Canada's newest UNESCO World Heritage Site -**



Speaker **Robert Grenier** is a world leader and renowned expert in archaeology and underwater conservation. His presentation will delve into the history of Red Bay, a former Basque whaling station on the southern coast of Labrador. Grenier discovered the remains of the San Juan, a 16th century Basque whaling galleon in 1978 in Red Bay.

The station had been used for over 70 years and provides the earliest, most complete and best-preserved testimony of the European whaling tradition, which helped make the Coast of Labrador then the equivalent of Saudi Arabia in oil resources to-day.



**Monday, February 16, 2015 at 7:30 pm**

**Chelsea Library, Main Level, 100 Old Chelsea Road, Chelsea**

### **Trails and Tales along the Chelsea Railway Corridor and 2015 AGM**

**Heidi von Graevenitz** from Sentiers Chelsea Trails and **Louise Schwartz** of the GVHS will make a presentation on the recent installation of interpretive signage along a portion of the railway corridor in Chelsea. For the past eight winters SCT has partnered with the Municipality of Chelsea to provide a multi-purpose tracked snow surface along the currently unused railway tracks.

Winter trail walkers and skiers on this groomed trail now pass by seven signs in a one kilometre stretch around Kirk's Ferry. Each sign highlights key landmarks—past and present—such as the former Eaton's Chute of the Gatineau River, or the long-gone flag station at Kirk's Ferry. There are plans to extend the signage in future years to cover more of this 18 kilometre trail and member input is encouraged.

A short Annual General Meeting will precede the presentation, with elections to be held and our annual reports distributed.



David Maitland by the Kirks Ferry flag station sign.  
Photo credit: Maureen Fehr.

Nominations for the Executive will be accepted until February 13, 2015—contact [info@gvhs.ca](mailto:info@gvhs.ca).

## Up the Gatineau! is born

Have you ever wondered how the name of the Society's local history journal, *Up the Gatineau!*, came about, and how the publication fared in its early days?

Here are some snippets from early Society newsletters.

October 1974

...It is hoped these booklets will come out at intervals as long as we have material to fill them. They will be sent to members and some will be for sale. To attract customers we want a title for the booklet that is bright, catchy and appropriate. All members are invited, even urged to submit their suggestions to Marian Roberts. A small prize will be awarded to the winner.

June 1975

*Up the Gatineau!* This is the title of our new publication which is currently being printed. Several names were suggested but *Up the Gatineau!* submitted by Ann Crane was the popular choice of the judges. The booklet of 24 pages contains several articles about early places and people in the Gatineau valley and it is illustrated with six photographs. It will sell for \$1.50 but a copy will be sent to members of good standing (single or family) free of charge.



Ann (Crane) Kelly.  
Photo credit: Adrienne Herron.

July 1975

Special Notice – our 'new' baby *Up the Gatineau!* has been born and your free copy is available. It has been distributed to several retail outlets in the Gatineau Valley as well as in Ottawa and indications to date show a favourable acceptance.... What better small "historical" gift for your friends than *Up the Gatineau!*

October 1975

Our first "house organ" is sold out as far as supplies for our outlets are concerned. The balance of 31 out of a total printing of 727 is to be retained for occasional individual orders.

Postscript:

Society board members were thrilled when naming-contest winner Ann Kelly (formerly Crane) joined us at the 2014 Awards Dinner at Camp Fortune. She is alive and well, and was happy to see the continued success of *Up the Gatineau!*

### New Members

- Bob Cross - Renfrew
- Wes Darou - Cantley
- Lynne Evenson - Chelsea
- Sidney Karsh - Toronto
- Giles Morrell - Chelsea
- Richard Oslund - Chelsea

### Upcoming Dates for 2015

- Meeting, Monday, March 16 - TBD
- Meeting, Monday, April 20 - Wakefield
- Annual Dinner, May
- Auction - Saturday, August 22

## The GVHS: making connections

Every year the Society fields dozens of inquiries from across Canada and beyond, mostly via emails and phone calls. A small team of volunteers try to ferret out answers to a myriad of questions. Here's one such story we'd like to share.

Here's an edited excerpt from an email received last May.

*Subject: Elizabeth Smart*

*Date: Wed, 7 May 2014 23:08:*

*To: info@gvhs.ca*

*Hello, My name is Gabriele, I am an Italian living in New York City. I am doing research for a project about the Canadian Poet Elizabeth Smart. I have been working on it for a long time. In her bio it is mentioned that her family owned a house on Kingsmere Lake (right next door to the Mackenzie King estate) and she spent many summers there ( in the 1920s and 30s). I am planning a little trip to the Gatineau Park this upcoming weekend and I am wondering if that house still exists - it would be a thrill to see. Thanks for your time, Gabriele*

Linda Bardell is the dedicated volunteer who monitors our GVHS email account. She noted the inquiry was sent on Wednesday and the individual was coming to the Gatineau that weekend! Quickly, Linda sent out the call to others she thought might be able to help out. Within hours, we had tracked down just the right person—Professor Andrew Johnston, a Carleton prof from the Masham area. Andrew grew up in Kingsmere and was known to the Society as a contributor to Volume 39 of *Up the Gatineau!*

He took over the communication with Gabriele in New York City. Amazingly, that same weekend, they met, trekked around Kingsmere and even confirmed the property that the Smarts had owned at one time. Andrew reported back, “Well, we had a lovely walk with Gabriele this morning—we couldn’t have asked for better weather! He’s an interesting, chatty, and awfully nice fellow—much younger than I had expected—who is working on a writing project about Elizabeth Smart. He’s done a lot of research already and had spoken with Smart’s remaining children...He was quite moved as we approached the location and he took in the intimacy of the landscape and the small scale of the lake. Because there had been descriptions of parties the Smart’s hosted there that sounded quite grand, he had pictured something more like Mooreside in scale—but I think the surprise at how modest the space was touched him.”



What a great ending.

At some point in the future, the Society hopes to learn more about Elizabeth Smart and her connection to the Gatineau Valley, either through an *Up the Gatineau!* story or a talk. Stay tuned.

Andrew Johnston and Gabriele Turchi at Kingsmere.  
Photo credit: Bettina Koschade

### Executive 2014

*President*

Marc Cockburn - 819-459-2004  
cockburn.marc@gmail.com

*Past President*

Carol Martin - 819-827-1633  
rjcmartin@primus.ca

*1st Vice-president*

Bob McClelland - 819-827-0540  
mccfarm@magma.ca

*2nd Vice-president/Treasurer*

David Yuill - 819-827-0851  
david.yuill@sympatico.ca

*Secretary*

Suzanne Gibeault - 819-827-9260  
jones.gibeault@sympatico.ca

*Directors*

Linda Bardell - 819-827-0095  
lbard@sympatico.ca

Shirley Brown - 819-827-1999 *Newsletter*  
browncrest@sympatico.ca

Erik Rask - 819-827 -1234  
*Web Master*  
erikrask@gmail.com

André Renaud - 819-827-1720  
ayr1911@gmail.com

Louise Schwartz - 819-827-1429 *Publications*  
schwartzla@rogers.com

GVHS now has a  
Facebook page  
- click the Facebook  
icon to 'like' us



### • Pat Evans Archives •

Chelsea Library • downstairs  
Monday & Wednesday  
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
or by appointment - 819-827-6224

### New!

If your membership is due for 2015 you will have received a notice by email or mail, along with this newsletter.

You can now pay your fees online with Paypal.  
Click here to go to our [Paypal page](#).

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

BOX 1803 Chelsea QC J9B 1A1 819-827-6224 [info@gvhs.ca](mailto:info@gvhs.ca)

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

Membership Fees (per family - January-December):  1 year - \$15.00  2 year - \$25.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I am interested in volunteering:

Auction  Archives  Cemeteries  Publications  Special Events

\* Please give us your email address if you have one - it helps with our mailing costs.