



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF THE GATINEAU

# JUNE 1987 NEWSLETTER

**NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 27 AT 2.00 AT THE MACLAREN HOUSE IN WAKEFIELD.**

## IT IS OUR TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY!

Pat Evans and his committee have been planning for months to make this a fitting celebration, with birthday cake, music, dancing, free tours of the newly expanded museum, and presentation of our first awards. (Please see below.) There will be distinguished guests who have helped us get where we are. Courtney Bond will be present to autograph copies of "Hurling Down the Pine"—which will also be for sale there. (Almost everything!—but the Executive regretfully declined a suggestion for women wrestling in mud because of the uncertainty of precipitation.) There will be food befitting a Victorian garden party. Thanks to the help of the NCC and volunteers, there will be no charge, but contributions towards the cost of refreshments will be gratefully accepted.

It will happen rain or shine. We deserve to enjoy this celebration of 25 years of hard work and accomplishment. Come and share it, and bring friends.

## LAST MEETING

It was a vivid look into past and future when Charles Hill used pictures and words to describe both the history of the Rideau Street Convent Chapel and its restoration. Mr. Hill's talk gave a great sense of appreciation for the genius which created this national landmark and to the Friends of the National Gallery who are ensuring that it will have pride of place in the centre of the new National Gallery. We have less than a year to wait to see the final happy

ending of a difficult, frustrating, exciting and very long struggle to preserve this jewel of history.

## THE MUSEUM

The 25th Anniversary celebration also marks the opening for the season of the Museum. Members will see important changes.

Honourary Curator Stuart Gergie has been spending much time in negotiation, diplomacy and physical work with the help of volunteers. The flood devastation noted in our last Newsletter has been completely repaired by the NCC, though we had the big job of removing and cleaning all artifacts, which acquired more dirt this spring than in their previous century of life. Jon Purcell and helper relieved frustration by smashing a connecting passage between the two independent apartments on the upper floor, and making a doorway between. Volunteer painters completed the dekitchenization of the east wing to permit bedroomification. Other space on the ground level has been opened, and administration can now be moved to the upper floor. You will have to see it all on June 27, though a taste of it may be available on CJOH's "Regional Contact" on a Saturday evening before mid-month.

Discussions have continued with the NCC about the Society's growing role in the operation of The Mill. In effect we shall be responsible for much of the staffing of both buildings. Admission to both is expected to become a package with a \$1.50 collective fee to help our museum operation and development. Both historic buildings will be open only on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, from June 27 to Labour Day. Special tours at other times can be arranged.

This is a big responsibility needing a lot of

voluntary help. Fortunately, being a museum docent for a few hours is a pleasant and interesting occupation. We look to members to volunteer for at least two half days a year. Bilingual members are especially helpful, for we must always be able to welcome visitors in the official language of their choice. But of course not every volunteer needs to be bilingual.

If you have not already volunteered to help, please telephone Dr. Geggie (459-2393).

### **MEMBERSHIP: If you are not reading this...**

We can no longer address those who have neglected to renew their membership for 1987 because, regretfully, they will not be receiving this *Newsletter*. You could help us, and such people, by tactfully asking your friends if they have seen the June newsletter: if the answer is a puzzled look, please invite them to the Anniversary celebration where all sinners bearing fees will be happily forgiven.

You may be shocked to know that 62 people have not renewed. For some, the causes may be understandable, such as imprisonment or commitment to other institutions. Some people have moved away, though we are pleased to see that most of these have chosen to maintain this link with the Gatineau. Others may have found that they cannot participate in many functions and find the *Newsletter* uninteresting. (It may not be good, but it's cheap.)

Immodesty tempts us to believe that a main cause of non-renewal is simple human failure: we put off and forget. It is partly with this in mind that we have been developing a plan to organize our membership a little better.

Membership chairman David Morisset has divided the world into 29 zones, and numerically identified the geographical location of every member. This is being entered in our computerized list of members as volunteer time permits. The next stage, before the end of the year, will be to ask one person in each zone to act as a co-ordinator to keep annually in touch with the few

people in their zone. Co-ordinators could see if anyone is being discouraged from participating in Society activities through lack of transportation, and ensure that everyone has a reminder of membership when due.

This would be an added form of membership participation and service.

### **TOUR DE FORCE**

In every respect, the second historical tour, on May 9, was a tremendous success.

Although over-subscribed, Eddy's Graham Greig kindly allowed the 25 person limit to be exceeded in the visit to the plant with its century-old machinery as well as contemporary operations. Mr. Greig's personal knowledge and enthusiasm for the history of papermaking made the tour outstanding.

The lunch at St. James Church provided a culinary success as well as a glimpse of more Hull history. Courtney Bond was present to talk about early lumbering and to autograph copies of "Hurling Down the Pine". Pat Evans gave complementary illumination on the Wrights and Hull. In the brilliant afternoon sunshine, the tour continued from the historic Parc des Portageurs to the roof observatory of the Place du Portage, with a visit inside the private grounds of "Fairview".

The final element of satisfaction was the recording of a small financial surplus which will be applied to the transportation costs of future tours. Number 3, moving upriver to the Chelsea area, is planned for October 3.

Once again the Society is grateful to Carol Martin for great organization and professional guiding, and to Pat Evans, Bob Martin and Pam McDougall who also gave time, energy and talents.

### **HONOURS AND AWARDS**

Thanks to the conscientious work of a small committee led by Katharine and Eric Fletcher, the Executive at last received a comprehensive plan for honours and awards which it unani-

mously and promptly approved.

The Society will offer its encouragement and help to Gatineau communities in the marking of historic buildings with plaques, a responsibility considered to rest more properly with municipalities than with the Society itself.

The Society will honour organizations and persons making outstanding contributions to historic preservation. The award will take the form of a handsome scroll.

Persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the work of the Society will be recognized by lifetime honorary memberships.

The first awards, two to organizations, and four honorary memberships, will be presented at the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary celebration on June 27.

## HERITAGE CANADA FOUNDATION

Over many meetings, the Executive has considered its annual membership in Heritage Canada. Eighteen months ago, although the Society shared dissatisfaction with many similar organizations, it was persuaded to renew by Charles Lynch, on the grounds that governors were aware of the problems and needed time to solve them.

The Executive continues to support the objectives of the Foundation and many of its programs. It has no criticism of the volume of information published on the Foundation's own activities.

The main problem has been the shift of emphasis away from a community-related national organization. The Foundation does not support local efforts to preserve historic landmarks or serve as a link to promote and strengthen the national grass-roots historic preservation movement. Our own Society has felt isolated, for the Foundation apparently delegated its Québec responsibility to a Québec organization which seems reluctant to recognize our existence, despite our oral and written overtures. Thus we have no representation in the councils of the Foundation, and our work is not

recognized in their annual presentations.

The last Annual Meeting of the Foundation received a comprehensive report on such problems, but little of the meeting was devoted to their discussion. The main response to the internal report was to propose hiring more staff, rather than to re-orient the interests of the Foundation to a position more closely related to the grass roots.

The Society, with no lack of goodwill, hopes that the Heritage Canada Foundation will again choose to work in close harmony with the ordinary people of Canada whose voluntary efforts are daily saving its history. At that time, the Society will no doubt be eagerly re-applying for membership.

## ON THE LAMA

In our last *Newsletter*, reporting on the Daly Building, we noted final success and the consequent retirement of the Daly Llama (sic).

We are indebted to erudite member Mike Nelles who succinctly points out that "a one-l llama is a priest, a two-l llama is a beast".

There we leave the matter, with members reaching their own conclusions on whether or not we were guilty of misspelling....

## AN INDEX

One of our long ambitions has been the creation of an index to all issues of *Up the Gatineau!* It will soon be a reality.

Work on it was begun last year by summer student Adrian Wilson who brought it up-to-date after the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary issue was published. At press time it is being keyed onto a Mac disk so that it can be kept up-to-date.

Members will be asked to consider this a draft index, for none of us has had the time needed for an exhaustive checking to ensure there are no omissions or inconsistencies. It should nevertheless be an invaluable tool for researchers and for anyone interested in the history of the Gatineau.

## IN A BIND

Another suppressed desire has been to own a binder for all those valued copies of *Up the Gatineau!* now spilling over our bookshelves. Help is in sight.

After patient negotiations, we hope that we may soon receive custom-made binders to hold twelve copies of the publication. Each issue is secured by a thin wire so that it is just as easy to read as— perhaps easier than— a bound copy. They will be in our corporate colours of green and grey, with appropriate lettering.

Not wishing to be burdened with a large inventory, we have been cautious in our order. In the circumstances, the price of \$10 per binder struck us as eminently reasonable. We hope to have them available for Auction day.

## TIME FOR AUCTION

The Prime Minister of Canada has already made his donation to the Annual Auction. Have you?

We are indebted to **Mr. Mulroney** for a warm expression of support and a personal tie to be auctioned for the cause. The Auction Committee under **David Castleman** has started its annual run-up to the big event on Saturday morning, August 15. That means an enormous amount of work, not only in the routine administrative arrangements but in the solicitation of articles from special donors.

Please help us by setting aside antiques and other collectibles now for the auction. Without a continuing supply of quality we lose our reputation and our financial foundation.

As in the past, you may choose to receive either half the proceeds of the sale, or an income tax receipt for the full value of the article given. We depend on you.

## CAREFUL: IT BYTES!

If members note some improvement in the presentation of the present *Newsletter*, they owe

appreciation to **Katharine and Eric Fletcher** who have welded their own experience, technology and artistry to the text.

For those interested in such things, after being keyed on Microsoft Word it is formatted with PageMaker, the camera-ready copy being made by a laser printer. The broadaxe logo was digitized and rendered with Illustrator – all done with an Apple Macintosh computer.

## DOWN ON THE FARM

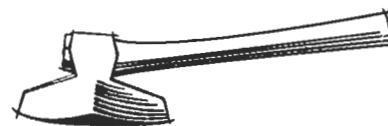
House Speaker **John Fraser** is not only a valued and distinguished member. He may well be our hero.

For years we have told anyone who would listen (and many who would not) that The Farm is part of the national heritage to which the public should have at least occasional access. We made no criticism of its use by The Speaker, but during his absences we thought that part of the public space should be open to viewing by us, the people to whom Mackenzie King bequeathed it.

Press reports indicate that Mr. Fraser agrees. "I feel very strongly that The Farm belongs to the public of Canada. It has been refurbished and restored at considerable expense with public money. I think that entitles the public to some access and some ongoing sense that it belongs to all the people."

We look forward to news of public tours. Meanwhile we offer our gratitude to Mr. Fraser for the clearest and wisest public statement ever made on the future of The Farm.

And that is a happy note to sound as we move into our Twenty-Fifth Anniversary celebration. See you on June 27.



R.A.J.P.