



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE GATINEAU

April 1988 NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting

Monday, April 18, 1988
8:00 p.m.
West Hull Community Centre

"Heraldry in Canada"
with
Terrance Manuel
Past-President, Canadian Heraldry Society

*Members are reminded about the
Social Half Hour which begins about
7:30 p.m.
Rene Nielson will bake for this occasion.*

Last Meeting

The March meeting of the Society was held on Monday, March 21, 1988 at the West Hull Community Centre.

Michael Newton, NCC Historian and author, spoke on the "Fur Trade in the Gatineau". The "standing room only" turn-out was an indication of the topic's interest.

Michael treated Society members to tales of wild adventurers marauding the Gatineau hills and woods in search of furs, secret trade routes and, sometimes, one another!

Jesse James had nothing on these guys. Shootouts, double-dealings, robbery and the selling of children were all part of their exotic lifestyle.

Michael Newton has only recently, and almost by accident, uncovered the incredible facts related to this little-known but important part of our local history. It was a particular honour for the Society to be treated to this unique and original historical research. We hope that, as Michael continues his work in this

area, he may be persuaded to share some of his new discoveries with us.

Search for History

Members will be pleased to learn that the Search for History Committee has come up with two very exciting publishing projects to be funded by the Society and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of the province of Québec.

The Society has agreed to provide an interest-free loan to **Katharine Fletcher** for the production costs of her book about the history and development of Gatineau Park. Publication of the book is timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the park.

The Society is also sponsoring some original research on the township of Hull up to 1891. The research, which will be undertaken by **Benôit Thériault** under the supervision of **Rolf Latté** and **Pierre Louis Lapointe**, will result in a publication-ready manuscript. This project ties in with similar research being done all across the province on a regional basis. The provincial government was so impressed by our proposal that they have, through the good offices of **Cornelieu Kirjan** (Direction régionale de l'Outouais), contributed \$5000 towards the \$7000 project costs!

Both of these very worthwhile projects will be completed by mid-summer.

The Wakefield Museum and Mill

The NCC, persuaded by the arguments of the Historical Society of the Gatineau, has finally agreed to open the Wakefield Grist Mill (1838) this summer.

Our proposal had four inter-dependent components that have all now fallen into place to make the opening possible. The NCC will open the building and contribute to the refurbishing of interpretive displays. Mr. Kirjan of the Québec Ministry of Cultural Affairs has agreed to pay **Andrew Geggie's** salary as

Manager. Andrew has accepted our job offer and the federal Summer Student Employment Program has agreed to fund two students whose primary duties will be to give guided tours and assist in promoting the Mill to community and youth groups, schools, camps, tourists, tour bus operators and seniors.

Andrew Geggie plans to open two more areas within the Mill and to offer tours to the public on the weekends and to groups by reservation during the week.

The Mill and Museum will be open officially from Canada Day to Labour Day and then on weekends until Thanksgiving. Do plan to take a tour this summer and bring your visitors to share our Gatineau heritage.

Friends of the Mill

Now that the Society will be managing the Wakefield Mill this summer, we want to form a support group called Friends of the Mill. The Friends would create a sense of community and support the Mill by promoting it through publicity, special events and fund-raising projects. Lots of potential there!

An organizing meeting for the Friends of the Mill will be held at a special meeting Monday, May 9 at 7:30 pm at the West Hull Community Centre. If you would like to become actively involved or are just curious, please come with your energy and ideas—and bring a friend. Non-members are welcome too.

Outaouais Alliance

The Outaouais Alliance has asked us to inform Society members of the Annual General Meeting of the Alliance to be held Tuesday, April 26, 1988. They are interested in broadening their membership base in the area. Anyone wishing to assist should contact Carol Pritchard-Murtagh at the Outaouais Alliance office for more information (777-0177).

Membership Renewals

Members are asked to check the front page of this newsletter for the dreaded RED MARK. This mark indicates that membership dues have not yet been paid. Please get that cheque in!

Almost Auction Time

The Society's Auction Committee is beginning the countdown to the 1988 event which will be held Saturday, August 13. The weather will not be a problem.

So, start scouring the attic and garage for items worthy of our flea market and auction.

For more information on how you can contribute items or even help with the organization of the auction, call the Society at 827-4432.

Historic Tour of the Wakefield Area

Our historic tours are moving up the Gatineau.

On Saturday, May 28, a tour of the Wakefield area begins and ends at the Maclaren Mill. It includes a walking tour of Wakefield Village with Norma and Stuart Geggie and a bus tour circuit taking in points of interest and exploring lesser known byways around Wakefield, Alcove, Lascelles and Rupert.

The entire tour includes bus fare and restaurant lunch for \$15.00 per person.

Details:

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Meet at Maclaren Mill, Mill Road, Wakefield. Pre-registration essential.

Maximum number 40

To make a registration, please call the HSG office and leave your name and telephone number. Our secretary Rae Moore will call you back. You may also register at the April meeting.

Aylmer Heritage Association

Spring Ball

Saturday, April 30

at the Country Club

Reception 6-7 p.m.

Buffet 7 p.m.

Walter Houlena Orchestra 9-1 a.m.

Tickets \$30.00 per person

For information call:

C. Greig 684-4825 or E. Wigle 684-8957

Period dress or Semi-formal