



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF THE GATINEAU

# July 1988 NEWSLETTER

The Historical Society of the  
Gatineau  
proudly announces its  
**26th Annual Auction  
and Flea Market**

will be held on  
**Saturday, August 13, 1988**  
at the West Hull Community  
Centre

(Rain or Shine!!!)

Viewing is at 8:30 am  
The Auction begins at 9:00 am  
Each year the Society's Annual  
Auction

features interesting and sometimes  
rare pieces of china, glass, silver,  
pictures, maps, books, household  
and farm tools, quilts, rugs, gifts  
from celebrities,  
antiques and fine art.

Members are encouraged to invite  
their friends, bring a picnic (or buy  
your lunch there) and do bring a  
lawn chair.

## Last Meeting

The Maclaren Mill was 29 years old when Canada was born. Never before had they celebrated their birthdays together. They did it in style this year.

Despite the competition of dozens of simultaneous events in the capital, a large crowd gathered at 1100 on July 1 to celebrate the two birthdays and the annual opening of the Mill and the Maclaren House. Before the festivities began, some honoured guests were recognized: West Hull Mayor **Judy Grant**; **Barry Moore, M.P.**;

**Cornelieu Kirjan** of the *Ministre des affaires culturelles du Québec*; **Aileen Merriam** of the NCC. Thanks were offered to the Secretary of State for an anniversary grant; and to **Hamilton Motors** for transporting the platform from Heritage Campus.

Before cutting the ribbon, LaPêche Mayor **Hervé Leblanc** got an ovation from the crowd for his announcement that his Council would next week be considering another grant for the maintenance of the museum. It took two hefty swings of the Society's symbolic broadaxe and a sharp pull to cut the fragile ribbon. How did our ancestors manage to cut wood with it?

Dr. **Stuart Geggie** gave a short summary of the Mill's first 150 years. Then **Adèle Robinette-Street's** magnificent cake, representing the facade of the Mill, was ceremoniously cut by sabrewielding **Ken Young**, the Mill's last manager and still its nearest neighbour. The cake was eaten to the lively fiddling of **Norbert Daly**, **Rodolphe Pétrin**, **Harry Fairburn**, **Paul Fydenchuk** and **John Geggie** on string bass.

The visitors-- more than half of them non-members attracted by the extensive publicity in the local newspapers, *The Citizen*, handbills and posters-- visited the Maclaren House after admiring the new Victorian garden across the front, planted by the Gatineau Valley Gardeners.

After the string concert, **Cliff Quince** led the square dancing on the road in front of the Mill. It perhaps lacked some of the clockwork perfection of the day's other arrangements, but the amusement value for the spectators was high.

The other big highlight was the bread-baking competition organized by **Shirley Shouldice** and **Yvonne Jurgens**. **Gay Cooke** not only chaired the jury, but gave an interesting commentary on bread-making to the multitude. Later she announced the prizes, before **Cliff Quince** auctioned off the loaves as a fundraising project for

the Wakefield Community Association. By then it was 1400 hours, and time to move on to the next excitement in Wakefield.

Co-president **Charles Landon** was in charge of the whole program, with vigorous assists from **Beth MacFie, Eric and Katharine Fletcher, Andrew Geggie, David Lewis, Tony German** and many others.

During the ceremonies — conducted in both official languages — it was remarked that this was a happy opportunity to thank both the Québec and Canadian government officials for their common support to the preservation of our heritage. It had not always been thus, but this co-operation among people of goodwill was a happy birthday present for all who are concerned with saving our history.

**RAJP**

### **Friends Indeed!!!**

The "Friends of the Historical Museum of the Gatineau" is one of the newest undertakings of the Historical Society of the Gatineau. As a special committee of the Society, the "Friends" support and promote the Museum by organizing community activities and by publicizing the Museum complex (the Wakefield Mill, the Maclaren House and Cemetery) as a major heritage and tourist attraction in the Municipality of LaPêche.

The "Friends" have planned an exciting series of events for this Fall and Society members, their friends and families are cordially invited to attend. The first event, a **Community Picnic and Concert**, organized in association with the Covered Bridge Committee and the Wakefield Community Association. It is scheduled for Saturday, August 27, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm on the lawn of the Maclaren House.

Bring your picnic, a chair, and enjoy! Light and Classical music will be performed by Rhapsodie. Desserts and Beverages will be available. A collection will be taken.

Other events include:

**Sunday, September 18, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
Renaissance Fair**

Meet Queen Elizabeth I and her courtiers as they

dance and make music. Enjoy fortune-telling, herb and garden exhibits, heraldry, and a "Mop Fair" — an Elizabethan labour exchange at the Maclaren House. Free.

**Saturday, October 1, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

**Historic Family Car Rally**

around the Gatineau.

**Sunday, October 2, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Scots Ceilidh**

featuring pipers, Highland and Scottish Country dancing, fiddlers, displays, and baking, all at the Maclaren House. Free.

### **In Review:**

**Bellamy's Mill Cookbook: A Collection of Authentic Flour Recipes from Upper Canada Village; by Phil Dunning and Christopher Porter. Recipe research by Gay Cook. The St. Lawrence Parks Commission: Morrisburg, Ont. 1988. \$3.95**

Starting with an absorbing account of pioneer flour milling and baking methods, this cookbook, with recipes researched and adapted to modern kitchens by Gay Cook (of Wakefield Mill Bread Contest fame), goes on to present some fascinating "receipts" from 19th Century cookbooks.

Gay Cook, obviously no stranger to baking from out-dated recipes, has rediscovered these well-tried settler's favourites, and has skillfully adapted them so that less skillful modern cooks may enjoy them today.

The text is clear and the authenticity is assured by the knowledgeable staff of Upper Canada Village. The experienced baker may even choose to try one of the recipes using the original, confusing and incomplete instructions from the early 1800s.

For the baker with an interest in history, Bellamy's Mill Cookbook, with its nutritious and enjoyable recipes, is a welcome library addition.

**Elaine MacKenzie**

### **Up the Gatineau '88:**

The 1988 edition of "Up the Gatineau" is now available for members to pickup at the Annual Auction or at the regular September meeting of the Society. For more information call 827-4432.