

HSOG  
10/24



# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1989

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## Purpose of the Society:

"...to promote matters of historical or heritage significance in the general area of the Gatineau Valley."

### OUR NEXT MEETING:

SEPTEMBER 18

7:30 P.M.

St. Elizabeth Hall  
Cantley

"Cantley's Past"

with

R.A.J. (Bob) Phillips

An interesting presentation among beautiful surroundings. Come early - St. Elizabeth Church will be open for visiting at 7:00.

The meeting will be open to all residents of Cantley, as part of their 100th anniversary celebrations.

### WINE & CHEESE FUND-RAISER, OCTOBER 4

Following the success of the Barn Dance, the Museum Committee is planning an event that we hope will be of interest to Society members and their guests. The event is a wine and cheese party in the Wakefield Mill on Wednesday, October 4, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Why Wednesday? Because the caucus meets that day and we hope to have some celebrity guests.

Whether or not we are successful with the politicians, this will be a fun event - if you are there. It will be good to see you all again and launch our fall season. Why not make up a group? There is merriment in numbers.

The party is a fund-raiser for the Mill and Museum. We/they need your support. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available from Executive members, the Mill, the Earle House Restaurant, and at the door. Please circle the date on your calendar and plan to attend.

- Ann Chudleigh

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PLEASE NOTE that, because of Thanksgiving, the October monthly meeting will be held on the fourth Monday, OCTOBER 23, instead of the regular third Monday. See the October Newsletter for further details.

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### SURVEY RESULTS

Forty-nine members returned questionnaires in our recent survey (including one person who telephoned in his response). The general tone of the replies was warm and approving.

We were pleased that 18 members who never attend our meetings took the trouble to respond. Another 14 attend once in a while, while 17 indicated that they attend half or more of the events. Those who cannot attend are more likely to be with us at the Auction Sale than at any other event, and enjoy the Newsletter, Annual Report, and Up the Gatineau!. We were particularly happy to learn about your interests via the questionnaire, since we seldom meet in person.

Those who attend the meetings made interesting suggestions for future content or speakers. Eighty percent of this group had also visited the Wakefield Mill and Maclaren House; about half have attended other Society events such as the Remembrance Day ceremony, special events, and historical tours.

The level of public policy activity by the Society is supported by 63%; the 20% who would like a more active role mentioned preservation of history and conservation of the environment as issues.

What do members like? Answers included the Society itself, participation, contact, and activity.

What will we do with the information gathered? We shall use the information in planning future activities, and shall provide a fuller report at our October meeting. Thanks, everyone!

- Carol Martin

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## ANNUAL AUCTION

At the invitation of the West Hull Municipality, our annual auction (a major fund-raiser for the Society) was held on October 26 at Chelsea School as part of the West Hull Festival.

As noted in an earlier edition of the Newsletter, Yvonne Jurgens volunteered to act as coordinator and we can now report what an excellent job she did. rarely have so many volunteers offered their help; it was highly gratifying to note that the spirit of service is still very much alive in the Society.

A special word of thanks to the following individuals and businesses in our area for their generous contributions on this occasion:

Tulip Valley Restaurant/Motel  
Les Trois Érables  
Restaurant L'Orée du Bois  
Barry Moore, M.P.  
Kingsway Park Golf & Ctry Club  
National Capital Commission  
George McDonald  
Earle House Restaurant  
Café L'Agaric  
Café die Alpengruss  
Continuing Educ., Heritage College  
Hon. John Fraser, P.C., M.P.  
Camp Fortune  
Restaurant Chelseas

Thanks also to Beverley Street of Smiths Falls, who once again kindly and willingly acted as auctioneer. After four hours on his feet non-stop, he was able to say with a smile that he would be happy to come again. Quite a performance!! While exact figures are not yet available, it appears that the profit from the event will be around \$2,900.

We wonder how many members of the Society can equal the long service

Mouisset

(and, of course, good conduct!) to the Society of Lydia Mouisset. For some twenty-seven years Lydia has actively supported the Auction. It was indeed good to see her there again this year. See you in 1990, Lydia!

- Charles Landon

#### OF DIGESTORS, DIGESTORS, & ARCHIVES

Members who have visited the new Canadian Museum of Civilization will have seen the old tower on the site. They may also have noticed the unorthodox spelling of the name of the "Digestor" Tower in recent Newsletters.

Our Past President, Bob Phillips, asked me about this spelling at a recent meeting. My response was that from someone or somewhere I had understood that the use of "Digestor" was an accurate anachronism - that is, the old tower carried that unique name from the time of its origin.

Nevertheless, I promised to verify the spelling. Here is what I have found.

I have in front of me a copy of a page from a 1908 Fire Insurance Plan in the custody of the Cartographic and Architectural Archives Division, National Archives of Canada. The plan gives great detail on the "Sulphite Fibre Mill" in "Yard No. 6, The E.B. Eddy Manuf'g Co." There, prominently displayed, is the "Digester House", the "Digester Tower", and all the other related buildings and fixtures, such as a mound of soft coal and a sulphur pile (these plans are, as I said, extremely detailed).

So there you are. My fabled

anachronism disappears in a wisp of smoke, faced with the archival evidence.

Perhaps I should have checked first. (Thanks, Bob.)

- Jay Atherton

#### A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

I joined your Society as I enjoyed reading the newsletters of my daughter. I am the Secretary of the Kingston Historical Society and am always looking for ideas to encourage greater participation by members - a feat at which your Society excels. What a talented and enthusiastic group of members you must have.

I wish you and all your members continued success in maintaining the Society and in your endeavours to save more of your (and everyone's) heritage.

There is a Russian proverb that says: "If you dwell on the past, you lose the sight of one eye. If you forget the past, you lose the sight of both."

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Burdsall  
Kingston, Ontario

The Historical Society of the Gatineau Newsletter is published monthly. Editor is Jay Atherton. Comments and/or contributions are welcomed and encouraged, either by telephone (827-1703) or by mail (R.R.3, Wakefield J0X 3G0).