



# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU LA SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE LA GATINEAU

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## Newsletter

January 1995

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### Coming Events

- January 16 **Phil Jenkins**, freelance writer (whose articles appear weekly in the *Citizen*), describing his project to record the history of a piece of property in the historic LeBreton Flats. 8:00 p.m., Chelsea Community Centre, Old Chelsea. (Refreshments at 7:30.)
- February 20 **Annual General Meeting**: presentation of awards, and election of officers for the next year. Featured speaker: Chad Gaffield, University of Ottawa, author of the official history of the Outaouais. Special refreshments available.
- March 20 Joint meeting with **Gatineau Valley Gardeners**. Speaker: **Anne Ginns**, "Garden Plants Used by Settlers of the Gatineau Valley." 8:00 p.m., Chelsea Community Centre.
- April 17 **Annual Banquet**. Larrimac Golf Club. Name of speaker and other details to appear in future newsletter.

### Notices

**Outaouais Alliance - New Executive Director**: The Outaouais Alliance has announced the appointment of a new Executive Director, **Dan McStravick** of Quyon. The Historical Society is a supporting member of the Alliance, whose vision is that of a "Healthy English-speaking community, a secure French-speaking community, a strong and united Canada." For information on the Outaouais Alliance and its activities, call Dan McStravick, (819) 777-0177.

The **Historical Society of Ottawa's** latest brochure (number 50 in their Pamphlet Series) concerns "Aylmer's British Hotel: its pivotal role in the development of the Ottawa Valley," by Richard Bégin. Anyone interested in reading this publication is invited to call Jay Atherton at 827-1703.

A friend of the Historical Society, **Ed Dahl** of the National Archives of Canada, has brought an interesting source of information to our attention. The City of Gatineau has undertaken a heritage study of all historic properties in their area. Members living on the east side of the Gatineau River, within the boundaries of Gatineau, who think they own a heritage property, can obtain a brief report by contacting the Direction de l'urbanisme at 243-2457.

<p><b>MEMBERSHIP EXPIRING?</b> Check the date on the address label. If it indicates that your membership is about to expire, please send a cheque to the address shown above. The fees remain \$15 for one year, \$25 for two.</p>
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### *Foreign Correspondence*

Excerpts from a letter from Ray McGrath, a long-time member of the Society now residing in Waterford, Ireland, to Gunda Lambton:

... I have such warm memories of my time in the Gatineau. I had a peace there which is elusive enough in Ireland. I don't mean political peace - that seems to be gaining momentum at last despite the fears there that the IRA will not be able to contain its more radical elements for much longer if there isn't more of a move from London - I'm talking about a peace that is rooted in the land and in the mind. Ireland is convulsive in its modernising. There is a ruthlessness about development which demands a response from thinking people. As Chairperson of the local Residents' Association I am right in the thick of things. So it's a welcome interlude to write these few lines and to think of a gentle world miles away.

Well, as you see, I am still doing tours. The program has expanded considerably over the past few years. I now offer Special Interest Tours for those who wish to combine a little walking with a particular interest. And the geographical scope has widened as well. ... This summer I did my first Normandy tour to coincide with D-Day. I will do this tour again in 96. Other special interest tours planned include A Ramble through French Impressionism. ... my clients are now in the 50+ group. The amount of walking varies according to the nature of the trip, and the accommodation is in houses of character and comfort. I would love to do a tour for the members of the Society. It would have a 'roots' dimension but not exclusively so.

[Ray McGrath's address is: 31 High Street, Waterford, Ireland.]

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