

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

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Newsletter

September 1995

FIRST MEETING / VISIT OF THE 1995/96 SEASON

To begin the Society's new season we shall be visiting the Hydro Québec **Farmer's Rapids Dam** and generating station situated on the east side of the Gatineau River about one kilometre north of the Alonzo Wright Bridge. This impressive facility was built in the late 1920s to provide electricity for the new pulp and paper mill in Gatineau. The dam created a reservoir that dramatically altered the shore of the river upstream, submerging a number of farms, cottages, roads, and the rail line on the west side of the river.

Our guide, Mme Lucie Séguin, will provide us with a tour of the recently renovated facility, which includes a visitor centre with information on the history of the site.

DATE AND TIME: Monday, September 18, 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Farmer's Rapids Power Station, east side of Gatineau River, 1 km north of Alonzo Wright Bridge

Coming Events

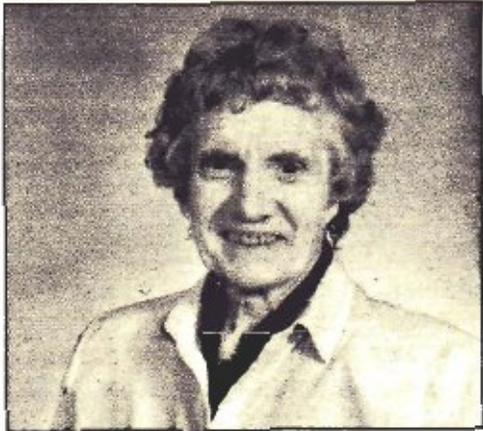
- October 16 History of St. Stephen's Church (Old Chelsea)
- November 11 Remembrance Day Ceremony, Pioneer Cemetery, Chelsea
- November 20 The Queen's Scarf
- January 15 Gatineau Valley Oral History
- February 19 Annual General Meeting: Recent archaeological discoveries at Lac Leamy Park

WHITHER THE WAKEFIELD MILL AND MACLAREN HOUSE? (2)

The Summer issue of the Newsletter informed readers that the NCC was negotiating with some Wakefield people concerning a possible commercial venture in the Mill and Maclaren House - something that would bring some revenue to the federal agency. The Society has now been informed that the Commission is determined to find a tenant for the property, and that in preparation for this eventuality it wishes us to remove all our possessions from both buildings by mid-October at the latest.

Stuart Geggie is leading the planning process for this action: finding suitable storage locations and alternatives for placement of the museum items. Volunteers will be called into action, likely early in October, to help with the move. If YOU would like to help, give Stuart (459-2393) or Jay (827-1703) a call.

A Tribute



Grace Reid 1918-1995

Amazing Grace

*Special to The Post
by Carol Martin*

The friends and relatives of Grace Reid lifted their voices in song at her memorial service on August 19, 1995, and for those packed into the chapel at Hulse, Playfair & McGarry, the title of the song epitomized the person. These friends and relatives were there to celebrate the life of Grace, and to mourn her death at the age of 77.

Grace came into the lives of Ottawa and Kirk's Ferry residents in the war years. Born in the tiny rail stop of Nicholson Siding, near Chapleau, Ontario, she was a tiny wisp of a thing at birth; just two and a half pounds (before the days of incubators for tiny babies!), a tiny body with big blue eyes, and a will to live and to love.

After the early death of both parents in the 1930s, Grace Laliberté (Liberty) came to Ottawa and worked for the federal government. There she met and married Cecil Norman Reid.

His career took them with the Army to Falconbridge, Ontario; care for his ageing parents (Ada and Charlie Reid) brought them back to Kirk's Ferry and the Ottawa area in the 1950s, when Grace worked at Murphy-Gamble's, later Simpson's, snack bar.

Grace worked all her life. One of her husband's friends nicknamed her "Tillie," for

"Tillie the toiler," prototype of the wartime working woman. Her energy, dedication and good humour were exemplary. She was my adored aunt (my mother was Dorothy Reid, sister of Cecil), my confidante and model. In my grandmother's kitchen she listened to me and encouraged me, and wrote to me in the winter when we were in the city. She gave me my own first personal cook book for my fifteenth birthday (the Purity Flour Cook Book, with 875 tested recipes) . . . and I made at least half of them.

Grace's world has been filled with friends. Her warmth and insight turned people from all walks of life into special people, because that is the way she saw us. In her 25 years at the snack bar, she not only made the best sandwiches, but she listened to and cared about the host of people who ate those sandwiches. She endeared herself to her family by marriage, as her nieces and nephews (myself included) can confirm. She had no children of her own, but her love and interest made us feel special and made her a favourite aunt among our relatives. She remembered our interests, and the stories we told her. She celebrated with us, and shared our concerns.

She loved to travel, and enjoyed seeing new places and learning about them. She kept journals of her trips, filled with graphic detail and observations about people and places, picturing & remembering places, people and events. Her view of life was integrated, realistic and positive. She faced death with courage and humour, dealing with "God's Plan" by visiting with friends and relatives and sharing special memories with them. Her terminal illness, ovarian cancer, was diagnosed in June, and her final weeks were spent at the Gatineau Memorial Hospital at Wakefield, Quebec. In this supportive and dedicated environment she lived out her final time, and enjoyed her last moments with friends.

Grace Reid was truly a special person. And all of those special persons whose lives she touched will miss her amazing grace.

*Carol Martin,
long time Kirk's Ferry resident and
editor of "Up The Gatineau"*

AUCTION SUCCESS THANKS TO HARD-WORKING VOLUNTEERS

The 1993 (33rd Annual) Antique Auction and Flea Market took place under sunny skies (as usual) on Saturday, August 19, at St. Stephen's Church in Old Chelsea. A highlight this year was our new auctioneer, "Hoss" of Hoss' Auction Services. As usual, St. Stephen,s Church supplied hot dogs, hamburgers, and cold drinks, and several volunteers staffed our coffee and muffins (bake sale) booth.

The total number of registered bidders, down slightly from last year, was 119. Total proceeds also were reduced from those of 1994. Details will appear in the next newsletter. Thanks go out to all involved in organizing this event, especially James Strate, overall auction coordinator, and Blake Watson, who organized the willing volunteers. A special pat on the back to the Banner Crew: Alex Mackenzie, Norm Larose, and Trudeau Fuels). And finally

THANKS! TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

Robert Bertrand, M.P.	Mayor Judy Grant (Chelsea)
Harky's Garage (Chelsea)	Larrimac Golf Club
Les Fougères Restaurant (Tenaga)	Moorside Tea Room (Kingsmere)
Gerry & Isobel's (Old Chelsea)	Dunnderosa Golf Club (Old Chelsea)
The West Quebec Post	Café Meech (Old Chelsea)
Épicerie M. & R. Food Centre (Old Chelsea)	Freshmart (Chelsea)
Boulangerie du Parc (Old Chelsea)	L'Agaric Restaurant (Old Chelsea)
The News	Les Délicatesses d' Old Chelsea
National Bank (Chelsea)	Épicerie générale du Parc (Old Chelsea)
Café Pot-au-Feu (Wakefield)	

WAKEFIELD / CHELSEA ARTISTS' STUDIO TOUR, 1993

The annual Artists in Their Environment Studio Tour will take place on the weekend of September 23/24 and September 30/October 1. This annual Tour is an event where artists open their studios to the public in the Chelsea/Wakefield area of West Quebec. Studio visiting hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

According to one of the planners of this year's tour, Rebeccca Mason, the event features "an eclectic group of talented and established craftspeople and artists [and] showcases the creative process at work with a rare and intimate view of the artist set against the autumn splendour of the Gatineau Hills."

Further information may be obtained from the nearest NCC Information Centre or by telephoning the Studio Tour Hotline at 827-4159.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Historical Society extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Robert & Elizabeth Newell, Calgary, Alberta

M. Liddiard, Chelsea Chris Wilson, Gloucester

Sue Hanley, Cantley Adrian Willison, Bearepaire, Qué

HAS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED? Check the date on the address label below. To ensure a continuation of your membership (and the receipt of your copy of *Up the Gatineau!*), send a cheque today. A one-year membership costs \$15; two years, \$25.
(THIS WILL BE THE LAST WARNING. EXPIRED MEMBERSHIPS WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE MAILING LIST AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER.)

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P.M.O. EVANS
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