

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

Box/C.P. 485, Chelsea (Qué) J0X 1N0  
(819)827-4432

## Newsletter

No. 98-4: August - September 1998

*"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." - George Santayana*

### **Coming Events**

Saturday, August 15

#### **ANNUAL AUCTION & FLEA MARKET**

St. Stephen's Church Grounds  
Old Chelsea, Québec  
9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Registration of Items for Auction:  
Friday, August 14, 2:00 - 9:00 pm

Viewing of Items: Saturday, 8:00 - 9:00 am

Auctioneer: **Hoss Bertrand**

Remember: there is no GST or PST charged on any items sold at the auction. Members wishing to offer items for sale should bring them to the Church grounds on Friday afternoon or evening, where auction items will be registered.

The Historical Society welcomes antiques that will entice buyers, as well as items for the flea market.

For items sold in the auction, the Society will issue receipts for income tax purposes (equivalent to the sale price). Alternatively, a donor may request fifty percent of the eventual sale price.

If you want help transporting items to the Church, call **Klaus Decker** at 827-2582. Overall coordinator of the auction is **Randolph Gherson** (827-0050).

If YOU would like to help with this year's auction, please give Randolph a call. We can always use extra hands at the flea market, the bake table, the silent auction booth, in registering goods, or in registering bidders.

Monday, September 21

Author **M. LAUREL BUCK**  
of Calgary and Danford Lake

Author of *Stream of Memory - Reflections of Megantic County* and to be launched in September:  
*Roots Beneath the Pavement.*

Topic: Transition of Irish Farm Families to the City

Chelsea Community Centre, Old Chelsea  
Refreshments: 7:30  
Speaker: 8:00

### **Wakefield Bridge Opening October 4**

Special Dignitaries  
Festivities

Watch for details in our next *Newsletter*.

### **Leamy Archaeological Dig Tours Set**

The National Capital Commission has extended an invitation to members of the Historical Society to participate in one of several archaeological dig tours at Leamy Lake this summer.

At the conjunction of three major historic waterways (Gatineau, Rideau, and Outaouais), Leamy Lake harbours a rich and diverse archaeological potential. Since 1993 digs in the park have yielded vestiges of nineteenth century settler dwellings as well as evidence of human presence prior to the arrival of European settlement. This year, head archaeologist Michel Laliberté will be directing excavations at a site that is believed to be 5,000 years old.

The NCC has invited all members of the Historical Society who are interested in history, prehistory, and the rich natural environment of the Gatineau to participate in a one-hour tour of this year's archaeological dig site. The tours will be offered Wednesday to Sunday from July 22 to August 30 at 9:00 and 10:30 am, 1:00, 2:30, and 4:00 pm in French; and 10:00 a.m., 1:30 pm, and 3:00 pm in English. There is parking at the site; no reservations are required for groups of less than twenty. The site is located at 80 boulevard Fournier in Hull.



### ***Heritage Ottawa Walking Tours***

**"Pound some pavement with us!"**

Heritage Ottawa is again sponsoring walking tours of downtown Ottawa. In an hour and a half, the built heritage of Ottawa will be revealed to you. Stroll through Ottawa's finest historic neighbourhoods of private homes and public buildings.

Price of each tour is \$8.00 for non-members and \$6.00 for members of Heritage Ottawa. Reservations are not required. All tours begin at **2:00 p.m.** Those scheduled for August and September are (departure points given in parentheses):

Aug. 16 - **Lowertown** (35 George St. in the Market)

Aug. 30 - **Rockcliffe Park** (junction of Lisgar Road and Rockcliffe Park Driveway)

Sept. 13 - **New Edinburgh** (62 John St. at Sussex)

Sept. 27 - **Victoria Island/Chaudière Falls** (The Navy Club, 150 Middle Street, east off Booth St., on Victoria Island)

For more information, call 230-8841.

### ***Fall Conference on British Isles Family History***

Ottawa City Hall, 11 Sussex Drive, Ottawa  
Friday to Sunday, September 18-20

**Keynote Speaker: Michael Gandy, BA, FSG of London England**

"From Your Immigrant Ancestors Back: The Realistic Possibilities"

Other lectures include: Mapping Continental Migration; Background to Non-Conformity; Scottish Migration; Researching Your Irish Ancestors.

Demonstrations on the Internet and the World Wide Web. Special series of lectures: a beginner's course in genealogy.

For information write to BIFHSGO (British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa), P.O. Box 38026, Ottawa, ON K2C 1N0, or telephone 224-9868 and leave a message, or contact Jim Heal at 828-9569, e-mail: [jaheal@aol.com](mailto:jaheal@aol.com)

## **From the Archives**

### Recent Acquisitions

The Society Archives is grateful to have received several interesting acquisitions:

- Records (minute books and financial records) of the various **Women's Institutes** of western Quebec, from the 1920s up to about 1992, from Helen Routliffe of Fort Coulonge;
- An autographed copy of the full text of **J. Edgar Boyle's *My Life and Times in the Bush***, privately printed ca. 1978 (an abbreviated version, edited by Dr. Stuart Geggie, comprised the entire text of the 1989 edition of *Up the Gatineau!*). Dr. Margaret Wade Labarge of Carleton University, to whom Edgar Boyle autographed this copy, presented the book to us;

- Twenty-four **photographs**, from the 1930s and on, concerning **summer activities in the Gatineau** (Larrimac Gold Club, annual regattas of the Gatineau River Yacht Club, and other leisure activities), presented by Harry Green (son of Anson Green), through the auspices of Anne Schwartz;
- Genealogies of the **Gordon** family of Cascades (presented by Mrs. Dorothy Hall) and the **Gibson** family of Rupert and area (from Robert Gibson Newell of Calgary, Alberta).

Thanks to everyone involved in these acquisitions!

### Volunteers

The Archives currently operates on Wednesday mornings, in the old Council chamber - beneath the Chelsea Library. Volunteers working regularly with the Archives are:

- Patrick Evans, "Archivist Emeritus,"
- Jay Atherton, Society Archivist,
- Anne Goodeve, responsible for the main manuscript/reference collection and genealogical research resources,
- Annette Brand, who looks after our picture collection (largely photographs),
- Joan Gherson, responsible for our collection of published primary and secondary sources, and
- Allan Richens, who researches and prepares exhibits for display in the Library.

Would you like to work with us? The Archives is looking for additional devoted, enthusiastic people with an interest in the history and heritage of our area – and available time – to help us look after the Archives and its holdings. Skills or enthusiasms that we have in mind particularly relate to:

- maintaining our **manuscript** and **reference** files;
- keeping our collection of secondary sources (**books, pamphlets, articles**, etc.) under control;
- describing and cataloguing our collection of **pictures** (largely photographs); and
- serving researchers and responding to written **genealogical inquiries**.

We would love to hear from anyone who thinks he or she might be interested in helping us with our interesting work. Give Jay Atherton a call at 827-1703.

## *Historical Society of Ottawa Celebrates 100th Anniversary*

*Part of an address given to the YMCA's Friday Luncheon on April 17, 1998, by Past President William MacKinnon, on the history of the Historical Society of Ottawa (reprinted from Historical Society of Ottawa News, May 1998).*

The Historical Society of Ottawa owes its origin to a number of historically-minded women. On June 3, 1898, Lady Edgar, wife of the Speaker of the House of Commons, invited thirty-one ladies to meet in her drawing room to consider the formation of the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Ottawa, which was to "collect, preserve, exhibit, and publish Canadian historical records and relics." This Society was formed in that year with Lady Edgar (Matilda Ridout) as President. She was the daughter of Thomas G. Ridout, a member of an Ontario Loyalist family. One other of the many prominent founding members was Mrs. Thomas Ahearn, wife of the President, of the Ottawa Electric Company.

The purpose of the Historical Society today is "To collect, preserve, exhibit and publish Canadian historical records and relics, especially those that illustrate the origin, growth and development of the City of Ottawa." Under these provisions the Society is responsible for a public museum, a research centre, lectures and publications.

The Ottawa Society is currently facing a potential crisis, in that it may have to vacate the Bytown Museum (the property of Parks Canada). We shall keep HSG members up to date on developments.

Our Archives regularly receives copies of the "Bytown Pamphlet Series" issued by the Historical Society of Ottawa. Its two most recent efforts might be of interest to members:

"Volunteering at the Bytown Museum, 1970-1991: Peggy Moffat Remembers" (No. 59), and

"Ninety-Four Years of *The Ottawa Journal*," by Matt Snyder (No. 60).



## Correspondence

May 1, 1998

To: Carol Martin and Historical Society members:

*Enclosed you will find the cheque for the balance owing on the generous loan you provided last year. It was thanks to your most generous assistance that Eric and I were able to publish the second edition of Historical Walks. We find it hard to express the depth of our thanks to the Society: the book has enjoyed considerable success and has launched my career as freelance writer. Without the Society's help we can tell you, it would have been a struggle.*

*So thank you, each and every one. It is through important—no, critical support such as this that our rich heritage can stay alive. We profoundly believe that here in the Outaouais we have a rich and exciting past.*

*It is our hope that the Society maintains this loan policy and helps others on our publication path. It enriches and empowers us all.*

Kind regards -

Katharine (& Eric) Fletcher

-o0o-

July 6/98

Mrs. Carol Martin

*Thank you for your work with the Historical Society of the Gatineau. I enjoy "Up the Gatineau!", especially the latest issue (vol. 24). The article written by Mary Holmes Burke entitled "Wilson's Corners" brought back memories of my great uncle Arthur Lough and his wife Annie Morris. As children we visited them around the year 1928. The mill pictured on the cover for vol. 24 was in operation. Aunt Annie's sister Mary and her brothers Matt, Joe, and John were kind to us.*

*The enclosed post card was found among my late mother's papers. Her name was Myrtle Lough. Her father, uncles, and brothers worked in the lumber trade for many years. If you wish, the card could be added to the Society's collection. ...*

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Russell (Ottawa)

## OGS LOOKING FOR SPEAKERS

The Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society has issued a "call for speakers" for the year 2000 seminar of the Society, to be held at the Ottawa Congress Centre in May, 2000.

The theme of the conference is that the year 2000 is a gateway in time, where the Society will be considering the past 250 years of the migrations of peoples into and out of Ontario.

There will be a total of 45 lectures. The Ottawa Branch is seeking speakers with the appropriate talent and knowledge. Responses and inquiries should be addressed to John Hay, Co-Chairman, by telephone (613-829-8007), E-Mail (bx419@freenet.carleton.ca), or at the following address:

Seminar 2000, Merivale Postal Outlet,  
P.O. Box 65087, Nepean, ON K2G 5Y3

Responses are requested by August 15 (but probably will be entertained later).

## Friends of National Archives Makes Plans for 1998

The fourth annual general meeting of the Friends of the National Archives of Canada was held on Wednesday, June 17, in the National Library and Archives Building in Ottawa. New President of the Friends is Jay Atherton, a former manager at the Archives and a former President of our Historical Society. Vice President is Dr. Chad Gaffield, Director of the Institute for Canadian Studies at the University of Ottawa. Treasurer is Marcel Lauzière, Advisor to the President of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Secretary is John Smart, Coordinator, Archives Technician Program, Algonquin College.

The purpose of the Friends is to support the work of the National Archives in its important work of preserving Canada's national historical heritage. Membership now stands at six hundred. Priorities for the next year include continuing to increase the membership, and commencement of a long-term fundraising program, through which meaningful support can be provided to the National Archives.

Membership in the Friends of the National Archives starts at \$30 per year for individuals (\$15 for youth or seniors). Members receive an informative newsletter several times a year, plus the opportunity to participate in special events. If interested, contact Jay Atherton at (819) 827-1703 - or through electronic mail at [james.atherton@sympatico.ca](mailto:james.atherton@sympatico.ca), or get in touch with the Office of the Friends of the National Archives at (613) 992-9367 ([friends-amis@archives.ca](mailto:friends-amis@archives.ca)).

### ***Artists in Their Environment 1998 Studio Tour***

Each year, when the Gatineau Hills are ablaze with the fall leaves, a select group of local artists and craftspeople put their own spin on local colour. For the last decade, a co-operative of the communities' artists has held the "Artists in Their Environment" studio tour during the last two weekends in September.

This year, 19 artists will open their private studios to allow the public to get a glimpse of the artistic process and creative lifestyles. The studio tour experience creates an informal surrounding for art lovers to talk with the artists, ask questions, see demonstrations by some of the craftspeople, purchase original pieces, or simply enjoy the art work.

The tour runs **Saturday and Sunday, September 19/20 and 26/27**, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A free studio tour map is available in many stores in Ottawa and the Outaouais. For more information, contact Roberta Walker (827-3104).



### ***History on the Square***

The Souvenir Booklet issued to delegates attending the recent "Capital Convention" of the Canadian Square & Round Dance Society, July 16-18, featured a number of articles on the history of the national capital area, walking and driving tours, and the like - contributed by local resident **Cliff Quince**. Well done!

### ***GRENVILLE HISTORICAL HOUSE TOUR September 26***

The Grenville County Historical Society has finalized its Historical House Tour, to be held on Saturday, September 26. The following houses will be open:

**McCauley Hotel** (1810), Highway 2, Johnstown. Furnished with antique English furniture.

**Alpheus Jones House** (1827), 320 Dibble Street W., Prescott. Built by Alpheus Jones, son of Ephraim Jones, the man appointed to take charge of supplies from Britain for the Loyalists in 1784.

**John Carruthers House** (1849), 554 Henry Street W., Prescott. Beautiful interior woodwork.

**Isaac Wiser Home**, 741 King Street W., Prescott. Built by one of brothers of well known distillery; now residence of Mrs. Jean Wadds, former M.P.

**Samuel Thomas House** (1825), Village of Maitland. One of the grandest homes in Maitland.

Visitors welcome anytime during the day.

#### **Wakefield Cemeteries**

8th Annual memorial Service  
Maclaren Cemetery  
Mill Road, Wakefield

2:30 p.m.  
Sunday, August 16

### ***Up the Gatineau! Searching for Authors***

Carol Martin has started work on the next edition of *Up the Gatineau!* Theme yet to be determined. Members who think they might have material suitable for our annual publication (reminiscences, short historical articles, etc.) are invited to contact Carol at 827-1633.

***Walter Cross's Cottage at Luster Lake***  
by Stan Cross

The following evocative poem, written by Stan Cross more than fifty years ago, expresses his memories of summers spent at the cottage built by Walter Cross on Luster Lake in 1937. According to Stan, "Luster Lake is located two miles due east of where Kirk docked his ferry on the east side of the Gatineau River to a point, thence 1 1/3 miles due North along the town line dividing the municipalities of Cantley and Templeton - or 2 3/4 miles due Northeast of the Charlie Reid store and post office at Kirk's Ferry."

Stan has informed us that, as an employee, he put the first batch of trout fry 1/2" to 3/4" long into the lake on July 1, 1940; two years later (on May 8, 1942), five were taken out. Each of the five was nineteen inches long and weighed 2 3/4 pounds.

If you care to take the trouble  
To read this little poem,  
You'll know of a place that's heaven,  
That to any man is home.  
And if you're feeling tired,  
And a rest you have to take,  
Just pack your little luggage bag  
And go to Luster Lake

To a cabin in the mountains  
With the peaceful frisky deer,  
Where can't be heard a hasty word  
Or a dreaded public sneer,  
A place where all are honest  
And where everyone is fair,  
Where the flowers blown around the door  
And their fragrance rent the air.

Where the sun is always shining  
On the Lustering Lustery Lake,  
Where the eager snout of a trout sticks out,  
An anxious fly to take;  
Where the trout are long and lanky  
And as hungry as can be,  
Where the only way you can bait a hook  
Is to hide behind a tree.

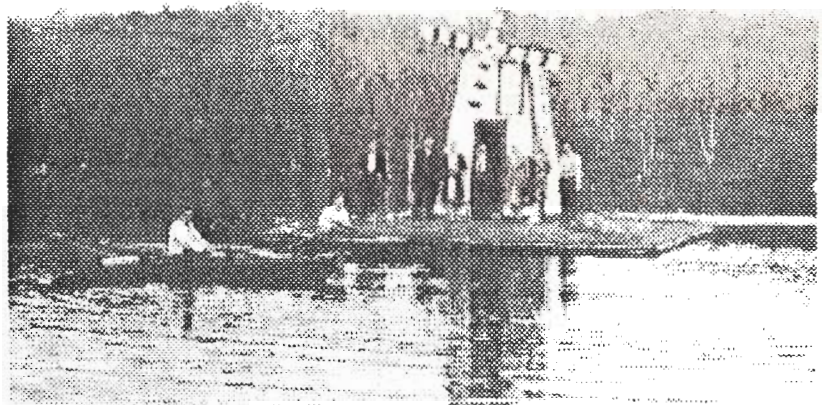
Where in the early morning  
In the haze bluish sky,  
I've watched and heard the honking  
Of the geese as they go by.

And it is not uncommon  
In the silent solitude,  
For a few to stay, in the glittering bay,  
And raise a lovely brood.

And out among the branches,  
The gay coloured singing birds  
Sing out their songs of leisure  
That are sweeter much than words.  
They sing from morn till even,  
Till the sun goes out of sight.  
And the notes so shrill from the whip-poor-will  
Is all can be heard at night.

I should say more about the cabin,  
How it's built of pine and spruce,  
And how over the door on the verandah,  
Is hung the head of a moose.  
But I know you'll see all these good things  
When you take a trip up there,  
To the lake that's in the mountains,  
Where everything's so fair.

And when you go to Luster Lake,  
You'll say as do the rest  
That it's a wondrous little home  
In a secluded little nest.  
Where the sun makes the sparkles  
On the lake so fresh and clear,  
And the wondrous songs of the singing birds  
Is the only thing you'll hear.



"A good place to fish, from inside floating island -  
Water 35' deep"

## ***The Sunset Dinner Train***

by Allan Richens

When someone first mentioned to me the idea of taking the dinner train to Wakefield, my reaction was "Geez... what's the point?" However, after receiving a gift of two tickets from my daughter Janet, we were booked to go on Friday, July 17, 6:30 p.m.

We were greeted at the station by a young member of the train staff, who recounted some steam-train history; we were able to reciprocate with stories of our experiences on the former CPR regular passenger service up the line to Wakefield and beyond. While we were waiting to board, who should appear but Cindy Milks and her husband Michel Boyer, then Jocelyn and Harky followed by Jocelyn's mother, Mrs. Isabelle. (Harky later informed me that this was his first trip ever on this line, and only his second time on a train!)

A flood of memories came to me as we entered the railway cars set for dinner. In the decade 1935-1945 my sister and I used to travel with my parents to our grandfather's home and farm at Ingersol, near London, Ontario; the biggest thrill for my sister and me always was the dining car meal.

Leaving the station in Hull at 6:30, the train proceeded up the line to Wakefield: our first trip on these rails in thirty-eight years - very nostalgic. Without exception, the staff were well-groomed, pleasant young people, who were very attentive to the passengers. Beverages of our choice were served, just as we crossed Freeman Road and started the climb up "Mile Hill," as the scenery gradually changed from urban to rural. The train travelled at a slow pace - which was alright with us.

The table was set as I remembered a dining car should be, with table cloths, silver ware, china plates, glassware, and as an added touch, flowers at every table. Up the Mile Hill we came, as the staff served us a crisp salad, with rolls and butter. We next passed behind some pleasant houses located on the property of the old Hendricks farm atop the hill, waving to people along the way.

Passing the Fleury Road, we were amazed at the housing now along this stretch—we were seeing the area from an entirely new perspective for the first time.

The salad plates were removed and the entrée presented soon thereafter. On this evening we had two choices: chicken, which Joyce had, and stuffed veal for me. (Both were delicious, and so nicely presented.) At this point we were passing the village of Chelsea, and the location of the original Chelsea Station (a siding still exists). Along the line we went, viewing houses tucked away along the tracks, waving to people all the while. Sometimes it seemed as if we were almost in their back yards.

At last we could glimpse the river—and what a wonderful sight it was! At this moment the musicians appeared, to play background music on classical guitar and violin as we ate our main course. Along we went, past Tenaga, Gleaneagle, the Yacht Club and the Kirk's Ferry areas, with more people waving along the tracks – even from the water. It seems everyone enjoys the train!

On this evening the river was spectacular, calm, mostly sunny, lovely cloud patterns, and even some light rain showers - producing not only a rainbow over Mont Cascades, but a million tiny circles on the calm river as we approached Farm Point.

We arrived in Wakefield at about 8:00 p.m., and could get out to stretch our legs and watch the engine being turned around on the turn-table. The return trip to Hull was every bit as enjoyable, on such a lovely evening during which we were served dessert and coffee or tea. The journey back was during dusk, with a whole new perspective along the river with lights and shadows. We could still see until we reached the Chelsea Dam. The musicians played some rollicking sing-along tunes for our enjoyment on the return to Hull.

All in all, a truly delightful experience, flooded with memories.

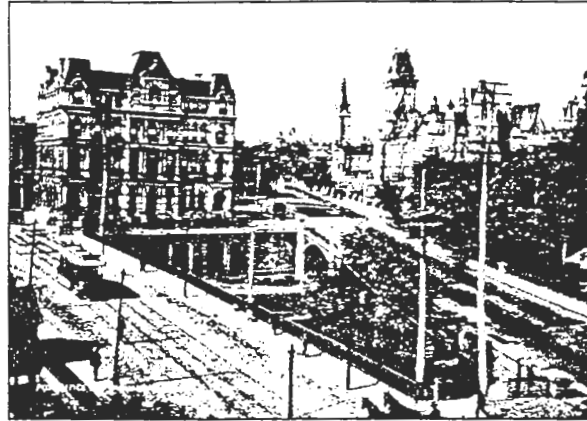
All Wakefield train buffs will want to view the exhibition of photographs and memorabilia concerning the CPR rail service up the Gatineau - at the Chelsea Library until the end of August. (Curator of the exhibit is Allan Richens.)

From *Heritage Ottawa*,  
Winter 1998:

## PLAZA BRIDGE PROJECT

by Gordon Cullingham

*It seems that work under the Plaza Bridge has been going on forever. The drive down to the Bytown Museum won't improve either, not for another two years. The work of restoring the structure to its 1912 appearance will be completed in time for that demanding bimillennial of 2000.*



The Dufferin and Sappers' Bridges, showing the old Post Office and part of the old Parliament Buildings, circa 1876.

The Plaza Bridge now just seems to be part of Confederation Square, with little sense that water is flowing underneath—not to mention the roadway. It had been changed in 1938 at the time of the construction of the War Memorial and the Post Office and considerably enlarged into its present broad expanse. This latest modification will pay more respect to Colonel By and his Engineers, Sappers & Miners, who built so well.

This point where the Rideau Canal creates the need for bridges has always been the heart of Ottawa. One of By's first undertakings in 1826, when he began his great canal project, was to erect the Sappers Bridge, a stone arch structure that thrived for eight-five years, and protested stoutly when its demolition was undertaken in 1912 to permit the beginning of the present bridge. It took days of dogged bashing from huge rocks dropped on it from above before it forsook its allegiance to those worthy Sappers. The Sappers Bridge, which connected Rideau Street to Sparks Street, had been joined in the 1870s by the Dufferin Bridge to its north, joining Rideau Street to Wellington Street. They formed a "Y," with the ornate old Post Office occupying the top of the "Y." As can be seen in the photograph of about 1876, Sparks Street is on the left, with Wellington and the old Parliament Buildings on the right.

Both bridges came down together in 1912, and the subsequent combined structure was called the Connaught Bridge for a while, but usage soon favored Plaza Bridge. That was a signal year in this part of Ottawa, for it also saw the opening of two fine Grand Trunk Railway edifices, the Railway Station and the Château Laurier Hotel.

Thirty-five years later work was underway to create the present arrangement, with the bridge integrated into the Confederation Square concept. Soon history will lurch again, the bridge will be reduced in size, changed in many ways, a main one being the construction of stairways down to the canal from near the present pedestrian crossing island at the east end. Other changes are planned by the heritage and history conscious designers at the National Capital Commission, the result of scrupulous archaeological investigation and study of earlier structures. Some remnants of the Sappers Bridge have been found and will be visible. Visitors by foot will be made welcome, and automobiles will be able to reach the Bytown Museum throughout and after the construction.

The work—called "Rehabilitation"—is being carried out by the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton in cooperation with the NCC. They should have it complete for New Year's Day, 2000. ☘