



The Historical Society of Ottawa News

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April 2006

President's Report

By Alan McLay

As I write this report, the first welcome signs of spring are appearing - the return of Canada geese, blackbirds and robins, the snow fast melting in the garden, and snowdrops and crocuses magically emerging after the long winter.

The Historical Society is privileged to have our new Governor General, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, as our patron. Please note the change in our masthead at the top of page 2 of our newsletter.

At our January meeting the Board of Directors approved some changes in the terms of reference for the Colonel John By Award for History at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa after consultation with representatives of the Department of History. The revised terms of reference are "A prize awarded annually to a student in a graduate or undergraduate history course who writes the best paper on a topic concerning the history of Ottawa or the Ottawa Valley." The changes bring the terms of reference into line with our policy of making an award annually to a student at both institutions and they widen the number of students who are eligible for the award.

In February the Board approved the deed of gift transferring ownership of 7,836 artifacts in our collection to the Bytown Museum. At the request of the Museum Board a clause was added giving the Museum two years "to verify the accuracy and completeness of the list of artifacts in the attached

Appendix."

Also in February the Board received CD copies of the five books from our Library that we had loaned to Archives CD Books Canada in the fall. We granted their request to borrow an additional five titles for making CD copies.

Members of the Historical Society will be pleased to know that the City Council unanimously approved the Museums Sustainability Plan, which provides long-term financial support for our local museums. At the Heritage Day celebration on February 20 Mayor Bob Chiarelli spoke strongly in support of maintaining our heritage in Ottawa. The Council approved the budget for 2006 that included an increase of \$720,000 in the operating budget for the museums, the first step in the four-year plan.

The Historical Society of Ottawa acknowledges with thanks a grant of \$900 from the Government of Ontario and a grant of \$3,000 from the City of Ottawa in 2006 in support of our awards and outreach programs.

I would like to express our thanks to Jean Palmer for arranging the special exhibition for members and guests of the Society at the National Gallery on March 10 and to Brian Oickle for his presentation on Jewish Art in Montreal.

George Toller once again provided a successful program of interesting and informative speakers on a variety of

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Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society of Ottawa will be held on Friday, May 26, 2006 at 2 p.m. in the Routhier Community Centre (172 Guigues St. at Cumberland Ave.). Election of the members of the Board of Directors for the 2006/2007 season will take place.

Nominations for Board positions are solicited and may be addressed to any Board member.

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The Historical Society of Ottawa

Patron: Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, C.C., C.M.M., C.O., M., C.D.
Governor General of Canada

The Historical Society of Ottawa was founded in 1898 (as the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Ottawa). Its objective is to increase public knowledge of the history of Ottawa by its publications, meetings, tours, outreach and participation in local heritage events and also by its co-operation with the Bytown Museum, a store of artifacts reflecting Ottawa's history from Bytown days and into the present century. Its headquarters is in the Bytown Museum, Colonel By's Commissariat Building, constructed of stone in 1827 and located at 1 Canal Lane by the Rideau Canal between the Château Laurier and Parliament Hill.

Board Of Directors

President: Alan McLay		730-2264
Vice President: George Toller		731-0112
Secretary/Treasurer:		
Patricia Hartney	<i>pat.hartney014@sympatico.ca</i>	523-6248
Membership: Don Baxter	<i>marydon@cyberus.ca</i>	745-3430
Don Carrington	<i>don.carrington@sympatico.ca</i>	733-8740
Joe Konst		749-4101
Clifford Scott	<i>d.scott3932@rogers.com</i>	731-3932
Herb Sills		225-4185

Committees

Awards	Clifford Scott, Mary Anne Dancey, George Toller
Collections	Don Carrington, Dorene Hirsch, Barbara Whitfield
Monthly Meetings	George Toller
Nominations	Joe Konst
Publications	Don Carrington
Tours Coordinator	Herb Sills
Telephone Committee	Barbara Whitfield, Pat Richardson

Newsletter Editor: Paul Reside *hso.news.editor@sympatico.ca* 825-3104

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Secretary, The Historical Society of Ottawa
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Ottawa, ON
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Society Email: hsottawa@storm.ca

Coming Events

Monday, April 3 -

Bytown Museum Open
(daily until May 20)
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 22 -

Ottawa Regional Historica Fair
Canadian Museum of
Civilization
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday April 28 -

Remembrance of Fallen Rideau
Canal Workers 1826-1832
Details page 5

Friday April 28 -

Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Valerie Knowles
"Capital Lives"
Routhier Community Centre
2 p.m.

Sunday May 21 -

Rideau Canal Official Opening.
10 a.m. - Details page 3

Friday May 26 -

Annual General Meeting
Routhier Community Centre
2 p.m.

Wednesday June 7

Spring Bus Tour Fort Coulonge
9 a.m.—6 p.m.

A note regarding Membership renewals - For regular members of the Ottawa Historical Society, your renewal date is shown on your address label on this newsletter. Please check it and see that you are up-to-date. If not, a renewal form is available for you to photocopy on the last page of this newsletter.

Editor's Note: Anyone wishing to receive the HSO Newsletter by e-mail may request it by sending your e-mail address to the editor at:
hso.news.editor@sympatico.ca

President's Report

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topics at our monthly meetings in the winter and spring months. Our thanks to Ruth Toller and all the women who helped in providing refreshments for our meetings.

The Board is still looking for a volunteer to work in the Library at the Bytown Museum keeping our records up to date and cataloguing new entries.

All members of the Historical Society are invited to attend our Annual General Meeting on Friday May 26 2006 at the Routhier Community Centre at 2 p.m. Copies of the Annual Report for 2005 will be mailed out to all members in advance of the meeting.

A Long Tradition

By Alan McLay

The Historical Society of Ottawa is pleased to announce that our new General Governor, Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, has graciously accepted our invitation to be our patron for the duration of her term of office. Her consent continues a long and proud tradition of vice-regal patronage since the founding of the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Ottawa in 1898. Until 1952 the wife of each Governor General served as patroness of the Society. Since 1952 the current Governor General in person has accepted the position of patron.

Jewish Art in Montreal

By Alan McLay

On Friday March 10 eighteen members and guests of the Historical Society of Ottawa attended a special presentation by Brian Oickle on "The History and Social Conditions of Jewish Art in Montreal" in the Prints and Drawings section of the National Gallery of Canada. A docent and guide at the Gal-

lery, Brian gave us a historical overview of Jewish immigration to the New World from 1492 to the wave of immigrants from Eastern Europe from 1880 to 1910. He explained the social conditions that affected artists in the 1930s: the poverty of the Depression, the rise of anti-Semitism in Canada, especially in Quebec, and the growth of Nazism in Europe. Artists were very poor and they used whatever materials, such as newsprint, that were available. Pen-and-ink drawings and prints were much cheaper to make than oil paintings and could be sold more easily. For their bread-and-butter income they sketched popular tourist sites in Montreal. They often used beggars on the streets as models, paying them with food or a few coins. Brian illustrated his remarks with prints and drawings by Ernst Neumann, one of Canada's most important printmakers, Harry Mayerovitch, Moe Reinblatt, Louis Muhlstok, Ghitta Caiserman-Roth, and others. Alan McLay thanked Brian for a most lively and informative introduction to the work of these artists.

Spring 2006 at the Bytown Museum

By Steve Dezort

Museum Hours

The Museum will be open for the season on April 3rd.

Our hours are:
10am – 2pm, Mon. – Fri.,
April 3rd – May 20th

10am – 5pm, 7 days a week
May 20th – October 9th

10am – 2pm, Mon. – Fri.
October 9th – November 30th

Assassination on Sparks Street: The Lives of D'Arcy McGee and Patrick Whelan

This exhibit will showcase the lives of Father of Confederation Thomas

D'Arcy McGee and his convicted assassin, Patrick James Whelan. Through artifacts and interpretation, you will see the lives of the two men before April 7th, 1868. You will be able to trace the events leading up to that night which resulted in both of their deaths.



Thomas D'Arcy McGee in 1868

Many lament what could have been had the talented McGee lived out his natural life. Many also lament what they consider the hanging of an innocent man for McGee's murder. Decide for yourself at the Bytown Museum. **April 20th – November 30th.**

Official Opening of the Rideau Canal - May 21st – 10 a.m.

Please join Lieutenant Colonel John By, RE and guests at the Ottawa locks for the official opening of the 174th season of navigation on the Rideau Canal. The Colonel, members of his staff, the ordnance department, and garrison will be on hand to celebrate the day with flair. The action includes costumed historical animation, blacksmithing and 1830s canal operations.

Monthly Meeting Highlights

By George Toller

HSO Jan. 27 Speaker Peter Hessel "The Mystery of Frankenburg's Canadian Airman." - his new book on the tragic murder of a Canadian in the closing days of World War 2.



Peter Hessel with Jean McNiven on January 27th Mr. Hessel spoke about "The Mystery of Frankenburg's Canadian Airman"

The author went into a detailed description of his intense search and successful discovery of the covered-over plot by the German authorities.



Alistair Fraser and Hugh Reekie at Mr. Reekie's talk about "The Historic Lower Ottawa River" on February 28th

HSO Feb. 24 Speaker Hugh Reekie, longtime member and past Director. Hugh gave an account of "The Historic Lower Ottawa River Valley."

He traced the important heritage of both the English and French colonists and the rise in the shipping, railway and timber trade. With the aid of an overhead projector he outlined this history of 200 years ago.

HISTORICA HERITAGE FAIR

By Cliff Scott

On Saturday, April 22, 2006 the 4th Annual Heritage Fair will be held in the Grand Hall of the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Over 130 projects representing all Ottawa School Boards, some 17 schools from all parts of the city will be on display. All members of the Society are cordially

invited to attend. The Fair opens at 10 a.m. and awards are due to be presented at 3 p.m. Principal among these awards is the City Cup presented to the best local history project by the City of Ottawa. This Cup is accompanied by a cash award of \$150.00 by our Society, which has been a strong supporter of the Fair's concept since its inception. Students from ages 9-15 who are our members of the future are really appreciative of visitors who share their interest in all aspects of Canadian history and heritage.

Students all across Canada will be attending Regional Fairs from late April until the first week in May. Ontario sponsors a provincial Fair in late May and there will be a National Fair in Halifax in July. Local students will be selected to attend these fairs at our Regional Fair on April 22. All travel and living expenses to those Fairs are paid by the Historica Foundation, which sponsors

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Treasurer's Report to March 31, 2006

Source	Revenue
Memberships	\$1575.00
Donations	480.00
Pamphlets	45.00
Grants	<u>3900.00</u>
Total	6000.00

Expense	Paid Out
Newsletter	\$400.00
Telephone	340.00 (Paid to June 30 th)
Diefenbunker rent	647.34 (Paid to June 30 th)
Honoraria	200.00
Membership dues	112.10
Post box	58.85
Use of photocopier	20.00
Bank charges	<u>9.01</u>
Total	1787.30

Net Income \$4212.11

Bank balance \$22,927.89

Historica Heritage Fairs

Continued from page 4

many means of increasing knowledge and interest in Canadian history. Fairs give students the opportunity to meet others with similar interests and to show the results of their research and design work to others from a larger community. At the Fair, students attend workshops on different aspects of heritage and are eligible for prizes from a variety of sponsors such as CN, Hudson's Bay Company, the City, Genealogical societies, Military buffs, the Trillium foundation and societies like out own. Come out and support the students! The Fair is well worth a visit. Parking is free in Gatineau on Saturday!

Publications

By Don Baxter

We have started to republish issues of the Historical Society's Booklets that are in short supply, or non-existent, so that we may continue selling them through the boutique in the Bytown Museum. This is a bit expensive.

A suggestion has been made that maybe there are copies, **in good condition**, in member's libraries that could be recycled for sale. Would you be good enough to look through your library to see whether you have any booklets you no longer require, and which you could return to the Society for re-sale. If you do, please bring them to the museum with the message that they are to be re-sold through the boutique

Bus Tours

By Herb Sills

Our fall tour took place on October 5, 2005. In it we explored the Opeongo Road. Through Arnprior we followed County road 1 to Castleford where a plaque describes the route of the road. We skirted Renfrew and followed highway 60 to Eganville where we had lunch at the Granary restaurant. After lunch we continued on highway 60 through

Upcoming event:
Remembrance of Fallen Rideau Canal Workers 1826-1832.
Friday April 28

7.00 pm - Wreath Laying at Celtic Cross Memorial.
 At the Rideau Canal Locks across from the Bytown Museum.

8.00 pm - Film and Concert.
 Ottawa Public Library Auditorium, 120 Metcalfe St.
 (\$10 benefit for Ottawa/District Injured Workers Group).

Louis Lang (CUPW) - Eulogy
 Ms. Holly Doan (Producer CPAC)
 CPAC Documentary - John By, Hero Without Honour - The Story of the Rideau Canal
 Music, Poems, Songs

Sponsors: Canal Workers Commemorative Group, Ottawa May-works.
 More Info: 839-1953, 726-7583.

Wilno to Barrys Bay.

Picking up the Opeongo Line again we went through Combermere, Rockingham, Brudenell to Foymount (the highest inhabited place in Ontario) where we stopped for tea. Continuing on the Line we passed through Clontarf, Esmonde, Dacre and Shamrock to Renfrew.

We were fortunate to have Alan Rayburn on the tour. He had explored this area as part of his university studies.

The Spring Tour - June 7, 2006

Departing from St. Richard's parking lot at 8.45 a.m. with a second pickup at Lansdowne Park we are going to travel up the Quebec side of the Ottawa river through Gatineau, Luskville, Breckenridge, Quyon, Pontiac County, Shawville to Fort Coulonge. Here we will have lunch at Terrasse du Vieux Pont opposite the red covered bridge. We plan on visiting the heritage museum which was the former manor house of George Bryson, Sr., built in 1840. We also want to visit the Lumbermen Museum near the

Coulonge Waterfall. Below the waterfall there is a 3000 foot canyon through which the Coulonge River flows. We may also have an opportunity to visit the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

Plans are to return to Ottawa by 6 p.m. If interested, please call Herb Sills at 225-4185 after May 4.



The Historical Society of Ottawa gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the City of Ottawa and the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Ontario.



Membership Renewal Form

The Historical Society of Ottawa

Date _____ Renewal/New _____ No. Members _____

Name _____

Name (for mailing) _____

Address Unchanged (Show Changes Below)

Street _____

Postal Code _____ Phone (res) _____ Phone (work) _____ E-mail Address _____

Interest (Activities?) _____ (Volunteer?) _____

Membership fees

- Single \$35/year
- Student \$10/year
- Family \$50/year
- Single Life \$350

Payment

- Membership \$ _____
- Donation \$ _____
- Total** \$ _____

Receipts will be issued for both membership and donation

Please complete this form and mail it with a cheque, made payable to **The Historical Society of Ottawa**, to:
Membership, The Historical Society of Ottawa
P.O. Box 523, Station B.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5P6