



# The Historical Society of Ottawa News

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April 2007

## President's Report

By Alan McLay

Celebrations have already begun for the 175th Anniversary of the opening of the Rideau Canal in 1832. The first lecture in the series arranged by the Merrickville and District Historical Society was held on March 18 to a large and appreciative audience. Many other events are scheduled in the months ahead along the route of the Canal from Ottawa to Kingston. More information is provided in this newsletter.

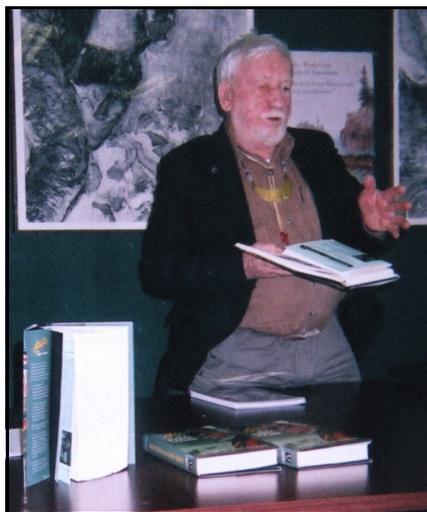
We are very grateful to John Reeder for responding so promptly to our appeal in our last newsletter for a volunteer to serve as the webmaster of our new web site. Dave Mullington has been our liaison between the Board of directors and Mr. Reeder.

At our meeting in February the Board agreed to confer honorary memberships in the Historical Society of Ottawa on John Reeder and Paul Reside as long as they continue in their present capacity. The Board also approved a certificate of honorary membership for one year to be given to the speakers at our monthly meetings.

The final budget for 2007 was approved by the Board in February. In March the Historical Society received its annual grant of \$3,000 from the City of Ottawa. We are grateful that the City Council has continued its support for heritage organizations, both operating grants and capital spending, in accordance with the Museums Sustainability Program.

In his report on our Library, which was submitted to the Board in December, Richard Sturges, our summer student in 2006, identified 200 textbooks in the collection as not relevant to the study of the history of Ottawa and the

Valley. At our meeting in March the Board agreed with this assessment. We plan to offer these books to schools, libraries or colleges of education in Eastern Ontario that might provide a new home for them.



*Hugh MacMillan Talks about his book Adventures of a Paper Sleuth at the February 23 monthly meeting*

George Toller has organized an interesting and varied program of excellent speakers for our monthly meetings in the winter and spring months. The meetings have been well attended. Our thanks to members of the Telephone Committee for keeping all our members informed of

these events. Thanks also to the ladies who have provided refreshments each month.

A special word of thanks to Jean Palmer for inviting members of the Historical Society to attend a special exhibition at the National Gallery on April 3. This is the fourth year that Jean has arranged a visit to the Gallery to view a selection of the prints and drawings in the Gallery's collection. It has been a rare privilege.

George Neville, our tour coordinator, has arranged an exciting spring bus tour to three museums in Smiths Falls on Thursday, June 7, 2007. See the article for more information.

Members of the Historical Society are encouraged to attend the Ottawa Regional Historica Fair at the War Museum on Wednesday, April 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The theme of this year's fair is the 175th Anniversary of the Rideau Canal. On Friday, May 14, the Provincial Historica Fair will meet in Ottawa at the National Library and Archives Building. The Board of Directors has agreed to donate \$200 towards providing refreshments for the 100 student participants and their counsellors.

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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

<b>President: Alan McLay</b>		<b>613-730-2264</b>
<b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b>		
<b>Patricia Hartney</b>	<i>pat.hartney014@sympatico.ca</i>	<b>613-523-6248</b>
<b>Membership: Don Baxter</b>	<i>marydon@cyberus.ca</i>	<b>613-745-3430</b>
<b>Don Carrington</b>	<i>don.carrington@sympatico.ca</i>	<b>613-733-8740</b>
<b>Dave Mullington</b>	<i>dmullington@rogers.com</i>	<b>613-829-8430</b>
<b>George Neville</b>	<i>george-neville@ncf.ca</i>	<b>613-749-4101</b>
<b>Clifford Scott</b>	<i>d.scott3932@rogers.com</i>	<b>613-731-3932</b>
<b>Herb Sills</b>		<b>613-225-4185</b>
<b>George Toller</b>	<i>ruth@cyberus.ca</i>	<b>613-731-0112</b>
<b>Barbara Whitfield</b>	<i>pthosteo@rogers.com</i>	<b>613-722-2209</b>

## Committees

<b>Awards</b>	<b>Clifford Scott, Mary Anne Dancey, George Toller</b>
<b>Collections</b>	<b>Don Carrington, Dorene Hirsch, Barbara Whitfield</b>
<b>Monthly Meetings</b>	<b>George Toller</b>
<b>Nominations</b>	
<b>Publications</b>	<b>Don Carrington</b>
<b>Tours Coordinators</b>	<b>George Neville, Robert Grainger</b>
<b>Telephone Committee</b>	<b>Barbara Whitfield, Pat Richardson</b>

**Newsletter Editor: Paul Reside**-*hso.news.editor@sympatico.ca*-**613-825-3104**

**All correspondence should be addressed to:**

**The Secretary, The Historical Society of Ottawa**  
P.O. Box 523, Station "B"  
Ottawa, ON  
K1P 5P6  
**Society Email: [hsottawa@storm.ca](mailto:hsottawa@storm.ca)**

**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.

## Coming Events

### Monday, April 2

Bytown Museum Open  
Monday to Friday  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (until May 18)

### Tuesday, April 3

National Gallery Visit  
"Artists Out West"  
12:45 p.m.  
Curatorial Wing Entrance

### Wednesday, April 4

Ottawa Regional Historica Fair  
Canadian War Museum  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Friday, April 27

Monthly Meeting  
Speaker: Gordon Cullingham  
Routhier Community Centre  
Cumberland Ave. at Guigues St.  
2 p.m.

### Friday, May 18

Bytown Museum Open House  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Provincial Historica Fair

National Library and  
Archives Building  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Friday, May 25

Annual General Meeting  
Speaker: Paul Henry, City of  
Ottawa Archives  
Routhier Community Centre  
Cumberland Ave. at Guigues St.  
2 p.m.

### Thursday, June 7

Spring Bus Tour  
Rideau Canal Museum  
Smith Falls  
8:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## President's Report

*Continued from Page 1*

All our members are invited to attend our Annual General Meeting on Friday, May 25, at 2 p.m. in the Routhier Community Centre. Our guest speaker will be Paul Henry of the City of Ottawa Archives, who will talk about The importance of keeping archival records. Copies of the Annual Report for 2006 will be mailed to all our members before the meeting.

## Spring 2007 at the Bytown Museum

*By Steve Dozort*

### Update on the Save the Flag Campaign

Jason Kenney, PC, MP, the Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity, has secured from the Department of Canadian Heritage the remaining funds needed by Ottawa's Bytown Museum to restore and display the National Flag saved from the 1916 fire that destroyed the original Centre Block of Parliament.

"I am delighted that this national treasure is being preserved for future generations," said Secretary of State Kenney. "The National Flag of 1916 is an important symbol, and the Bytown Museum is to be commended for their leadership in preserving it."

The Department's contribution of up to \$2,000 will be used to build and install a display case for the flag, which will be on display by May 18, International Museums Day, as the centrepiece in an exhibition on the 1916 fire. The exhibition will be launched along with eight other new permanent exhibitions as part of the Bytown Museum's 90th anniversary celebrations.

In addition to the Department of Canadian Heritage's contribution, almost \$5,000 was raised for the Save The Flag campaign. Members of Parliament

donated \$1,780, Senators contributed \$1,240 and members of the public donated \$1,920. The Bytown Museum mounted the Save The Flag fundraising campaign in November of last year, asking parliamentarians to donate \$20 each to save this important artifact.

### Museum Opening For Season April 2<sup>nd</sup>

The Bytown Museum will be open for the season as of April 2nd, 2007. Our early season hours are Mon. - Fri. 10am - 2pm. We are open longer hours as of May 18th. Visit [www.bytownmuseum.com/info.html](http://www.bytownmuseum.com/info.html) for our full season hours and rates of admission.

For 2007 we are offering all new exhibits in our completely renewed Museum! For details on the renewal and renewal process please visit <http://bytownblog.zeroonedesign.com/>

Please note: some exhibits will still be under construction until May 18th.

\*Please note: The Bytown Museum will be closed Good Friday, April 6th and Easter Monday, April 9th.

### Friday May 18th, 2007

Bytown Museum Open House

On May 18th in honour of International Museums Day the Bytown Museum will be open free to the public. All of the exhibits in the museum have been updated for our 90th anniversary and the 175th anniversary of the Rideau Canal.

Cost: FREE

Time: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Merrickville and District Historical Society Lecture Series

The first of nine lectures celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the opening of the Rideau Canal was held on Sunday, March 18, at 2 p.m. in the Merrickville United Church. Professor Brian Osborne introduced the series with a broad and comprehensive over-

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of The Historical Society of will be held on Friday, May 25, 2007, at 2p.m. in the Routhier Community Centre (172 Guigues St. at Cumberland Ave.).

The election of the members of the Board of Directors will take place.

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

view of the planning, construction, and later development of the Rideau Canal system. He concluded with some concerns about the ecological impact of an increase in tourism in the future. About 450 persons attended the lecture. Light refreshments were served afterwards.

The next lectures in the series include:

April 15

THE RIDEAU ROUTE

by Ken Watson

A view of the landscape of the pre-Canal waterway.

May 2

THE WAR OF 1812

by Victor Suthren

The war, the troubled peace, the decision to build the canal.

June 17

BUILDING THE CANAL

by Mark Andrews

Col. By's innovative adaptations of European techniques to wilderness construction.

All lectures will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoon in Merrickville United Church. Admission is \$25 for the series or \$5 for each lecture.

For more information on the series, contact The Merrickville and District Historical Society, P0 Box 294, Merrickville, Ontario, K0G 1N0

email: [info@merrickvillehistory.ca](mailto:info@merrickvillehistory.ca)

web site: [www.merrickvillehistory.ca](http://www.merrickvillehistory.ca)

## COME, COME, COME TO THE FAIR!

Just a reminder that all members of the Historical Society are cordially invited to come to both the Ottawa Regional Historica Fair on April 4, at the Canadian War Museum and also the Ontario Provincial Fair on May 18 at the National Library and Archives. The Fair organizing committee thanks the HSO sincerely for their continued financial support!

The Regional Fair will feature some 162 exhibits from more than twenty local schools from all school boards. Prizes will be awarded for outstanding projects. The opening ceremonies are at 10 a.m. and awards will be made at 3 p.m.

One of the awards is for the best local history project. A cup is presented by the City and our Society adds a cash award of \$150 for the successful student. Other awards include medals for Senator Laurier Lapierre, the Trillium Foundation and the Royal Bank of Canada.

On May 18, 100 projects from all across the Province will be featured. Students and counsellors will be in Ottawa from May 16-20 and will visit many local museums and heritage sites.

A Ghost Walk for participants will be featured on the Saturday evening, thanks to Glen Shackleton

This Fair provides an opportunity to encourage students from 9-15 to take an interest in Canada's history. Let's show them that encouragement by visiting their Fairs!

## National Gallery Visit

Jean Palmer has again invited members of the Historical Society of Ottawa to attend a special exhibition in the Prints and Drawings Department of the National Gallery of Canada. It will be held on Tuesday, April 3. The subject of the exhibition is "Artists Out West," a selection from the wonderful collection of watercolours, prints and drawings in the Gallery. Thirty members have signed up for this special event.

## Obituary – Lloyd Francis

*By Herb Sills*

Lloyd Francis died January 20, 2007, at the age of 87. He was born in Ottawa and was educated in Ottawa and Toronto. He earned a doctorate in labour economics at the University of Wisconsin. He began a career in the public service but left it when he was elected to Ottawa City Council in 1958. He became deputy mayor under mayor Charlotte Whitten. That was when his hair turned white in arguments with Charlotte. He then decided to run for Parliament in Ottawa West, beginning in 1962. He was not successful in every election, but he became deputy speaker and eventually speaker in 1983 and 1984. Following that he was appointed Ambassador to Portugal. He returned to Ottawa in 1987.

As an Ottawa boy Lloyd was always interested in Ottawa's history and in 1988 he joined The Historical Society of Ottawa and accepted the appointment of vice-president, and in 1990 he became president. At that time we were looking for a warehouse to store our artifacts and he was able to negotiate storage space for us.



On May 16, 1990 Lloyd arranged for Governor General Ray Hnatyshyn to preside at the official opening of the Bytown Museum for the new season.

He and his wife Mary always took part in our meetings and activities. They went on the week's tour to south-east England in 1997 when we put up a plaque on the wall of St. Thomas Hospital in London in memory of Lt-Col. John By, R.E.

Members of the Historical Society of Ottawa are invited to submit letters, stories or short articles on subjects of historical interest for publication in our newsletter. The deadline for the next issue will be May 26, 2007. Please send entries by mail to our editor:

Paul Reside  
c/o The Historical Society of Ottawa  
P.O. Box 523, Station B  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5P6  
or email to:  
hso.news.editor@sympatico.ca

## HSO Website

*By Dave Mullington*

The Historical Society of Ottawa's Internet website went online on February 8 of this year and already it

has attracted visitors from as far as Germany and Romania, as well as Canada and the United States. John

Reeder is our volunteer webmaster and has done a tremendous job, both creatively and physically, is setting up the site. It currently includes seven "pages," including a Welcome, our Home, Page, plus pages titled: About Us, News, Executive Contacts, Coming Events, Photo Gallery, and Web Sites of Interest. The address, or URL, for the site is: <http://hsottawa.ncf.ca/>.

The Home Page features three excellent photos of our patron, Governor General the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, and a side panel mentions that the society was founded in 1898 in an effort to publicize the history of Ottawa, and also notes that we hold monthly public meetings featuring talks of an historical nature.

The About Us page provides more details about what the society is and what it does.

The News page includes various items of interest to members and if you hold your mouse pointer over the word "News" you'll find that we have a number of recent newsletters online, thanks

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**HSO Website**

*Continued from Page 4*

to a joint effort of our newsletter editor, Paul Reside, and John Reeder.

The About Us page lists the society's board of directors, along with their phone numbers and email addresses.

The Coming Events page contains, obviously, details about upcoming events.

The Photo Gallery holds a number of photos of HSO activities plus a number of Ottawa scenes taken by John Reeder.

Finally, the Web Sites of Interest page provides links to the websites of other history-linked groups in the region, and this will be added to as time passes.

**New HSO Members since  
Jan. 1, 2007**

Grace Crout  
Margaret Donnelly  
Elizabeth Ellis  
David Lee  
Hugh Macmillan  
John Reeder

We warmly welcome them to the Society and hope they will enjoy our activities.

**Ontario Genealogical Society**

The annual seminar of the Ontario Genealogical Society in 2007 will be held at Algonquin College in Ottawa on the weekend of June 1—3. This year marks the 150th anniversary of Queen Victoria's naming of Ottawa as the capital of Canada.

The program includes an extensive list of lectures, workshops, and a plenary session. The speakers include two members of our Society - Dave Murlington and Hugh Reekie.

For more information about the program and registration, check the Ontario Genealogical Society seminar website [www.ogsseminar.org](http://www.ogsseminar.org).

**Treasurer's Report to March 24, 2007**

Source	Revenue
Memberships	\$1,155.00
Donations	550.00
Grants (Ottawa: \$3,000; Ontario: \$900)	<u>3,900.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,605.00</b>
Expense	Paid Out
Diefenbunker rent (paid to March 31 <sup>st</sup> )	323.67
Library – purchase of books	35.00
Membership dues (CHOO & OHS)	111.80
Newsletter (actual expenses & pre-payment)	400.00
Office supplies	147.70
Postage	55.27
Post box	62.54
Telephone (paid to June 30 <sup>th</sup> )	340.00
Website maintenance fee for 2007	<u>100.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,575.98</b>

**Bank Balance as at Feb. 28, 2007: \$18,471.25**

**HSO SPRING BUS TOUR**

*By George Neville*

The Spring bus tour to Smith Falls will take place on Thursday, June 7, 2007. We will be visiting the Rideau Canal Museum, the Heritage House Museum, the Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario and the Hershey Plant and Chocolate Shoppe.

For this Excursion, a 55-seat, 2005 bus has been engaged from Healey Transportation Ltd. from Smiths Falls.

The usual passenger pickup sites will be at St. Richard's Anglican Church parking lot ( 8:30 a.m., NW corner Rossland Ave. & Merivale Rd.) and 9.00 a.m. at Lansdowne Park main entrance, Bank St.

The cost is \$50.00 per person and includes a catered lunch.

For reservations contact George Neville, Tour Chair, Telephone 613-729-0579, or [george.neville@ncf.ca2](mailto:george.neville@ncf.ca2)

**Secretary of the Board**

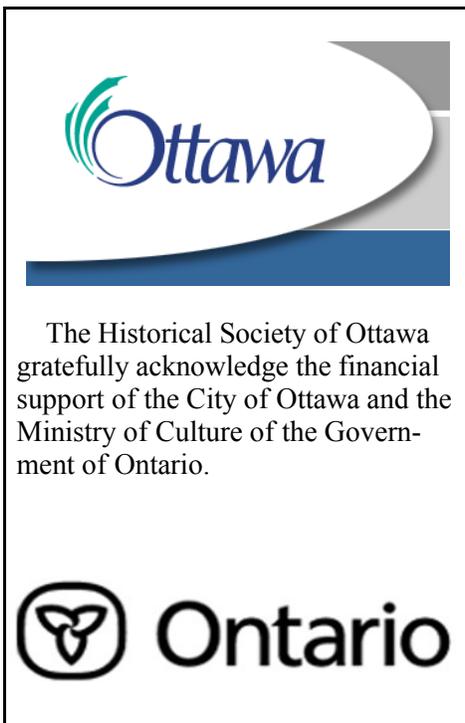
The Board of Directors is searching for a member who is willing to serve as our Secretary since Patricia Hartney has indicated her intention to resign as Secretary in June 2007. She will continue to serve as our Treasurer for the year 2007/2008.

If anyone is willing to be nominated for this position, please speak to any member of the Board.

## Rideau Canal Opening

Parks Canada invites members of the general public to celebrate the 175th opening of the Rideau Canal on Tuesday, May 22 in Smiths Falls. Activities include a rededication ceremony, presentations, workshops, and musical performances.

This is the first of four special events organized by Parks Canada to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the Rideau Canal.



*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](mailto:hso.news.editor@sympatico.ca)

## 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**