



# The Historical Society of Ottawa News

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January 2006

## President's Report

*By Alan McLay*

It has been a busy autumn term for your Board of Directors. A complete set of our Bytown Pamphlet Series was sold to the library of the Canadian Museum of Civilization. The Board ap-

Treasurer, Patricia Hartney, submitted our application to the City of Ottawa for a heritage grant in 2006 in support of our awards and outreach program. Because of the recent change in Governors General we applied to Rideau Hall to renew the patronage of the Historical Society by

the new Governor General Michaëlle Jean, a tradition that goes back to the founding of the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Ottawa in 1898.

The Board also approved a legal document prepared by Joe Konst transferring the ownership of 7,836 artifacts in the collection to the Bytown Museum. An appendix listing all the items contained on a disk is attached. The official transfer of ownership of the collection will take place soon.

Our thanks to Don Carrington and Don Baxter for preparing the appendix list.

My special thanks to Pat Richardson for her assistance in sorting through the Loretta Black papers in 2005.

Our Librarian, Lorna Ponacher, resigned last summer because of ill health. We are still looking for a volunteer to take on this part-time position.

George Toller arranged a very successful series of speakers at our monthly meetings this fall. Our thanks to Ruth Toller and all the volunteers who brought refreshments for our meetings.

A telephone committee has been organized by Barbara Whitfield and Pat



*Paying their respects to Col. John By's grave, St. Alban's Church, Frant, England - Herb Sill's daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and John Sargent, who live in southern England.*

proved a request from Archives CD Books Canada to record on CD five titles of historical significance from our Library. A bank draft for £200 was sent to St. Alban's Church in Frant, England, for the maintenance of the graveyard where Colonel John By is buried. In 1979 members of the Society established a memorial fund for this purpose. It has been the custom to send an annual contribution from this fund.

In November the Board approved the budget for 2006. Our Secretary-

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# The Historical Society of Ottawa

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>hartneyp@ca.inter.net</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  
P.O. Box 523, Station "B"  
Ottawa, ON  
K1P 5P6  
Society Email: [hsottawa@storm.ca](mailto:hsottawa@storm.ca)

## Coming Events

### Friday, January 27 -

Monthly Meeting  
Speaker – Peter Hessel - "The Mystery of Frankenberg's Canadian Airman"  
Routhier Community Centre  
2 p.m.

### Friday February 24 -

Monthly Meeting  
Speaker – Hugh Reekie - "The Historic Lower Ottawa River"  
Routhier Community Centre  
2 p.m.

### Friday, March 10 -

National Gallery Of Canada  
visit  
1 p.m.

### Friday, March 31 -

Monthly Meeting  
Speaker TBA  
Routhier Community Centre  
2 p.m.

### Saturday, April 22 -

Ottawa Regional Historica Fair  
Canadian Museum of  
Civilization  
10 a.m. To 3 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 on Page 6.

**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)

**President's Report**

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Richardson to inform members of the Society about the regular meetings and special events.

Over 50 members of the Society enjoyed a memorable bus tour up the Opeongo Line on October 5. The weather was ideal for viewing the autumn colours in the hills. Herb Sills made all the arrangements with his usual efficiency. He was assisted by Alan Rayburn as our tour guide on the journey.



*Melissa Rodgers receives an award from Alan McLay for outstanding work in the Museum Studies program at Algonquin College at the Christmas Luncheon.*

Herb Sills also arranged the Christmas luncheon at St. Richard's Church on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. A delicious turkey dinner was served to 75 members and guests. Melissa Rodgers received an award of \$300 for her outstanding work as a student in the final year of the Museum Studies Program at Algonquin College.



*Alan McLay presents Historical Society Medals to Don Carrington, Dorene Hirsch, and Barbara Whitfield*



*The Nepean Songsters entertain the crowd at the HSO Christmas luncheon*

Historical Society medals were presented to Don Carrington, Dorene Hirsch, and Barbara Whitfield for their hard work on the Collection

Raising of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Ottawa" — written by Herb Sills. Copies of this pamphlet will be mailed to all those members who were not present at the luncheon.

My best wishes to all our members for the New Year!

## Season's Greetings



*Herb Sills entertaining at the Christmas Luncheon with historical songs of the season from WWI.*

Committee in deaccessioning about 6000 artifacts in the collection at Liverpool Court.

The program concluded with a spirited rendition by the Nepean Songsters of a medley of Christmas carols and other songs appropriate to the season.

At the luncheon members received a copy of the latest publication in our Bytown Pamphlet Series — "The



*Alan McLay partaking of a great turkey dinner at the Christmas Luncheon*



Ladies at the Treat Table at the Bytown Museum Christmas event

## Bytown Museum This Winter

By Steve Dezort

### Bytown Victorian Christmas

The Bytown Museum hosted our second annual Christmas event on December 11<sup>th</sup>. We offered a heritage spin on Christmas to the public. People enjoyed a few old-fashioned holiday treats and made some old-fashioned holiday decorations.

### Royal Engineers On Ice

On weekends throughout February, the Bytown Museum will be actively involved in winter activities celebrating our city's heritage. From February 4<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> on Saturdays and Sundays costumed historical interpreters will skate the canal and animate the Ice Café at Dow's Lake as part of the NCC's Winterlude festivities.

On the afternoons of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of February Bytown Museum interpreters will be skating at the outdoor rink at the Canadian Museum of Civilization to help animate their exhibit on Canadian Winter pastimes.



Leftenant Henry Pooley, RE and ladies of Bytown at the outdoor rink at the Museum of Civilization

## National Gallery Visit

By Alan McLay

Jean Palmer has once again invited members of the Historical Society to attend a special exhibition in the Prints and Drawings section of the National Gallery of Canada on Friday, March 10 at 1 p.m.

The topic of the presentation is "The History and Social Conditions of Jewish Art in Montreal" It will be given by Brian Oickle, a volunteer at the Gallery and the author of the recently published *Etched in Stone: The Life of Ernst Neumann*. He will trace the work of Jewish artists in Canada gen-

erally and establish the social atmosphere of hardship and prejudice in Montreal, which provided the themes for a talented and socially active group of Jewish artists.

Attendance will be limited to 30 members and guests.

Further information will be available closer to the event.

## THE RAISING OF THE PRINCESS PATRICIA'S LIGHT INFANTRY IN OTTAWA - BYTOWN PAMPHLET NO. 69

Author - Herb Sills

We are happy to announce the publishing of this new HSO Pamphlet. It's a wonderful piece of Ottawa history which is close to Herb's military heart. All members will receive a complimentary copy. Some picked up their copies at the Christmas lunch (which Herb also organized); for the others it accompanies this Newsletter. If by some chance you didn't receive a copy, let Herb know at 225-4185.

We received the following letter from ex-HSO member, Helen Sutherland, who had a special relationship with the Patricia's.

**"To the Historical Society of Ottawa.**

**Enclosed please find my cheque for Pamphlets - Raising the Canadian Princess Patricias Canadian Light Infantry, which I received from Herb Sills.**

**I congratulate your Society for embarking on this project and especially to Herb for his initiative. I was pleased that I could loan him the appropriate books and research. Both my husband and eldest son served with the Patricia's - my husband being the Colonel of the Regiment for four years in the 80's, and my son, Garrison Commander in Edmonton.**

**I wish you well in all your endeavours.**

**Sincerely,  
Helen Sutherland"**

## Collection Committee Report

By Don Carrington

Many of you are aware by now that the museum collection, which is owned by the Society, must now be transferred to the Bytown Museum in accordance with the agreement which created the new museum. Additionally, the museum has changed its mandate which effectively shortens the span of time that will be covered by its displays. This made a number of artifacts redundant to their needs and that, combined with the fact that the Society does not require a collection to carry out its role, meant that a great number of artifacts were surplus to the Society's needs.

There are strict rules governing the disposal of artifacts, so a small group began assessing the items the museum indicated did not meet their mandate. This took almost nine months. In addition there were a number of artifacts which had been partially catalogued but not fully entered into the computer so they could not be listed automatically, entering this data in to the computer took almost as long to complete as the other project.

I am now happy to report that almost all the necessary work to refine the data we have in the computer is complete, and it is likely that by the end of 2005 we will have a listing of the items which are to be transferred to the Bytown Museum. We will also have a listing of items not required by either the museum or the Society, but with possible alternate recipients (other museums or non-profit organizations), and we will have a list of items which we must dispose of through auction. It should be noted that any funds generated by the sale of artifacts will be retained in a trust account for the preservation/conservation of the museum's collection.

Barbara Whitfield, Doreen Hirsh and I were honoured by the Society at the Christmas lunch with the Colonel By Award for which we thank the Society very much. We also must give a great

deal of credit to Don Baxter who has been essential to keeping our computer meanderings on the proper path and ensuring we come out with the correct data in the end. Many, many thanks Don.

## Past Meeting Highlights

By George Toller

### October 28<sup>th</sup>

Dave Mullington, journalist, reflected on the important roles of 48 former mayors of Ottawa, covering over 101 years. His book, "*Chain of Office*", outlines the contribution of these men, many of whom are forgotten today. A colourful lot, they moonlighted while employed elsewhere, serving for only one or two

years and then fading from the scene. Memories of them are retained in many street names, buildings and past historical records of Ottawa.

### November 25<sup>th</sup>

Our speaker was Ruth Bell, covering her book "*Be a Nice Girl, a Woman's Journey in the Twentieth Century.*"

An impressive woman, she achieved academic success through her three university degrees and her constant efforts to improve the status of women. We heard of her enduring efforts to overcome obstacles such as the absence of any woman director on the Board of any major bank. She received the Order of Canada, and recently the Persons Award, among many other achievements.

## Treasurer's Report to November 30, 2005

### Revenue

Grants	\$3,900.00
Memberships	4,380.50
Donations	805.00
Bus Tours	1,864.01
Publications	273.00
Interest	193.08
Miscellaneous	<u>221.36</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>11,636.95</b>

### Expenses

Awards and Grants	1,950.00
Bank Charges	23.98
Domain Name	16.05
Honoraria	100.00
Membership Dues (CHOO and OHS)	112.10
Newsletters (includes printing & postage)	926.07
Office Supplies	57.68
Postbox	55.64
Publications	246.68
Room Rental	117.27
Secretarial (includes postage & copying)	605.88
Special Contract (badges data input)	750.00
Telephone	<u>656.02</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,617.37</b>

### Net Income

**6,019.58**

## Elusive Place Names

*By Alan McLay*

At our monthly meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup> Alan Rayburn spoke to us on the topic "Unmasking Elusive Place Names." Alan is a distinguished authority on place names in Canada.

He was the Executive Secretary of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names from 1973 to 1987. He wrote many columns in the Canadian Geographic magazine, which were collected in *Naming Canada* (1995). He is also the author of *Place Names in Ontario* (1997) and the *Dictionary of Canadian Place Names* (1997).

Alan shared some of his experiences in serving on the Permanent Committee. Some names are very amusing, such as Punkeydoodles Corner near Waterloo, named for a local farmer who grew only pumpkins on his property. The Committee received many requests from people around the world who were seeking information about their ancestors place of birth or residence in Canada. These requests were sometimes difficult to interpret as place names were almost unrecognizable. Names on documents were misspelt or were copied down by persons unfamiliar with the places. For example, Katawa" was identified as Matawa, "West Oxbury" was West Hawkesbury, Canatella was Ste. Adele, and 'Moroy' was Vaudreuil.

In conclusion, Alan explained the true meaning of Toronto and Ottawa.

### **Obituary – Duncan Campbell**

We regret to announce the death of Duncan Campbell on August 3, 2005 in Perth. Duncan served on the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Ottawa and was a joint editor of the Newsletter. He was also President of the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa For a two-year term. Our sympathy to his wife Vera and her family.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2005**

Membership chairman, Don Baxter, reports that there are currently 216 members of the Society.

### **NEW MEMBERS 2005**

The following people joined us in 2005. We warmly welcome them.

- Dr. Gordon and Mrs. Molly Armstrong
- Tom Barber
- Joyce Beare-Rogers
- Ann Braden
- R. M. Hutchinson
- Ruth Gray
- Ruth Kettles
- Joan Finnigan McKenzie
- Dave Mullington
- Jeanne and Bayne Pearen
- John Taylor

### **IN MEMORIAM - 2005**

However, we regret to report that the following members died during the year. Our thoughts are with their families.

- Una Beaudry
- Duncan Campbell
- Eileen Evans
- Marie Ann LaFrance
- Rolf Latte
- Rosemary Lydon
- Valerie Wilson

Toronto comes from a Mohawk word meaning standing in water, that is, fish weirs. Ottawa means "traders" in the

Algonquin language, referring to the Ottawa nation that controlled the fur trade on the Ottawa River.

A phone tree has been set up and was successfully used to inform members of the November meeting. Many thanks to the volunteers who agreed to be callers. This is meant to inform members of the monthly meetings and any other special events. It is not meant to take the place of the Newsletter but to send out any important information between newsletters.

If anyone would prefer not to be called please phone

**Pat Richardson at 237-6632 or  
Barbara Whitfield at 722-2209.**



Mildred Blais, George Toller, and Georgia Larter at Fountenoy

## The Fall Tour - October 5, 2005 - Along the Opeongo Road

*By Herb Sills*

The Opeongo Road was built because immigration had fallen off and many people were leaving the Province of Canada for greener fields in the United States. The total population of Canada West and Canada East (which became Ontario and Quebec in 1867) was just over two million in 1851. William Lyon Mackenzie, who was a member of the Legislature on November 8, 1852, moved the adoption of a resolution that the region between Georgian Bay on Lake Huron and the Ottawa River be surveyed into townships and various inducements made "to ensure the speedy settlement of said uninhabited tract, to provide homes for the youth of Canada, to encourage immigration and prevent emigration." In 1853 the Legislature passed the Public Lands Act which enabled the granting of free lands.

Thus began the Valley's Opeongo Line. It began at Farrell's Landing on the shore Lac des Chats of the Ottawa

river. It was surveyed by a survey crew under Daniel Burritt between April 10, 1851 and March 28, 1852. Our tour took us through Arnprior, along the

river past Farrell's Landing through Castleford and over to Highway 17 north of Renfrew. We went directly to Eganville in time for lunch at the Granary restaurant.

After lunch we continued on Highway 60 west to the top of Shrine Hill, through Wilno and on to Barry's Bay. We next began following the Opeongo Line through Combermere, Rockingham, Brudenell to Foymount (the highest inhabited location in Ontario). Here we stopped for tea.

Continuing on the Line we passed through Clontarf, Esmonde, Dacre and Shamrock to Renfrew.

Construction on the Opeongo Line ended in 1864 when the government realized the senselessness of this colonization route. Many settlers found that when they had harvested the trees on

their land their farms were stoney and not very fertile. A few hearty souls  
*continued on Page 8*



Alan Rayburn and Herb Sills at Barry's Bay

**The Fall Tour**

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stayed on and many of their descendants live in the original homesteads.

We had fine weather and the 53 members on the bus enjoyed the day.

Spring Tour - tentatively set for Wednesday June 7, 2006. Plans are being made to travel up the Ottawa River on the Quebec side, passing through Fort Coulonge, where there is a power dam and waterfall, Shawville, etc.

**Community Heritage Ontario (C.H.O.) Conference**

The Historical Society of Ottawa is a member of the Ontario Historical Society and as such our members are entitled to attend the annual CHO Conference which will be held at Chaffey's Locks June 2 - 4, 2006.

The CHO's Mission Mandate is to encourage the development of municipally appointed Municipal Heritage Advisory Committees and to further the identification, preservation, interpretation and wise use of community heritage at the local, provincial, and national levels. The conference will be honoured by the presence of the federal Minister of the Environment, Stephane Dion, the provincial Minister of Culture, Madeline Meilleur, and the Director General of Parks Canada, Doug Stewart, all of whom will address important issues related to the protection and nurturing of Canada's historical sites. The conference will also feature papers, workshops and bus and boat tours that will further develop this important topic. For more information contact the CHO at [www.heritageontario.org](http://www.heritageontario.org), or [conference@heritageontario.org](mailto:conference@heritageontario.org), or CHO, 24 Conlins Road, Scarborough, M1C 1C3, (416) 282-2710.



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**