



# The Historical Society of Ottawa News

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January 2007

## President's Report

By Alan McLay

2007 promises to be an exciting year for local historical societies and heritage groups as we prepare to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Rideau Canal in 1832; also the 150th anniversary of the selection of Ottawa as the capital city of the Province of Ontario in 1857; and additionally the 90th anniversary of the opening of the Bytown Museum in 1917 in the old Registry Office building on Nicholas St. Information about a lecture series sponsored by the Merrickville and District Historical Society in celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Rideau Canal is included in this newsletter.

At our meetings this fall the Board of Directors approved the development of a new web site. We are currently exploring the cost of setting up and maintaining the web site. Our summer student, Richard Sturgis, submitted a report on the work that he did for us in our Library. The Board will study in detail a list of recommendations contained in the report. In December 2003 the Historical Society of Ottawa donated our archival records to the City of Ottawa Archives with an agreement to

provide additional archival materials every three years. We are planning to give the Archives our records for the years 2001 to 2003 by the end of June 2007.

On October 30 Don Carrington and George Neville represented the Historical Society of Ottawa at a volunteerism event at Algonquin College. The evening was arranged to introduce students in the Applied Museum Studies Program to representatives of local museums and heritage groups who can provide opportunities for work placement for students in the program. Don and George reported that the event provided some valuable contacts with students and members of other heritage groups.

In October the Board approved the transfer of our bank accounts from the Bank of Nova Scotia to the HSBC Bank Canada, which offered better service and interest rates. In November the Board approved a draft budget for 2007. Our Treasurer Pat Hartney submitted our annual application to the City of Ottawa for a grant in support of our awards and



Alan talks to Lieut. Pooley of the Royal Sappers, alias Steve Dezort of the Bytown Museum

outreach program in 2007. In December we received confirmation from Caroline Di Cocco, the Minister of Culture in the Government of Ontario, that our application for a Heritage Organization Development Grant had been approved for the amount of \$900.

On October 6 Herb Sills conducted another highly successful bus tour to Prescott and the St. Lawrence River. At the October Board meeting Herb announced his resignation as our tour coordinator. It was accepted with regret and sincere thanks for all his work

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Diners at the Annual Christmas Dinner

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

## Committees

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

**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)

## Coming Events

### Friday, January 26

Monthly Meeting  
Speaker: David Lee - "Lumber Kings and Shanty Men"  
Routhier Community Centre  
Cumberland Ave. at Guiges St.  
2 p.m.

### Friday, February 23

Monthly Meeting  
Speaker: Hugh MacMillan - "Adventures of a Paper Sleuth"  
Routhier Community Centre  
Cumberland Ave. at Guiges St.  
2 p.m.

### Friday, March 30

Monthly Meeting  
"Speaker: Joan Finnegan - A History of the Ottawa Valley"  
Routhier Community Centre  
Cumberland Ave. at Guiges St.  
2 p.m.

### Saturday, April 4

Ottawa Regional Heritage Fair  
Canadian War Museum  
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 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](mailto:hso.news.editor@sympatico.ca)

**President's Report**

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*Alan McLay presents cheque to Alanna Thompson*

in organizing the bus tours for the past ten years. George Neville agreed to take on this important responsibility in future with the assistance of Robert Grainger.

Herb Sills also arranged the Historical Society Christmas Luncheon at St. Richard's Church Hall on December 8.

About 80 members and guests enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner served by our caterer Elke Beeb and her staff.

Honoured guests included Dennis Lloyd, a professor in the Applied Museum Studies Program at Algonquin College, Alanna Thompson, a student at Algonquin, and the staff of the Bytown Museum—Christina Tessier, Carolyn Cook, Steve Dezort (wearing the regimental dress of an officer in the Royal Engineers in 1832), and Catherine Pitre.

A cheque for \$300 was presented to Alanna Thompson as the outstanding student in the Applied Museum Studies Program at Algonquin College.

Alanna has been engaged as a heritage specialist at Pinhey's Point, also she has developed research and public programming at the Billings Estate, and



*Alan presents \$1,000 cheque to Cliff Scott*

she has assisted in developing the Young Canada Works program for 2007 at the Canadian Museum Association.

A cheque for \$1,000 was presented to Cliff Scott in support of the Ottawa Regional Heritage Fair in 2007. Cliff announced that the Regional Fair will be held at the Canadian War Museum on April 4. This year the Provincial Fair will be held in Ottawa on May 18.

The program concluded with a live rendition of festive music appropriate to the season by the Nepean Songsters. A special feature was a solo performance by Herb Sills of a bilingual version of the famous World War I song "It's a Long Way to Tipperary."

Copies of the Bytown Pamphlet Series #70, "Pre-Confederation Health Care in Bytown", by Mike Nelles were distributed to the members who were present at the luncheon. Those members who were not present will receive their copy with the January newsletter.

On behalf of the members of the Board of Directors I would like to express our warm best wishes to all our members in the New Year.

**Bytown Museum Report**

*By Steve Dezort*

**February weekends, 2007**

**The Bytown Museum on Ice for Winterlude**

Join the Royal Engineers and denizens of old Bytown upon the Rideau Canal Skateway during Winterlude for an old fashioned skating party! Ask Lt. Pooley, RE details about the canal while you glide alongside him. Bring your camera!

Featuring brief historic lectures by characters from Bytown's past at the Ice Café! Please visit the Winterlude website or see your Winterlude brochure for more details.

Cost: FREE!

Time: Winterlude Weekend afternoons in February

Location: Dow's Lake, Rideau Canal Skateway

**March 12th – 16th, 2007**

**March Break with the Bytown Museum**

The Bytown Museum is coming out of hibernation for March Break! Visit our activity station on the First Level, Centre Court of the Rideau Centre to see what's on offer for 2007 at Ottawa's oldest community Museum. Costumed characters will be on location with hands on activities from Bytown's past!

Cost: Free

Time: 11am – 4pm

Location: First Level Centre Court, Rideau Centre (Near Shopper's Drug Mart)

**Monthly Meetings**

George Toller once again organized a series of interesting and informative monthly meetings of the Historical Society of Ottawa in the fall term. On September 29 our own Cliff Scott delivered a paper on "Robert Bell and the Geological Survey of Canada" to an appreciative audience. It was followed by a lively discussion. The paper will be published in the Bytown Pamphlet Series early in 2007.

On October 27 twenty members



*Clifford Scott (LHS) presenting his talk on Robert Bell and the Geological Survey of Canada to members of the Historical Society of Ottawa (HSO) on September 29th. George Toller, HSO Program Chair is seated to the right of the speaker.*

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## Monthly Meetings

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brought a wide range of family memorabilia to the “Show and Tell—Family Treasures program. Each person had an opportunity to briefly describe the historical and family associations of their treasure. It was agreed by the members present that this format should be repeated next year.

On November 24 Christina Tessier, Executive Director of the Bytown Museum, gave a lively and instructive address on the preparations for celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Rideau Canal and some dates of special interest. She announced that the Bytown Museum is launching a Renewal Fund campaign in support of an ambitious plan to renovate the exhibition space in the Museum to make it more interactive for young people. She also described the plan to preserve the flag that was rescued from the Parliament Buildings at the time of the fire in 1916. Christina asked our members to support the proposal to name the new pedestrian bridge over the Rideau Canal the “Corktown Bridge.”

Our thanks to Barbara Whitfield for providing refreshments for our monthly meetings, also to Mary Baxter and Lana Shaw for their assistance in November. Our thanks also to all the members of



*Part of the HSO tour group assembled at the north side of Fort Wellington in Prescott listening to one of the tour guides before advancing to a tour of the fort.*

the Telephone Committee for calling all our members to inform them about the monthly meetings.

## Fall Bus Tour – October 6, 2006

*By Herb Sills*

We had a very successful tour on October 6, 2006. With 53 people on the bus we went first to Fort Wellington on the edge of Prescott. Two volunteer guides took the group through



*Plaque commemorating founding of Fort Wellington and its role in the capture of Ogdensburg (1813) and Battle of the Windmill (1838).*

all aspects of the fort—the history of the fort, the buildings, the guns and fortifications, where the troops would have assembled and where they and their families were housed. From there we went to the Bridgeview restaurant for a buffet lunch which was very satisfying.

After lunch we went to the windmill where the Battle of the Windmill was fought against a group of Americans and some disgruntled Canadians. In



*The Windmill (now a lighthouse) on Wexford Point ~1.5 km east of Prescott along the St. Lawrence River.*

November 1838 two boat loads came from Ogdensburg, New York, but one ship returned to the American shore when the “General” in charge claimed sickness. This left the remaining ship with 190 men under Nils von Schoultz to disembark and take up positions. Canadians did not flock to their side as they expected. Instead a force of 2000 men from Militia units and British troops opposed them, in addition to several armed ships on the river. The battle went on for five days. The insurgents retreated to the windmill but they had little food, blankets or medical supplies for the wounded. After a bombardment by the artillery and the ships’ guns they surrendered. A total of 159 prisoners were captured. Of these eleven were executed, three died of wounds before coming to trial, 60 were convicted and transported to Van Diemen’s Land, and the remainder were pardoned.

We moved on to drive by the Blue

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## Upcoming Meetings of Interest

By Don Baxter

### Friends of the City of Ottawa Archives

**Sunday, January 21, 2-4 p.m.**, Prof. David Knight, "Conflict, Desperation and Compromise: Why Queen Victoria Was Asked to Select a Capital for Canada", Library & Archives Canada, Room 156, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa.

**Sunday, March 11, 2-4 p.m.**, John Reid, "The Ottawa Sharpshooters: The Company and Some of Its Remarkable Men, circa 1885", Library & Archives Canada, Room 156, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa.

### Merrickville and District Historical Society

To celebrate the upcoming 175th anniversary of the opening of the Rideau Canal, the Society has planned a series of nine interesting talks about the Rideau Canal. The series is designed to convey, chronologically, the history of the Rideau Canal from its inception to the present day.

Where: Merrickville United Church (in the amphitheatre), corner St. Lawrence and Main St E, Merrickville.

When: Monthly, Sunday afternoons, 2:00 pm. March 18, 2007 to November 18, 2007, nine lectures (see dates below).

Admission fee: Series of nine lectures - \$25 (in advance) or \$5 each at the door.

**March 18 HISTORICAL OVERVIEW** by Professor Brian Osborne

Introduction to series and overview the history of the Rideau Canal

**April 15 THE RIDEAU ROUTE** by Ken Watson  
A view of the landscape of the pre-Canal waterway.

**May 27 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 adaptation of European techniques to wilderness construction.

**July 22 BOOM CANAL YEARS** by Bob Sneyd  
The story of the years of great Canal success and prosperity 1832-1856.

**Aug. 19 ETHNIC SUBTERFUGE** by Glenn R Lockwood  
Social life of Rideau corridor 1830-1930.

**Sept. 16 THE ROMANCE OF STEAM** by Coral Lindsay  
The age of leisure steam boats and the canal's survival through troubled times.

**Oct. 21 ANOTHER RIDEAU WORLD** by Jonathan Moore  
The underwater archaeology of the Rideau Canal.

**Nov. 18 THE RIDEAU as LIVING HISTORY** by Doug Stewart  
The Rideau's 20th Century evolution and its future promise.

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

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

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

### Obituary

We regret to announce the death of Helen May Fairbairn on November 13. Helen regularly attended the monthly meetings of the Historical Society in the past five years and she enjoyed the bus tours until she was prevented by ill health. She will be missed by many friends.

### HELP WANTED. - HSO Webmaster

The Historical Society of Ottawa executive hopes to have a new web site for the society early in the new year and it is looking for someone to volunteer a short period of time each month in updating the site with the latest HSO news. Please contact anyone on the executive, who are listed elsewhere in this newsletter, and mention your interest.



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.



## Historica Fairs 2007

*By Clifford Scott*

### Ottawa Regional Historica Heritage Fair

The 2007 Ottawa Regional Historica Heritage Fair will be held on April 4 at the National War Museum at 395 Wellington.. All HSO members are cordially invited to attend! Admittance is free.

The Fair gets under way at 10 AM, and over 130 projects from about 20 schools are expected. Some 200-225 students will be there to explain their projects and describe what they have learned about history in the process towards the Regional Fair/ The Fair committee has chosen the 175th anniversary of the Rideau Canal as its theme. We can expect a number of projects dealing with the theme.

Awards will be made at 3 PM, including the City Cup for the best project on local history, which is accompanied with a cash award of \$150 from our Society. Many other awards are sponsored by interested groups. Come out and sup-

port young historians and Society members in the making!

### Provincial Historica Heritage Fair

This year, Ottawa will host the Provincial Historica Fair and 100 students and their counsellors from across Ontario will attend. They will arrive in the city on Wednesday May 16 and will leave for home on Sunday, May 20th. The Provincial Fair will be held at the National Library and Archives on Friday May 18 and the Governor General will be invited to attend. A series of events are planned for the time the students are in town and volunteers who could help with registration or supervision on tours are needed. If you have the time and inclination, call:

Cliff Scott at (613) 731-3932, or  
E mail at c.dscott3932@rogers.com

## A Letter from Anne Condie

At the October 2006 meeting I mentioned that the Embroiderer's Association of Canada (EAC) has a Sampler Registry which records the whereabouts of stitched samplers in Canada. Some HSO members showed interest in knowing how to have their heirlooms included in the Registry.

The 'Sampler Registry Information Collection Document' can be obtained from the Sampler Registrar, Marnie Shouldice, 720 Cantree Road SW, Calgary AB T2W 2L5. Tel: (403)-238-1237 She also has an e-mail address: samplers@eac.ca

The EAC is also interested in receiving donations of heirloom embroidery for their permanent collection, housed at the Leonida Leatherdale Needlearts Library in Winnipeg.

Submitted by Anne Condie, 613-224-1859. 24 November 2006

## 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**