



The Historical Society of Ottawa News

ISSN 1207-1838

Issue No. 119

January 2008

President's Report

By Alan McLay

2007 has been an eventful year for lovers of history in Ottawa. We have had a lot to celebrate.

To commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the opening of the Rideau Canal and in celebration of the declaration that the Rideau Canal is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Historical Society of Ottawa published two issues in our Bytown Pamphlet Series.

In September copies of "Steamboating on the Rideau Canal" (#71) by Mike Nelles were distributed at the monthly meeting. A group of volunteers assisted in mailing copies to members who were not present.

At the Christmas luncheon in December copies of "Rideau Canal and Bytown Memoranda by Dr. A.J. Christie, Physician to the Rideau Canal Works" (#72), transcribed by George and Iris Neville, were distributed to members. Copies were sent by mail to those not present.

In September Don Carrington retired as the chair of the Collections Committee. Dave Mullington agreed to take over this important position in 2008.

On October 4 George Neville conducted an interesting and enjoyable bus tour to the courthouse and jail in L'Original and to nearby Vankleek Hill, the Gingerbread Capital of Ontario. It was a beautiful day for sightseeing (see article on p. 6).

Barbara Whitfield prepared a draft of a publicity brochure in October. Judy Hilliker agreed to make a translation in French. The revised brochure was approved at the Board meeting in November.

In November we received an Ontario Heritage Development Grant

of \$900 from the Ministry of Culture in Toronto. We are grateful to the Government of Ontario for their continued support. Pat Hartney submitted an application for our annual grant in 2008 from the City of Ottawa.

The Board approved a draft budget for 2008 in November. An increase in the Algonquin College Award to \$500 in 2008 was approved, also an increase in the Colonel John By Award in History to \$800.

A money order for £200 was sent to St. Alban's Church in Frant, England, for the maintenance of the grave site of Colonel By and his family. We requested a brief report on how the money has been used.

George Toller provided us with an interesting program at our monthly meetings in the fall. The new starting time of 1 p.m. proved to be acceptable to most of our members as there was a good attendance at each meeting. Our thanks to the Telephone Committee volunteers for keeping our members informed about the time, place, and topics at our meetings. Thanks also to Barbara Whitfield and volunteers for providing refreshments.

Herb Sills arranged an excellent Christmas luncheon at St. Richard's

Church Hall on December 7. About 80 members and guests enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner served by our caterer Elke Beeb and her staff. Barbara Whitfield provided the fruit punch.

Honoured guests included the staff of the Bytown Museum- Christina Tessier, Carolyn Cook, Cassandra Tilson, and Matthew Bruce; Terry Quinlan, the coordinator of the Applied Museum Studies Program at Algonquin College, and Leah Batisse, a student in the program; Mike Nelles, who recently graduated in the Honours History program at Carleton University, and Martha Attridge Bufton, the editor of *Carleton Now*, which carried a feature article on Mike Nelles in its November edition.

A cheque for \$500 was presented to Leah Batisse for her outstanding work as a student in the Applied Museum Studies Program at Algonquin College (see article on p. 5 for more information).

Mike Nelles received an honorarium of \$300 for researching and writing his pamphlet "Steamboating on the Rideau Canal". He is also working on a paper on the blockhouses on the Rideau Canal. Mike thanked the Historical

Continued on Page 3

In This Issue:

President's Report.....	1
Coming Events.....	2
Bytown Museum Report.....	3
Treasurer's Report.....	3
I Remember Ottawa.....	4
HSO Spring Bus Excursion.....	5
Algonquin College Award.....	5
A Visit to Vimy Ridge.....	5
Angels and Heroes.....	6
HSO Bus Excursion Autumn 2007.....	6
2008 Historica Heritage Fair.....	6
Family Treasures.....	8

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	613-730-2264
Secretary/Treasurer:	
Patricia Hartney <i>pat.hartney014@sympatico.ca</i>	613-523-6248
Membership: Don Baxter <i>marydon@cyberus.ca</i>	613-745-3430
Don Carrington <i>don.carrington@sympatico.ca</i>	613-733-8740
Dave Mullington <i>dmullington@rogers.com</i>	613-829-8430
George Neville <i>george.neville@ncf.ca</i>	613-729-0579
Herb Sills	613-231-5535
George Toller <i>grtoller@3web.com</i>	613-731-0112
Barbara Whitfield <i>pthosteo@rogers.com</i>	613-722-2209

Committees

Awards	
Collections	Dave Mullington, Dorene Hirsch, Barbara Whitfield
Monthly Meetings	George Toller
Nominations	George Toller, Don Baxter, Herb Sills
Publications	Don Carrington
Tours Coordinator	George Neville
Telephone Committee	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*

Coming Events

Friday, January 25th

Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Denis St. Onge
"Arctic Passage: An Illustrated Talk"
Routhier Community Centre
Cumberland Ave. at Guiges St.
1 p.m.

Friday, February 29th

Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Michel Prevost
"History of the University of Ottawa"
Routhier Community Centre
Cumberland Ave. at Guiges St.
1 p.m.

Friday, March 28th

Monthly Meeting
Speaker: TBA
Routhier Community Centre
Cumberland Ave. at Guiges St.
1 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9th

Ottawa Regional Historical Fair
National War Museum
9:30 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

President's Report*Continued from Page 1*

Society for its support and encouragement. A cheque for \$1,000 in support of the Ottawa Regional Historica Fair in 2008 was presented to Cliff Scott. Cliff thanked the Historical Society for its continued support of the Historica Fairs and announced that the next Regional Fair will be held at the National War Museum on Wednesday, April 9 (see article on p. 6).

On the occasion of his retirement from the Board of Directors at the end of November, Cliff was awarded the Historical Society medal in recognition of his outstanding service as a member of the Board of Directors for twelve

years, chair of the Museum Board of Management, Vice-President and by President of the Board, and for the last five years Chair of the Awards Committee. In addition, Cliff was the moving force behind the development of the Regional Historica Fairs in Ottawa, serving as President for four years and recently as Treasurer.

Finally, a certificate of Honorary Life Membership in the Historical Society of Ottawa was presented to Gordon Cullingham for his distinguished service as a member of the Board for fifteen years, as the person responsible for organizing speakers for the monthly meetings, and as editor of our newsletter for four years.

To conclude our luncheon program,

the Nepean Songsters entertained us with a lively medley of traditional carols and popular songs that put us in a festive spirit for the Christmas season.

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

Bytown Museum Report*By Carolyn Cook*

The Bytown Museum certainly celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2007. We designed and built all new permanent exhibitions, installed our first community gallery and a play space for children. The impact has been enormous. Our attendance has increased by 28%, including 30% more local residents and 40% more Francophone visitors. In addition, visitors are spending 80% more time in the museum.

The Museum would like to thank the many Historical Society of Ottawa members who donated to our Museum Renewal and Save the Flag campaigns in the past year. Your donations contributed to the conservation of important artifacts and the construction of new exhibitions.

We would also like to thank the HSO members who made donations in memory of Peggy Moffatt. We will be directing these donations towards the conservation of the Lieutenant-Colonel By bust this winter.

We are also looking forward to 2008 when we will be launching a six-language audio tour to ensure that a larger percentage of Ottawa residents can access the exhibitions, along with international tourists. The 45-minute audio tour will be offered in English, French, Mandarin, Japanese, German and Spanish.

Finally, if you're looking for a different way to celebrate Lt.-Col. By's memory, visit your local LCBO store this winter where you will find John By Imperial Stout for sale. The stout is the latest offering from Scotch Irish Brewing and the label invites drinkers to

Treasurer's Report to December 19, 2007

Source	Revenue
Memberships	\$4,480.00
Donations	1,730.00
Pamphlets	232.00
Fundraising	386.80
Grants (Ottawa: \$3,000; Ontario: \$900)	<u>3,900.00</u>
Total	\$10,728.80

Expense	Paid Out
Awards	\$2,150.00
Donations	700.00
Honoraria	500.00
Library – purchase of books	35.00
Membership dues (CHOO & OHS)	111.80
Newsletter production & mailing	884.37
Office supplies	360.06
Postage (except Newsletters)	627.76
Post box	62.54
Publications	1092.11
Room Rental (Diefenbunker & Routhier)	1398.52
Secretarial (primarily photocopying)	230.00
Telephone	609.00
Website	<u>116.05</u>
Total	\$8,877.21

Bank Balance as at December 19, 2007: \$20,942.53

visit the Bytown Museum where Lt.-Col. By's story as canal builder and city-founder are told. This partnership is a great example of a local business supporting a local cultural institution.

We look forward to a successful 2008 and hope to see you at the Museum in the spring!

I REMEMBER OTTAWA

By E.W. Devlin

This is the second instalment in a series of reminiscences by Edward W. Devlin, a former resident of Ottawa and a longtime member of the Historical Society. He describes them as "a collection of local history and personal trivia, mostly from the viewpoint of a boy growing up in Ottawa between the two world wars."

The eighty-some years of Ottawa's life that I have observed have changed it from a small, dour outpost of colonial Victorianism to a capital of beauty and distinction. Here are some lantern slides of Ottawa and its people remembered by a native son.

I REMEMBER HULL (1920s-30s)

When the wind was westerly Hull spread a pungent chemical smell over Ottawa. "Ah!" we would say, "you can smell Hull today," in our superior down-wind fashion. Especially on hot summer evenings. The Eddy paper mill, the source of the smell, dominated the old Quebec village, with its streets of wooden houses and tall silver church. Between Hull and Gatineau Point the river bank was a continuous lumber yard, and the river below Hull was always jammed with rafts of logs waiting for the mill. You envied the spacious life enjoyed by the lumberjacks who lounged and cooked their meals in huts perched on the rafts. To the left of the bridge, as you came over from Ottawa, (where the Museum of Civilization stands today), raw logs were piled in pyramids, high as houses, waiting to be turned into paper. The papermaking was

the cause of the smell and the reason for Hull's existence. Yielding I believe to public opinion, the Eddy Company finally removed the water-tower, clearly visible from Parliament Hill, which was painted to look like a roll of White Swan Toilet Paper.

I REMEMBER JOHN BUCHAN (1930s)

We all read him, of course, and saw the movies based on his thrillers, some of them by Hitchcock. And then we got him all to ourselves, as Governor General, as Lord Tweedsmuir. Shortly after his installation at Rideau Hall in 1935, one of his aides-de-camp telephoned Dad in his office. "Would Mr. Devlin be free to show His Excellency the ski-trails around Camp Fortune?" Dad rushed home, changed into his hiking clothes, and went off to meet the ViceRegal party. Six hours later he was back, in a state of exhaustion. "That little bird," he told us, "is unbelievably wiry and tough. He led us up and down those hills at top speed. The rest of his party are in a state of collapse." (The reason for the request was that Dad, an early pioneer of skiing in Ottawa, had helped to lay out the Gatineau trails.)

I REMEMBER THE FIRST RADIO (before 1920)

A small brown box on the floodlit stage crackled and whistled and roared. A voice came out of it, music, strange and hoarse, but you could make out actual words. The hall of All Saints Church was full of people curious to hear this invention that brought sounds from far away without wires. That was my introduction to the age of radio. Soon we were buying strange metal gadgets at Woolworth's and poring over diagrams to make our own radios. Fat round Quaker Oat boxes were just the things to wind your coil on. With the right circuits and a lumpy crystal and a cat's-whisker tuner you could make your black paper loud-speaker squawk out voices and music

from KDKA in Pittsburgh. In 1938 I joined the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as staff announcer. I sent words and music from Halifax to Victoria on the national radio network that grew out of the work of C.P. Edwards (q.v.).

I REMEMBER THE STANLEY CUP (1920s)

My brother and I were too young to go to professional hockey games, but we heard a great deal about the Ottawa Senators and about the Stanley Cup that they kept winning. They were local and national heroes, world heroes even, world champions no less. When they played in Ottawa, it was a great patriotic event, and Dad, as a leading merchant with large windows on Sparks Street, and knowing many of the Senators personally, of course went all out for them, with windows full of flags and pictures and streamers and, as centrepiece, the Stanley Cup itself. And overnight, the safest place to keep it was our dinner table. There it stood, Lord Stanley's noble bowl, awe-inspiring, its tall base ringed with silver and bearing the names of all the previous winners (mostly the Senators) bearing up the great bowl, which looked as though it would hold champagne for a whole hockey team.

By the time I was going to hockey games, in Montreal, other heroes and other teams were battling for the cup. Now, in 1992, a team called the Ottawa Senators is back in the NHL. And the original Senators are enshrined in Toronto's Hockey Hall of Fame. You must go there now to recall those heroic names: Captain George Boucher... Nighbor... Gleeson... Gorman... Denny... Finnigan... Kilrea... Halliday... Smith... Adams... Clancy...

I REMEMBER NESRALLAH'S (Before 1920 and later)

There it was, as we entered Ottawa from Vanier, on a day in May 1993 -- windows full of groceries and candies, facing north and west on the southeast

Continued on Page 5

I Remember Ottawa

Continued from Page 4

corner of Rideau and Charlotte. Under another name, probably it was there before 1920. My brother Bob and I went to it constantly from our house on Besserer Street, a block and a half away, to buy our Charms and licorice chewing-tobacco and all-sorts and pink and yellow mints stuck on strips of paper, and Cherry Flips, and Blood-orange chewing gum. (Why on earth "Blood-orange"?) Over fifty years later it was still there to give Louise and me our New York Sunday Times. (We lived two streets away, on Daly Avenue.) Wonder of wonders, the mighty New York Times, printed hundreds of miles away in the skyscrapers of Manhattan, managed to arrive on Sunday morning in a small Lebanese grocery store on Sandy Hill.

I REMEMBER FRIZZY LIZ (1930s)

She was an angel. She gazed at a lily and had frizzy hair. She should have been dreadful, but she was wonderful. She was the Angel of the Annunciation, but she was not Gabriel. She was much too womanly for that. We called her Frizzy Liz. One wing, pearly-grey and white, curved away above a green-cloaked shoulder. She was grave and lovely and mysterious. Obviously someone had once valued her highly, because her frame was magnificent: one of those three-dimensional baroque creations with heavy scrolls and swirling acanthus leaves, all covered with gold leaf.

For decades she reigned over Mother's drawing-room, above the plain white mantel. Mother bought her for a few dollars at an auction on Sandy Hill. The frame came in fragments, in a basket. The restorer who put it together told Mother about the gold leaf.

Mother tried to identify the artist and the provenance of the painting. She sent a photograph of it to the National Gallery and received the information that it

was one of several versions of a popular annunciation angel. When we went to the gallery, their expert showed us a duplicate of the painting in a catalogue of the National Gallery in Washington. But he could not give an opinion on our version. The picture went up for auction again after my mother's death in 1976.

However, Frizzy Liz kept cropping up in unexpected places over the years -- in the 1950s, when I was working in Montreal, I found her in the art collection at Laval University in Quebec, and then in an antique shop in Montreal. The last sighting was the most unlikely. When Louise and I were in Yorkshire in 1979, we visited Castle Howard, and there she was again, on the wall left of the altar in the chapel.

Mother's copy had, under the frame, a brush drawing of an artist holding a palette and wearing a flat renaissance cap. The chance remains that this was the original.

Obituary

We regret to announce the death of Lillian Gertsman on November 4th in Toronto. Lillian was active as a volunteer at the Bytown Museum for over forty years.

She was a member of the Board of Directors for several years and she regularly attended our monthly meetings until she moved to Toronto in 2005 to live with her daughter. She will be greatly missed by her many friends in the Historical Society.

HSO Spring Bus Excursion

In late May or early June, the spring bus excursion will be visiting the Brockville Museum and various sites in and around the City of Brockville (Elizabethtown Twp., Leeds Co.). The excursion will proceed first to the

village of Lyn (Yonge Twp.) and environs to visit the amazing 4-year old Lyn Museum based on the Coleman mills and other industrial operations utilizing water power arising from an extensive integration of water systems to the north. More details to follow in the Spring Newsletter.

Algonquin College Award

Leah Batisse was recommended for the Historical Society Award to an outstanding student in the Applied Museum Studies Program for her involvement with the City of Ottawa Archives in the development of an online virtual exhibit entitled "The Billings Family." She was responsible for researching, designing, and digitalizing the collection used in the creation of the exhibit.

In the summer of 2007 Leah was employed by the City Archives in organizing, cataloguing, and performing stabilization treatment of over 5,700 documents and objects in the Historical Society of Ottawa collection. She is currently working with the City Archives in developing another online exhibit for the 150th Anniversary of Ottawa as the capital of Canada.

A Visit to Vimy Ridge

At our monthly meeting on September 28, Herb Sills began by describing his father's experiences in the Canadian Army in World War I. His father had joined the militia in Saskatchewan before the war and he enlisted when war was declared in 1914. He was sent overseas and was assigned to the Veterinary Corps, which was responsible for looking after the horses on the front lines. He was wounded in the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The Canadian forces succeeded in capturing the ridge after a heavy artillery barrage, but at great cost - 3,598 men were killed and 7,000 were wounded. Herb displayed his father's medals and other mementoes of his

Continued on Page 6

A Visit to Vimy Ridge

Continued from Page 5

service in the war.

To commemorate the Battle of Vimy Ridge the Canadian Government commissioned the architect Walter Allward to design the Vimy Ridge Memorial. It was built on the site near Arras between 1921 and 1936 and was officially opened by King Edward VIII.

On April 9 2007 Herb joined several thousand Canadians and others, including 5,000 high school students, in attending the ceremony on the 90th Anniversary of the battle. The Memorial had been recently restored after four years of work. Herb was in the front line when Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip walked past and he shook hands with Prince Philip. It was a memorable occasion.

Angels and Heroes

On October 26 our guest speaker Mary Cook held a capacity audience spellbound with stories of some of her experiences as a reporter for CBC Radio for 48 years. She described some of the people she interviewed as Canadian "heroes. The "angels" were people or chance or destiny that led her to these heroes.

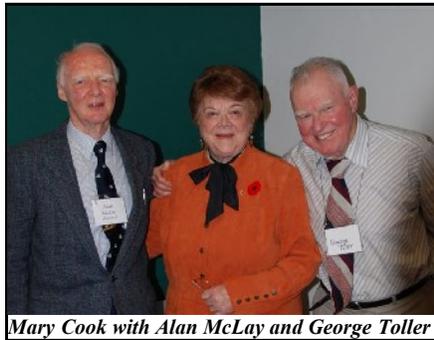
The first example of an unsung "hero" was Ethel Sullivan, the mother of 19 boys, who lived in a small village in Chapleau, Quebec. Somehow she managed to feed, clothe and bring up her sons in spite of extreme poverty. Another "hero" was Ken Lowden, a blind man with a great sense of humour, who lived in Innisville. Ken successfully led a petition in Parliament to establish the rights of blind persons to take their seeing-eye dogs on public transport.

Mr. Laporte was a high school teacher in Inkerman, who started a hockey team for boys to keep them out of trouble. The Inkerman Rockets went on to win the league championship. Four boys later played for teams in the

N.H.L.

Evelyn Pepper was a retired nurse, who had served overseas in World War II. She had helped to nurse a young 17-year-old soldier who was facing a serious operation. She never knew whether he had survived the surgery. Many years later the CBC located the young man and arranged a reunion with Evelyn Pepper on Mary's radio program.

Mary concluded by reading her mother's advice for her children. She gave her permission to reprint these words of wisdom.



Mary Cook with Alan McLay and George Toller

MOMMILIES

1. It is not how much money you accumulate in your lifetime, but what you do with it.
2. It is not how much you achieve academically, but how you have educated yourself in your lifetime.
3. It is not important that you have rubbed shoulders with kings, but how you have related to the common man.
4. It is not important that you stand physically tall, only that you have achieved spiritual height.
5. It is important to know your heart is the most vital organ in your body. Not only is it your lifeline to your being, it is a reflection of who and what you are.
6. Remember, it's not your aptitude, it's your attitude that will finally determine your altitude.

7. It is not important that you compete with others, but it is important that you reach your own potential.

2008 Historica Heritage Fair

On Wednesday, April 9, 2008 all members of the Society are cordially invited to "Come to the Fair". The 6th Annual Historica Heritage Fair will be held at the National War Museum and will help celebrate Vimy Ridge Day.

The Fair Organizing Committee expects some 150-160 student projects from local schools will be on display, all celebrating some aspect of Ottawa's and Canada's history. Awards will be made by national corporations and local historical associations as well as the City of Ottawa for outstanding projects related to subjects such as exploration, native history, genealogy, military history and the history of our local area.

These Fairs are an outstanding example of our young people taking an interest in history and presenting their research to visitors. The Fair will be open from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM and local heritage experts and school teachers will act as judges.

Autumn 2007 Bus Excursion to L'Orignal/Vankleek Hill Areas

by George Neville

Amidst the golden glow of early morning sunlight, 26 passengers and tour organizer set off on a 50-seat Classic Alliance coach via Hwy 174 for L'Orignal having punctually departed St. Richard's Anglican churchyard at 8:05 am and Lansdowne Park at 8:35 am. A little east of Rockland and Clarence Point as we came upon the South Nation Watershed, it was pointed out that the So. Nation River flows into the Ottawa River at Jessup's Falls (the Jessup name being prominent in the settlement of Prescott, ON) and has its headwaters in the Long Swamp on the north side of

Brockville.

Entry to L'Original from Hwy 174 was made by County Rd. 11 and down the sloping hamlet towards the Ottawa River to the L'Original Jail and Court House dating from 1825, the oldest Jail and continuing operating Court House in Ontario. In the reception area, we were first shown a bilingual video of the Caledonia Springs Hotel complex as researched and described by Michel Prévost, Chief Archivist of the University of Ottawa. From there we were conducted by Carole Lavigne and Louise Bédard in two groups throughout the Jail facilities comprehensively explaining procedures and handling of inmates from admission to incarceration for males and females in separate quarters, different types of cells including seeing and experiencing the darkness of 'the hole' (solitary confinement cell), food, toilet facilities, punishment by lashing, and even hangings, five of which were conducted there before the Jail was closed in 1960. For most visitors, it was a first-time experience and a highly informative one at that.

From the Jail it was just a short walk of two blocks south towards the river to visit the old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (later St. Andrews United Church by 1925), having been closed some years ago but recently acquired as a private holding by local resident, Mr. Brebain, whose grandmother Bennett



St. Andrew's Presbyterian (later U.C.C.) Church, two blocks north of the Court-House and close to the Ottawa River.

was related to a former Bennett minister of the church. Brebain has not decided

yet what to do with the church property, but whatever is done he said, "It will be noble" because of the familial connection; and the fine stonework of his house opposite and iron fencework being erected are convincing testimony to his sincerity.



Interior view of front of St. Andrew's Church with Louise Bédard at the pulpit.

Knowing that we were interested in stopping to see the exterior of this church, Louise Bédard, President of the L'Original historical group, arranged with Mr. Brebain to open the church for us to view its interior, left just as vacated with plaques still on the



St. Andrew's Church manse located adjacent and east of the church (now privately owned).

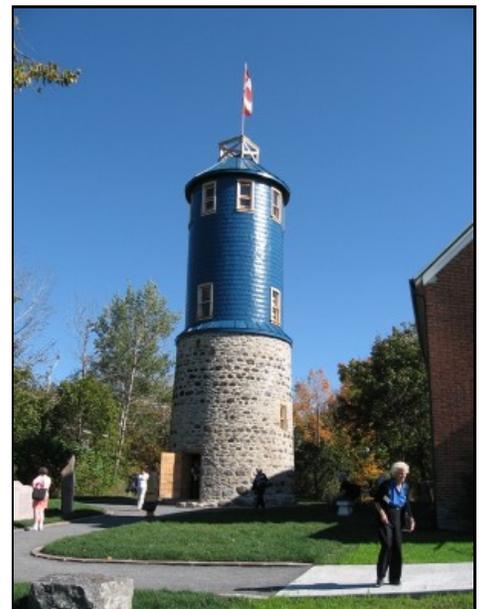
walls and cushions throughout the central section of pews.

A plaque to the memory of Rev. John McLaurin, who came from Perthshire, Scotland, to establish this parish was read, and longtime HSO member, Katherine Ferguson, provided us with additional information on McLaurin, a familial relation of her gt-grandfather's family and Rev. George Ferguson, the second minister (1860-1869) and first occupant of the adjacent stone manse

where five of his children were born. Rev. Ferguson (godfather of Katherine's late husband, Malcolm) later taught Classics and Mediaeval History at Queen's University at Kingston, ON.

Departing L'Original hamlet where so much more remained to be explored, we proceeded to Vankleek Hill via County Rd. 11 south to County Rd. 10 that leads east onto Main St. of the town. Turning right at the traffic lights of Main and Hwy 34 and a quick left onto Hamil St., we proceeded until we saw a sign on the left for The Review, the Vankleek Hill newspaper. Louise Sproule, Editor of The Review, heritage buff and community activist, joined us on the bus to conduct us on a 15-minute orientation tour of the town's mainly red brick houses with white gingerbread ornamentation ending close to Nicko's Resto Bar whose staff served us with great dispatch large bowls of hot potato-bacon soup and French Club sandwiches and other specialties of the day to everyone's satisfaction and delight. From the front entrance of Nicko's, one could see the top of the Higginson Tower, an easy walk away; however the bus was waiting at 2:00 pm to proceed to the Tower.

The Tower being closed for off-



The Higginson Tower in Vankleek Hill with Peggy Woolley standing to the right.

season, Louise Sproule had gone ahead to open it and receive the group. On walking up the gravel pathway lined with granite blocks bearing inscribed names of donors who contributed to the restoration work of the Higginson Tower, we were pleased to find an inscription to the Historical Society of Ottawa in a granite block on the right (for a contribution made in June 2006). How often does one see such recognition bestowed? By virtue of this support, the regular \$2.00/person admission charge was waived; however, on departing we presented Louise Sproule an envelope with a supplemental contribution of \$50.00 towards further development of the site. Almost everyone climbed the 72 steps of the tower to the upper restored chamber where once William Higginson had set up an astronomical telescope after the tower had fallen into disuse due to poor winds (not evident on our visit) from when it was built in 1832 by his father, Lt.-Col. Thomas Higginson as a wind-powered grist mill. Nearby, 300 feet to the SE is the Wm. Higginson brick house, now used as an art studio and display centre where folks gathered to admire both the artwork and the old house.

From the tower, the bus proceeded east on County Rd. 10 down the hill and a further short distance where it drew over to side of the road while attention

Membership Report

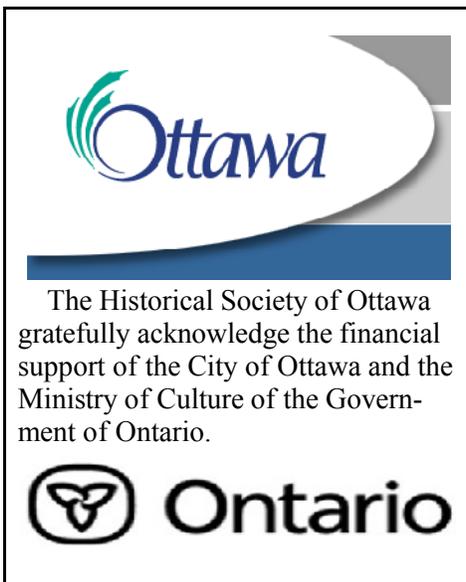
Submitted by Don Baxter.

We'd like to welcome the following new members to the Society:

Mary Cook
Anthony Hughes
Susan Moss

Unfortunately, the following members have died recently and our thoughts are with their families:

Lilian Gertsman
William King
John Taylor



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.



was drawn to Hilltech Canada Inc. where essential oils are extracted on a custom basis from botanicals for the food industry (a plant tour was not possible because of present day liability concerns). The present operation is but a shadow of what this writer and his wife witnessed some 30 years ago when the Kronberg family of Vankleek Hill operated the extraction plant for 25 years when one could smell such fragrances as oil of cloves, nutmeg, or cinnamon and see bundles of botanicals sitting in storage amid the stainless steel extraction kettles and distillation columns.

From Hilltech and another short distance before turning into Terry Fox Drive and the Vankleek Industrial Centre where Beau's All Natural Brewing Company was located. Here the entourage was divided into two groups, the first proceeding into the brewing sector to have the brewing process explained in reference to the brew master's deck and an array of fermentation tanks while the second group was treated to generous free samples of Beau's LUG.TREAD Lagered Ale. Several jugs of ale were acquired at \$15.00 each inclusive of tax and a \$4.00 redeemable jug deposit.

The return journey from Vankleek Hill was made north via Hwy 34 to

Hawkesbury, over the Long-Sault (formerly Perley) Bridge and Ottawa River to Grenville and thence west by Hwys 148 & 50 to Hull and Ottawa. It was a beautiful, sunny, colourful autumn day, historically rich and varied in itinerary, a trip much enjoyed by all.

Family Treasures

On November 30 another successful "Show and Tell" program was held. About 20 members brought a wide assortment of family relics and memorabilia. Each person had the opportunity to describe their treasure and explain the historical significance.



On display were several samplers, letters, photographs, antique jars and bottles, a model Bricklin, and a framed piece of birchbark presented by the raftsmen on the Ottawa River to the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) on his visit to Ottawa in 1860.

