



The Historical Society of Ottawa News

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Issue No. 113

June 2006

President's Report

By Alan McLay

Thirty members of the Historical Society of Ottawa attended our Annual General Meeting on Friday, May 26, in the Routhier Community Centre at 2 p.m. Our guest speaker was Terry Quinlan, the Coordinator of the Applied Museum Studies Program at Algonquin College, the first program of its kind in Canada. Terry gave a power-point presentation outlining the program of studies that his students follow and illustrating some of the conservation projects that the students have undertaken and the internship placements with local museums and galleries. He provided us with some vivid insights into the life and work of the students in the program.

Our second speaker, Christina Tessier, described some of the recent activities and workshops arranged by the Council of Heritage Organizations of Ottawa (CHOO), of which she is President. As Executive Director of the Bytown Museum, she invited members of the Society to visit the new exhibition at the Museum - "Assassination on Sparks Street: The Lives of D'Arcy McGee and Patrick Whalen," which features the pistol owned by Patrick Whalen. Also on display is a virtual reality 3D animation film of the Rideau Locks as they were in 1832. As the result of a recent agreement between the Historical Society and the Bytown Museum members of the Society are admitted free to the Museum for one year.

After a short recess the business part of the meeting began with a minute of silence in memory of those members of the Society who had passed away in

2005. Several questions were asked about topics that were mentioned in the Annual Report. Dorene Hirsch inquired about the status of the Colonel By Memorial Fund. I replied that the Board had reviewed the two reserve funds and had agreed to keep the Memorial Fund in reserve for special occasions to celebrate the life and work of Colonel By. The Perpetual Fund for the Care of Colonel By's Gravesite is dedicated to that purpose only.

Pat Richardson asked for more information about the Strategic Plan Review. She moved that the recommendations in the Review be presented to the members for discussion at the monthly meeting in September. The motion was carried. Ruth Gray suggested that the board investigate the development of an active website to provide members of the Society and others with up-to-date information on meetings, special events, reports, newsletters, etc. A motion to this effect was carried.

The Treasurer's Report was approved with a minor correction. Pat Hartney expressed thanks to Carmel Rombough for checking all the figures in her report. Ruth Toller gave a report on the refreshment fund and

presented a cheque to the Treasurer for \$74.00. She thanked all the members who had assisted in providing refreshments for the monthly meetings during the past year. Ruth announced her wish to retire as our refreshments coordinator. The members expressed their thanks and appreciation to Ruth for all her hard work with a round of applause. I called for a volunteer or group of volunteers to take on this important responsibility.

Joe Konst presented the report of the Nominating Committee. The following ten members of the Society were nominated to serve on the Board of Directors for the year 2006-2007:

Donald Baxter, Donald Carrington, Patricia Hartney, Alan McLay, David Mullington, George Neville, Clifford Scott, Herbert Sills, George Toller, and Barbara Whitfield. When nominations were closed, these members were declared elected by acclamation. In recognition of his exceptional service to the Historical Society as a member of the Board for many years, the Board of Directors conferred Honorary Life Membership on Joe Konst on the occasion of his retirement from the Board. The meeting adjourned at 4.30 p.m.

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The Historical Society of Ottawa

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

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

Board Of Directors

President: Alan McLay	613-730-2264
Vice President: George Toller	613-731-0112
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>	613-749-4101
Clifford Scott <i>d.scott3932@rogers.com</i>	613-731-3932
Herb Sills	613-225-4185
Barbara Whitfield <i>pthosteo@rogers.com</i>	613-722-2209

Committees

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

May 20 - October 9

Bytown Museum open
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Wednesday June 7

Spring Bus Tour
Fort Coulonge
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Details page 6

Sunday June 11

Beechwood Reception Centre
2:00 p.m.
Details page 7

Saturday July 1

Canada Day at the Bytown
Museum
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Details page 3

Monday August 7

Colonel By Day
Bytown Museum
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday September 29

Monthly Meeting
Routhier Community Centre
2 p.m.

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

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.

President's Report

Continued from page 1

At our recent meetings the Board of Directors discussed a number of proposals to use some of the surplus funds accumulated in the operating budget. As already mentioned in my report above, an agreement was negotiated with the Board of the Bytown Museum to provide free admission to members of the Historical Society for one year in return for a payment of \$500. Members who visit the Museum should identify themselves at the desk as belonging to the Society.

The Board also agreed to establish a fund of \$500 for the purchase of books concerning the history of Ottawa and the Valley, including books written by the speakers at our monthly meetings. We also agreed to confer a one-year membership in the Historical Society to our speakers, a practice that had been discontinued in recent years.

A proposal to hire a student from Algonquin College to work in our Library during the summer to bring records up to date, enter new books on the database, and advise us on the conservation of our holdings was approved. A contract has been negotiated with Richard Sturges, a student in the Archives Program at Algonquin who has been working as a volunteer at the Bytown Museum. The Board also approved the purchase of a new computer for the Library in cooperation with the Bytown Museum.

Finally, the Board agreed to the purchase of a software accounting program for the Treasurer. Other proposals have been made but no final decisions have been made as yet.

My best wishes to all our members for a pleasant and relaxing summer.

Bytown Museum Report

By Steve Dezort

Here's what's happening at the Museum this season.

Bytown Café

The Ottawa Locks is the perfect venue for enjoying a cool drink or a delicious sandwich on a fine summer's day. The Bytown Museum is pleased to announce that our café is now open and serving the public in our most picturesque location. Sandwiches, salads, tea, coffee, sweets, cold drinks and ice cream are all available.

Assassination on Sparks Street

Explore the lives of Thomas D'Arcy McGee and his convicted assassin, Patrick Whelan at the Bytown Museum. Featured are many significant artefacts including McGee's death and Whelan's revolver, exhibit A at his trial. On until November 30th.

Daily Programming at the Bytown Museum: May 22nd - October 6th

Guided Tour of the Bytown Museum

Seven days a week, 1pm

Join a member of the Museum staff to explore Ottawa's oldest stone building. Hear the narrative of Bytown and early Ottawa as you examine our exhibits. Ask obscure questions and hear the truth about Ottawa that is stranger than fiction.

Tea Leaf Reading

Monday (starting May 29th), Wednesday and Friday at 3pm

Experience an aspect of Confederation-era society in Ottawa: The divination of your future from the leaves of your tea.

Quill Pen Writing: Confederation - era Journalism

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday at 3pm

Try your hand at writing for the Ottawa Spectator in 1868! Can you advance the ideals of your journal and sway the public to your opinion? You

have a deadline! And your first draft will need to be completed by hand with a quill pen!

Special Events:

The Bytown Museum will be open July 1st for Canada Day, 10 - 4. We offer cold drinks and ice cream and a free slide show presentation on the Rideau Canal. The Museum is air conditioned!

Colonel By Day

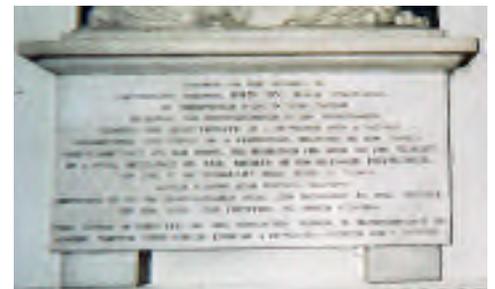
Please join us on August 7th, 11 - 4 to celebrate the origins of our community! There will be a great deal going on including heritage activity demonstrations, live music and Colonel By in attendance himself!

Please visit www.bytownmuseum.com for the latest news and information.

A Visit to the Grave of Lt-Col. John By, Royal Engineers

By Herb Sills

During a recent trip to England I spent the last weekend of April with my cousin Ron Jones in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. We took the opportunity to make a visit to the village of Frant which is just three miles away and go to St. Alban's Church where Lt-Col. John By is buried. This is the 6th time I have been there.



It was a Saturday morning and I was able to go into the church and take a photograph of the plaque on the wall which reads as follows:

"Sacred to the Memory of Lieutenant Colonel John By, Royal Engineers of Shernfold Park in this Parish. Zealous

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A Visit to the Grave of Lt-Col. John By

and Distinguished in his Profession. Tender and Affectionate as a Husband and a Father Charitable and Pious as a Christian, Beloved by His Family and Lamented by the Poor. He Resigned His Soul to His Maker, in a Full Reliance on the Merits of His Blessed Redeemer, on the 1st of February 1856, Aged 53 Years, after a Long and Painful Illness Brought on by his Indefatigable Zeal and Devotion in the Service of His King and Country in Upper Canada.

This Stone is Erected by His Afflicted Widow, in Remembrance of Every Virtue that could Endear a Husband, a Father, and a Friend”



The Historical Society of Ottawa contributes to the upkeep of the grave-site which is near the church and I took a picture of it too. Beside it is a stone, placed there in 1995 by the Canadian High Commissioner, which records the fact that Lt-Col. John By was the founder of Ottawa, which was then called Bytown in 1827-28, having sur-

veyed the first streets. My wife and I attended that ceremony in 1995 which included a church service and a dedication of the marker in the cemetery.

Library News

The following are the five titles of the materials loaned to Archive CD Books Canada to be transferred onto CDs as part of their Information Record Series. Two copies each (on CD) are now in the Library.

Ottawa City Directory 1861-2 by Boyd & McDonald

Lovell's Canadian Dominion Directory – 1871 (All Sections)

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Good News For Members - Free Admission to Museum

Beginning immediately, the Society has arranged with the Museum that all members will be admitted free at any time!

Just identify yourselves at the front desk, and they will have a membership list there.

They have the special exhibit there now on the Assassination of Darcy McGee, and they have added attractive tables and chairs outside where they are selling soft drinks, tea, coffee, sandwiches and salads - not free to Members, but enjoying the scenery is.

Treasurer's Report to May 31, 2006

Source	Revenue
Memberships	\$1920.00
Donations	580.00
Pamphlets	45.00
Grants	3900.00
Refreshments proceeds	<u>78.87</u>
Total	\$6,523.87

Expense	Paid Out
Newsletter	\$400.00
Telephone (paid to June 30 th)	340.00
Diefenbunker rent (paid to June 30 th)	647.34
Membership dues	112.10
Post box	58.85
Use of Bytown Museum photocopier	20.00
Award to Heritage Fair City Cup winners	150.00
Accounting software	114.93
Production and mail-out of Annual Report	359.19
Secretarial	81.84
Donation to Bytown Museum for free admission	500.00
Half of Library computer purchase price	229.85
Purchase of book for Library	25.00
Bank charges	<u>9.01</u>
Total	\$3,048.11

Net Income

\$3,475.76

Library News

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Ottawa & Kingston City Directory – 1875 by McAlpine, Everett & Co.

Report of the Ottawa and Hull Fire Relief Fund – 1900

Anson Gard's "Ottawa Valley" – Complete copies of both: The Hub and the Spokes & the Pioneers of the Upper Ottawa (originally published in 1904 & 1906.

A copy of Robert Grainger's book, *Early Days in Westboro Beach*, has been purchased for the Library.

Rideau 175

Parks Canada

The year 2007 marks the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Rideau Canal, North America's oldest continuously operating waterway. The purpose of Rideau 175 is to create a year long celebration of the culture, heritage and uniqueness of the Rideau Canal in communities through which it passes from Ottawa to Kingston.



Canoe and steamer on the Rideau
© Parks Canada

Parks Canada will be spearheading the organization of this celebration in the communities along the Rideau corridor through its secretariat in Smiths Falls, Ontario.

By celebrating this important year with us visitors will learn more about the canal's history, appreciate it's uniqueness as well as respect and preserve its cultural and natural heritage now and for future generations.

We foresee a wide-ranging agenda of activities and events throughout the

Rideau corridor in 2007 that will create a year of celebration.

Although we are still designing this big celebration, we invite you to follow this link to learn more about Rideau 175 as it unfolds. www.rideau-175.org

Note: This article is reprinted with permission of Parks Canada from their website: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/>

A Student in the HSO Library

After a lifetime (probably even a century) of depending on volunteer librarians to care for the HSO Library, we are hiring an Algonquin College student to assist there over the summer. Richard Sturges is a student in the Archives and Record Management program at Algonquin, and expresses a fundamental love of books, especially old ones. He'll help in organizing the Library, bringing the computer records for the 2100 books up-to-date, and creating special containers to hold some of the very valuable older items in the Library. He has been doing some of the last as a volunteer in recent months.

3D Animation of Ottawa Locks

On May 18th, International Museums Day, the Bytown Museum launched the 3D Commissariat Reconstruction Project. This bilingual, 8-minute animation takes the viewer back in time to the Ottawa Locks site and Commissariat Building (now the Bytown Museum), as they appeared in 1832 when the Rideau Canal was first completed.

This on-line exhibit was developed in partnership with the Virtual Museum of Canada (VMC) at virtualmuseum.ca

Funded by the Virtual Museum of Canada, the 3D Commissariat Reconstruction Project is the product of a

partnership between the Bytown Museum and the National Research Council. It brings together Ottawa's oldest community museum with leading edge software – a clear example of how technology and history can come together to educate and entertain us.

Six students from two different colleges worked on the project and received hands-on training in the animation field. The National Research Council provided the technological expertise and equipment. The Bytown Museum provided the historical knowledge, working with Parks Canada and the City of Ottawa Archives.

The animated exhibit guides the viewer through the Ottawa Locks on Colonel By's maiden voyage in May 1832, even diving underwater to understand how a sluice gate works. The viewer then steps into the interior of the Commissariat Building (Ottawa's oldest stone building) and sees its now missing twin building, the Royal Sappers and Miners offices.

The exhibit runs continuously on a TV screen in the Museum. It is also available online through the Bytown Museum's website at www.bytownmuseum.ca or at the Virtual Museum of Canada at: www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Bytown.

(This item was taken largely from a News Release from The Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa)

The Spring Tour – June 7, 2006

By Herb Sills

The bus will depart from St. Richard's parking lot (corner of Merivale and Rossland avenues) at 8.45 a.m. with a second pickup at Lansdowne Park Bank street entrance at 9.00 a.m.

We will travel up the Quebec side of the Ottawa river. The plan is to visit museums at Shawville and at the manor house of George Bryson built in 1840.

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The Spring Tour

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We will also visit the Lumbermen Museum near the Coulouge Waterfall and view the log slide and canyon. We stop for lunch at the Terrasse du Vieux Pont which is across the road from the red covered bridge.

On the return trip we will pause at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church which was built in 1890. We plan to return to Ottawa by 6.00 p.m.

The cost of the tour is \$50.00. At this time we have a full busload and a small waiting list. Anyone who has registered and is not able to go on the tour should call Herb Sills at 225-4185.

Historica Heritage Fairs and the Historical Society of Ottawa

By Cliff Scott



On Saturday, April 22, 2006 the 4th Annual Heritage Fair was held in the Grand Hall of the National Museum of Civilization. Over 130 projects representing all Ottawa School Boards, some 17 schools from all parts of the city were on display. As well, there were 15 exhibitors from the local Heritage community. The Fair opened at 10 a.m. and awards were presented at 3 p.m. Principal among these awards is the City Cup presented to the best local history project by the City of Ottawa. This Cup is accompanied by a cash award of \$150.00 by our Society which has been a strong supporter of the Fairs concept

since its inception. Students from ages 9-15 who are our members of the future are really appreciative of visitors

About Historica Fairs

Historica Fairs begin as hands-on, independent research projects. Taking on the role of historian, interpreter, storyteller and myth-maker, children learn and teach others about Canadian heroes and legends, milestones in their communities, or family achievements.

Once students have participated in the classroom or at a School Fair, their projects may be selected to attend a Community or Regional Fair. These Fairs showcase anywhere from 50 to 400 student projects and generally take place in April or May of each year. They are vibrant community celebrations where local museums, historical associations, businesses and multicultural groups come together to offer displays, demonstrations, food, and entertainment. Most Regional Fairs include heritage-related activities like educational workshops, cultural performances, and guest speakers, which enhance the students' experiences during the Fair and sustain their interest in history after the event is over. All Regional Fairs have public open hours when students are asked to interpret their projects for visitors, thereby sharing their stories with the community.

who share their interest in all aspects of Canadian history and heritage.

Students all across Canada attended Regional Fairs. Over 225,000 students were involved in 2005. Ontario sponsored a provincial Fair in late May and there will be a National Fair in Halifax in July. Local students were selected to attend these fairs at our regional Fair on April 22. All travel and living expenses to those Fairs are paid

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

Over 4500 persons attended our Fair on April 22, including members of the Museum Board. Our students did us proud again and the Museum of Civilization and the War Museum are interested in sponsoring the Fair in 2007.

Historica Fair Winners Laurier LaPierre Medals

- Elijah Doern – Homeschooler's Association – Billings Estate- Gr. 4
- Brandon Kennedy – Lester B. Pearson – Plains of Abraham- Gr. 8
- Justin Lamothe – Rockland PS – The Best of Canada-Gr. 5
- Nathaniel Kennan-Pelletier – St George – Le chemin de fer CN- Gr. 5
- Abdullah Zoubi – St. Pat's – Cindy Klassen – Gr. 8 (English)
- Ryan C. Kavanaugh – Sawmill Creek PS – Strengthening the Dominion – Gr.8



Individual

- Local History – Becky Dimoff, Arora Pooja, Rachel Malboeuf; W.O. Mitchell; Ottawa's Haunted Jailhouse – Gr. 8

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Historica Fair Winners

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- Canadian National – Christian Keller – Educarium- Policing the Klondike during the Goldrush – Gr. 8
- Royal Bank of Canada – Emily Tenant – St. Peter’s – Music of the Indigenous People – Gr. 8 Multi/English
- Hudson’s Bay Company – Kyle Brady – Educarium- The Canadian Pacific Railway – Gr. 8
- Trillium – Caroline Lalonde – Sawmill Creek – Lady Aberdeen – Gr. 8
- British Family History and Cliff’s Award - Nicola Hadwen – Home schooler’s Association – Dr. Seymour Hadwen – Gr. 5
- Archives of Ontario – Nicole Brouwer – St. Patrick’s – I was a Page at Queen’s Park – Gr. 8

Provincial and National Winners

- Nicholas Keenan-Pelletier –Immaculata- Premier chemin de fer – Gr. 7
- Elena Yammine – St. Patrick’s – Loblaws – Gr. 8 (English)
- Ashley Louis-Seize – Rockland - Les Algonquins – Gr. 7
- Brandon Keyes – Manor Park – David Suzuki and Climate Change – Gr. 7
- Breanna Kingsley – St. Peter’s - Rideau Canal – Gr. 8
- Adrian Finn – Westboro Academy – James Naismith – Gr. 4 (English)



National

- Laura Dwyer – St. Patrick’s – Gum Sahn- The Golden Mountain – Gr. 8
- (French titles were French projects- unless otherwise stated the rest were English)

Student’s Choice

Eric Hoffman – Notre Dame –Exploration of the Hudson’s Bay Company – Gr. 7



Beechwood's Annual Historical Tour (English) takes place on Sunday, June 11th at 2:00 pm.

Glenn Wright who recently retired from the National Archives of Canada will be our Tour Guide. He is an excellent tour guide so it will be an interesting tour. The theme is the Ottawa Sharpshooters and Ottawa’s Military Heritage. Beechwood Reception Centre

For more Information: 741-9530

New Members in 2006

Since January 1, the following members have joined the HSO:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Elizabeth Carroll | Mary Edwards |
| Robert Grainger | Margaret Kitching |
| Valerie Knowles | Allan Rayburn |
| Donald and Joyce Ross | Susan and Thomas Williams |

We sincerely welcome them to the Society and hope they will enjoy their time with us.

At the AGM on May 26 the following new Board Members were elected:

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| George Neville | Dave Mullington | Barbara Whitfield |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|

We welcome them to the Board.

We regret that Joe Konst has resigned from the Board. He is a Past -President and a Board member of many years. Joe , thanks so much for your active participation and legal expertise over the years.



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**