



The Historical Society of Ottawa News

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June 2010

President's Report

The Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society of Ottawa was held on Friday, May 28, at St. Richard's Anglican Church at 1:00 PM. Twenty-seven members and visitors were present.

The business meeting was begun with a minute of silence in memory of four members who had died during the past year: Edward Devlin, Joanne Patterson, Margaret Kells, and Lyn Sheward.

The Guest Speaker, Meg Hamilton, Executive Director, Council of Heritage Organizations of Ottawa was invited to make her presentation before the remaining business portion of the AGM. She reviewed the role and plans for future activities of CHOO. She is preparing a report to the City of Ottawa and the Ontario government on the state of the situation in Ottawa. The attendance at sites and events in the CHOO organizations had doubled in the last four years, even though the economic situation has not been of the best. She is encouraging the CHOO organizations to attempt to expand their outreach to additional groups such as the non-European community, the disabled, and school-aged children.

In concluding the past year as President, Herb Sills conducted the meeting and commented briefly on some of the highlights of HSO activities during 2009 covered in his President's Report; then he thanked all the members of the Board of Directors for their faithful service and active cooperation. A motion to approve the Annual Report for 2009 with the exception of the Treasurer's Report was carried.

Anne Carruthers presented her

Treasurer's Report for 2009 and expanded on some of the items. She thanked Iris Neville for conducting a review of the past year's accounting and statements a couple of days before the AGM. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was carried.

Don Baxter presented the report of the Nominating Committee, comprised of Alan McLay, Herb Sills, Barbara Whitfield, and himself. The slate of candidates proposed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Ottawa for the year 2009-2010 was as follows: Donald Baxter, Donald Carrington, Anne Carruthers, Elizabeth Krug, Alan McLay, Dave Mullington, George Neville, Donald Ross, Herbert Sills, and Barbara Whitfield. Further nominations from the floor were asked for. There being none, a motion to close nominations was carried, and Herb Sills declared the above-named persons elected to the Board of Directors for 2009-2010.

Under new business, George Neville was asked to provide an update on the Kingston excursion for 3rd June. He reported a full bus with one person remaining on the waiting list and gave a brief synopsis of viewing Barriefield Village and Fort Henry heights, time permitting, before arriving at the Royal Military College. Don Baxter announced that Herb Sills was retiring as President (a round of applause in

appreciation for his good work); then he stated that George Neville had agreed to become President for the new year (another round of applause). Bryan Cook asked that the Society expand its encouragement of research by local university students in the area of local history and support it with grants from our funds. Herb Sills asked him to expand on his idea and submit a letter to the Society. Barbara Whitfield thanked Theresa Smith and Jean McNiven for bringing refreshments for the AGM which were enjoyed over conversation following the 2:30 PM adjournment.

Autumn Excursion to Maitland – Prescott Areas of the St. Lawrence River

On Tuesday, 5th October 2010, an HSO bus excursion will visit early Loyalist settlements along the St. Lawrence River between Maitland and Prescott in this the year of the 200th anniversary of the founding of Prescott by Major Edward Jessup. From Albany, N.Y., Jessup raised a corps of loyalists which became known as Jessup's Rangers or the Kings's Loyal Rangers who came north in the winter of 1783/84 at the close of the American Revolution. Cost \$50.00, all inclusive. Reservations: contact George Neville 613-729-0579 or <george.neville@ncf.ca>.

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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

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A note regarding Membership renewals - For regular members of the Ottawa Historical Society, your renewal date is shown on your address label on this newsletter. Please check it and see that you are up-to-date. If not, a renewal form is available for you to photocopy on the last page of this newsletter.

Coming Events

Friday, September 24

Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Ron Elmer
"Salvaging Memories From Oblivion"
Routhier Community Centre*
1 p.m.

Tuesday, October 5

Autumn Bus Excursion
Maitland - Prescott Areas
Pickup locations and times to be announced

Friday, October 29

Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Valerie Knowles
"Wm. C. Van Horne: Railway General and Polymath"
Routhier Community Centre*
1 p.m.

Friday, November 26

Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Cameron Truman
"150 Year History of Watson's Mills"
Routhier Community Centre*
1 p.m.

*Parking at the Routhier Community Centre - from Cumberland Ave., between St. Patrick St. and Guigues Ave.

HSO Excursion to Kingston, 3rd June 2010

by George Neville, Tour Chair

With 24 members and friends on board one of Healey Transportation's newest coaches at Fairlawn Plaza by 8:25 AM, an additional 30 persons were then promptly picked up at Lansdowne Park, Bank St. entrance, by 9:00 AM, and the excursion set forth in good time with a full bus. As a souvenir of this excursion and to provide vintage insight into the greater Kingston area, copies of a facsimile edition of Charles W. Cooper's 1856 book, "Frontenac, Lennox & Addington" (112 pp), an awarded essay by the City, were distributed.

As the excursion travelled south on Hwy 416, background to the selection and importance of the Kingston site was given as an integral part of the history of 'la nouvelle France'. By the mid-17th century, the French had established fur-trading with various Indian tribes under the administration of the Intendant at Québec.

In 1672, Louis de Buade, Comte de Frontenac et de Palluau, at age 52, was sent to Québec by Louis XIVth to be the first Governor-General of New France. Upon his arrival, Frontenac met Jean Talon, the Intendant, but he took particular interest in what his predecessor Governor, de Courcelles, had to say about a place called Cataraqui at the outlet of Lake Ontario. The following summer Frontenac launched a large movement of troops, Indians, and supplies up the St. Lawrence around the rapids to establish a small fort at Cataraqui (Tete du Pont, present site of the Canadian Military Staff College), later enlarged and strengthened with four stone corner towers. This fortification and trading centre, Fort Frontenac, was for a time administered by René Robert Cavelier de La Salle, who later went on to explore the Mississippi

River to its mouth, claiming all the lands and naming the southern portion, "Louisiana" for his King, Louis XIVth.

Arriving on the eastern outskirts of Kingston, the excursion exited onto Hwy 15 in order to make a brief tour throughout Barriefield Village, a picturesque hamlet of fine old stone houses and cottages and St. Mark's Anglican Church. Before proceeding into Kingston, we first drove up to Fort Henry heights to view the Kingston skyline, Navy Bay, and Cedar Island with its Martello Tower at the beginning of the St. Lawrence River. On entering Kingston from the east, one passes over the Cataraqui River by means of the La Salle Causeway (and lift bridge), and on rounding the corner to Ontario St., one sees the archaeological outline of remains of part of the enlarged Fort Frontenac across the street from Tete du Pont. Turning right and proceeding west on Queen St., we took note of the old burying ground of St. George's Anglican Church in which Molly Brant was buried, now also the site of St. Paul's Anglican Church. From there we made our way east again down Princess St. to pass in front of the Kingston City Hall, completed in 1844 and the Shoal (Martello) Tower; thence along King St. past City Park and Murney (Martello) Tower, north on Barrie St. to Union St. taking note of the County Building fronting on Court St., then west on Union St. to note various Queen's University buildings and south by Lower Albert St. with women's residences on the east and men's residences on the west. As time was approaching for noon luncheon at the SS Mess of Royal Military College (RMC), we headed back east to find our way into RMC and the Senior Staff Mess building not too far from Fort Frederick on Point Frederick, the southern-most portion of the RMC campus.

Following a relaxed and enjoyable lunch featuring rice with beef Bourguignon in the pleasant Mess overlooking Lake Ontario, Cedar Island, and the windmills in the distance on Wolfe Island, Ross McKenzie, member of the Kingston Historical Society and Curator of the RMC Museum in Fort Frederic (a Martello Tower), gave an overview of



Ross McKenzie relating the strategic importance of Point Frederick, the Naval Dockyard, and Point Henry areas. Photo courtesy of Don Baxter.

history of the early fortifications on Point Frederick, Point Henry and Fort Henry, and the Naval Dockyard before taking us by bus to the Alexander McKenzie building situated at a right-angle to the oldest RMC building, the Stone Frigate. Inside the main foyer of the McKenzie Bldg., Ross explained much of RMC life, traditions, and the memorial windows at the head of the 2nd and 3rd floor memorial staircases



Ross McKenzie describing the foyer and memorial staircase of McKenzie Hall at RMC Photo courtesy of George Neville.

with their beautiful wooden railings.

Unfortunately by 2:00 PM, there was not time to visit the RMC Museum within Fort Frederick, and as

a majority of the full bus signified preference to visit the Penitentiary Museum, we crossed over Kingston via Brock St. to Portsmouth arriving at the Museum at the appointed time of



Welcoming words and orientation at the entrance to the Penitentiary Museum, the former Warden's residence. Photo courtesy of Don Baxter.

2:15 PM! The exhibits there were quite different and varied, much to the surprise, interest and delight of the visitors. On leaving the Penitentiary Museum at 3:00 PM, we were able to take a tour past Portsmouth Penitentiary, Canada's oldest prison, and through the village of many old stone houses and past the Church of the Good Thief, constructed by convict labour just like the Warden's House (the Penitentiary Museum), and thence back through Portsmouth and continuing on King St. eastward to Centre St. to view Bellevue House, Sir John A. Macdonald's 'Pekoe Pagoda'; thence east by Johnson St. to St. George's Anglican Church and the back of Kingston market as we made our way out of Kingston for Hwys 15, 401, and the 416. The Lansdowne group departed by 5:30 PM, and all were cleared at the Fairlawn Plaza by 5:50 PM.

The Quarrier Home Children by George Neville

This topic, the subject of 30th April 2010 meeting of HSO, was comprehensively addressed by Lorraine Reoch who together with husband, Gordon, appeared resplendent in their

Farquharson plaids and accoutrements. The Reoch's constitute a Sept of the Farquharson clan.

To set the stage, Lorraine related that some 100 years from about 1853 more than 100,000 orphans, street-kids, etc. were sent from the British Isles to different areas in Canada as 'Home Children' by some 70 different agencies or individuals. The Quarrier agency, based in Scotland and dealing mainly with Presbyterian youth, was one of the larger and enduring groups for transporting disadvantaged children from 6 to mid teens.

Wm. Quarrier (1829-1902), a shoemaker, lived with his wife in Glasgow. A compassionate man, he one day was moved by the plight of a young, orphaned, match-stick vending boy crying by the roadside and gave the lad his day's earnings. Soon others were drawn to his attention, and he organized a shoe-black brigade for their useful employment. By 1870, he was planning to rent a home, opened in 1871, where boys could stay over. By the next year, he had arranged for a similar home for girls, each home provided with caretaker mother/father figures. In 1875, Quarrier purchased a 45 acre piece of land at Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, where he built a 3-storey building for study, with a hall and then cottages for some 300 attendees from donations received some from various Sabbath Schools. By 1882, Quarrier had sold his shoemaker's shops and moved to Bridge of Weir to devote more time to the cause while farming the outlying land in support of the "Children's City".

By the mid-80s, Quarrier was arranging for the transport of children from his shelter at the Bridge of Weir to Canada to a receiving home in Belleville, On, run by Annie MacPherson. Fairknowe House, Brockville, Ont. was not built as a receiving depot by Quarrier until 1888. Each child was sent with a trunk bearing its name and standardized

contents (cost 10 pounds), eg., for boys: a Bible, writing materials, copy of pilgrim's progress, specified sets of clothing, plus a jack-knife -- essentially the same for girls, plus 2 yards of fabric, needles and thread. On 7th of April 1886, Quarrier dispatched two Reoch boys from Glasgow, Robert Wilson and John for Canada destined for Belleville and the home run by Anne MacPherson. When they reached Montreal, they boarded a train for Belleville. After two weeks, they boarded another train for Prescott Ontario, Here they changed trains, now going on the direction of Ottawa, the train stopped at Osgoode Station (Osgoode Twp. Carleton Co.) where the boys got off and were given to the appropriate mailman, who would deliver them to their new homes. Robert was placed with James Dillion, and John with John Andrew. Subsequently, another Reoch boy from Glasgow, Wm. Wilson, was sent to Osgoode with his younger sister Maggie, at the tender age of 5 years, having spent 17 mos. at the Bridge of Weir before being sent to Osgoode. Much additional information was provided by Lorraine on the genealogy of these Reoch placements as well as conditions and support afforded by hosting parties. Lively and far ranging questions and discussion ensued well into refreshment time.



This medallion, given to Robert Wilson Reoch, was a token for a cheese sent to the World's Fair 1893,*

NOTE: *There has been a bill tabled at Queen's Park to make September 28, the day of the "Home Child". This news came from Jim Brownell MPP, who attended Lorraine Reoch's presentation on the 2nd of May. We are hoping it gets third reading.*

**If anyone has any information on this medal, please send it to reoch@magma.ca.*

Deaccessioned by Dave Mullington

The cupboard is bare! Or almost. The city archives people took away our collection the 2nd June and Don Carrington carried off the remainder of the badges collection 2 days prior to that.

All that remains are about 20 boxes of HSO booklets and pamphlets and one box containing photos and a photo album of former HSO office holders and members.

My thanks to Don Baxter for doing a great job with the database(s), to Don Carrington for his fine work with the badges and to Barbara Whitfield and Dorene Hirsch for helping with the deaccession committee.

All that remains now is to find a home for the 20-odd boxes of pamphlets, and Don Baxter will be talking to the Bytown Museum to see if they'll have any extra room in their Diefenbunker lockers.

Ralph Connor, nom de plume used by Rev. Charles W. Gordon:

List of known book titles by George Neville

This article appeared in the April 2010 Newsletter without a list. It is being repeated here since the list has now been provided by Don Baxter:

During the June/09 HSO bus excursion to Glengarry County historical sites, a hand-out was provided by Gordon Winters who had

arrived earlier to open the red-brick Gordon Free Presbyterian Church (built 1864) located at St. Elmo on the Highland Rd. south of Hwy 417 (see HSO Newsletter, Sept. 2009, p. 4). The hand-out consisted of a 2-page listing of the currently known 36 books written by Rev. Charles W. Gordon using the nom de plume, Ralph Connor. He explained that this listing was compiled by people in Winnipeg where Gordon had ministered for many years; however, it is not known if the listing is complete. Gordon Winters and HSO would be pleased to receive any additional information about Ralph Connor book titles not found in the listing below.

THE PUBLISHED WORKS OF RALPH CONNOR (Rev. Charles W. Gordon)

The names of publishers and dates are given where known. For this list publishers have been abbreviated as follows:

Westminster Co. Ltd. W.Co. Ltd.
McClelland and Stewart Ltd., Toronto
M.&S. Ltd.
Fleming H. Revell Co. (Toronto, etc.)
F.H.R. Co.
George H. Doran Co., New York
G.H.D. Co.
Hodder and Stoughton Ltd., London
H.&S. Co.

1. The Angel and the Star - W.Co.Ltd., 1908 (24 pages,scarce)
2. The Arm of Gold - M.&S. Ltd., 1932
3. Beyond the Marshes - F.H.R. Co., 1900 (19 pages, scarce)
4. Black Rock (A Tale of the Selkirks) - W.Co. Ltd., 1898 (based on his experiences at Canmore)
5. Breaking the Record - 1904 (31 pages, scarce)
6. Christian Hope - 1912 (31 pages, very scarce)
7. Corporal Cameron of the Northwest Mounted Police - W.Co. Ltd, 1912

8. The Dawn By Galilee - 1909 (scarce)
9. The Doctor (A Tale of the Rockies) - W.Co. Ltd., 1906
10. A Fight for Freedom - 1917 (13 pages, rare)
11. The Foreigner (A Tale of Saskatchewan) - W.Co. Ltd., 1909
12. The Friendly Four and Other Stories - 1926 (scarce)
13. The Gaspards of Pincroft (A Romance of Windermere, B.C.) - M.&S. Ltd., 1923
14. The Gay Crusader (A Romance of Quebec) - 1936
15. The Girl from Glengarry - M.&S. Ltd., 1933
16. Glengarry School Days - W.Co. Ltd., 1902
17. Gwen, An Idyll of the Canyon - 1904 (scarce) (Although this is scarce, it is actually a reprinting of Chapters 9-13 of The Sky Pilot.)
18. Gwen's Canyon-1898 (30 pp., scarce)
19. He Dwelt Among Us - 1936 (scarce)
20. The Major - G. H. D.Co., 1917
21. The Man from Glengarry - W.Co. Ltd., 1901
22. Michael McGrath, Postmaster - 1900 (42 pages,scarce)
23. Ould Michael - publisher and date unknown (possibly another title for, or excerpt from, Michael McGrath,Postmaster)
24. The Patrol of the Sundance Trail - G.H.D. Co. • , 1914
25. The Pilot at Swan Creek and Other Stories - 1905 (scarce)
26. The Prospector (A Tale of the Crow's Nest Pass)-W.Co.Ltd.,1904
27. The Rebel Loyalist - M.& . Ltd., 1935
28. The Recall of Love - W.Co.Ltd., 1910 (23 pages, scarce)
29. The Rock and the River (A Romance of Quebec) - M.&S.Ltd.,1931
30. The Runner (A Romance of the Niagara). - H.&S. Ltd., 1929
31. The Sky Pilot (A Tale of the Foothills) - H.&S. Ltd., 1899
32. The Sky Pilot in No Man's Land - G.H.D. Co., 1919

33. The Swan Creek Blizzard - 1904 (29 pages, scarce)
34. To Him That Hath (A Novel of the West Today) - G.H.D. Co., 1921
35. Torches Through the Bush - M.&S. Ltd., 1934
36. Treading the Winepress - G.H.D. Co., 1925

Biography by Charles W. Gordon (Ralph Connor)

1. The Life of James Robertson (Presbyterian Missionary Superintendent in Western Canada) - W. Co. Ltd., 1908
2. Postscript to Adventure (The Autobiography of Ralph Connor) - Farrar and Rinehart Inc., New York, 1938

Notes provided by Meg Hamilton on her Presentation to HSO – AGM May 2010

Good Afternoon, It is lovely to be here today to speak to the Historical Society of Ottawa about the on-going transformations taking place in Ottawa's local heritage community. The HSO has been a member of CHOO since the late 1980's when CHOO was first formed as a group of citizens united by the concern of how local heritage would be supported and promoted as we moved towards amalgamation and the 21st Century.

CHOO now represents the interests of over 50 heritage groups in the Ottawa area. We present a strong, united voice and are viewed by local government and our colleagues within the wider heritage community as a leader and a very effective network of organizations.

Over the last decade the efforts of the local heritage community and CHOO members has ensured that the City of Ottawa's 20/20 Plan – a guiding document for growth and transformation of the city – included a strong Heritage component. The

development of the highly successful Museum Sustainability Plan (MSP) was a direct result of the work Ottawa's heritage community did to bring the vulnerable state of our community and municipal museums to the attention of city council and staff. The MSP was a visionary document that depended on the input of stakeholders representing all aspects of the heritage community and from throughout the geographically large city of Ottawa. As we come to the close of the 4-year MSP – the results are remarkable – and in a report to be presented next week to a Standing Committee of City Council – the outcomes of the increased funding and support are detailed and the successes of our local museums are highlighted – including a huge increase in the number and variety of public programs and exhibits, an increased capacity to leverage funds from private, provincial and federal sources, and an aggregate 99% increase in visitors! Clearly – the MSP funding has helped to transform our local museums.

The impact extends to other parts of the heritage community – including the numerous historical societies and genealogical groups who work so closely in valuable partnerships with museums to support innovative programs, projects and research.

The MSP presented an opportunity to the heritage sector to transform and renew our local museums and find ways to grow our relevance to our surrounding communities. This transformation was not an easy task – or perhaps I should say transformation *is* not an easy task – because of course the struggle to remain relevant to our audiences, communities, our neighbourhoods – is an on-going challenge.

I attended a fascinating workshop about Organizational Transformation last fall at the Ontario Museum Association Conference. Dr. Candace Tangorra Matelic was the presenter and I'm going to quote a passage to you from

an article she wrote called "Change & Transformation in History Organizations".

"Increasing numbers of history organizations – ranging from all-volunteer staff to million-dollar operations – are undergoing major change and transformation.

The reasons range from economic survival to a fundamental redefinition in purpose, based on the belief that our field is embarking on an era in which the traditional activities of collecting, preserving, researching, and exhibiting are simply no longer adequate.

Museums and history organizations worldwide have been challenged to justify their existence by the public value, and positive contribution that they make to their communities.

Many history organizations are engaging their communities to discover what they care about, redefining their mission and visions, and evolving into places that facilitate important civic conversations.

They are utilizing interpretation as a transformative process to establish deep and personal connections with new audiences, neighbours, and stakeholders, and embracing innovative public programming as an organizational priority rather than a departmental function. Partnering with diverse community organizations, they are discovering shared goals, visions, plans, and outcome, and pursuing more activist agendas to improve their communities."

While I would argue that it has been several decades since the heritage community first embarked on this new era – I suspect that we all agree with Dr. Matelic's notion that museums, historic sites and history organizations are under enormous pressure from the public and funders to demonstrate our value and positive impact on the communities in which we are placed. The traditional "Heritage Gatekeepers" of past generations tended to function within a closed model based on core functions like collecting and preservation. To

ensure our survival we need to identify and cultivate new “Gatekeepers” who work within an open model of on-going two-way communication and constant dialogue with our surrounding communities and stakeholders.

Change and transformation of this magnitude can be slow and difficult for many organizations – no matter what size – no matter if there is a paid staff to help with the process. For volunteers, staff and other stakeholders who have been deeply committed to a historical society, museum or historic site for decades – the challenge is often to break out of established, comfortable patterns that were often focused around the collections and internal workings of our institutions.

A shift to a more external, community focus requires careful thought and planning. If we want to truly act as a positive instrument of change within our communities – Where do we begin?

I’ve been involved in various planning exercises with a number of heritage groups in the Ottawa area. Whether these exercises were to develop a formal Strategic Plan, completely overhaul a permanent exhibit area, or move a fledgling museum along the path to its “opening day” – a common thread in all these exercises is the importance of widespread stakeholder and community engagement.

Two big questions that face us are:

1. Who needs to be involved in planning our transformation and change? And
2. How do I find these people?!

WHO? If you are tasked with identifying who should participate in this exciting transformation process –

You talk to your board of directors, key volunteers, and your staff (if you have any) and you even remember to include your major funders and donors on the list.

Perhaps your local municipal or regional councillor has been interested in your organization in the past - so her/his

name gets added to your growing list.

And of course there is that local business that has sponsored events, programs or publications for your organization over the last few years.

Lastly – thinking that it will be great to have the input of a heritage professional you decide to include the director of a museum or historic site located in your community.

Great! So – you’ve got your final list and start scheduling brainstorming sessions and meetings. -the people I’ve listed are all very important participants in the process – but if we examine the list we see that everyone we have identified is ALREADY a supporter who is positively engaged in your organization in some way.

The more challenging task is to ensure that there is participation from groups and sectors in the wider community who have typically NOT visited or been engaged in your activities.

For many heritage organizations – including historical societies and history museums the list of who is not involved might include:

- New Canadians and/or Canadians of non-European backgrounds – who might believe there is nothing relevant to them within your organization – Perhaps they think they won’t see themselves and their experiences reflected in the programmes, publications or exhibits?

- People with disabilities – whether it be a physical disability - mobility, vision, hearing, or an intellectual disability – the idea of visiting an event or program at a National Historic Site or museum is often fraught with challenges for this group – can I access the building? Is there a universally accessible washroom? Are there options for how I can explore the exhibit area through touch? Sound? Simplified language? Are publications available in large-print format? Braille? Or in Audio format?

- Low-income groups and young families – for whom the price of admission or guided tour is a barrier

So – how do I find these people and invite them to participate in planning our transformation and change? How do we transform these stakeholders into active participants? Perhaps even into “Heritage Gatekeepers” and the members who will guide the HSO into the future?

Many municipalities – particularly those in or close to urban centres have Immigrant Services Bureaus and Youth Services Bureaus where you can connect with newcomers and young people. Longer established cultural communities often have benevolent societies or associations. Reach out to these groups and invite them to participate in a program – or perhaps they can offer a speaker to complement and add a new perspective to a lecture series? Find ways to connect their current experiences with those of early immigrants to Ottawa. Ask them what they are interested in - the HSO has a wonderful opportunity to engage newcomers and help them by providing an historical context.

In the province of Ontario many municipalities have Advisory Committees tasked with Accessibility issues and the members of these committees are often activists within their local community and are a super resource.

Through the City of Ottawa’s Accessibility Advisory Committee, the Bytown Museum – which as I imagine all of you are aware - is in a Parks Canada 1820s heritage building – was able to conduct an Accessibility audit of the site.

Developing a relationship with your local Social Service agencies and Community Health & Resource Centres can provide a link to low-income citizens – Do you have members who could volunteer to help organize or moderate heritage speaker series at retirement homes?

Youth engagement is another area that presents so many opportunities for groups like the HSO - Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Guides and Scouts – these

youth organizations are always looking for partners to present programs and activities to involve youth in their community. Right now the Ottawa Museum Network is working with the city-wide network of Community Health & Resource Centres on a pilot project to offer at-risk youth from low-income areas what might be their first chance ever to visit a local museum. The project will include a day-long outing where groups of youth have the opportunity to visit two community museums and participate in special programming. I know this is a pilot project and the opportunity is there for a group like the HSO to become involved in this sort of project. Partners and sponsors are needed to help with the cost of transportation. Volunteers with an interest in local history could provide an additional dimension to the program and enrich the experience for participants.

Local Citizens Associations – Action Sandy Hill, Centertown Community Association and Hintonburg Community

Association all have Heritage Committees as part of their structures. I would encourage the HSO to reach out to these groups and invite them to your events – and consider meeting with them to find out whether there are community based history projects that the HSO could become involved in.

Once we have turned our eyes outward from our organizations we can truly start to look closely at the communities and neighbourhoods that surround us – and discover what that community cares about.

By including wide participation we can then share ideas and visions for how our heritage organizations can fully integrate with the communities around us.

Through real dialogue we can identify the opportunities that exist for partnerships, for building support, for innovative revenue generating ideas, and most importantly for making a positive contribution to our communities.

Including and encouraging a diverse perspective in our planning exercises can be an overwhelming and even risky



The Historical Society of Ottawa gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa and the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Ontario.

proposition in some eyes. However it is through an inclusive approach that we will cultivate the new Gatekeepers to take us forward into the future – a future where historical societies and museums can more readily point to the ways in which we make positive contributions to our communities and help to build quality of life.

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 _____ Volunteer? _____
 (Activities?) _____

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 photocopy and 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