



The Historical Society of Ottawa News

ISSN 1207-1838

Issue No. 114

September 2006

President's Report

By Alan McLay

As the days gradually become shorter and the nights cooler, we can soon look forward to the start of the fall season of activities for the Historical Society of Ottawa. Monthly meetings resume on Friday, September 29, with our own Cliff Scott as the speaker. On Friday, October 6, Herb Sills has arranged the fall bus tour to Prescott and the St. Lawrence River.

At the June meeting of the Board of Directors Alan McLay was appointed President and Pat Hartney Secretary-Treasurer for the year 2006-2007. The position of Vice-President was left open. The Directors approved the annual payment of \$200 to St. Alban's Church in Frant, England, for the maintenance of the grave site where Colonel By is buried. A cheque for \$500 was forwarded to Carleton University to cover the cost of the Colonel John By Award for History. The Board approved a gift of \$200 to the appeal for the restoration of the observation tower in Vankleek Hill that was built in 1830. In 1866 it was used as a watchtower by the local militia at the time of the Fenian raids. The Board also agreed to contribute \$500 to the Friends of the City of Ottawa Archives for the preservation of historic records of council meetings for Nepean, Osgoode, Gloucester, and March Townships.

In 2007 the Rideau Canal will celebrate the 175th Anniversary of its opening in 1832. Your Board has discussed various ways in which the Historical Society of Ottawa may join with other heritage groups in the celebration of this historic occasion.

Please join us on August 7th, 11 - 4 to celebrate the origins of our commu-

nity! 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.

HSO Status Report Recommendations

By Alan McLay

In June 1998, Don Carrington prepared a Strategic Plan for the Historical Society of Ottawa with a number of recommendations for changes. The document was largely concerned with the accommodation and the financial and staffing difficulties at the time, primarily in regard to the Bytown Museum. As a result of the formal separation of the Historical Society and the Museum in 2003, the Board of Directors reviewed and revised the Strategic Plan in the spring of 2005. Don Baxter prepared a summary of our current situation in May 2005 entitled "Status Report and Recommendations. The report was intended to stimulate discussion of current and

future activities.

At the Annual General Meeting in May 2006 a motion was passed calling for a discussion of the Strategic Plan (i.e. Status Report) by the membership at the monthly meeting in September. In order to facilitate this discussion the Board decided to print the recommendations in the Status Report in the HSO News for the information of all our members. Members are encouraged to bring other ideas and suggestions for future directions or activities to the meeting on September 29.

Recommendations for Changes:

1. The role of the HSO in assisting local history research should be expanded. Ways should be explored to do this.
2. Our participation in joint projects or activities with some of the 62 organizations in the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa should be investigated.
3. The Awards program should be reviewed to see which previous and new activities should be supported.

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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
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Don Carrington <i>don.carrington@sympatico.ca</i>	613-733-8740
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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

Friday, September 29

Monthly Meeting
Cliff Scott: "Robert Bell and the Geological Survey of Canada"
Routhier Community Centre
2 p.m.

Friday, October 6

Fall Bus Tour
St. Lawrence River
9 a.m.—6 p.m.
Details page 3

Friday, October 27

Monthly Meeting
"Show and Tell" - bring your favourite family antique or historical item to share and discuss.
Routhier Community Centre
2 p.m.

Friday, November 24

Monthly Meeting
TBA
Routhier Community Centre
2 p.m.

Friday, December 8

Christmas Luncheon
St. Richard's Anglican Church
12 noon

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

HSO Status Report Recommendations

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4. Storage area for the HSO's own records, photographs, etc. should be explored in consultation with the Museum.

5. Relocation of the Library should be considered and discussed with the Museum.

6. The purpose and use of the Col. By Memorial Fund should be reviewed.

7. Steps should be taken to reverse the decline in membership before it becomes a serious problem.

Bytown Museum Report

By Steve Dezort

Assassination on Sparks St.: The Story of Thomas D'Arcy McGee and James Patrick Whelan

If you haven't yet experienced it, you still have a chance to see this temporary exhibit.

See Whelan's revolver, said to be the one that killed D'Arcy McGee; read Lady Agnes MacDonald's diary for a chilling account of the hours after the murder; decide for yourself whether James Patrick Whelan was truly the assassin, or innocent as he maintained all the way to the end of his rope.

On until November 30th at the Bytown Museum - Bytown Café

The Bytown Museum now has a café and patio! Enjoy a sandwich, tea, a cold drink or ice cream with a spectacular view of the historic Ottawa Locks.



Colonel By Day August 7th

This year's Colonel By Day was the biggest yet with many demonstrators and performers on hand to bring our past to life. Approximately 1,500 people enjoyed the day's festivities!



Fall Bus Tour – October 6, 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 a.m.

We will head south on Highway 16 through North Gower to Highway 43, east to road 22, through South Cower township and the villages of Pelton's Corners, Heckston and Shanley to the town of Cardinal, the location of Canada Starch Company (CASCO).

We next travel west on Highway 2 passing a cairn about Fort deLevis the last stand of France in Canada. We next visit the site of the 1838 Battle of

the Windmill.

Lunch will be at the Bridgeview Restaurant--let us know if you prefer turkey or beef.

After lunch we tour Fort Wellington. On the way there we pass a plaque commemorating the Bytown and Prescott Railway Company 1850 on the river side of the highway opposite Fort Wellington. In Prescott there is the Forwarders Museum and west on highway 2 there is the Blue Church and cemetery.

Our last stop will be at the Home-wood Museum before returning to Ottawa for 6 p.m.

The cost of the tour is \$50.00. Members who are interested should register with Herb Sills – 613-224-4185.

Rideau Canal Twinned with Caledonian Canal in Scotland

By George Neville

There is a Parks Canada plaque near the Merrickville Blockhouse on the Rideau Canal marking the twinning of the Rideau Canal and the Caledonian Canal in Scotland. There is a similar plaque marking the Caledonian/Rideau twinning at Corpach Lock near Fort William, U.K., on the Caledonian Canal where the Canadian flag is flown along with the Cross of St. Andrew by its Scottish keepers.

Designed by Thomas Telford, the Caledonian Canal was built between 1803 and 1822. From near Corpach, Fort William the canal extends at nearly sea level through three of Scotland's freshwater lochs: Loch Lochy, Loch Oich, and Loch Ness, before reaching Inverness some 60 miles (96.6 km) later. It has four aqueducts over burns, 29 canal gates (known as locks) and 10 bridges with 22 miles (35 km) of the canal having been man made.

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Twinning the Rideau Canal

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The initial proposal for the twinning of the Rideau Canal with the Caledonian Canal was put forth in 1992 by the British Waterways, the authority managing the canal system in the U.K. The rationale for the twinning is the many similarities in these two canals : i.e., constructed during the same period, employed Scottish stonemasons, built for military purposes, masonry of similar size with several flight locks, and internationally significant tourism destinations. This twinning is formalized in a signed agreement between the Waterways Manager, Stratford and Grand Union Canals and the Superintendent, Rideau Canal dated 13 May 1993 which responds to the then Canadian Parks Service Management Directive 2.7.4 on International Twinning of Parks.

The Caledonian Canal is also twinned with the Göta Canal (Gotha in English) in Sweden.

[Prepared by HSO Director, George Neville, from information in part supplied by Pam Buell, Communications Manager/Gestionnaire des communications, Eastern Ontario Field Unit/L'Unité de gestion de l'Est de l'Ontario, Parks Canada/Parcs Canada, Tel. 613-283-7199 #219]

disposed of to free up the shelf space. For example, we have several hundred school textbooks on the shelves. We certainly appreciate his efforts.

We can see a couple of other projects in the Library that need doing and could likely be done by a couple of volunteers. If you are interested, call Don Baxter at 745-3430.

Guidelines for Commemorative Medals

Ideas on Awards to outstanding citizens (for consideration)

By Cliff Scott

The Board of Directors has approved, in principle, the development of an awards program that would honor persons who have made a major contribution to the history and image of Ottawa who have otherwise been overlooked in various memorials.

An Awards Committee of Cliff Scott, Mary Anne Dancy and George Toller has been tasked with formulating a policy on such a program and then assuming responsibility for implementing same. The initial idea was to make two such awards each year, in (possibly) the form of a small memorial plaque that could be placed on the

honored person's principal residence, or in some other prominent location.

It is hoped that such a program can be launched in 2005, as part of the City's sesquicentennial. Limited funding is available from the Society's Awards program and more could be forthcoming from funds set aside by the City for Sesquicentennial celebrations. Information is not yet available on how to access these funds. The idea has been broached to Gilles Seguin of City staff. His initial response has been to indicate that City staff are swamped, and can take on no more.

Several initial questions come to mind that will require decisions by the Committee and then the HSO Board:

1. How long must the honoree have lived in the city? It is suggested an initial qualifying period of twenty years be established. The selection committee could waive this requirement under exceptional circumstances.
2. Are there any limitations on the era from which persons will be selected?—for example it is proposed that any such person be deceased before consideration is given. Should such persons initially be drawn from those born in the 18th and 19th

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The Library Project

By Don Baxter

Our Algonquin student, Richard Sturges, is coming to the end of his summer working in our Library in the Museum. He has been generally better organizing the some 2100 items we have there and bringing the computer records of the holdings up to date. He has also been preparing special boxes to individually hold the more precious items and adding cover papers to help protect some others. He has also begun to identify items that really are of no direct interest to the scope of the HSO's interests, and that probably should be

New Members in 2006

The following members have joined the HSO since January 1, 2006.

Yvonne Ackerman
Elizabeth Carroll
Judith Hilliker
Margaret Kitching
Valerie Knowles
Elva Skuce
Susan and Thomas Williams

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

Guidelines for Commemorative Medals

Continued from Page 4

- centuries? It is proposed that the initial nominees have lived in the City before 1914.
3. Are there any particular fields of expertise or activity that should be included or excluded? e.g. - politicians; lawyers, scientists, lumbering industry, public servants? --- It is suggested that inclusion criteria be widely based to permit virtually anyone to qualify, as long as the person made a significant contribution.
 4. Should the public be invited to submit recommendations? It is suggested that notice be given in advance of consideration of the two annual awards and that suggestions be solicited, but that final decisions be made by a review panel. The structure of that review panel will have to be considered. The City may be invited to sit on the review panel.
 5. Should there be any limitation on religious or ethnic background? The answer is probably self evident but needs to be answered. In fact, much could be gained by bringing into focus as many groups as possible. Individuals from diverse backgrounds might gain more modern public interest. The period selected for initial nominations will have a bearing on the breadth of possible selectees.
 6. Should the Historical Society "partner" with any other organizations? This is to be an award of the Historical Society, so final decisions should be made by that Society, but other organizations would be welcome to submit suggestions.
 7. What form should public advertising of the awards take? It is suggested that some prominent

person, perhaps the Mayor, should be asked to announce the program and, in doing so gain kudos for working with the Society.

This document was discussed at the May 2005 meeting of the Historical Society and the suggestions above

were agreed to as policy.

Since that time, we were informed that the city was considering a policy itself and further work was postponed awaiting any guidelines from the City. Progress has been slow and the Society has decided to move ahead on its own.

Treasurer's Report to August 31, 2006

Source	Revenue
Memberships	\$2,927.25
Donations	695.00
Pamphlets	45.00
Grants	3,900.00
Spring Bus Tour - net revenue	615.21
Refreshments proceeds	<u>78.87</u>
Total	\$8,261.33
Expense	Paid Out
Newsletter (pre-payment of Sept./Jan. issues)	\$ 800.00
Telephone (paid to September 30 th)	510.00
Diefenbunker rent (paid to December 31 st)	1,294.68
Membership dues	112.10
Post box	58.85
Use of Bytown Museum photocopier	35.90
Award to Heritage Fair City Cup winners	150.00
Colonel By Award	500.00
Accounting software	114.93
Production and mail-out of Annual Report	359.19
Secretarial	84.67
Donation to Bytown Museum for free admission	500.00
Half of Library computer purchase price	229.85
Library - purchase of books	25.00
Library - wages	3,770.00
Library supplies	135.09
Computer storage device	34.45
Bank charges	<u>22.95</u>
Total	\$8,737.66
Deficit for the year	\$ 476.33
Bank balance as at July 31, 2006:	\$21,573.76
Trust fund GICs as at June 30, 2006:	
Col. By Memorial Fund	\$11,305.27
Fund for Care of Col. By's Grave	<u>\$10,313.91</u>
Total	\$21,619.18

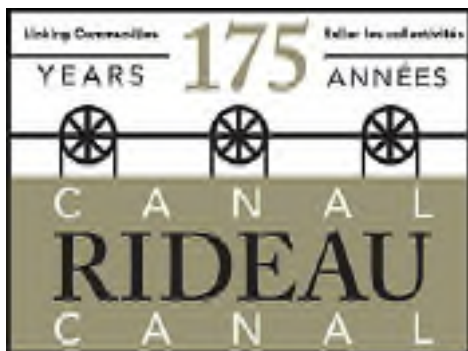
Rideau Canal Associations

Compiled by George Neville

FRIENDS OF THE RIDEAU

A non-profit group dedicated to promoting and enhancing the beautiful Rideau Waterway, provide an informative web site at www.rideaufriends.com and maintain an office and sales outlet for books, charts, hydrographic maps, etc. at 1 Jasper Ave., Smiths Falls, ON, K7A 4B5 [Tel. (613) 283-5810, Fax (613) 283-2884, and email: info@rideaufriends.com].

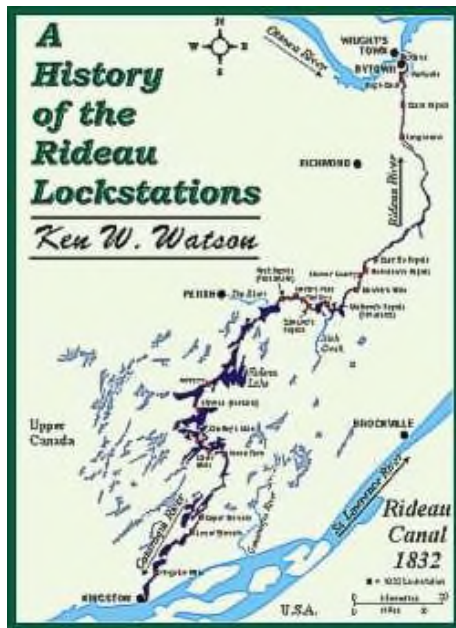
In partnership with Parks Canada, the Friends of the Rideau have created a new web site www.rideau175.org, all about the 175th Anniversary of the Rideau Canal in 2007, the oldest continuously operated canal in North America.



RIDEAU CANAL WATERWAY

Celebrating 10 years of presenting the Rideau Canal to the world! Its web site www.rideau-info.com/canal/history/hist-canal.html provides wonderfully written and richly informative articles on many facets of the history of the Rideau Canal co-ordinated and often written by Ken Watson to whom emails may be sent by accessing any of the articles and clicking on his name at the end of an article. Since 1966, Watson has run a non-commercial Internet website all about the Rideau Waterway.

Many books on the Rideau system have been published, and one in particular, *History of the Rideau Lockstations*, by Ken Watson documents the construction of each of the 23 lockstations, anyone of which may be downloaded from the electronic version of the book.



The printed edition of the book (ISBN 0-9696052-1-8)[120 pages, 8.5" x 11", pb, wire-o-binding, colour cover, b & w interior, 29 maps, 49 photos, 24 reproductions of 19th century paintings, bibliography] is very reasonably priced at \$18.00, and all proceeds from sales go to Friends of the Rideau (see above).

Colonel John By Award for History

On the recommendation of the Department of History at Carleton University, Mike Nelles, a student in Honours History going into his fourth year, is the recipient of the Colonel John By Award for History for his term paper "Pre-Confederation Health Care in Bytown." The essay has been accepted for publication in our ByTown Pamphlet Series.

Obituary

We regret to announce the death of Winifred Joan Postlethwaite on June 2, 2006. Joan regularly attended the monthly meetings of the Historical Society and she was an enthusiastic supporter of the annual Regional Historical Fairs for students from Grades 4 to 9 in local schools. She will be greatly missed by her many friends.



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.





The Bytown Museum

Where Ottawa Begins

Housed in Ottawa's oldest stone building, the Bytown Museum traces the history of Ottawa's early years, from the construction of the Rideau Canal and the rough-and-tumble days of Bytown to the city's emergence as the nation's capital.

BECOME A MUSEUM MEMBER

Museum memberships are a great way to keep in touch with changing exhibits, programs and special events at Ottawa's oldest community museum. They also make excellent gifts! For as little as \$20, you or a friend can enjoy:

- Free, unlimited admission to the museum for one year
- Two complementary one-time guest passes
- Free subscription to the Bytown News – the museum's e-newsletter*
- Invitations to special events
- A vote at the Annual General Meeting

BYTOWN MUSEUM RENEWAL PROJECT

In 2007, the Bytown Museum will mark its 90th anniversary. To celebrate, we are renewing our permanent exhibit galleries to launch a brand new Bytown Museum in the spring of 2007!

Become a Volunteer

We rely on volunteers to help us with research, interpretation and animation, fundraising, exhibits and collections management. Your enthusiasm and expertise can make a difference!

Mail or fax this form with your payment to:

The Bytown Museum
 P.O. Box 523, Station B
 Ottawa, ON K1P 5P6
 Tel: (613) 234-4570
 Fax: (613) 234-4846
 E-mail: bytownmuseum@storm.ca
 Web: www.bytownmuseum.com

You can also apply for a membership or make a donation by calling (613) 234-4570.

Office use only: Paid: _____

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Province _____

Postal Code _____

Phone: Home _____

Work _____

E-mail _____

_____ **New Membership** _____ **Gift Membership**

If you are purchasing a Gift Membership, please provide your name and address:

Rates	1 Year	2 Years
Individual	___\$20	___\$35
Senior (60+)	___\$10	___\$17
Student	___\$10	___\$17
Child (under 12)	___\$5	___\$8
Lifetime	___\$100	

BYTOWN MUSEUM RENEWAL

I would like to contribute to the Museum's Renewal Project:

___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$100 ___Other

MUSEUM VOLUNTEER

___I would like the Museum to contact me regarding volunteer opportunities.

PAYMENT

*If you would prefer to have the museum's e-newsletter mailed to you, there will be an additional \$5 charge per year.

Total Membership \$ _____

Total Donation \$ _____

Mailed Newsletter \$ _____

Visa ___ **Mastercard** ___ **Amex** ___

Credit Card No. _____

Expiry _____ Signature _____

(Please make cheques payable to the "Bytown Museum")

Would you be willing to participate in a small discussion group regarding new exhibitions that the Museum is developing? The discussion would take between 2-3 hours and you would be given a free Individual Membership.

Yes _____ No _____

(Only a small number of individuals will be randomly selected to participate)

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**