

# QUEBEC HERITAGE NEWS

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## An airborne time machine...

### Gatineau display to feature historical aerial photography

By Duncan Marshall

The 1920s and 1930s were a pioneer period during which Canada was the only country in the world to capitalize, on a large scale, on the advances that were made in aerial photography during the First Great War. During this period the Lower Gatineau River valley was intensively photographed by the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) as new techniques were developed at the nearby Rockcliffe Air Station.

#### Camera like a beer keg

The early photographic aircraft of the period were double winged bi-planes with enormous drag and must have been extremely uncomfortable for the camera operator. The photographer, had to stand up in the nose of the aircraft with the upper half of his body directly exposed to the 70- to 80-mile-an-hour slipstream while manipulating a camera that had the shape and size of a beer keg. Some of the most interesting Gatineau-area photographs were taken in late November 1926, just four months before the water began to rise behind the Chelsea Dam. They

include two flight lines of oblique photos taken November 6 and two flight lines of verticals taken two days later on November 8. The photo flight line



Eddie Sulphide Tower 1923

began at Ironside, south of the Chelsea Dam and extended 14 miles up to the covered bridge at Wakefield.

Looking at the photographs in sequence can give the impression of being taken aboard an airborne time machine flying over the valley 76 years ago.

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## President's message

### Is it all about truth?

Most of us who now find time for heritage work get to look back on years of puzzling human reactions and behaviour patterns. In the centre of things which have happened are the raw facts, which sometimes can be clearly established, sometimes not. To one side can be a variety of versions which dress them up in more colourful, interesting language, sometimes sensationalizing what otherwise might not be even the least sensational. At the other end can be an attempt to soften, obscure, suppress or alter in some mollifying way, facts which may not seem to be what is wanted.

Most of us got history in school presented in such a way as to favour the winners and make heroes of them while depicting the losers as in some way inept, corrupt, villainous, dishonest and worse. It is often said that history is written by the winners. Also, in war, the first victim is the truth. With the passage of time, we get exposed to other perspectives and points of view and gradually come to realize there are rarely "good guys and bad guys", rarely even right and wrong, rarely virtue against its opposites. Almost without exceptions, religious icons included, people are people with some mix of virtue and vice. How dull would it be otherwise?

In March, a regional paper included a feature article derived around mass paper excerpts from the mid-1880s outlining incidents of brawling and drunkenness in the camps of Irish railroad workers of the time. According to contemporary reports, law enforcement officers were given a pretty bad time. The reaction was an outpouring of critical letters insisting that the Irish were good hard-working people who settled parts of the area and became community builders. True enough. But undoubtedly it is all true, whether we feel comfortable with it or not.

The descendants of American Revolutionaries recount how the Tories who supported the British crown were in support of a distant, oppressive regime and were enemies of an emerging democracy. To the loyalists of the time, the revolutionaries were rabble, trouble-makers and largely uncouth louts. Never mind that many were of the same household, brothers and cousins divided around the cause. History is filled with many such divisions.

At some point in our young lives we discovered that school authorities had cleansed Shakespeare and

Robbie Burns to keep us from knowing, at least for a while, that they used raw language identical to what we daily use in our own school yards. In retrospect, it seems the "do-gooders" of our world were trying to protect us from knowing we were normal and in tune with great historic literary figures. They were trying to make us "cleaner" and better.

We may be going overboard today with a passion for sensational revelations; witness those about Kennedy, Nixon, and Lyndon Johnson, and more recently guitarist Leona Boyd's account of her steamy affair with Pierre Trudeau.

Revisionism is definitely "in", writers and filmmakers are falling over each other to discredit World War I ace Billy Bishop and recast Louis Riel from a psycho killer to a shining hero of his oppressed people. The RCMP have had to put away the bit of rope used to hang Riel from their museum at Regina as being an offence to some of Canada's people. The chapel at the RCMP training depot at Regina is built over the site of Riel's hanging. I have a colour slide I took inside the chapel which has this weird irregular light in the centre. I tell people it is Riel's ghost! Why not? Some of the difficulties researchers are having to gain access to census and other records are really designed to protect revelation of what might be disconcerting facts. Do we really need government to protect us this way?

QAHN's "Heritage Trails" pamphlets, about to be released, will reflect an effort to gather some interesting local history about Anglophone communities in four Quebec situations. In a very small space, we try to present a factual base, a few highlights which will encourage local exploration and to better know some of our regions. Beyond this admittedly skimpy base is room for research at the local level, most of it already done and locally available. Our trails pamphlets will try to present truth, a bit interesting but not too sensational or revisionist.

Perhaps we need an ongoing series of resolutions to remind us to seek to know the truth, enjoy the humanity revealed, take pleasure in lore, legend and myth and find time to enjoy the creations of absorbing fiction using characters in historical settings. I expect most of us are glad to enjoy all of it.

**Richard Evans**

## Honour to New Richmond volunteer

# Quebec Heritage award goes to Joan Bisson Dow

This year the Marion Phelps Award will be awarded to Joan Bisson Dow of New Richmond in the Gaspé. No one could better represent the spirit and the intent for this award whose aim is to recognize long-standing efforts to promote and contribute to the preservation of Quebec's Anglophone community heritage.

### Heritage village

From the earliest efforts to create the Gaspesian British Heritage Centre, Joan has been an unrelenting driving force to create this heritage village near New Richmond. It has been a long effort over many years, sometimes well supported and sometimes reduced to a hard-working few encouraged by Joan's leadership.

Anyone who has worked on any such project knows very well the discouragement, frustration and disappointment experienced along the way, always



struggling for needed help and support and sometimes wondering if winning the struggle is really possible.

Because this is such a common experience in the difficult task of preserving heritage, it is vital that we

reward and recognize those who persevere.

No one has been more persevering than Joan Dow in this long-term task of keeping alive some local history, gathering buildings into a heritage village and establishing it as a meeting place, all of it telling visitors important parts of the local story.

The Marion Phelps Award, named for and first presented in 2001 to the nonagenarian archivist of the Brome County Historical

Society, will this year be presented at the banquet during QAHN's Conference in Hull on Saturday, June 8, 2002. We were delighted to accept the nominations which came in for Joan and will be proud to present it to her. — R.E.

### QAHN Board Enjoying Regional Visits

A recent Board meeting held near Huntingdon is the fourth occasion on which our Board has held meetings away from either Lennoxville or Montreal. This recent occasion enabled us to meet several members of the Chateaugay Valley Historical Society and to view recent editions of their annual journal publicizing local history. Very impressive.

Earlier in the winter, we met in Hudson at the very pleasant Willow Inn and were received for lunch by the Hudson Historical Society and the Greenwood Centre for Living History, and given a tour of Greenwood. Other previous meetings have been held in Quebec City and Hull.

As a long-term goal, the Board hopes to be able to schedule a couple of such meetings each year providing chances to learn more about regional activities from the locals themselves.

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## Notice of Annual General Meeting Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network

The Annual General Meeting of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network will take place Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. in the Heritage College auditorium, 325 boulevard Cité des Jeunes, Hull, QC.

### Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Acceptance of the Minutes of June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001
4. Financial Statement for the fiscal year ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002
5. Appointment of an auditor
6. Reports
  - a. Finance Committee (David Freeman)
  - b. Heritage Trails (Dwane Wilkin)
  - c. Directors' Reports
7. President's Report
8. Resolutions
9. Other Business
10. Election of Directors
11. Report of election of officers as chosen by the Board
12. Adjournment

### Notices in writing

Please note that any proposals for resolutions or business to be brought before the general meeting must be presented in writing in advance and not later than 9:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. This would include items for discussion, amendments to the by-laws, resolutions and nominations for election. Within the meeting, only amendments of clarification to wording of previously submitted written proposals will be considered.

### Voting rights

Voting rights are described in the Charter and By-Laws. Formal voting will be restricted to delegates of Core member groups in good standing for 2002-2003 as of the opening of the meeting.

### Nominations

The following seats are up for re-election for a two-year term 2002-2004:

Seat 2, Montérégie:	Georges Howson,
Seat 4, Montreal:	David Freeman,
Seat 6, Gulf of St. Lawrence:	Monique P. Nadeau,
Seat 8, Cultural heritage:	Betty Le Maistre,
Seat 9, At-Large:	Has been vacant since 2001,
Seat 10, At-Large:	Richard Evans.

## QAHN has a new logo

With this issue of the newsletter appears the first public view of our new logo, soon to appear on letterhead, publications, electronic communications and wherever QAHN gathers as an organization. Ideas for a logo have been much discussed during these 2 formative years. Finally, the assorted ideas were incorporated into a sketch which in turn was worked into its present visible form by a young student, Michael Eby of Waterville, using a computer graphics program. This is not Michael's first, he did artwork for a logo for Ascott Heritage.

So what does it mean? What does it say? It says that our earliest settlers came by sea and stream, cleared the forest and built communities. As descendents, we continue to enjoy our lives by stream or sea, respect our natural environment and treasure our built heritage and the institutions housed there.

What do people see in the stylized structure? Some see a school, others a church, some a town hall and still others a library or even a fore hall. So it lets your imagination go to work and encourages your thinking of those elements of heritage most vital to you. Count on seeing the logo and having it become a part of our drive to have our heritage gain recognition and strength.



## The Manual of Museum Exhibitions

The QAHN office has received a copy, compliments of the Department of Canadian Heritage, of the recently released Manual of Museum Exhibitions, edited by Barry Lord and Gail Lord of LORD Cultural Resources and published by AltaMira Press. They include in this very useful collection of informative writings contributions from 41 knowledgeable people of varied expertise in the museum field. Member museums of QAHN can arrange to borrow our copy. A paper copy sells for \$49.95 and cloth cover \$90. From the website: <http://www.altamirapress.com/>

The Manual of Museum Exhibitions is a practical, hands-on, comprehensive guide to the entire process of planning, designing, producing, and evaluating exhibitions for museums of all kinds. Conceived, organized, and edited by Gail and Barry Lord, this

invaluable book includes contributions by masters of each step in the complex art of museum exhibition-making. Subjects range from traditional displays of art, artefacts, and specimens from the permanent collection to the latest developments in virtual reality, online exhibitions, simulators, and big-screen reality.

### Case studies from both sides

An exciting array of stimulating case studies featuring outstanding museum exhibitions from both sides of the Atlantic makes this Manual all the more valuable to practitioners and students of the museum profession, architects, designers and the many specialized contractors involved in 21st-century exhibitions. The book is also useful and interesting reading for museum Trustees and Board members, volunteers, and all others who understand and enjoy the educational value of today's museum exhibitions.

## GLEANED FROM THE QAHN LISTSERVE

Greetings all,

The following website may be of interest to you, should you (or folks you know) be wanting to do an activity in honour of HRH Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee. There are funds available. Check the following website: <http://www.pch.gc.ca/jubilee/english.htm>. I draw your attention to the section: "A Canadian Celebration Guide", which you can access from the bottom of your screen.

Best wishes.

Helen Meredith

Department of Canadian Heritage

# Aerial photography in the Gatineau through the years

## Continued from Page 1

At the southern beginning of the flight line, the photos reveal in intricate detail the construction activity at both Farmer's Rapids and Chelsea Dam sites. Immediately above the Chelsea Dam is a raised rock outcrop which four months after the photo was taken became an island (now locally known as Phillips Island), and beyond, the formidable Eaton's Chute. To the left of Eaton's Chute is another rock outcrop that also became an island, where the Gatineau River Yacht Club established itself in 1961.

These photos illustrated activities or details connected with preparations for the flooding, including the clearing of tree cover on the lands that are about to be flooded, and some of the photos even contain views of the stacked wood as well as smouldering piles of burning slash. Uses of historic aerial photographs are widely varied and can range from a history buff's desire to document natural and cultural changes over time to a cottagers interest in the disappearance of an old logging right-of-way or a farmer's interest in how his great grandfather may have used a particular field. Canada is indeed fortunate to have such a rich legacy of detailed aide-memoir extending back for three-quarters of a century.

*Adapted from an article by the author from the Historical Society of the Gatineau's Annual Publication Up the Gatineau Vol. 27, 2001*

A similar view taken May 12, 1999, showing The Canadian Museum of Civilization and redevelopment of downtown Hull over intervening 77 years. The Sulphite Tower and the Alexandra Bridge over the Ottawa River are the only two remaining major elements in both photos.



An early photograph of Hull showing the Eddy Sulphite Plant and log booms tied to the Quebec shoreline. Photo taken by the RCAF, September 22, 1923, Licensed Distributors, Marshall-Maruska Aerial Images, Chelsea QC.

During the Regional Showcase at the upcoming 2002 QAHN Conference, following lunch on Saturday, June 8, the author will be giving a slide presentation featuring side by side historical aerial photography together with contemporary aerial photographs of the same locations. He will also have a display of a number of the early aerial photographs of Quebec and other parts of Canada in the lobby. For more information on the availability of historical aerial photography see the author's web site at [www.aerialphotographs.ca](http://www.aerialphotographs.ca)



# Queen's scarf of honour unique in Canada

By Carol Martin, Historical Society of the Gatineau

Almost a century ago, Queen Victoria created a very special and personal award for heroism for soldiers serving with British forces in the Boer War. She crocheted a total of eight scarves, working her Royal Cipher, VRI, in the corner of each one in cross-stitch. One scarf was awarded to a soldier serving with a Canadian regiment, Private Richard Rowland Thompson, and it is now on permanent display in the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. From 1899 to 1902, troops from Canada, New Zealand, Cape Colony and Australia fought along with British forces in the Boer War. The Queen's grandson, Prince Christian Victor was serving with the British, and some have suggested that it was his letters to his grandmother Victoria about the bitterly cold nights in South Africa that inspired her to make scarves.

By April 1900 she had sent "four woollen scarves, worked by herself" with instructions to Lord Roberts, the Commander of the combined British forces, that they were to be "distributed to the most distinguished soldiers of the Australian, New Zealand, Canadian and South African Forces under Lord Roberts' command." Accordingly, Roberts asked the Canadian commander to "nominate the private soldier whom you consider has performed the most distinguished service" and by July 10 Private Richard Rowland Thompson, No. 7552, had been selected "in recognition of his conspicuous gallantry during this campaign."

## Irish-born

Thompson was born in Cork, Ireland and came to Canada some time after 1897; he enlisted with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Service Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment in Ottawa on October 8, 1899. We know that on at least two occasions he risked his life under enemy fire to try and save fellow-soldiers.

At Paardeberg he stayed on the battlefield with a man who had been shot in the throat, pressing bandages to the wound to prevent bleeding. A few days later he tried to rescue a wounded man on the battlefield, although this time his efforts came too late to save the man. Private Thompson never wore the scarf as a soldier. He was invalided back to Canada by the end of July 1900, and after a short career in South Africa and the United States, he died of appendicitis in a

hospital in Buffalo, New York in April, 1908. His military funeral was held April 8 in the Drill Hall on Cartier Square in Ottawa, after which his body was sent by the Gatineau train to Chelsea. Here he was buried in the small hillside cemetery we now know as the Pioneer Cemetery. His grave lies next to members of his wife's family and his wife Bertha, who died in 1962, rests beside him.

More than fifty years later, in May of 1965, Samuel Thompson, Private Thompson's nephew, presented the scarf on permanent loan to the people of Canada at a ceremony on Parliament Hill on Queen Victoria's Canadian War

Museum, the Historical Society of the Gatineau holds an exact replica of this unique award. The Historical Society also has other documents and information about Private Thompson, and maintains his grave and the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery property. Each November 11, the Historical Society of the Gatineau organizes a Remembrance Day Service at the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery to honour and remember Private Thompson and all those who served in wartime.

Canada recognizes and remembers this award, one of only eight in the world. The Queen's Scarf of Honour reminds us of the heroism of a young man serving with her armed forces, of a unique award made by a Queen, and of Private Richard Rowland Thompson himself.



The host association of this year's QAHN conference is the Historical Society of the Gatineau. Here are some of the many other things keeping HSG and its volunteers extremely busy

### **HSG on the Internet: Historical Legacy of the Gatineau from Cantley to Low**

The Historical Society played an important role in the creation of the Historical Legacy of the Gatineau from Cantley to Low web site which is now a permanent part of Canada's Digital Collections ([collections.ic.gc.ca](http://collections.ic.gc.ca)). The content of the site was drawn mainly from material held at the Society's Archives and from past issues of *Up the Gatineau!* The site features a clickable aerial-photo mosaic with links to information on the heritage of many features and communities along the Gatineau river.

Launched in the spring of 1999, the website was funded by Industry Canada, administered and produced by Resort to Work in Wakefield ([www.resorttowork.com](http://www.resorttowork.com)), and inspired by 40 years of the Historical Society's dedication to recording and preserving the local heritage of the Gatineau. As the primary custodian of the online information and documents, the HSG is now exploring the possibility of establishing its own permanent website to communicate and expand the Society's activities and build on the Historical Legacy of the Gatineau digital collection.

#### **Echoes of the past**

On June 8, 2000, Resort to Work in Wakefield launched a web site, "La Voix de la vallée de la Gatineau - écho du passé" (<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/vallee>). This French-language web site lets visitors relive the colonization of the Upper-Gatineau region (north of Low) and experience scenes of its logging industry through a collection of text and archival photographs. The site also features a large collection of digital audio files of local French Canadian folksongs that were originally collected by Lucien Ouellet, Curator of the French America Program at the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Another section is devoted to the aboriginal presence on the Gatineau river and is highlighted by a recording of an interview with William Commanda, Spiritual Chief of Algonquin First Nations near Maniwaki - in which he offers his rendition of sacred aboriginal song.

Sponsored by Industry Canada's Digital Collections, the site was produced by Resort to Work in partnership with the Société d'histoire de l'Outaouais, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Historical Society of the Gatineau, and the Château Logue in Maniwaki. The project also allowed Resort to Work to employ some local youth to gain valuable experience and launching them on a promising career in web design and implementation. The site complements the existing English language web site "The Historical Legacy of the Gatineau from Cantley to Low", (<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/gatineau/>) launched last year on Canada's Digital Collections, and also produced by

Resort to Work. Plans are now afoot to link the two sites within a larger HSG web site.

#### **Gatineau Valley Historical Image Bank Project**

The HSG photo archives, one of our most important and popular collections, is in the midst of being transformed for the digital age. Under the guidance of Society member Adrienne Herron, over 2,500 photographs have been scanned into electronic images since June, 2000. The goal of this project is to provide a simple and reliable image storage and retrieval system for the over 3,000 photograph collection held by the HSG Archives. The benefits of maintaining this digital photographic collection will be in providing a more efficient retrieval system, protecting the originals from over-handling, and in making them more accessible to the public, heritage, and educational communities the Society serves.

The project was conceived and developed by Adrienne Herron during her involvement in the Apprenticeship Program of the Visual Arts Department of the University of Ottawa, which continues to sponsor the project by providing the apprentices. In the early stages of the project, Tram Vo, a U of O student, was making additions to the database, working 10 hours per week at Adrienne Herron's house. Eventually the Image Bank was moved to a new computer in a more permanent location with the HSG Archives. For her part, Adrienne thinks that these images will be used and appreciated in many unique ways, including her own: "There is a wonderful history in these images that has enriched my knowledge of this area. It's amazing how this simple rural landscape has changed so significantly in the last 100 years. Now, when I stand on the shore of the Gatineau River looking out over a stretch of water, I can visualize the train tracks, houses and people that existed before the river was flooded in 1926. I often go to the river with a pre-1926 photograph just to maximize the effect of then versus now."

An important feature of the Image Bank is the computer file, or the "record" that contains searchable information about the subject and provenance of the image. HSG Archives

Volunteers, including Bob Hughes, Annette Brand, Eileen and David Castleman and Jay Atherton, assist in collecting the photographs, providing descriptions and compiling the index. As well, the HSG Archives encourage members to look through their photographs of this area to see if there are any pictures of buildings, people or the landscape that we could borrow to add to this collection. It's not just the pretty photos of the Photo Club genre that will be

**Continued on next page**



## Shoe boxes and family albums will be critical

**Continued from previous page**

important in the future. It will be the photos in your shoe-boxes and family albums that will be critical in preserving our history. I have learned the value of family photos and all the information they contain. We cannot just accept what we see at a glance in a photo. We must study every detail to learn its benefits. What objects are in the background, foreground of the subject? What are the people wearing? Examine their hands – do they show the signs of hard labour are they wearing jewelry? How is their hair done? We must look deeply to benefit fully.

**Advantages:**

**Saves Time:** The Image Bank saves time. It can be searched quickly for relevant photos. **Saves Space:** We can borrow photos, scan them and keep them stored in our computer while returning the original photograph to its owner. **Improved Access:** The Image Bank is more deeply indexed than the present paper system. It can be searched for dates, place names, people or objects. **Permanence:** The image bank is permanent. It will not deteriorate like paper photographs. **Inexpensive Copies:** The Image Bank equipment allows us to make copies of photographs cheaply and quickly. With the old system, a photo had to be sent out to a photo lab for copying and would return days or weeks later. **Preservation:** The priceless originals in our collection that have been donated by members, friends and relatives of people who once lived in this area, now will be handled less frequently. And we will no longer be required to lend out these precious photos. **Lending has its risk.** **Restoration:** If an old image in our collection is damaged (it may have dust spots, cracks, mildew or food stains or be faded), we can often improve it using the computer.

### **HSG Remembrance Day Service**

On November 11, 2001, one of the largest crowds ever to attend a Remembrance Day Service at the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery witnessed the unveiling of the Chelsea Cenotaph by Jean Perras, Mayor of Chelsea, and Ernie Mahoney, President of the Historical Society of The Gatineau. Rev. Murray McGlashen said the prayers of Dedication. Mr. Jake

Warren, OC, of Larrimac, was master of ceremonies. The names were read by Mr. Robert Martin. Two bronze memorial plaques, in French and English, were inset into the memorial gate of the Society-owned Pioneer Cemetery, dedicated to the memory of the Chelsea/West Hull residents who lost their lives in the first and second world wars.

The Historical Society of the Gatineau has hosted the Remembrance Day service since 1986 to keep alive the memory of Private Richard Rowland Thompson, Queen's Scarf, who is buried in the tiny cemetery, that is part of the HSG heritage. As in past years, Private Thompson's old regiment, the Royal Canadian Regiment, stationed in Petawawa, formed a guard at the grave of the soldier who won one of the world's rarest awards of bravery, The Queen's Scarf. One of eight known to be crocheted personally by Queen Victoria, the scarves were to honour the enlisted men who served in the Boer War in which Private Thompson was a trooper with the Special Services Battalion, RCR. He won his honour for rescuing wounded soldiers under the guns of the enemy on the battlefield of Paardeberg in 1900. He died in 1908 and was buried with full military honours in a plot belonging to his wife Bertha, the daughter of the Alexander family of Meech Lake.

**Dedication of the Chelsea Veterans Memorial:** This year there were two memorial plaques (English and French) dedicated to the memory of those Chelsea (West Hull) residents who lost their lives in the first and second world wars. The plaques were attached to the cairn, and list nine names: Stephan Dunn and Allan Farmer, who lost their lives in the World War I (1914-1918), and John Bates, Richard Hammond, George Kingsbury, Robert Lee, Erle Milks, William Murphy, and James Reid who gave their lives for Canada in World War II (1939-1945). The plaques, while mainly funded by the HSG, have received financial support from the municipality of Chelsea. The Society wishes to thank Allan Richens for his effort and dedication in leading this important project. Allan has prepared an article about his experience in researching the names on the plaque. It will be published in the next *Up the Gatineau!*

PUBLISHING A BOOK?  
SEND US A COPY  
AND WE'LL REVIEW IT RIGHT HERE

## MEMBERS' NEWS FROM AROUND QUEBEC

### Missisquoi Historical Society launches film

# Alexander Walbridge: The Visionary of Mystic

The Missisquoi Historical Society (MHS) is pleased to announce the premiere of *Alexander Walbridge: The Visionary of Mystic*, a film written and directed by filmmaker Louise Abbott and co-produced by her and MHS. Combining historic engravings, paintings, and photographs; live-action footage of the beautiful Walbridge farm; and interviews with Walbridge's four grandchildren, as well as with a retired restoration architect, this 35-minute documentary re-creates the fascinating story of a nineteenth-century visionary's life and work.

From the 1860s until his death in 1897, Alexander Walbridge was an inventor, a manufacturer, and a builder in the village of Mystic in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. He left an imprint that remains to this day in the form of a remarkable twelve-sided barn, a Gothic-style brick church, and the upper storey of a building that once afforded local students higher education. Older residents of Mystic also remember Lakelet Hall, the brick mansion that Walbridge built, and recount tales that have been passed down over the years about the alligators and tropical plants he kept on his estate.

The Missisquoi Historical Society (MHS), which is located in the Missisquoi Museum in Stanbridge East, Quebec, was established in 1899 and was incorporated in 1976. It is a community-based, non-profit organization with a mandate to preserve the heritage of the area of the Eastern Townships that was known traditionally as Missisquoi County. The Society collects, conserves, researches, and exhibits artifacts of historical interest pertaining to this region. It owns and operates the Missisquoi Museum and the Missisquoi Historical Society Archives. It also produces a biannual newsletter for members, along with various other publications for both members and non-members alike.

*Alexander Walbridge: The Visionary of Mystic* is the first film that the Society has produced. It received funding from the Temple Grove Foundation and the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec.



Alexander Walbridge built this twelve-sided barn in Mystic in 1882. It is believed that he modeled it on a railway roundhouse. Photo Hardy Craft



Alexander Walbridge. Photo courtesy of Frances Walbridge.

Louise Abbott is a writer, photographer, and filmmaker in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. She has a particular interest in the history and contemporary life of cultural minorities in rural regions. She is the author of *The Coast Way*, *The French Shore*, and *A Country So Wild and Grand*. She wrote and directed *The History of Nunavik* and *The Pinnacle and The Poet*. She also wrote *Logging with Patience*, as well as *The Empty Net/Le Filet vide*.

Wesley United Church Hall, 51 River Street/Chemin Rivière, Bedford, 7 pm, Tuesday, June 11. Everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

## MORE MEMBERS' NEWS FROM AROUND QUEBEC

### Morin Heights activities: Garden tour, bus excursion, gala event

Home and Garden Tour. There are many beautiful gardens and historic homes in the Morin Heights region. Your chance to tour a few outstanding historic properties comes August 3. Reserve ahead, then meet at the Morin Heights library in the morning to pick up your box lunch, map and information package. \$15 per person. Info: (450) 226-6622

Bus Tour to Hudson museum. Saturday June 1 is the date. Book your place now on the bus that will leave the Morin Heights library at 10 a.m. for a visit to Greenwood Centre in Hudson, a 1732 property now open to the public as a museum. We'll have lunch (at your own expense) at the elegant Willow Inn, and then stop briefly at the Argenteuil Historical Society museum in Carillon. Tickets are \$15 per person.

Gala evening and exhibit opening

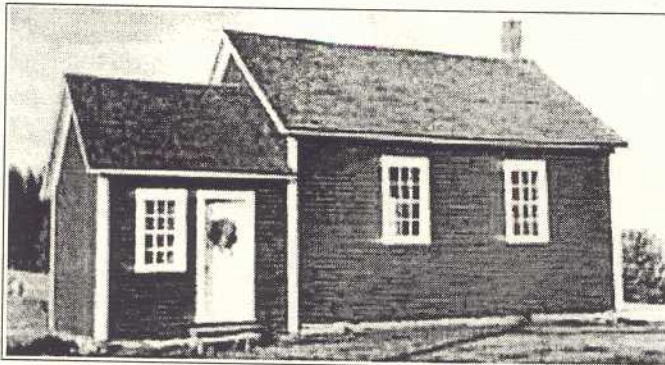
Start summer by attending our gala evening Friday June 21, at 7:30 in the United Church, rue du Village. Morin Heights. Guest speaker is Dick Evans, president of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network. Then we move to the Library Cultural Room to celebrate the launch of *The Porcupine*, number 5, and the official opening of the summer exhibit. Wine and cheese will be served. Suggested donation: \$5. The historical exhibition will be open for the long weekends of St-Jean Baptiste and Canada Day this year.

### Lennoxville-Ascot: Favourite things, barn sale, cake and ice cream social

May 5 to December 2002, Selections from the Echenberg Collection. On display will be some of Eddy Echenberg's favourite things. The LAHMS exhibition rooms are open at Uplands, 9 Speid St. on Thursday, Friday and Sunday afternoons until mid-June, from 1 to 4:30. Summer hours are every afternoon except on Monday. The archives are open by appointment. Call (819) 564-0409.

May 25th, LAHMS annual Big Barn Sale of donated items to benefit the Society. Uplands, 9 Speid St., (819) 564-0409.

June 8 from 1:30 to 4 p.m.: LAHMS Annual Cake and Ice Cream Social in conjunction with Friendship Day. Uplands, 9 Speid St. (819) 564-0409.



The restored Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse (c. 1815) is opening its doors! On June 22, the Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse in Milby will be officially opened following extensive restoration. The opening will be marked by a Loyalist re-enactment in period costumes, piping from Fraser Highlanders and the presence of a 100-year-old teacher who taught in that very school so many years ago! Come one, come all! – Bev Loomis

### Potton: Take a combination heritage nature walk

To discover the heritage, the scenery and the nature of Potton Township, what better than to walk its back roads and woods trails. Here is a new initiative proposed to you by the Potton Heritage Association for the coming months.

This project is being directed Carol Bishop, a member of the Board of Directors and an avid walker and nature lover. Carol developed a walking program, Let's Walk Potton, including loops of about 10km return in different parts of the Township: the Owl's Head-Leadville and Owl's Head-Vale Perkins sectors, the Russian Monastery, the Ukrainian Church, the stagecoach road, Mount Sugar Loaf, Schoolcraft and Ruitter Brook Roads. Other places are being looked into.

In addition to walking, participants will have the opportunity to learn about nature, heritage and archaeological sites. The program started on Thursday May 2 and will continue weekly through the summer and fall. These walks are free for members of the Association but are also open to the public for a fee of \$5 for non members aged 16 and older. For these excursions, it is recommended to wear walking shoes, a hat, carry a small back pack and to bring beverages and a lunch. Reserve early. Limited number of participants. Have a good walk!

For information: Carol Bishop: 450 292 4379 or Michael Damey 450 292 4432.

## Sturdy pioneer breed recognized

# The Canadian horse finally gets some respect

By Corinne Smith

NORTH HATLEY -- Canada's got a national flag, an anthem, even its own sport-lacrosse. Now it's official, we also have an national horse.

Last month the House of Commons passed the National Horse of Canada Act, recognizing the Canadian breed as the country's national horse. The National Horse Act was first presented to the Senate, which voted it through in March.

The Canadian horse, a hardy mid-sized breed descended from imported 17th century colonial horses, played an integral role in the country's history, says the network of equine experts who lobbied for years to have it officially recognized.

### None too soon

"I think it's high time," says Gladys Beattie, author of *The Canadian Horse*, a pictorial history of the breed. "We've had this hard-working citizen for 300 years."

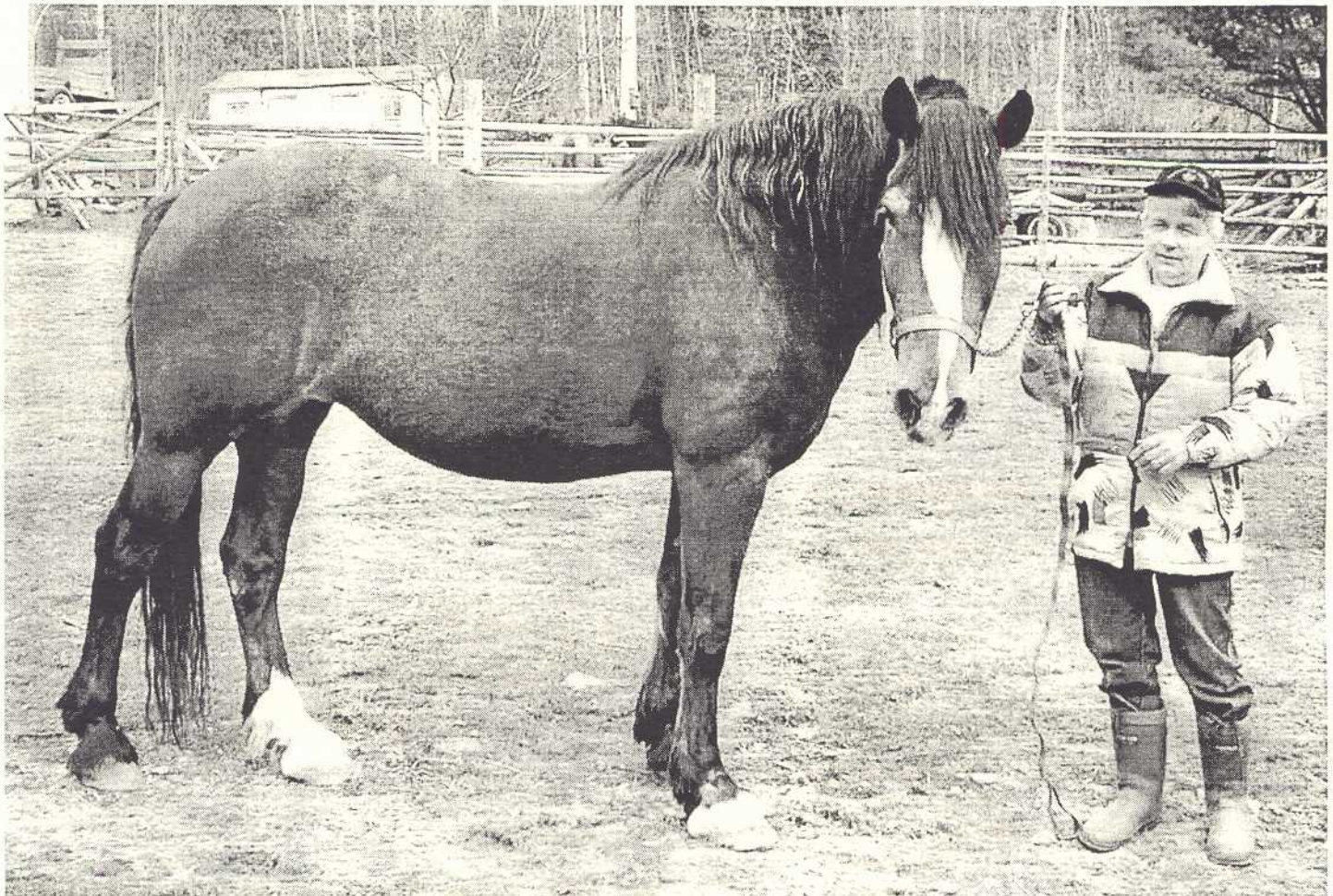
Beattie's book was discussed in the Senate during preliminary presentations by the Canadian Horse Breeders Association.

Beattie, who lives in North Hatley, knows Canadian horses. "I've always loved horses, and always had horses," she says. She currently owns five Canadians.

When Beattie bought her first Canadian 33 years ago (a mare named Trixie, who still lives on her property), she "tried to find out a bit about them," but there was a dearth of information on the breed. She hadn't even heard of a Canadian horse.

She spent the better part of 10 years collecting information. It turned into a quest to dig up the horses' hidden history, which Beattie found in Quebec Archives, the National Archives, the Canadian National Livestock Records, and the federal experimental farm in Lennoxville.

**Continued on next page**



Author Gladys Beattie with one of her five Canadians. She helped earn recognition for the breed.

*'They would have filled the role of a pick-up truck 50 years ago'*

## Beattie book helped Canadian horse gain national status



Photos kindness of Perry Beaton

**Continued from previous page**

Long-time outdoors columnist for the *Townships Sun*, Beattie says she decided in this case pictures told a better story. "If people look at a new kind of breed, they won't read a lot," says. "Anyone who likes horses likes looking at horse pictures."

In pre-Confederation Canada, horses weren't considered essential farm animals. "They would have filled the role of a pick-up truck 50 years ago," says Beattie. Farmers relied on oxen to work the land -- horses were used to get into town, go to church, pick up supplies at the General Store.

But they had an important cultural role. The habitants "loved their horses, and loved racing," says Beattie. "These were the go-to-town race horses." The horses eventually adapted. The breed was used as the foundation stock for the standard-bred race horse. Today, the Canadian breed is known for its speed in the international driving race circle.

The horses in Cornelius Krieghoff's paintings are Canadian breed, says Beattie. The 19th century Canadian/Dutch painter often pictured them racing.

The breed also mirrors Quebecers' migration waves. Beattie says the Canadian horse breed followed homesteaders who left Quebec for Manitoba in the 19th century. The breed also went to New Orleans, Kansas, and Missouri. "They are part of Canadian history."

-- Courtesy of the *Sherbrooke Record*

## GLEANED FROM THE QAHN LISTSERVE

### Home schooling for new board people

Are you a new or prospective non-profit board member who is unsure of what you may be getting into? Are you a more experienced board member who doesn't feel that your board participation is all that it could be? If so, welcome to The Fundamentals of Effective Board Involvement! In The Fundamentals of Effective Board Involvement course, you will:

- Explore your objectives, roles, and responsibilities, and learn about effective board practices
- Find updated board information and an energy boost for board veterans
- Meet fellow "students", Carlos and Debra, and learn from their experiences
- Apply your knowledge to real situations.

By the end of this course, you will be prepared to demonstrate competent, passionate, accountable and ethical leadership in your organization. You can take this course at your own pace, but to cover all subjects and activities from Module 1 through 5 should take about 2 to 3 hours of work.

#### Use your learning with your group

To get the most out of this course, do all the activities -- this way, you can put into practice what you are learning. You may even want to share some of the materials and activities with the rest of your board, and work on them as a team. Ready to make a difference in your organization? Let's get started: [www.mentoringcanada.ca/training/Boards/index.html](http://www.mentoringcanada.ca/training/Boards/index.html)

## Status of slave cemetery still unsettled despite 15-year campaign

# Bedford teacher honoured for promoting Black heritage

By Maurice Crossfield

Bedford school teacher Hank Avery has been selected by the Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations as the 2001 recipient of the Frederick Johnson Award. "I'm still in shock," Avery told *The Record* soon after he learned the news.

Avery is being honoured for his tireless efforts in trying to change attitudes and to have the existence of Black heritage in the Brome-Missisquoi region recognized. He's also become something of a celebrity in St-Armand, where he has worked for years to have a slave cemetery known locally as "Nigger Rock" officially recognized.

Avery says there's more to his story than that.

"For many years I was one of the only people of colour -- I think there were four of us -- between Montreal and Sherbrooke," he said. "For 15 years I lived in a community that had to learn to accept who I was. It put me in a position where I was able to begin changing people's

opinions." Avery's presence has also been felt in the classroom, where he has spent the last 32 years teaching. For many of those students, Avery would be their first exposure to an African American.

"St-Armand is certainly more newsworthy than the life of a single man trying to change attitudes." That odyssey began in 1997 when Avery learned of the possible existence of a slave cemetery at the base of a large slab of black limestone just outside of the village of St-Armand. That rock is even referred to by Quebec Toponymy Commission records by the derogatory name of Nigger Rock, but has never been recognized as a historic site.

Avery began working to have the site designated a slave cemetery, recognized for its historic value and subject to the same protections as any other burial ground. It is believed that anywhere from six to 25 slaves are buried there.

"It is unique," he said. "It is the only one we know of where the people who were buried were still in bondage." According to a report by Université de Montreal anthropologist Roland Viau, Colonel Philip Luke came to St-Armand from Albany, New York in 1784, bringing his slaves with him. His son Jacob continued the tradition of using slaves to transform tree branches into a product used to whiten newsprint, as well as any number of other tasks on the farm.

To date the site remains as it was, officially unrecognized by the municipality and the provincial government Cultural Group. But while efforts to have the cemetery recognized for its historic value on an

official level have so far been unsuccessful, Avery's efforts have paid off in a different way: A larger group of people have since formed to research and raise awareness of the slave cemetery, as well as several other unique aspects of St-Armand's cultural heritage. That heritage includes the presence of Huguenots (French Protestants kicked out of France in the 1600s),

natives and the German Village, as well as the Luke family's slaves.

"We are looking now at a much larger group of people interested in preserving all of St-Armand's culture, including the slave burial sites," Avery said. He said the group has since branched out into Montreal, with the same objectives in mind.

Avery said the group has been quietly gathering more and more evidence to support its call for recognition of the slave cemetery "with hopes the government or the town will be shamed into doing something." Avery's efforts got a shot in the arm on May 10, when he was given the Frederick Johnson Award, named after a Black Montrealer who challenged racial discrimination in the court system in 1898 and won.

The gala award dinner featured a number of prominent political personalities including US Congressman John Conyers, member of the House of

**Continued on next page**



GLEANED FROM THE QAHN LISTSERVE  
 More than a million names covering 1568 – 1850

## Genealogists: New U.K. roots link on QAHN web site

By accessing and purchasing on Origins.net through the link on the QAHN website (Welcome page), you contribute to the website's maintenance. We have been linked to Chapters.ca for the past year and a half, now we have another link -- to Origins.net.

Origins.net offers Internet access to some of the richest ancestral information available. Founded in 1997, Origins.net works in partnership with the custodians of this information, making their material accessible via the Internet and helping to fund access and preservation. Via extensive Web databases of index data, finding aids and abstracts, researchers may identify information of interest and then order copies of the source material on a pay-per-usage basis. The only other way to find most of this information is by traveling to the source archives. Where appropriate, digitized images of the source material are made directly available on the Web.

Origins.net provides exclusive access to the official genealogical information for Scotland and to important elements of the holdings of the Society of Genealogists. We shall be adding material on a regular basis from other important sources of genealogical information, enhancing Origins.net's position as the most important resource on the Web for research relating to the British Isles.

English Origins provides access to information for genealogists and family historians researching

ancestors who lived in or had connections with England. This information is not available anywhere else on the Internet. Datasets currently online contain over one million names covering 1568 - 1850.

What does it cost? Access to the database costs £6 (app. \$13C) payable online by the following credit/debit cards: VISA, Mastercard, Delta, Switch or Solo. For the £6 fee you receive: 150 records valid for 48 consecutive hours. Your 48 hour access period starts when payment has been authorized. During the 48 hours you can log-in with the same Username and Password as many times as you wish. Society of Genealogists members are allocated one free 48 hour access each calendar quarter, during which they may view maximum 150 of the Society's online records.

### Foremost source

The Society of Genealogists is the foremost source of genealogical information in the British Isles. Founded in 1911, it is a charitable organization offering a unique combination of research material, guidance and support for those interested in family history and the lives of earlier generations. Its objective is to promote, encourage and foster the study, science and knowledge of genealogy. Its library is the foremost in the British Isles, with a large collection of family histories, civil registration and census data, and the widest collection of Parish Register copies in the country.

## Avery honoured but his fight goes on

Continued from previous page

Representatives Judiciary Committee and Dean of the Congressional Black Caucus. Conyers has been closely involved with US legislation on hate crimes, slavery reparations, consumer protection and a number of human rights issues.

Also attending the dinner were Canadian immigration minister Denis Coderre, South African High Commissioner André Jaquet, Angola Ambassador Miguel Maria N'Zau Puna, US Consul General Deborah McCarthy and former Canadian multiculturalism minister Hedy Fry.

As recipient of the Frederick Johnson Award Avery will have the chance to draw attention to the slave

cemetery issue. He said he hopes his speech will have an impact.

"This is really an opportunity to ask for assistance from that level of people," he said.

Avery said his efforts and the efforts of the cultural group will continue, with or without outside help.

"Until the site has been officially recognized as historic and protected as any other grave yard in the province, there can't be any rest," he said. "Hopefully if I don't succeed someone else will be able to take it to the next level."

For more on Avery's efforts to have Nigger Rock recognized as a slave cemetery, get on the Internet and go to [www.undergroundrailroad.info](http://www.undergroundrailroad.info)

## Don't forget to renew your QAHN membership

Membership in the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network is for the fiscal year April 1 to March 31, renewable each April. That means that it's past time to renew. But it's never too late. Here's an overview of the advantages of each membership category.

### Core Member groups

Organizations in the heritage sector  
 FREE Conference Reports (if registered)  
 FREE Exhibit space at conference  
 Voting members (QAHN subsidizes travel expenses of two delegates to the Conference)  
 Listed on WEB with links  
 Access to Members' Publications Page  
 Rebate on Conference Registration for 2 official delegates

### Affiliate Member groups

Groups whose mandates include heritage  
 FREE Conference Reports (if registered)  
 FREE Exhibit space at conference  
 Access to Members' Publications Page  
 Rebate on Conference Registration

### Individual Members

Persons interested in Quebec's history  
 FREE Conference Reports (if registered)  
 FREE Exhibit space at conference  
 Access to Members' Publications Page  
 Rebate on Conference Registration

### Quebec Heritage News

All Members receive the Quebec Heritage News and are encouraged to circulate it and contribute to it.

As QAHN is a voting member of the Quebec Community Groups Network, our members are represented at this table. The mission of QCGN is to contribute to the development and enhancement of the vitality of the English-language minority communities of Quebec.

If your organization produces a newsletter, whether it be monthly, quarterly, annually or periodic, we would appreciate being on your mailing list. We welcome news from each organization, and we sometimes reprint, with permission of course, news that may be of interest to the larger heritage community.

### HOW TO JOIN?

Visit our website at [www.qahn.org](http://www.qahn.org). There is also a membership form in the March issue of the Quebec Heritage News.

Note to Core or Affiliate Members: Use your organization's mailing address. If you do not have one, list a usual contact address, such as secretary or other officer, and specify. Individual membership subscriptions are required if you wish the QHN to be sent to other members of your board or society.

## 2002 Conference approaching fast

If you have not been mailed the 2002 Conference Planning and Registration information, this is now available as a pdf download off the website. Please go to the Conferences page and download it.

If you have friends who might enjoy a spring trip to the nation's capital with several interesting activities, why not pass along this information to them to look at? The price for accommodation is very reasonable and it should be a fun weekend. Put together a group and come and enjoy Ottawa and Gatineau!

### E-SHOPPING AT INDIGO-CHAPTERS?

GO THERE THROUGH OUR WEB SITE AND WE GET MONEY.  
 GO TO [WWW.QAHN.ORG](http://WWW.QAHN.ORG) AND FIND THE INDIGO-CHAPTERS LINK.  
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