

Dead Letter Boxes

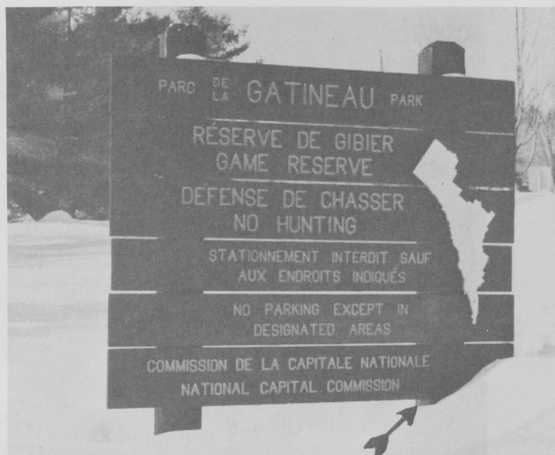
DLB's or drops as they are known in spy parlance, are convenient ways of passing messages along to one another without arousing too much suspicion. They should, in fact, never be known to anyone except the parties involved in drop and pickup. They have been used by spies world-wide. To the Soviets, setting up an elaborate system of Dead Letter Boxes was a natural instinct, probably covered in the KGB spy manual.

One such drop was located 10 miles northwest of Hull. The drop location was beside a bridge abutment under the Gatineau Parkway on Notch End Road. The container used was to be a Coca-Cola tin.

When the system was to be used, the Soviets would signal that a container held a message by placing a green tape on the right window of a telephone booth at the Parkway General Store. To later confirm the pickup, a similar tape was to be placed on the left post of the sign "Booth Terasse de pique". The pickup must be made before 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

A Meeting

On a clear day, the Gatineau hills can be seen from the north side of the RCMP Headquarters complex. Situated in the province of Quebec, across the Ottawa River, they are less than 10-15 miles distant. The Gatineaus are renowned. In winter, they are famous for numerous downhill and cross-country ski trails and toboggan runs — many of which are free to the public. In other seasons, they afford some of the most scenic viewing readily available to city dwellers. They are frequented by hikers, nature enthusiasts, amateur ecologists and others just wanting a pleasant drive in the countryside. Anyone visiting the ski slopes or lookouts must drive through the hamlet of Old Chelsea. In fact, it is so small that only a few houses, a Fire-cum-Police Station plus a couple of shops exist to cater to visitors on either their way up or down.



The signal on the phone booth would indicate that a message had been left in a Coke can at the foot of the right-hand post of this sign (arrow).

Old Chelsea is within the Ottawa-Hull designation. No special permit is required to travel there. The area is very popular, yet far enough out of the way to provide concealment for clandestine activities.

On the last Thursday of June, M-13 went to the M & R store at 6 p.m. His



As soon as the message had been removed from the D.L.B. at the Gatineau Park sign, M-13 was instructed to leave a strip of coloured tape on the left post of the Booth Picnic Field sign. Again, the tape could be seen from the road.