

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

Over a period of some time Dr and Mrs Stuart Geggie have been researching the history of Wakefield and environs. They have agreed to share their findings with us at our next meeting on Wednesday, 15 March, 1972 at 8 p.m. Through the good offices of Mr Raymond Watson arrangements have been completed to hold this meeting in the Library of Philemon Wright High School in Hull. To reach the school turn west off St Joseph Blvd at Mont Bleu Blvd and proceed along this street east the establishments of Bonaventure Ford and an adjacent Shopping centre. Then turn north up Daniel Johnston Blvd and keep going until you reach the school. Once inside the main entrance there will be a placard directing you to the Library.

We are fortunate in having a return engagement by the Geggies who will be remembered for an interesting evening in May 1970 of coloured slides and good talk on the flora and fungus of the Gatineau Valley.

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

For our annual meeting on 27 January, 1972 we had a gratifyingly good representation of members and useful discussion ensued.

It can be concluded from the reports that 1971 was another year of growth in many of our activities.....Fiona Hyslop reported on behalf of May Mulvihill and Jean Chapman on the operations of the Moorside Tearoom. Gross sales were up around \$1,400 and about 2,000 more people than last year were served including several dignitaries. Through their genial and efficient management May and Jean continue to add to the stature and good name of the Society and the operation provides a source of employment for quite a few people in the community who, through their earnest efforts, contribute to the success of the Tearoom.....our little museum at Moorside attracted many visitors and our contribution box grew heavy with silver during the season, the yield being \$157.50.....Lid Ryan reported on our programme of meetings for 1971 and also on our publications. In both fields Lid has rendered the Society devoted and effective service through the years.....our ninth annual Auction Sale was the wettest, the longest, the most profitable and the most exhausting on record.....our financial position is sound, our capital increased substantially during the year and the total interest thereon yielded almost \$400 which we did not have to work for.....one of our most popular ventures was the train trip up the Gatineau in the Fall which was carried out in co-operation with the Bytown Railway Society.....Charlotte Kindle and Pat Evans are selecting and editing historical material from our archives for future publication.....Edouard Laberge reported briefly on our newest project, an Essay Contest, the results of which will be known in about a month.....Pat Evans brought us up-to-date on his expansion of the Philemon Wright family tree which the Society hopes to publish in due time. In this regard funds up to \$500 were voted at the meeting to cover research expenses including some digging being done in Britain.....Miss Helen Stechens kindly donated an invitation and a programme for the inaugural ceremonies of the Ottawa and Gatineau Valley Railway in 1882.....a motion was passed supporting the recognition of Samuel Benedict, an 1801 arrival in the Hull area whose lands were acquired in 1955 for the building of a large part of the Gatineau Parkway.....the present executive agreed to continue for another year but with the added strength of four new directors - Lid Ryan, Pat Evans, Alan Powell and Edouard Laberge, all of whom are among our "activists".....both Edouard Laberge and your President have had some air time recently on Society affairs.....and, in the parlance of auction notices, there were "many other items too numerous to mention".

A SHOWING AND TELLING

The frosting was put on our evening by three members' contributions, both verbal and visual. Raymond Watson showed us an old account book of Timothy Moffatt who sold insurance in the area over 100 years ago. He read some excerpts which were interesting and revealing. Mrs Walter Moffatt, a later member of the same family as Timothy showed and described a very old powder horn. Mrs Henry Wilkie took us on a quick trip to Victorian England. She displayed two small plates each bearing the likeness of William Ewart Gladstone and then told us a few intimate facts about the life and times of this noted statesman. Our thanks to all three!

DO DO YOUR DUES

If you have not done it please do it. Do what? Do your cheque for your annual membership dues and mail it to Miss Sheila Strang, our Secretary-Treasurer, Old Chelsea, P.Q. Then it will be done. And to borrow a phrase - "If t'were done when 'tis done then t'were well t'were done quickly!"

WORTH SEEING

The Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, has on display a number of water colours and drawings done by 18th and 19th Century "amateur" artists of Canada, mostly British military men who were stationed here.

A THANK YOU

Miss Dorothy Tewksbury kindly subbed for Sheila Strang at our last meeting and subsequently reported us to the Aylmer Reporter.

Arthur Davison,
President.

March