

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

As the speaker at our next meeting on Thursday, 19 June 1975 at 8 p.m. in the New Town Hall, Old Chelsea, Que. we are fortunate in having Mr. Frank Park, an experienced and knowledgeable collector who will give us a talk on COLLECTING COINS. In addition to his vital interest in this hobby, Mr. Park has been active in church and Boy Scout activities in Hull for many years and, on a timely note, he will be one of the umpires in the track events of the upcoming Olympic Games.

Come and find out more about 'hard cash'-ancient and elusive!

LAST MEETING

Mr. Leo La Clare, assisted by his colleague, Mr. Moreau from the Oral History Branch of the Public Archives provided us with a most enlightening evening on the 16th April 1975. He shared his broad knowledge with us in the field of collecting and preserving conversations with 'old-timers' who have lived (and made) local history. We were given many helpful hints for oral research.

HOT OFF THE PRESS - SOON

Researched and written by Norma and Stuart Geggie of Wakefield a new book is about to be published by The Historical Society of the Gatineau. It is LAPEÇHE - a History of the Townships of Masham and Wakefield, 1796-1925 and it is expected to be available toward the end of June. It is commended to you as an intimate local history, well illustrated with early photographs. For more particulars you may call Mrs. Stuart Geggie on 459 2393.

"SHOWING THE FLAG"

As part of the 100th birthday celebrations of West Hull on 31 May 1975, organized by the Volunteer Firefighters, the Society was well represented by a large and attractive display of pioneer tools of all kinds. Responsible for putting it all together and manning it during the day was a committee made up of Moiya Wright, Rod Sparks, Sheila Strang and Dorothy Tewksbury. The display, on the grounds of the Chelsea School, was enhanced for an hour by old time music provided by fiddler Martin O'Neil from the Meach Lake road. Adding to the interest of the many visitors were three "obscure" objects, for which there was a contest in identification with names being drawn from the three corresponding boxes for a prize of \$10.00 each, donated by the Society.

Most entries were made by the younger members of the crowd and the results, to say the least, were interesting. For the BULLET MOULDER there were 67 entries of which over half were correct - discounting the spelling. Bullet came out bulit, bullit, bulet, and bullet, showing how flexible our language can be. The object was also identified as a nail cutter, 'plirers' and a thing to make screws.

For the COBBLER'S HAMMER, out of 60 entries three-quarters were right. Other guesses were a hammer for 'chiping' rock, a prospector's hammer, a harness-maker's hammer and a 'shoe horse hammer'. One enterprising contestant improved her chances by putting in eight identical entries. Unfortunately, her ingenuity did not survive 'the luck of the draw'.

The most mysterious object produced 44 entries of which 14 were correct. It was a small folding pick used for dislodging stones, etc. from a horse's shod hoof. The difficulty of its identification was shown by the variety of wrong but imaginative guesses. These included 'a holder for a question mark' (there was some similarity to the latter), a screw driver, 'to pick up logs', a Jew's Harp (it did look a little like one), a 'hooker', a bottle opener, a bale or bail tong, an old-fashioned fish hook and (quote) 'It's a thing to put on your butts to climb a tree'.

The interest of the young (as well as the adults) in our display was encouraging and those responsible for it have earned our thanks. The whole affair was a good birthday party and for this the Volunteer Firefighters deserve a lot of credit.

UP THE GATINEAU!

This is the title of our new publication which is currently being printed. Several names were suggested but UP THE GATINEAU!, submitted by Ann Crane, was the popular choice of the judges. The booklet of 24 pages contains several articles about early places and people in the Gatineau valley and it is illustrated with six photographs. It will sell for \$1.50 but a copy will be sent to each member in good standing (single or family) free of charge.

LAST CALL

Several of our members of last year have overlooked renewing their membership for 1975 and if this paragraph is marked in red it is a reminder to YOU. Please send your cheque to Miss Sheila Strang, Old Chelsea, Que. JOK 2NO, without delay - \$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per family. Failure to renew will mean that, among other benefits, you will miss receiving FREE a copy of Vol. 1 No. 1 of UP THE GATINEAU!

Arthur Davison,
President.