

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

We are fortunate in having Mr David Robertson speak to us at the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 24 March 1976 at 8 p.m. sharp in the New Town Hall, Old Chelsea, Que.

Mr Robertson is on the Board of the Lanark Museum and has lectured in the Extension Department of Carleton University. He will speak on the Heritage of the Ottawa Valley and his talk will be illustrated with slides. This will be something stimulating to snap us out of the late Winter doldrums.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

This meeting was held on 29 January and reports revealed a number of interesting achievements during 1975. We had some firsts and broke some records.....In the latter category Moorside Tea Room continues to thrive. This year under the capable management of Elaine Albert and Jean Chapman with Sheila Strang keeping a tight hold on the purse strings we ended the year with a balance rather than a loss and sales rose to \$103,806 from \$84,168 in 1974. In our opening year - 1964 - sales amounted to \$12,507 and there has been an increase each year ever since.....Without a nudge from anyone, kind friends deposited \$202.66 in the donation box in our small museum at Moorside. In response to an appeal in the Newsletter Glenna Reid has agreed to head a small committee to freshen up our exhibits and make them more instructive and appealing.....Lid Ryan, in the absence of our Program Chairman, reviewed the meetings during the year.....Under the direction of Ed Laberge our Essay Contest has been changed to include adult entries with a prize list of \$1,000. Of this you received details in the last Newsletter.....Pat Evans reviewed Heather Quipp's fine historical study of the heart of Old Chelsea and subsequently a committee consisting of Moiva Wright, Lid Ryan, Pat Evans and Rod Sparks has been set up to study where we should go from here.....Sheila Strang, our invaluable Secretary-Treasurer, revealed that we are financially sound with a bank account which is growing in stature.....The annual Auction Sale had the highest gross ever of \$4,914 with a net profit to the Society of \$1,893.....Our publications - "Lapeche" and "Up the Gatineau!" were well received and Pat Evans' "The Wrights" was sold out.....Early in the year substantial improvements were carried out in our cemetery including straightening and repairing several headstones.....Under the auspices of Heritage Canada our representatives met twice during 1975 with sister societies in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec. We now exchange copies of Newsletters and other material.....An honorary membership was bestowed on the new Mayor of West Hull, Douglas Minnes.....The present Executive Committee, which will continue, was strengthened by the addition of Carol Martin. Former members, Mrs Walter Moffatt, who has left the area, and Terry Ruddell have retired..... There was some discussion on how we could interest the young in our Society, maybe by forming a junior auxiliary.....Through the fine co-operation of Rod Sparks and Lid and Ed Ryan we were treated to excerpts from taped interviews with some of the local older inhabitants - an interesting sample of what can be done in this field.

A SEEKER

If anyone has a copy of "Hurling Down the Pine", either 1st or 2nd edition, which he or she would be prepared to sell or exchange for another book on local history please get in touch with Michael Curry, 269 Avondale Avenue, Ottawa, K1Z 7G7 - Tel. 722-5069. He is most anxious to acquire a copy.

SESSQUICENTENNIAL

1976 marks the 150th Anniversary of the founding of By Town by Lt-Col. John By and in commemoration thereof reproductions of four watercolours by three early artists recording By Town scenes during the period 1831 to 1841 have been published by Haig and Haig Publishing Co. These prints sell for \$6.00 each. Behind this project is Bob Haig, one of our members, who is also author of "OTTAWA, City of the Big Ears". See enclosures.

You may order prints and book by mail by sending a cheque with particulars to Sheila Strang, Old Chelsea, Que. JOK 2N0 or from stock by visiting Alan Powell's BYTOWN GLASS, 21 York Street, Ottawa.

REPRODUCTION

Another of our members, Wilfred Kearns, is now offering a service for developing and printing films with a special interest in, and facility for, making copies of old family, historical, etc. photographs. He does this at a most reasonable cost. His address is 2069 Saunderson Drive, Ottawa K1G 2E5 and he may be telephoned in the evenings and week-ends at 733-6325 for specific information.

THE MAGNIFICENT GAEL

This is the title of a new book by yet another of our members, Reginald Hale. The central figure in this early history is St Columba of Iona (521 - 597) - a remarkable and versatile man who had a far-reaching impact on the world of his day. Copies may be obtained after 31 March from World Media Institute as directed in the enclosed leaflet.

"WHAT MEN THEY WERE!"

Still in the realm of remarkable men Wyman Mackechnie of Wyman, Que. has written a fascinating history entitled as above, about the lives and struggles of the early pioneers who fashioned the beginnings of life in the wilds of this region of Canada. Available through booksellers.

Pat Evans has been in touch with the author and, tentatively, he has agreed to speak to the Society at a meeting in the late Spring or early Summer.

DUES

If you haven't done it please do it now! Send your cheque for 1976 membership dues - \$3.00 single, \$5.00 family, to Sheila Strang, Old Chelsea, Que. JOK 2N0.

15 March 1976

Arthur Davison,
President.