

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

A different kind of program is being offered to you for the next meeting on Thursday, 2 December 1982 at 8 p.m. sharp. This is our November meeting slightly delayed.

On this occasion we plan to meet jointly with the members of Heritage Ottawa to have a brief report on the Annual Meeting and Conference of The Heritage Canada Foundation held in Regina in mid-October. As representative of both our associations I will say a few words but we are fortunate in having Albert Benoit, Director of Information and Public Relations for the Foundation who will give us the benefit of his knowledge and experience in making a somewhat fuller report. He will also show a 14 minute film on the Main Street program in Perth, Ontario sponsored by the Foundation after which he will make himself available for questions from you.

Since it was not all business out West the meeting will be capped by a film which we, who took the post-Conference Bus Tour, saw in the dining room of the Cypress Hills Provincial Park, having walked through 8" or 9" of snow that day to get there. This film, not normally shown outside Saskatchewan, is a depiction of early days in the south-western corner of the province and is entitled "The Ole Cow Town - Maple Creek" made by Saskmedia who have kindly made it available. You should find it entertaining, enlightening and amusing.

This meeting will be held in the main auditorium of the National Research Council, 100 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, opposite the northerly end of King Edward Avenue. There is plenty of off-street parking to the east of, and behind, the building with some very limited parking in front. As the auditorium holds 290 persons you are encouraged to bring family and friends for this occasion.

LAST MEETING

The breadth and variety of Arthur Dunn's interests and expertise were demonstrated once again at our meeting on 21 October 1982. This time he gave us a presentation on "Church Bell Ringing in England" which was illustrated with slides and in which the sound of the bells added a pleasing note to the evening. Again we thank him for sharing with us some of what he knows and what he has done - as selected from his vast repertoire.

CEMETERY ACTIVITIES

Despite the inactive condition of the permanent inhabitants, there are things which do go on in cemeteries. Ours is no exception. In the last NEWSLETTER an article appeared on our cemetery in general terms but because of lack of space - in the Newsletter, not in the cemetery - the following had to be deleted.

On the more intimate side, when inspecting the cemetery on 9 July 1982 I discovered that some (young) person(s) unknown had planted in the plot a small maple tree directly in front of the memorial stone to Pte. R. R. Thompson. Having no other means of contact I put up a painted sign with the words; "Note to Tree Planter - We are sorry to have to move the tree that you planted but we do not want one in front of this tomb-stone. The Historical Society of the Gatineau." Then we transplanted the sapling in a more suitable location. A couple of weeks later a small piece of paper, pierced by a stick was placed beside our sign with wording as follows: "Note to Historical Society - We got your message."

THE FEE FOR '83 On the strength of a resolution adopted at our Annual Meeting, 29 January 1981, which gave the Executive authority to increase annual membership fees if considered necessary, the Executive, in a meeting on 8 November 1982, decided that such an increase was now necessary. We held the line in 1981 and 1982 with some misgivings due to the then rising costs but after a thorough discussion by members of the Executive it was felt necessary to approve a modest increase, bearing in mind that paper and postage costs now add substantially to our costs of operation - and there are other higher costs to contend with. All membership fees, both single and family, will be at the same rate of \$5.00 in 1983.

This will be presented at the Annual Meeting in late January 1983 but because we are fortunate in having a few members who pay their fees ahead of time we wish them to know the new rates now - still a bargain taking into account the privileges which members enjoy including receiving a complimentary copy of our annual publication - "Up the Gatineau!". And we won't mind a bit if others wish to slip into the 'early bird' category as fee-payers.

SOCIETY CREDITS

Thanks to two of our Essayists whose works have appeared in 'Up the Gatineau!' the Society has gained a mention in the bibliography of a relatively recently published book - "1201 to Wakefield" by W.C. Slim of Ottawa - the story of the summer steam train to Wakefield.

Reference is made to Helen Stephens' "The Railway up the Gatineau", 1978 and Gary Levy's "The Ottawa and Gatineau Valley Railway 1871 - 1901, 1980. It is gratifying to be recognized as something of an authority for which we can give credit to the two people mentioned above for their thorough research.

STOCKING STUFFERS As that season of the year will soon be upon us and you are wondering what to give as supplementary gifts may we suggest, for your consideration, copies of the 1982 issue of 'Up the Gatineau!', of which we have some to spare. They may not be the best shape for stuffing into stockings but we are sure that you can find a suitable means of conveyance to the recipient who may enjoy a little Gatineau lore for winter reading.

As a member you are entitled to extra copies at \$1.00. Simply telephone or write Sheila Strang, our Secretary Treasurer, Old Chelsea, Que., JOX 2N0 - Telephone 827 0420. If you could satisfy your requirements by pick-up in Ottawa please telephone me on 235 1064 at 445 Daly Ave., Ottawa, K1N 6H6. We will be waiting to hear from you but please do it soon.

THANK YOU

- to Jennifer Roddick, editor, and Heritage Ottawa for including one of our 'Search for History' leaflets in a recent mailing of their Newsletter.
- to Bob Phillips and Pierre-Louis Lapointe for having composed, in such fine phrases, our 'Search for History' leaflet.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

As this will be the last Newsletter of 1982 may we, on the Executive of the Society, thank you for your essential support during the past year; may we look forward to a continuance of that support in 1983, and beyond, and may we wish you well for Christmas and the New Year!

15 November 1982

*Arthur Davison*  
Arthur Davison, President.