

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

Years are born and then pass into history and now we have the new 1983 on our hands. That brings with it our 'Annual Meeting' to consider the affairs of the Society. This will be held on Thursday, 27 January 1983 commencing at 8.00 p.m. sharp in the Chelsea United Church (main floor), Mill Road, Chelsea, Que.

Your Executive Committee is making every effort to anticipate your wishes and it is also committed to doing what it can to attract your involvement. At this time, the very best gift you could make to the Society would be that of YOUR presence and YOUR ideas at the 'Annual Meeting'. Please do not disappoint us. If, for some reason, you cannot possibly attend this meeting we would welcome your suggestions by mail or telephone.

We will talk briefly about what has happened during the past year in the form of short reports on our various activities. We will devote all necessary time to discussing YOUR ideas and suggestions for the future. Only then will we get into our annual SHOW AND TELL or, simply, TELL session in which you will have 5 to 10 minutes to 'SHOW AND TELL' a prized possession or 'TELL' us about a memorable experience, bit of family history, or whatever. Let us have lots of PARTICIPATION in this Annual Meeting, PLEASE. We have the future of the Society foremost in our thoughts at this time and we want YOU to be involved.

LAST MEETING

One of the pleasant features of the last meeting, held in the NRC auditorium on 2 December 1982, was the relatively large number in attendance - some 70 odd. Alas, the larger share was from Heritage Ottawa, with whom we held this joint meeting.

Albert Benoit, an officer of The Heritage Canada Foundation, was well received as was the film on the 'Main Street Project' in Perth, Ontario. He was called upon to answer many questions which is a good sign of audience interest. Our 'imported' film on Maple Creek, Sask. was unique entertainment, to say the least, and, thanks to Stella Kirk and Heritage Ottawa, we had a pleasant 'cookie and coffee' ending to our evening which was much appreciated.

SEARCH FOR HISTORY

In lieu of our previous annual Essay Contest, the Society is giving some modest financial support to four applicants who are researching different aspects of Gatineau Country history. The committee in charge is chaired by Cdr. Tony German with Bob Phillips, Pat Evans, Lydia Morisset, Pierre-Louis Lapointe and Rolf Latte as members. You will hear more of this project in due time.

DUES DUE AGAIN

We have a new calendar year, a new fiscal year for the Society and a new fee schedule. This was first announced in our November Newsletter and now, we are asking you, in earnest, for your continuing support in 1983. An encouraging number of members have already paid.

The new fee is \$5.00 per year for both single and family memberships and we sincerely hope that you will send this to our Secretary Treasurer, Sheila Strang, Old Chelsea, Que., JOX 2N0 as soon as you have finished reading this Newsletter or, you may pay her in person at the next meeting. Why not do it now and get it off your mind?

We hope that you will agree that this fee represents good 'money's worth' considering that it also includes a complimentary copy of 'Up the Gatineau!' for 1983 and the cost of this item, alone, has been increasing each year - as you can well imagine.

HERITAGE DAY

The Heritage Canada Foundation has already begun its publicity promoting Heritage Day for 21 February 1983. This is your early notice of a coming event of which you will, undoubtedly, hear a lot more.

'UP THE GATINEAU!' '83

Very soon now, preliminary action will start on turning out our annual booklet - our ninth in the series. Once again, we are seeking short items of Gatineau history - places, people, events or local anecdotes. These are used as fillers to add interest and variety to the basic articles in the booklet. If you can help in this regard, and we hope that you can, please telephone me on 235 1064 as soon as possible so that we can arrange how best we can get the material from you to me. You will get a credit line in the booklet, if the material is used.

By so doing you might even initiate a chain of events similar to the following: In the 1982 issue we included a short submission by Norma Reid on her great grandfather, George Hall. John Hall of Vancouver visited Ottawa. He picked up a copy of our booklet, read this article and recognized George Hall as one of his own early antecedents. He wrote to us and enclosed some additional material on George Hall. We acknowledged this and passed a copy of the material to Norma Reid.

PRESERVATION

As an added feature of our 'Annual Meeting' we are to have a brief outline, by Ms. Pauline Smith, on the hopes of the English Cultural Resource Centre to get wheels in motion toward the preservation of English documents significant to the development and history of Western Quebec.

BINGHAM BACKGROUND

John T. Bingham of 120 Boteler Street, Ottawa, K1N 5A6 (Tel. 234 0960) has been in touch with us concerning any material that we might have on his great-uncle, Samuel M. Bingham, who was known as "King of the Cascades" because of his business as a driver of logs down the Gatineau River and his prowess at breaking up log jams. He was also a highly respected mayor of Ottawa in 1897 and 1898.

We have made available to him any references which we have and he, in turn, has generously given to the Society copies of his collected material. He is seeking additional information and if you have access to anything which you feel might be significant, especially if it might not be a part of the generally recorded lore on Samuel Bingham, will you please get in touch directly with John Bingham. He is most anxious to expand his research and knowledge.

CONFERENCE IN JUNE

The Federation of Quebec Historical Societies plans to hold its annual conference in Hull next June 3 - 5. One of our directors, bilingual Gary Levy is representing our Society in the organization of this event, of which more later.

12 January 1983

Happy '83
To you from me!

Arthur Davison
Arthur Davison, President