

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEW MEETING

On Wednesday, 27 June 1984 another different kind of "meeting" has been planned. We did something similar in June of 1977 but this one has an added feature.

Please foregather at the Maclaren Mill in Wakefield, Que. sharp at 2.00 p.m. or, preferably, a little sooner. We will then have a preview of the restoration of this old mill by the N.C.C. which will be opened officially in July of this year.

The Maclaren Mill is reached by driving up Mill Road $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the main street. The entrance to Mill Road is adjacent to, and just north of, Chateau Pearson. There is adequate parking available.

Following our visit to the Mill we will re-embark in our cars to assemble near the train turn-table opposite Orme's Bakery where there is also sufficient parking. From this point we will be taken in hand by Norma and Stuart Geggie who will guide us on a walking tour through the Village ending at the Earle House Restaurant for sandwiches and tea at \$3.30 per person. This whole event should take approximately 2 hours.

For this occasion you may bring a friend or two and you should bring comfortable walking shoes, energy, enthusiasm and a camera plus protective clothing and/or an umbrella, if needed.

LAST MEETING

On 31 May 1984 one of our more unusual but most entertaining meetings attracted a large turn-out of members and friends to 'The Grange' - the attractive heritage home of President Bob and Mary Ann Phillips.

For the first part of this unique evening we were treated to a musical program with four fiddlers and piano accompaniment by the artists mentioned in our last Newsletter. This lively and tune-ful music generated some spontaneous step-dancing. Later, we had a showing of Joan Finnegan's award-winning film - "The Best Damn Fiddler from Calabogie to Kaladar".

The first presentation of the ARTHUR DAVISON PRIZE was made to Sheila Strang for her great contribution to 'Up the Gatineau!', both as a compiler of an article in the 1984 edition and, more particularly, as distributor, through the years, to sales outlets in the Old Chelsea, Hull and Ottawa areas.

Sheila was on duty at this meeting and, in the process, 12 new members were attracted to the Society and 4 renewed their memberships.

Wine and cheese, as well as some fruit, was available throughout the evening.

Many were involved in conceiving, organizing and realizing this very special and memorable meeting among whom much credit is due to President Bob, Tony German, Carol Martin, Rod Sparks, Sheila Strang and members of Bob's family. Unfortunately, illness prevented the attendance of Mary Ann Phillips.

'TALKING UP THE RIDEAU'

This is an automobile tour, on two ninety-minute audio cassettes, of the Rideau Canal from Ottawa to Kingston. Patrick Watson, Canadian writer/broadcaster is the narrator, and he guides visitors by car to the 24 lock sites and related points of interest along the 194 kilometre waterway, giving road directions and distances. Watson's focus in the narration is the historical background of the canal; the fear of American invasion which prompted its building; the hercism of Colonel By and his builders; the problems of construction; the outbreaks of deadly malaria and the waterway's changing fortunes over the last century and a half.

Designed to appeal to both tourist and heritage seeker, this tour, if followed in its entirety, affords the visitor a leisurely two or three day's exploration of a beautiful part of Eastern Ontario, and a particularly historic one. Overnight accommodation is available in Smiths Falls and Perth - the larger centres in the tour area - or in the older inns in the villages along the canal - Merrickville, Newboro, Chaffey's Locks, Jones Falls. Although the narration guides drivers from Ottawa to Kingston, the listener controls the playback and can stop, start, cut in and even run from end to beginning with a little fiddling. The narration is designed to be listened to en route: each site is described before arrival, usually just after clear road directions are given. The visitor explores the site for as long as desired, returns to the car, re-starts the narration and hears directions to the next stop.

Talking up the Rideau is packaged with additional material such as metric conversion chart, a diagram of river crossing points and suggestions for breaking up the trip. The package sells for \$12.00 plus the Ontario Sales Tax of 7% and it is available in book stores, tourist shops or through the mail. Cheques or Money Orders should be sent to: Rideau Watch, P.O. Box 196, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6C4. For further information please telephone Janet Irwin at 236 2502.

AUCTION AND FLEA MARKET

For the 22nd time the Society will be in business again with its Annual Sale on 18 August 1984 - a Saturday, at the West Hull Community Centre beginning at 9.30a.m.

You will receive more specific information but, in the meantime, you are asked to search out surplus antiques and collectibles which you can consign for auction at the sale. There will also be a flea market for those items which do not qualify for inclusion among the foregoing. Will you also approach friends and neighbours with the same object in view. In addition to your items we want YOU to be on hand for the event. How about calendarizing it now ?

ANOTHER SHOWING

In our April Newsletter we announced a musical satire production of 'Up the Gatineau' at the Glebe Collegiate in early May. The show was loosely based on the infamous 'Battle of Brennan's Hill' and those of us who attended were impressed by the enthusiasm, talent, and energy of the student-participants which emanated from the stage.

Now, we are informed that the show is, in effect, doing what comes naturally by "going home" to Brennan's Hill and it is understood that there will be performances at 2.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. on Sunday, 24 June 1984 in the Brennan's Hill Hotel.

If you are interested - and we can recommend it as good and regionally appropriate entertainment - may we suggest that you confirm the details and get more information by telephoning the Glebe Collegiate on 563 2424 or Brennan's Hill Hotel on 422 3462.

BELGIANS

This is a very brief note to Belgians, or those of Belgian ancestry, who may read this to write to: Professor André Vermeirre, 130 rue des roitelets, Saint-Bruno, Qué., J3V 4P6, relative to the History of Belgians in Canada.

8 June 1984

Arthur Davison Arthur Davison, Editor