

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

This will be held in our usual place - the West Hull Community Centre, Old Chelsea, Que., on our usual last Monday of the month - 25 March 1985 at 8.00 p.m. sharp.

We are to be favoured with a talk by Dr. Munro Beattie, long-time Chairman of the English Department of Carleton University, from which position he retired a very few years ago. Dr. Beattie is known as one of Canada's most eloquent and entertaining speakers and, under his stated topic of 'Literary Landmarks', he will purvey a wealth of fascinating material about literary figures of the Region.

Treat yourself by joining other members for what promises to be another memorable meeting of the Society.

LAST MEETING Once again, a very good turnout was on hand, including some new members, for the last meeting of the Society on Monday, 25 February 1985. Our speaker, Robert Grenier, held the audience enthralled as he vividly described some underwater archeology at Red Bay, Labrador, involving a very early sunken fishing vessel. His talk was made more graphic by the display of some unusual and excellent slides.

Apparently, there was regular and heavy sea traffic between the Basque section of Spain, this section being south of the Bay of Biscay and west of the Pyrenees, and Labrador at a very early period of history by Basque seamen seeking vast quantities of whale oil.

Mr. Grenier spoke well on an engaging topic and the obvious interest which he engendered elicited a good verbal exchange with the members of the audience. Another evening to remember!

SUMMER JOBS

In connection with some projects of the Society planned for the coming summer it is hoped to provide employment for some young people. Planning is now in hand.

If you know someone who could use some salary money this summer in exchange for time and service please telephone June Creelman on 995 8641 or Carol Martin on 996 8841 during the day.

This is very important so please act now to help both the Society and some young person(s).

MEMBERSHIP

You were told how you could help expand the Society's membership in the February Newsletter by disseminating the Membership Forms which were included with the Newsletter. Results are showing on this expansion program but you are asked to continue your efforts in this regard. Telephone our Secretary, Rae Moore, on 827 1995 if more forms are needed.

FEES PLEASE

Kindly give action to your good intentions by renewing your membership for 1985 - if you have not already done so - by returning a copy of the Membership Form, duly completed, accompanied by your cheque for \$5.00 to: The Historical Society of the Gatineau, P.O. Box 143, Old Chelsea, Que., JOX 2N0.

LOOKING BACK

As we embark on our second decade of publishing 'Up the Gatineau!' it may not be inappropriate to repeat herewith the introduction to the very first edition in June 1975 -

SOMETHING NEW ABOUT SOMETHING OLD

The publishing of this first edition of UP THE GATINEAU! brings to fruition a dream long held by members of the Society. It is hoped that it will be but the beginning of a long line to follow.

It is planned to include at least the winning essays from our annual Essay Contests and historical papers prepared about people, places and events in the Gatineau region. Some of these papers will have been presented by their authors to a regular meeting of the Society.

Included in this edition is the winning essay in our first contest in 1972, the winner being Mr. Bruce Elliott. Also there are papers by Mrs. C.R. Holt, Mr. Patrick M.O. Evans and Father Maurice Gobeil.

Assisting in the birth of UP THE GATINEAU! were Miss Charlotte Kindle, Mr. Patrick M.O. Evans, and Mr. Arthur Davison who carried out the selection and editing duties as well as the arrangements for its publication. Mrs. E.J. Ryan, our archivist, had assembled most of the material included herein. An informal competition was held among the members for a name for the publication. Nineteen suggestions were made and Mrs. Marian Roberts collected and prepared them for judging. The winning name was submitted by Mrs. Brian Crane. The Society is grateful to them and to all those whose works make up this issue.

The Society has launched a number of projects in its twelve years of existence which have enjoyed some modest acceptance and success. May UP THE GATINEAU! be no exception.

SAMPLE

Below is a sample of one of the ~~short~~ items which appeared in our first edition in June 1975. The incident reported harkens ~~back~~ to before the turn of the century and points up an offence of the time and the penalty therefor.

MAGISTRATE'S COURT

There was a Magistrate's Court in West Hull in the old days and in the Registration of Judgments we have the following record:

"At a special session of the peace sitting in Chelsea on Monday 29th day of August 1892 -
The Corporation of the West Part of the Township of Hull, plaintiff

vs.

Daniel Swaiter, defendant

The defendant appeared in person and pleaded guilty to the charge of being drunk, singing and swearing and acting disorderly on the Meach Lake Road.

Judgment for \$8.50 costs, \$1.00 fine, or in default
15 days in the Aylmer gaol.

7 March 1985

Arthur Davison
Arthur Davison,
Editor.