



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

BOX 143, OLD CHELSEA, QUE., J0X 2N0

1985

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING: Monday, Oct. 28 at 7.30 p.m. in the Chelsea School

This will be the first occasion in our history when we have been honoured by the presence of the Chairman of the National Capital Commission. This is important to us, for Mrs. Pigott has offered to share frankly with us her ideas for preserving history-- including such controversial issues as The Farm. She will tell us of current activities and, with illustrations, future plans for areas which mean much to us.

But that is not all ! We are to be honoured also by a short concert by the band of Philemon Wright School as a fitting prologue to our distinguished guest. Please note the early start and bring friends to this exceptional meeting. We owe it to Mrs. Pigott to have a large and receptive audience.

Last Meeting

It was quite a start for our season's activities: over 250 people present to celebrate the centenary of the Chelsea Post Office. We saw absorbing displays and film, heard a fascinating talk by Dr. Robert Smith, and received Pat Evans' new history of the Old Chelsea Post Office. That was all before the generous refreshments provided by Canada Post and local well-wishers. Our warm thanks to June Dompierre, Adele Street, and all their colleagues who worked so hard to make this the great success it was.

Auction (continued)

We did it again! Treasurer Sheila Strang reports that, with net revenue just over \$3,000, we beat last year's record, which had been the best in our history. Superb work by many people.

Maps

As members already know, we have maps showing 1875 land ownership in the lower Gatineau Valley, thanks to Ed Ryan's excellent work, with the collaboration of Pat Evans. Members may sign up for those maps, hand coloured, mounted and ready for framing at \$35 each, though current delivery time is estimated at 12 months. Since all the painstaking colouring is done as a voluntary service by Carol Martin, Eileen Castleman and David Morisset, all proceeds (except materials) help the Society.

As a service to those who wish to ^{have} the maps for reference, we are now providing unmounted, uncoloured copies of the original (about 24 inches square) for \$10 each. They will be available at the membership desk at the next meeting.

Fees

Fees for 1986 (eight dollars) are not due yet, but those now joining the Society may appreciate the convenience of paying \$12 to cover the rest of 1985 as well as the new year. This gives the member the 1985 *Up the Gatineau!* as well as the rest of this year's newsletters, and invitations to all the fall meetings. (Fee structure is subject to membership approval at the Annual Meeting.)

Search for History

The Society's activities can be divided into two categories: those which principally benefit the members, like meetings, tours and publications, and those which save our history. In the second category, our main activity is the research program known as Search for History in which we make modest grants to help cover expenses, and usually publish results.

Please consider that program, for we could be sponsoring far more research. One does not have to be a professional historian or writer: most applicants are not. It could be a family history, the recording of recollections of earlier Gatineau days, old photographs, diaries or other records. It could be anything which brings history alive and helps us save it before it is too late. We are especially interested in written or oral material about the activities of the Society itself, for we would like to publish some form of history to mark our 25th anniversary. If you have an idea you would like to pursue yourself, or know someone who could be interested, please tell any member of the executive. We should be doing more for the next generation.

Old Lace?

Anyone interested in old lace, its collection, making or techniques is invited to write Sylvie Desjardins who is studying lace in the region and would like to exchange information with those who share her interest. Her address is Meech Lake, Old Chelsea, Qué, J0X 2N0.