



FALL 1987 NEWSLETTER

**NEXT MEETING:
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 21
AT 2000 h IN THE
WEST HULL COMMUNITY
CENTRE**

Lively, controversial, imaginative are among the gentler adjectives applied to the dynamic Dr. David Baird who had at least one other career (in geology) before founding Canada's most popular museum, Science and Technology. Not resting on those laurels, he went on to create Alberta's dramatic museum of pre-history in Drumheller. Now that he is back amongst us, we have been lucky enough to catch him to talk about small museums—the first of two museum talks which start our fall season. Hearing David Baird is always an occasion to be missed only on the excuse of absence in outer space.

THE AUCTION

For five years we have monotonously broken our own record in the success of the annual auction. On August 15 we set a record that we swear will stand for years.

Thanks to the enormous efforts of David Morisset, aided by the Martin family, Anne Fleming and others, we already have an almost complete balance sheet. The magic figure at the bottom is just under \$7,000. That is not only higher than our previous record: it is about twice as big.

This was achieved despite the worst

weather in years. The threat was less from rain (a little fell at the beginning) as from the predictions of Environment Canada which kept predicting dire conditions that never happened. The crowd, therefore, was smaller, but perhaps more eager than usual. Thanks to two rich sources, the antiques were better than any year in recent memory. Other happy records set were for the highest proportion of donations ever (that is, gifts in return for receipts only) and the highest return from food.

There is no space here to list all those who contributed to this enormous success. The final key to success was very hard work by a lot of people, not only on the day of the auction, but in the patient planning months before. We are grateful to David Lewis who stepped in to take charge of the Auction Committee in the later stages; to Carol Martin who ran a great flea market (indoors), to Terry Winfield, our pricing authority, to Helen Starnes, who capped years of auction service by organizing the volunteers a final time: and to so many others.

The Auction was the nearest definition we know of happiness. People were happy to get rid of things they did not need. People were happy to acquire new treasures. People were happy to have great entertainment for half a day. And the proceeds ensure a happy financial foundation for another successful year of preserving the history of the Gatineau.

HISTORIC TOUR #3

It's time for our third historic tour, on Saturday, October 3. Following the path of early settlement, we now move into the Gatineau Valley, focussing on the Chelseas,

Kingsmere and nearby historic byways.

The entire tour, including bus fare and lunch, is being offered for \$15 to each of the first 40 people registering. That's right, only \$15 for the whole day.

To make a reservation, please call Rae Moore (827-1995), or register at the September meeting. If you leave it beyond that date, chances are that you will be disappointed.

THE MUSEUM

A letter from the Ministère des Affaires culturelles, enclosing a cheque for \$3,000, was a tremendous boost to morale and a spur to future planning. Having the support of that Ministry means a lot to our young effort. The money is designated for inventory and future planning.

The museum season has been a success, though attendance figures are not yet compiled.. The introduction of the small admission fee (\$1.50 for the Museum and the Mill), as well as a continued shortage of local signage, may have have been factors.

Another substantial accomplishment has been the completion by Stuart Geggie of a long-term strategic plan for the museum, for discussion with the Québec and federal governments.

The disappointment of the season has been the response to the call for volunteers. While many volunteers regularly materialize for the auction, at the museum and mill we are relying too often on the loyal few who always turn up to do far more than their share when we are in trouble. What is wrong? What can we do to make the record better in 1988?

THE MUSEUM: HELP!

Do you happen to have a Victorian dining room suite with chairs, table and sideboard you are not using? We are very anxious to furnish a dining room in our expanding Museum. Perhaps you know of someone

who would consider donating such a suite in return for an income tax receipt? Or you may know where we might acquire one at substantially below the market price, which is more than we can now afford?

Please convey any ideas to Stuart Geggie (459-2393).

HAVING FRIENDS

We gratefully acknowledge a \$200 donation towards our work from the Friends of the National Gallery who made an all-day tour of historic sites in the Gatineau on August 11.

The gift was in appreciation of a rather tedious six-hour talk provided by a Society tour guide. (The cheque was written before the lecture was delivered.)

MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to welcome as new members Elsie Bedard, Mrs. A. Bell, Raymond Belleau, Marie Brennan, Ada Henry, Norma O'Brien, Mrs. Heather Rathwell, Mr. and Mrs. Blake Watson.

IN A BIND

One of our enthusiasms to mark our 25th anniversary was for a binder in which to keep those scattered issues of *Up the Gatineau!* Simple, eh? Ha.

We negotiated exhaustingly with Messrs. Villemaire Relieur Inc. from April to June in the vain hope of having the things ready for the Anniversary Party. During that time, the production cost doubled from the original estimate, and went up again after we signed the final order. That ended our beautiful friendship.

The next firm has not been much faster. Makers of binders evidently tend to lose things, but GBC are more business-like in their pricing practices.

If we live long enough, and our patience holds, we may soon be offering bind-

ers at just about cost as a service to those who like to keep *Up the Gatineau!*. At just \$10 they will be rather handsome, with our logo and appropriate printing. Though they were ordered in our corporate colours, they may, by time of delivery, have somewhat yellowed with age.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The breadth and depth of Society business having extended our executive meetings long past our desired bedtime, by popular request we have increased the number of meetings from an annual four, and reduced the agenda from the customary 20 items.

An important new item at the July 20 meeting was the need for more involvement. After years of marvellous service to the Society, the **Starnes**, having disposed of their Gatineau property, have resigned their responsibilities in the Society (while keeping their membership). That leaves a big gap behind **Helen Starnes** who was co-ordinator of volunteers for the auction, and **John** who has chaired the Search for History program. At the same time, **David Morisset** has resigned, effective December 31, as Membership Director because of personal commitments. Finally, as all are painfully aware, the president is now in his fourth year of office, twice as long as anyone wanted, and has no desire to emulate Premier Hatfield. Finally, study needs be given to the flow of volun-

teers for the museum and other activities.

The executive, though disturbed by these imminent needs, had no immediate solution. In the best of local tradition, it therefore established a committee— under Vice-President **Jon Purcell**. The Society urgently needs suggestions and offers of help to fill the gaps— especially the presidency.

THE JUDY CRAWLEY FUND

The Crawley family have expressed their wishes with respect to donations made to the Society in memory of Judy Crawley. The money will be set aside for the Protestant Burial Ground in Old Chelsea.

The immediate prospects of work in that historic place are not bright. The NCC is ready with support, and we have agreed to help, but the ball sill lies gathering moss in the Municipality of West Hull and Québec. Councillor **Judy Grant** has been pressing for clarification of the legal status, which for years has been the stumbling block to historic preservation. Perhaps in 1988?

CREDIT

Our thanks to **David Lewis** for stepping in at the last moment to format this issue in the absence of regulars **Katherine and Eric Fletcher**.

RAJP

