

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

We have been able to wiggle our way into the busy schedule of Marc Denhez, Lawyer and Research Director for Heritage Canada, and we have his agreement to speak to us at our next meeting on Thursday, 26 April 1979 at the New Town Hall, Old Chelsea, Que., at 8 p.m. sharp.

He will speak to us on heritage in relation to legislation and the law with some specific reference to the Gatineau. If you have had the opportunity of reading his 1978 book - HERITAGE FIGHTS BACK - you will have been impressed not only with his knowledge but also his ability to make his subject interesting, dramatic and even exciting. If you haven't read it come and be impressed with his 'direct delivery' - and bring your questions.

LAST MEETING

We almost - but not quite - held our breaths at the last meeting so that we would not miss any morsel of the fare being served to us by Bob Phillips. His 'Recollections of Prime Ministers Past' struck a responsive chord in us - possibly because he revealed little footnotes to history sufficiently current that most of us could relate to them. In any event, we were fortunate in being privileged to dip into - not Pandora's - but Phillips' Box of memories which had been assembled by a very perceptive collector.

HELP WANTED

Bruce Ballantyne, a member of our Society, and of the Bytown Railway Society, is doing some serious research on the railway up the Gatineau named, at different times, the Ottawa and Gatineau Valley; the Ottawa and Gatineau; the Ottawa, Northern and Western and, more latterly, the Canadian Pacific.

What he seeks, on loan, would include pertinent documents, photographs, letters, newspapers, etc., and, in addition, he would like references to employees, former employees and their descendants or others with any connection with the line. For instance, do you know the name of the former station agent at Wakefield, now reported to be living at Alcove?

If you can be helpful please do so and, before you set this aside for future attention, write to Bruce at 266 McElroy Drive, Kanata, Ontario, K2L 1Y4 or telephone (613) 836 5601, collect, if necessary.

CHAIR LIFT

Just in case of need, please bring along to the meeting an extra chair or two in the back of your car, as mentioned in the last Newsletter. It could mean the difference between sitting and standing.

REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

A better than usual representation from the Society turned out for a better than usual meeting of the Council in Perth, Ontario, on Saturday, 7 April 1979.

This meeting was conceived and organized by the provisional executive of the Council named at the Fall meeting in 1978, hosted by our Society. Those primarily responsible were our own Ann Crane, Elliot Parker of Brockville, Denise Friend of Aylmer and Jean Cameron of Cornwall - all of whom are to be thanked and congratulated.

The meeting was held in the Daniel McMartin House, built in 1830 and recently restored and made useable by the Ontario Heritage Foundation. This gem of a house is but one of many fine old stone and brick houses and other buildings in Perth, itself established in 1816 and shortly thereafter becoming the capital of the Bathurst District, one of the four judicial districts in the province. Meeting in this location added greatly to the occasion.

The gathering attracted a great many representatives from historical and heritage organizations in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec and there was lively participation in the business meeting, ably chaired by Ann Crane. Bob Phillips spoke on Regional Councils generally and fielded several questions. A new executive was elected for a two year term and the Brockville and District Historical Society extended an invitation, which was accepted, to hold the Fall meeting there.

A good lunch was provided on the premises by the Senior Craft Fellowship which uses the building on a regular basis.

Mrs. Jean Norry showed slides, and gave a commentary on, 'Perth Stone Houses' and we were then free to visit some of the architectural and historical 'museum pieces' of which the town is well endowed.

These are but a few observations on a fully-packed program which will remain -
A day to remember.

SPREADING THE WORD

We are grateful to Joan Mackie, Editor of the excellent NEWSLETTER of Heritage Ottawa, for including in the April issue a complete outline of our Essay Contest '79. This letter has a large circulation and we hope that this notice will catch the eye of some who may participate. We appreciate the co-operation.

FESTIVAL OF SPRING

Watch the local papers for details about "L'Outaouais en Fête - 5th to 13th May, 1979!"

DUES ARE OVERDUE

Important! Please send your 1979 dues - if you have not already done so - to Sheila Strang, Old Chelsea, Que., JOK 2N0 - \$3.00 Single, \$5.00 Family. We must have your renewal if you are to receive your free copy of 'Up the Gatineau!' for 1979 which will probably be mailed with the May Newsletter.

11 April 1979

Arthur Davison Arthur Davison, President