

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

Once again we come to the meeting identified with our Annual Essay Contest and, as in the case of last year's meeting, it will be held in the Chelsea United Church, Chelsea, Que. However, this year we are being uplifted from the basement to the main floor - where there is plenty of seating. The other significant factor is that it will be held on Thursday, 3 December 1981 at 8.00 p.m. sharp. The six contestants have been invited, with families and friends, to receive their awards or honoraria.

Those of you who were present last year will remember the excellent address given to us by Commander Tony German. We have been fortunate in getting him for a return engagement and this time he will speak on "Roots in the Outaouais".

With his background in the Navy; his association with Ashbury College; his extensive work with, and on behalf of, young people; his authorship of three historically oriented books for young readers and his participation in the Forum on Regional History, reference to which was made in our October Newsletter, plus his natural facility with words we can be assured of a presentation well worth our attendance.

This should be an evening of much interest for many reasons.

LAST MEETING

At our last meeting on 28 October 1981 we were treated to a paper on Count Rumford (1753-1814) given by a distant relative of his - Frances (Mrs. Allen) Jamieson. Count Rumford, as Benjamin Thompson, was born in Woburn, Mass., the birthplace of Philemon Wright - of whom he was a contemporary. He began his career in America, pursued it in Britain and later in Europe. He was a fascinating man who was responsible for many scientific discoveries and, Frances, through her extensive knowledge, revealed him to us including many interesting aspects of his private as well as his public life. Having the incentive of being a remote relative led to Frances doing a great deal of research about her subject over the years which became apparent in her presentation to us.

CONTEST AND CONTESTANTS

Our three well-qualified judges, having completed their separate assessments of the six essays submitted this year, had a meeting with the Chairman of the Essay Contest at which the results were fully discussed and a consensus arrived at. Following this meeting the Chairman met with your President and a further discussion took place. One of the problems requiring resolution this year was the relevance of certain essays to our basic Essay conditions - that the subjects "pertain to the history of the Gatineau Valley (i.e. be about people, places, events of the area)". In some submissions, which were otherwise well done, the connection to the Gatineau, only incidental.

After thorough review it was decided to make awards to two contestants and honoraria to the others as follows:

<u>Award</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Title</u>
\$200.00	Norma D. Geggie	Wakefield, Que.	I. B. York - A Man of Many Parts
\$200.00	Jessie Waterston	White Lake, Ont.	Brookdale Farm Inc.
Honorarium	Lillian Walton	Ottawa, Ont.	The Cars of Yesteryear
"	Gunda Lambton	Wakefield, Que.	Irish Surnames of the Gatineau
"	A. deL. Panet	Ottawa, Ont. and Kingsmere, Que.	Early Transportation in the Gatineau Valley and Connecting Factors
"	Thea Bennett	Ottawa, Ont.	A Sense of Balance

Our congratulations and thanks to all of you for your participation and for your contribution, at least in part in some cases, to our growing accumulation of the history of the Gatineau!

HERITAGE CANADA FOUNDATION

It was my privilege to attend the Annual Conference and General Meeting which was held in Halifax this year. With the wealth of heritage properties in Halifax and Nova Scotia generally the choice of site was a happy one.

There were 5 Technical Workshops covering pertinent and useful subjects on the two days prior to the General Meeting which I did not attend. I had the opportunity of representing our Regional Council at a meeting on October 22nd which was directed toward the relationship between H. C. F. and local groups and bodies. I feel that something good will come of this study. I attended a Workshop - 'Strategies for Action in the Local Group' on the evening of October 22nd which yielded some valuable tips.

The next two days were full to overflowing with fine reports, excellent speakers on significant and relevant subjects and enjoyable social events.

As adjuncts to this Conference there were two day tours to Louisbourg or Annapolis Royal. I chose the latter and was delighted with my first trip into the countryside of Nova Scotia where one steps back at least a century over our area.

A great deal more could be written about this whole series of events but suffice it must be to say that the Board of Governors and the staff at H. C. F. are to be congratulated and thanked for their well conceived and organized efforts.

FUTURE HERITAGE

Further to the item in our Newsletter of 15 May 1981 concerning a planting program along the road connecting the two Chelseas, June Roots, who has conceived and is the moving force in the project, has reported that she has received good acceptance and co-operation from those directly concerned including land-owners, the Municipal officers and the National Capital Commission.

It is hoped that positive action will begin in the Spring and you are asked to assist by contributing money, shrubs, or small trees such as flowering crab-apples. Please assure her of your support and determine how best you can help by telephoning June Roots on 827 1602.

14 November 1981

Arthur Davison Arthur Davison, President