

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

Something different in a different location. This meeting will be a joint meeting of the Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, The Historical Society of Ottawa, The Aylmer Heritage Association, Heritage Ottawa and our Society. It will be held on Tuesday, 24 Apr. 1984 at 8.00 p.m. sharp in the auditorium of the Public Archives of Canada which is on the north side of Wellington Street, more or less opposite the end of Bay Street in Ottawa. Included in the program will be a 5 minute presentation by a spokesman from each organization and an unique slide show on the arrival of Philemon Wright in the area. This meeting is being organized by Patrick M.O. Evans and, in the absence of Bob Phillips, it will be chaired by Cdr. Tony German. It will be well worth your time to attend.

LAST MEETING

Gunda Lambton's exploration of Gatineau folklore, on 29 March 1984, began with a world-wide look which showed how the local tales related to many literatures. It was hard for members to decide whether we have one of the world's great treasure houses of folklore, or one of the world's great recorders - or both. Members were particularly absorbed by the reports of ghosts, poltergeists and other apparently authenticated supernatural phenomena on our doorstep. During the lively discussion, Mrs. Lambton pointed out that, after centuries when ghosts were accepted or suspected, modern technology has now learned to create them - by holographs. That should cause reflection amongst the doubters.

The spirited evening ended with an audience survey: 13 believers, 12 non-believers and lots of abstainers. Then they lingered over coffee and cookies, perhaps a little reluctant to slip into the Gatineau night.

'TIS BETTER TO GIVE ...'

By giving to the Society you can also "give yourself a break" with respect to Income Tax.

Now that the Society enjoys 'charitable status' with Revenue Canada and can issue official receipts for donations which help reduce your taxable income it is to your (and our) advantage to consider donation(s) - or even bequests. This is something for you to turn over in your mind and, if you get the right response, you might act on it during 1984 so that, when Income Tax time rolls around again in the Spring of 1985, you will have receipt(s) to support your deduction(s). As a matter of interest, in 1983 donations to a total of \$1,466.50 were made to the Society and the receipts therefor are now being cherished by the donors.

FORWARD LOOK

Some preliminary planning has been done already for the month of June. This involves an activity for members and their friends - something which we have done before but not for some time. So keep your options open and watch for the particulars in a future Newsletter which will put to rest your questioning mind.

DUES DUE

In the unlikely chance that, inadvertently, some of you may not have suited actions to your good intentions here is another reminder.

The annual membership fees for 1984 are payable and the amount is \$5.00 for either individuals or families - a modest sum considering your returns including a complimentary copy of the 1984 'Up the Gatineau!' - our 10th annual booklet - which should be available some time in May.

So why not get this matter off your mind NOW by mailing a cheque, in favour of the Society, to Sheila Strang, Secretary Treasurer, Old Chelsea, Que., JOK 2N0. We apologize for our frequent repetition of this addressee and address but it is only to make it easy for you - no searching your mind or your records as to where to send your cheque.

THE SOCIETY AS FUND-RAISER

Since the year after its founding in 1962 the principal fund-raising activity of the Society has been its well-known annual Auction Sales. To date, there have been 21 of them and a great many people still mention them as their point of contact with the Society.

In the mid - 1960's there was another flurry of fund-raising activity for a very special purpose. Bombardier Ken Richardson of the Department of National Defence's Information Services, through extensive research, discovered the burial place of Pte. R. R. Thompson, the only Canadian to have been awarded the Queen's Scarf of Honour (knitted by hand by Queen Victoria) for outstanding bravery in the South African War. This sparked a number of actions including the gift to the Society of the old grave-yard, north of Chelsea, Que., wherein lie the remains of Pte. R. R. Thompson, by Cecil Meredith whose mother was the daughter of Gardner Church Jr. whose father was one of the original settlers in this area.

Bombardier Richardson headed a campaign to raise funds, on behalf of the Society, to buy the entrance way to the cemetery from the highway; to place a crushed stone topping on it; to build a stone commemorative cairn; to provide new fencing and to generally improve this old grave-yard.

HERITAGE TALKS AND WALKS

Under the Continuing Education Branch of the University of Ottawa, there is being offered a course in the architectural history of Ottawa under the direction of the very well qualified Dr. Harold Kalman.

The course comprises 3 Thursday evening lectures, 7 - 9 p.m., on May 10, 17 and 24 to be supplemented by 3 Sunday walks, 2 - 4 p.m., on May 13, 20, and 27. The cost of the course is \$75.00 or \$60.00 for Seniors.

For more information please telephone 231 4263. If you are interested you should act promptly and register as soon as possible but no later than one week before the course begins.

THE WRIGHT WAY

The Second Annual Festival - The Wrights of Spring - sponsored by the Outaouais Alliance, will be held in the Philemon Wright High School, in Hull, on Saturday, 28 April 1984. It will be a day packed with activity and interest. Those who attended last year were pleasantly surprised with the many aspects of the Festival and they will agree that it is an event not to miss.

SHOW TIME

Glebe Collegiate in Ottawa will present a Clark, Parry, Doyle production of an original musical satire based on Ottawa History and the infamous Battle of Brennan's Hill. One of the numbers in the show is 'Up the Gatineau'. For ticket information please telephone 563 2424. The dates are May 3, 4, and 5 at 8.00 p.m.

AUCTION AND FLEA MARKET For this event on Saturday, 18 August 1984, our urgent need is for more antiques and collectibles. Please think of what you might offer and speak to your friends who could provide articles on consignment. We need your help.