

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

This will be something special - special pattern, special program, special place, and it is hoped that you will make a special effort to be on hand for a very special musical evening on Thursday, 31 May 1984 at 7.30 p.m. sharp (note particularly the date and time) It will be held at 'The Grange', the home of Bob and Mary Ann Phillips, which is at the far, or westerly, end of Summer Drive which, in turn, is off Highway 307 to the left, 3.3 Kms. (2 miles) north of the Power Dam in Limbour. This is on the easterly side of the Gatineau River, across the Alonzo Wright Bridge, north of Ironside.

This meeting will feature traditional Gatineau fiddlers - Harry Fairbairn, Violet MacDonald, Norbert Daly and Kevin McCarthy with Michael Bussiere - a participant in our Search for History program - as accompanist. In addition, we are to be favoured with a showing of Joan Finnegan's award-winning film - "The Best Damn Fiddler from Calabogie to Kaladar". We may even have Joan Finnegan with us.

This happy musical evening will be topped off with a wine and cheese party.

We feel that you will find this program most exciting and appealing and to share your pleasure we ask that you bring a friend or two. If you can come, and we hope that you can, please phone the Phillips, at least two days before the event, on 827 3164. This is important.

LAST MEETING

On Tuesday, 24 April 1984 we had a meeting in the auditorium of the Public Archives with other local societies, well chaired by Tony German, which had several extraordinary features - all as ingeniously planned and organized by Patrick Evans.

Representatives from four of the five societies invited gave short presentations. Unfortunately The Aylmer Heritage Association could not participate.

A most inventive slide presentation followed on Philemon Wright and his activities put together by Kevin O'Donnell and Michael Cooper with some assistance from Pierre Louis Lapointe and with our Patrick Evans and Courtney Bond as advisors. This showing attracted much attention and resulted in a host of questions afterward by those in attendance.

Then the meeting took a personal turn in which a presentation of Honorary Life Membership in The Historical Society of Ottawa was made to your Past President by their President - Mrs. Earl Grandmaison. This was followed by Sheila Strang presenting to the same recipient a certificate announcing the establishment of The Arthur Davison Prize to be awarded annually to the person judged to have made the most outstanding contribution to 'Up the Gatineau!'. Then came the presentation of a lovely bouquet of flowers by Lid Ryan to Betty Davison in recognition of her invaluable support of your outgoing President during the 19 years in which he held office.

This, with kindly comments at the coffee hour which followed, was all very moving for Betty and Arthur Davison and they both thank, sincerely, the Executive, the Advisory Committee and the members at large for making it all possible. It was an evening which will live in their memories. UP THE GATINEAU!'84

If present plans develop as they should all members who are paid up for 1984 will receive, with this Newsletter, their complimentary copy of the 10th edition of our annual booklet. We have again included articles on a variety of topics related to the Gatineau. We hope that you will find it worthy of addition to your Gatineau collection. If you, as a member, wish to buy additional copies you may do so at the special price of \$1.25 in lieu of the regular price of \$1.75 each. Simply get in touch with Sheila Strang, our Secretary Treasurer.

LAST CALL

Those members on our mailing list who have not renewed their memberships for 1984, according to our records at press-time, will not receive a complimentary copy of 'Up the Gatineau!' and this could be a final hint for you to take the necessary action by sending a cheque for \$5.00 - individual or family membership - to Sheila Strang, Secretary Treasurer, Old Chelsea, Que. JOX 2N0. If you have renewed in the meantime, or you feel that our records do not reflect the situation as it pertains to you, please telephone Sheila Strang on 827 0420 as soon as possible.

If you have paid up or you do so before 31 May 1984 you will still receive your free copy of our annual booklet. For those of you who have not paid by the end of May, we shall, regretfully, assume that you are no longer interested and your name will be removed from our mailing list. Now, as they say, "the ball is in your court" - and we do hope that you will make a return shot.

SAD NOTE

Although we do not attempt to keep 'vital statistics' on all our members it has recently been brought to our attention, by his daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Glassford, that Fred J. Cunningham - one of our long-time members - had passed away in Toronto on 6 March 1984. Correspondence, including Newsletters, had followed him and his wife from Bermuda to Victoria, B.C. to Bermuda and, more latterly, to Toronto.

Fred Cunningham had a significant identification with our area in that his mother was Lily, the great grand-daughter of Philemon Wright.

HISTORY AND FOLKLORE

The Continuing Education Branch, Heritage Campus, CEGEP de l'Outaouais, in collaboration with IHRO, is offering a special workshop series combined with 5 Saturday, all-day, bus tours in May and June on the theme - "History and Folklore of Pontiac County".

If you are interested please telephone Continuing Education on 778 2270 or ask Sheila Strang for a copy of the announcement of this project which contains some intriguing details. There are so many exciting features offered that you should make every effort to participate, if at all feasible.

SPRING WRIGHTS

On Saturday, 28 April 1984 the Outaouais Alliance hosted another big day at Philemon Wright High School. This was their second similar event and it was more than apparent that many man - and woman - hours had gone into its planning, organization and realization. It was a day packed with activities and displays with much to see and do during the long day. The writer participated in most events except for the dinner-dance in the evening but he did attend the Annual Meeting.

Once again, the Society owes a debt of gratitude to June Creelman and Dave Castleman for assembling, delivering, setting up and looking after a display of our more or less dormant artifacts from their storage space in Pat Evans' basement - to which they were later returned.

Sheila Strang 'manned' a book table which included copies of Tony German's books. In addition to book sales, Sheila also signed up four new members and handled one membership renewal. We are also indebted to her for this and all the other duties that she performs so well.

It was another memorable day and the Outaouais Alliance is to be commended for its enterprise. 10 May 1984

Arthur Davison Arthur Davison, Past President.