

## THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

### NEXT MEETING

This will be held on Monday, 26 November 1984 at 8.00 p.m. sharp in the West Hull Community Centre, Old Chelsea, Que. Monday has been selected for our meeting because the regular evening activities in the Community Centre have grown to the point where it is almost impossible to reserve any other week-day evenings.

We are most fortunate in having as our speaker for that evening, Dr. Harold Kalman, who has been a Consultant in the History and Conservation of Architecture in Ottawa from 1975 to 1984 and who has recently become Principal in Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Limited. He will speak on "Why Preserve It", illustrated with slides, and for this he is eminently well qualified. Born in Montreal, he attended Princeton University where he attained three degrees including his Ph.D. in Art and Archeology. Later, he did post-graduate work at Cornell University and the University of York in England. Since then he has had a distinguished career in his field as a professor, author, speaker, broadcaster, and the holder of several important commissions & offices.

In one of his later publications - "Exploring Ottawa" - he includes an illustrated motor tour of the Gatineau as far north as Wakefield.

By all means, make every possible effort to attend this meeting and share the relevant knowledge and information which Dr. Kalman has to offer.

### LAST MEETING

William and Mary Commanda drew a crowd of about 100 to our open meeting in the Chelsea Elementary School on Monday, 29 October 1984.

On their way down from Maniwaki they had been entertained for dinner by Gunda Lambton and her husband at their home near Alcové. The Commandas and Gunda are well known to one another.

Behind the speaker was an ornamented birch bark canoe - a product of the Commanda's ingenuity and craftsmanship. William covered a wide variety of topics in his talk including references to his family connections, his background, something of the Algonquins and other tribes, some general Indian history and what they learned from nature. His bits of philosophy caught the attention of those in attendance. He completed his presentation with an illustrated talk on one of their many crafts - one for which the Commandas have earned an international reputation - the building of birch bark canoes.

They are both involved with many other crafts as attested by a book - "The Indian Crafts of William and Mary Commanda" by David Gidmark - a few copies of which were for sale. After the talk both William and Mary were kept busy greeting people and autographing purchased copies of the book.

At the end of the evening coffee and cookies were available.

In the announcement of this meeting in the last Newsletter I mentioned that William Commanda had been elected Supreme Chief of the North American Indian Nation in 1913. This should have been 1953. In 1913 he would have been 2 years old.

### H.C.F. IN EDMONTON

What was referred to in the October Newsletter as an intention has since become a reality. Your editor has recently attended the Annual General Meeting and Conference of The Heritage Canada Foundation.

Before these meetings began he, with 35 others, enjoyed a three day bus tour from Edmonton to Jasper Park Lodge to Chateau Lake Louise to Banff Springs Hotel to Calgary and back to Edmonton which included viewing 'tons' of rock in the form of mountains in and around these places as well as an icefield, a museum and art gallery, a cave and basin, the recently restored Palliser Hotel in Calgary complete with numerous sightings of wild life en route.

On this tour I was teamed up with Takeru Yanagi, a young geologist from Japan, who is doing research in geology at the University of Alberta - a good location as this area is surrounded by plenty of geology. This connection turned out to be both congenial and interesting.

In Jasper we woke up to a very light snow fall which, in coating the innumerable evergreens along the route, enhanced their beauty. Returning to Edmonton we encountered a much heavier snow fall and we stepped off our buses into about 3" of the 'white stuff' - a preview of winter.

Many of us stayed at the Chateau Lacombe Hotel. Most of the meetings were held in the Edmonton Conference Centre, about four long blocks from the hotel. This provided, for me, a 15 minute walk through the slush each way for well-needed exercise.

This conference had been organized in conjunction with the Alberta Heritage Resources Foundation and the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta. Out of this collaboration developed a full program of activities including many excellent talks. If anything, the program was almost too full.

The Conference Centre is a uniquely designed architectural engineering project, built on the slope of a hill with, for your editor, the longest continuous escalators he had ever encountered. There were also steps and a cage on an inclined rail which could also be used to get from one level to another.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Chateau Lacombe on Sunday morning and it produced a good deal of interest and audience participation.

Once again, much credit is due to Heritage Canada Foundation Chairman, Jack Mackenzie, and the Board of Governors and to Executive Director, Jacques Dalibara, and his staff for their important share in the organization and realization of another memorable series of meetings. On to St. John's New Brunswick in 1985.

DONATIONS As mentioned in a previous Newsletter the Society is now listed as a registered charity with Revenue Canada and it is to your advantage to make donations to the Society, particularly now that Income Tax Returns time is fast approaching. You may even wish to make a bequest, through your Will, in the form of money or artifacts. All will be gratefully received.

### SEASON'S GREETINGS

Your President, Executive and Advisory Committee extend to you their thanks for your invaluable support during 1984 and send best wishes for Christmas and the New Year! As per custom there will be no meeting in December but please keep the evening of 28 January 1985 free for the Annual General Meeting - the details of which will be conveyed to you in the January Newsletter.

*Arthur Davison*  
Arthur Davison, Editor

5 November 1984