

NEXT MEETING

With the restoration and improvements completed and The Historical Society of Ottawa back in operation of their Bytown Museum in the Commissariat Building near the juncture of the Rideau Canal and the Ottawa River, our Society has been graciously invited to have a no-cost visit on Saturday morning at 10.30 a.m., 22 June 1985.

This is a favourable occasion for us to view their enhanced number and variety of early artifacts of the area and we strongly recommend your taking advantage of this opportunity.

This will be the last event of the current season before our Annual Auction Sale in August.

By the way, there is no public vehicle parking in the immediate area of the Museum so govern yourselves accordingly. Added note: There will be a Parks Canada involvement on this occasion.

LAST MEETING

This meeting, on 27 May 1985, attracted a very large assembly of members and friends, some of whom became members that evening.

Once again, we are indebted to Bob and Mary Ann Phillips for their hospitality and for making their heritage home, "The Grange", available for the occasion.

President Bob opened the meeting with several interesting and pertinent announcements including introducing, in their absence, our two summer work students - Robin MacLeod and Dan Buckley - who were making themselves useful outside by helping with directing the parking.

The entertainment began with Alex Sinclair singing, and accompanying himself on the guitar, several 'folk' songs which had some pertinence to our area.

Then the well-known and well-regarded Joan Finnegan took over, after being introduced to the gathering by Tony German. She read to us an assortment of stories, primarily about the Ottawa Valley. She read them well and we were both amused and edified. These stories are now being assembled and ultimately will appear in book form under the title of 'STORIES FROM THE VALLEY OF THE 26 RIVERS'. Joan had on hand, for sale, some of her other popular titles, of which she has a great many already and, in September, another book is expected to appear entitled - LEGENDS, LEGACIES AND LIES.

This was a most enjoyable evening which yielded the Society some nine new members and which concluded with wine, cheese and conversation in the ambience of "The Grange".

GARDEN PARTY - LUNCHEON - SALE

I am taking the liberty of announcing this event at The Church of St. Alban the Martyr, built in 1867, the oldest Anglican building in Ottawa, at 453 King Edward Avenue at the corner of Daly Avenue.

This event, from 10.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, 22 June 1985, could very well be a worthy adjunct to our Meeting at the Bytown Museum on the same day. These two locations are but a few blocks apart. There will be conducted tours through this heritage church for which arrangements are underway for the restoration of the interior.

This could be a very good place to have your lunch as well as exposing yourself to the temptations of a wide variety of sales tables where you could almost be assured of "getting something which you have always wanted". Why not try it?

NEW PUBLICATION

Kathleen Mennie-de Varennes of 3140 de Galais, Ste-Foy, Que., G1W 2Z3 - one of our out-of-town members, is the author of a book, being published this month, entitled - 'AU COEUR DE LA GATINEAU ou L'HISTOIRE DE LA PAROISSE DE LA VISITATION DE GRACEFIELD' which has more than 500 pages of text including photographs and which is a 'première' of its kind in the Upper Gatineau, being the history of the Parish of Gracefield in all aspects.

The cost of the book is \$20.00 plus postage. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please get in touch with the author.

AUCTION SALE

The Annual Auction Sale of the Society, in its new format since 1983, will be held on Saturday morning, 24 August 1985 and, of course, the success of the sale, as always, is dependent on your consignments for the antiques auction and for the flea market.

It is not too soon to start assembling your items and making plans to attend. For more information please telephone Dave Castleman on 827 1610.

There will be a further communication mailed to you well in advance of the sale giving more specific details.

HISTORIC STEAM TRAIN

If you wish to help save this train (and we hope that you do) please see - and study - the enclosed brochure giving detailed information on this crucial matter. We commend this to your earnest attention.

ANNUAL DUES

We must assume that by now, with numerous reminders in the meantime, all members' dues, which are forthcoming, are paid up for 1985.

If there should, by chance, be someone who needs one more reminder the dues are \$5.00 per year, whether single or family, and your completed membership form and cheque should be mailed to the Society at P.O.Box 143, Old Chelsea, Que., JOX 2N0.

A BORROWING

To carry you back a few years we have selected the following from the 1976 edition of 'Up the Gatineau!'

THE GATINEAU RIVERMAN

'Take me back to my home on the Gatineau,  
To hills, sweet with scent of cedar and of pine,  
Where Irish eyes, with the light of a blue bird's pinion,  
Will, as of yore, look fondly into mine.

'Where a barefoot boy, I roamed in happy hours,  
And climbed the trees to view the landscape o'er,  
Catching glimpses of a 'City with its crown of towers',  
Hearing songs from bells in steeples which evening bore.

I'm going home.'

Sogarth Aronn

*Arthur Davison* Arthur Davison, Editor