

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

ANNUAL MEETING

Despite the cold weather and the laying low of many of our members by flu and other indispositions we had a very good turn out for our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, 20 January 1970. We had some worthwhile discussion on the past, present and future of the Society and our Show and Tell program was made most interesting by those who participated.

HIGHLIGHTS

Some of those who would normally have reported at this meeting were prevented from being present but we did get a general picture of the year's activities including a bigger than ever season at Moorside Tearoom with some 40,000 guests being served in the Tearoom and much good will generated for the Society by our two members who have put their stamp on the operation, May Mulvihill and Jean Chapman...two excellent "field" meetings during the past summer at the Cecil Morrisons in Ottawa and the Cecil Merediths in Chelsea....one of our best Auction Sales with more items, more work, longer hours, more sunshine, more fatigue but more satisfaction and only slightly less return than in the previous year which had been our best to date financially....a bank balance which has grown during the year....support for the preservation of the old Billings House in Ottawa....representations to the National Museum to have an early showing of the large government collection of Canadiana now under wraps....the purchase of an oil painting done around the turn of the century of an old wooden bridge believed to be on the Gatineau....some items donated to our own museum by Mr. Gordon Moffatt....the availability for sale of a delightful paper on early Chelsea many copies of which were donated to the Society by Senator John J. Connolly....and more, much more.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES SHOULD BE HISTORICAL

Although it was conceded that we have been an activist group, at least in spurts, and have enjoyed some small success in our endeavours there was much pertinent discussion at the Annual Meeting on the real purposes of the Society. It was the consensus that we should do more to discover, research, record and report on the history of our area and of its early families in particular. With a reasonably sound financial base now on which to build we should "invest" in appropriate activities. This may include assistance in publishing family histories or items of interest related to the area. To get the ball rolling in earnest it is requested that any member, or friend or acquaintance of a member who is involved in or interested in developing local or family history get in touch with Mrs. Tom Hyslop, Kingsmere, P.Q., Telephone 827-2837. She has agreed to take the initial steps to record and co-ordinate this basic information and ultimately, with the author's accord, we may embark on further ventures in editing and publishing. So please make your presence and project known. We could be your "angel".

GENEALOGICAL GENESIS

Brought into being only last month a local branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society is under the guiding hand, as provisional chairman, of one of our members, Wilfred J. Kearns. Mrs. Rosewarne, who addressed us a year ago, is Treasurer.

Mr. Kearns spoke briefly to us at our recent meeting and extended an invitation to all our members to attend their next meeting on Thursday, February 12, 1970 at 8:00 P.M. in the First Baptist Church, corner of Elgin and Laurier. They hope to have, as speaker, Mr. Phillip Silcox, President of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

You will be most welcome if you wish to attend.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

May we again remind you, if you have not already taken care of it, that your renewal of membership for 1970 is now due at the rate of \$2.00 per person. Our Secretary-Treasurer, Hilary Sharp, is the man and cheques will reach him if directed to Kirk's Ferry, P.Q. And another reminder - we need you and your interest!

ADVANCE NOTICE

In the National Museum Series there is to be a talk on Canadian Silver-smiths by John Langdon in the National Gallery Auditorium on Wednesday, 11 March 1970 at 8:15 P.M. Interested members may wish to mark their calendars.

APPRECIATION

On behalf of the executive, which has agreed to continue for another term, may I again thank all those who, in any capacity, have helped the Society go forward a little during the past year and may I also thank all members in general without whose support we could not have done anything.

Arthur Davison,
President.