

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on what is coming to be our "home grounds". By that I mean the New Town Hall in Old Chelsea, PQ. The time is 8 pm and the date is Tuesday, 10 April 1973.

Through the good offices of Alan Powell of Bytown Glass we will be privileged to view over fifteen water colours of the Gatineau Valley and Ottawa area painted around the turn of the century by the accomplished artist F. FitzRoy Dixon some of whose works have been acquired by the Public Archives. This, incidentally, will be the first public showing of these paintings.

Mr Leo Murphy has kindly consented to speak to us about the artist who was his grandfather - covering many aspects of his interesting career in the government service and in painting in various parts of Canada.

Mr Murphy served in the armed merchant service during the war and has continued sailing as a hobby.

Forsake the family hearth on this early Spring evening for what should be an audio-visual treat!

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting was held on 15 February 1973 and our stalwart supporters turned up, bless 'em all! We were pleased to welcome Messrs. Ivison and Ballantyne of the Bytown Railway Society.

Reports indicated a 1972 of substantial activity and interest..... May Mulvihill and Jean Chaoman again led the Moorside Tea Room to the highest level of sales ever, about 10% above 1971. Costs went up at an even greater rate, however, with a negative effect on profits. On the other hand goodwill for the Society grew through the competent efforts of May and Jean and their genial staff members.....the many visitors to our upper room museum at Moorside poked the munificent sum of \$168.60 through the slot in our donation box, an increase of \$11.10 over last year. This is gratifying considering that it is all purely voluntary.....Lid Ryan refreshed our memories on the several excellent meetings we had had throughout the year. These were largely arranged by Lid and we continue to be indebted to her.....good weather, good crowds and good business resulted in our tenth annual Auction Sale netting the Society over \$1,000 plus, for the first time, a bouncing cheque which we have been trying to take the bounce out of.....in all respects except weather the Benedict Memorial project and ceremony was a successful accomplishment.....Pat Evans reported that the Philemon Wright family tree continues to sprout new branches and twigs. Pat is not only assiduous in his research and delineation but economical too, having spent about one-third of the funds voted for this purpose at the last annual meeting.....our second annual Essay Contest, reported on by Edouard Laberge, was under way at the time of our meeting and has since yielded five essays now being judged.....Thanks, primarily, to the interest and efforts of Ann Crane and Fiona Hyslop the NCC is now more vividly aware of our concern with preserving old buildings in our area although Shady Hill, a cottage on the MacKenzie King Estate, was lost to the wreckers who got at it before we were aware that anything was happening. There has been an exchange of letters between the Society and NCC.....Charlotte Kindle and Pat Evans continue to assemble and review material for a proposed publication of papers. It is hoped to bring this to fruition this year.....our Treasurer and Auditor reveal that we are in sound financial position. Investment of funds has been made which should yield over \$665 per year in interest - bodies and "bundle" all working for the Society.....the present executive agreed to continue and this seemed to meet with approval of the members.....plans are afoot to make every effort to involve other members in Society activities not only to spread the load but to ensure future activists.....brief references were made to another memorial project for this Summer; some rehabilitation of our cemetery in 1972; an exchange of letters with Mrs Pearson following L.B.'s death; the Ridge Road project and one or two other matters.....the meeting ended with a "show and tell" which is always popular.

FEES, PLEASE

There has been a good response to our plea for annual dues but there are still a few members who haven't quite got around to it. If you send a cheque to-day you can have the satisfaction of scratching this item off your reminder pad. It is only \$2 per person per year and cheques should be mailed to Miss Sheila Strang, our Secretary-Treasurer, Old Chelsea, PQ.

If this paragraph is marked in red in the margin it means that according to our records at press time YOU are an unpaid-up member. Please!

COMMITMENT

A special thank you to the sixteen members who returned the questionnaire attached to our last notice. We assure you that your interest is gratefully acknowledged and you will hear from us as soon as we co-ordinate our plans for your involvement.

For those who did not return the questionnaire but who would still like to, although they have misplaced it, simply advise Sheila Strang in which of the following fields you are interested - (a) Membership (b) Programs for Meetings (c) Publications (d) Historical Research (e) Preservation (f) Memorial Projects (g) Moorside Tea Room (h) Moorside Museum (i) Essay Contest (j) Auction Sale (k) Other - you name it.

We do not wish to deny any of you the opportunity of getting more out of your Society by putting more into it. With Winter on the wane let us Spring into action!

Arthur Davison,
President.