

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

We are fortunate in having a return engagement, after a long interval, of Dr. Stuart and Norma Geggie on Wednesday, 28 February 1979 at 8 p.m. sharp in the New Town Hall, Old Chelsea.

Their program will consist of a presentation of recordings of some taped interviews with several 'older inhabitants', a reading of early letters, and commentary.

We are already familiar with their style from previous experience and a reading of their 'Lapêche' and 'Unto the Hills' as well as from walk-touring Wakefield under their capable guiding hands in June 1977.

Add to your insight of early times in the Gatineau by joining us for this evening with the knowledgeable Geggies.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

We had a .77% increase over last year in attendance at our meeting on January 30th, moving up from 13 to 14....brief reports revealed another year of profitable activity....Moorside Tea Room, with the help of good management and good weather, increased its sales almost \$20,000 over 1977 to \$115,336, which is big business....It was moved by Fiona Hyslop, seconded by Ed. Laberge and unanimously carried that we give special commendation to Elaine Albert and Sheila Strang for their devoted and competent service to the Tea Room.... many marked improvements have been made in our Museum under the hand of our capable and experienced new curator, Pat Evans....our annual booklet 'Up the Gatineau!' had wider distribution in 1978 and the best sales to date and more than repaid its publication costs despite the dealing out of many complimentary copies to members and others (the 1979 edition is now at the printers) ....the meeting ratified a recommendation of the Executive Committee to reduce the remaining debt of \$680 by \$350 owing by the United Church Women of Wakefield in connection with the publication costs of 'Unto the Hills' which the Society had originally financed....during the year we had six meetings, a walking tour, an auction sale and the opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting of Heritage Canada....our Society hosted the Fall Meeting of the Regional Council of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec of Heritage Canada....we renewed our bursary of \$300 for the Museum Technology students of Algonquin College....The Auction Sale, although there were fewer items - and fewer hours work - than last year still added \$1,679.80 to our bank account.... in general, we are well 'in the black' financially, with enough annual interest revenue to cover the cost of many of our ventures including the Essay Contest which, in 1978, produced quality but not quantity in the entries....Ed. Laberge presented the draft of a new constitution for the Society, which he had originally prepared for the consideration of the Executive Committee. After some debate and suggested minor changes the draft was accepted....aided by a Provincial grant, Pat Evans is hard at work on the inventorying of archival material in the area for the new Archives of the Outaouais....after many years of conscientious service Ann Crane and Rod Sparks resigned from the Executive Committee and, with the addition of Howard Harris, the previous executive was re-elected....most members present participated in the TELL session - not "telling all" - but recounting something of interest in their lives, all of which proved to be most entertaining....and thus the seventeenth year in the life of the Society becomes history!

HERITAGE BALL

Aylmer Heritage Association plans to repeat, for the fourth time, its successful annual Heritage Ball and Banquet. It will be held in The Country Club on the Aylmer Road on Saturday, 24 February 1979 commencing at 7 o'clock with dinner at eight. Dress in the manner of early days is suggested. Tickets are \$22.50 per person with cheques payable to the Aylmer Heritage Association, P.O. Box 466, Aylmer, Que., J9H 5E7. For more information please call Karen Lochhead, 8270637 or Rachel Crepeau, 684 8546.

FEES PLEASE

There has been a good initial response to our request that you take prompt action toward renewing your annual membership in the Society. To do so is really quite simple - just send a cheque for \$3.00 single or \$5.00 family, to our Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Sheila Strang, Old Chelsea, Que., JOX 2N0. Why not do it now and get it off your mind - and into our coffers?

HERITAGE DISPLAY

From Thursday, 22 February to Sunday, 25 February - 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily, L'Armoire des Artisans of Wakefield, Que., will have very special displays of heritage crafts, prints of old buildings and old photographs. The ten artisans involved invite you to join them at some time appropriate to you during the four days of this display in their heritage building opposite the Earle House Restaurant near where the highway enters the main street of the village.

MORE HERITAGE - HERITAGE DAY

Heritage Day is Monday, 19 February this year and, if you ever think about our rich heritage, this is the day to give it special thought. You may even decide to match your thoughts with actions of some appropriate kind - something you have been meaning to do but lacked only the incentive. Well, this is it!

WHO'S WHO - HOWARD FELTON HARRIS

Born 1909 in West Templeton, Que., now Gatineau....fourth generation of family on land granted to his great grandfather who had come to Canada in 1818 in the reign of George IV....graduated from Ottawa Liagar Collegiate in 1929....at age of 21 took over the operation of the family farm on the death of his father....despite the depression years which followed he improved the farm and established Harris Dairy which continued under its own name for 9 years....following more beautification and improvements to the farm, won the bronze medal, in 1968, in the Quebec Government's 'Merit Agricole' program....had a daughter by his first wife and after her death in 1951 he married Grace Harmer of Ottawa in 1954 and they have had a son and two daughters....devoted to serving the community, he was founding member and treasurer of both 'Brookdale Farm' for underprivileged children and 'Morningside Home' for senior citizens, both facilities being in or near Wakefield....for over 20 years has been on the Deacons Board of Calvary Baptist Church in Ottawa, also treasurer for several years....in addition to his church and community interests he has many hobbies including stamps, coins, tokens, medals, and historical artifacts....elected to the Executive Committee of the Society at the annual meeting in January 1979.

14 February 1979

*Arthur Davison*  
Arthur Davison, President.