

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

With unrelenting regularity the New Years appear and we are now embarked on the latest new one - 1980. Comes the new year comes also our annual meeting which will be held, as usual, in the New Town Hall, Old Chelsea, Que., at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 31 January 1980.

There will be a brief look at the Society's 1979 and a discussion on its 1980. In this regard we need you and your ideas so please make it a special point, this year, of being on hand.

The TELL session was so popular last year that we have decided to repeat it. This year it may also be a SHOW AND TELL, if you prefer. Please come prepared to spend 5 or, at most, 10 minutes telling us about some memorable incident in your personal history or that of your family. Alternatively, you may tell us about some THING which has significance to you. Or, you may just sit and take it all in. In any event, this is your meeting. You can be one of the principal speakers and, you may be assured, we want to know more about YOU and/or YOURS. So please do not deny us this pleasure by failing to turn up.

LAST MEETING

All the prize-winners in our 1979 Essay Contest were present to receive their awards and we were happy to welcome and congratulate them.

Whereas we had expected Charles Lynch to render unto us some words of wisdom he was, unexpectedly, called out of the city and we were most fortunate in that Judy Crawley, one of the founding members of the Society in 1962, very kindly stepped into the breach. With a bow toward our absent scheduled speaker she opened with a tune on the harmonica and then showed us two delightful Crawley films with which she had had a prominent involvement as revealed in her commentary. Rod Sparks provided the efficient technical services, making this Sparks family contribution to our evening one to relish and remember.

UP THE GATINEAU! '80

The wheels are in motion to bring forth the 1980 edition of our annual booklet. This will be our sixth. As in the past, we do not lack for longer articles but we do need shorter items of Gatineau history to provide fillers and add to the variety and interest of our booklet.

If you can produce anything of this nature we would be most grateful but, because of fast approaching printer's deadlines we must have them soon so please telephone me on 235 1064 and we can arrange the quickest means of getting your material. We always give full credit for anything we use. Would you like a 'by-line'? Here's how to get one.

Incidentally, we anticipate publication date as being sometime in May.

DUES TIME

After another year we are still going strong and we hope that you are, too, and that you wish to continue your support of the Society and what it stands for.

May we suggest that, after reading this, the next thing you will do will be to send a cheque to Sheila Strang, our Secretary-Treasurer, Old Chelsea, Que., JOX 2N0. By acting promptly the matter will not lurk in your mind to disturb your sleep.

You are still getting pre-inflation value in memberships at \$3.00 single and \$5.00 family - and this includes your free copy of 'Up the Gatineau!' for 1980. Can you ignore such a bargain? We hope not because we want you with us. To borrow a builder's slogan - "Don't wait for Spring, do it now."

HERITAGE DAY

At the last two meetings we have introduced the topic of Heritage Day being officially recognized for the third Monday in February.

Despite the fact that in 1980 the third Monday in question has been pre-empted for a surprise Federal election, the campaign by Heritage Canada goes on, with an eye to the future, so be prepared to hear more of this at the next meeting and, if you have not already joined the cause, your support would be welcome. There is a petition to sign. You pay 25¢ and you get a 'Give Heritage a Break' button.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Heritage Canada felt that there was grounds for confusion in its name because it sounded so much like the names of many government departments such as Revenue Canada (which, for some reason, seems to be on our minds about this time of year). Heritage Canada is not a government agency and, to make this clear, it was resolved, at the last Annual Meeting in Victoria, to change its designation to Heritage Canada Foundation. The old name may linger on, through force of habit, but, officially, it has been changed. And its bi-monthly magazine, in an attractive new format, is now called 'Canadian HERITAGE'.

MORE ABOUT MOORSIDE

Although our fine Tea Room managers of 1979 will be unable to return because of other plans which they have for themselves we have already had some preliminary discussions with a potential new manager and we have every hope that it will be "business as usual" at Moorside in the summer of 1980.

TREASURY TREASURE

We have lately removed, from the Municipal vault, for examination, an old leather-bound ledger dated 1858-59, donated to the Society in 1963 by Mr. Eddie Cross. It has been in safe-keeping ever since and we can thank Pat Evans for bringing it to our attention.

This is a book of 597 large pages full of beautiful penscript so characteristic of an age when book-keeping involved loving care and man-hours rather than impersonal computer minutes.

On the first page there is an inscription:

"This Ledger was kept or written by John Cameron Edwards, of Clarence, for Mr. John Archibald Cameron, Thurso, all except from June 25th to Sept. 25th 1859. During his absence Mr. Abel Waters of Thurso attended to the posting up of this ledger. During J.C.E.'s absence he was on a tour to England, Ireland, Scotland and France."

We won't tease you with the prevailing prices of foodstuffs, 120 years ago, such as beef at 12½ cents a pound, sugar at 13 cents or butter at 17 cents.

*Arthur B. Wilson*  
Arthur B. Wilson,  
Secretary