

## THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

### NEXT MEETING

The theme of our next meeting will take us back almost three quarters of a century to a bit of Canadian engineering history which reverberated around the world.

We are fortunate in having Lieut. Col. Harry Wethey tell us all about it under the title - "The Disaster that Depended on a Dream". Are you intrigued? Come and the mystery will be revealed to you.

After graduating from the University of Manitoba in Electrical Engineering, Harry Wethey served in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals until his retirement in 1959. Prior to his severing connections with the Army he was seconded to the Canada Post Office as Chief Engineer and he left that agency in 1972 after having been its Director of Engineering. By inclination and training Col. Wethey is well fitted to give us an interesting evening.

The evening in question is that of Wednesday 29 April 1981 at 8 p.m., sharp and the locale is the West Hull Community Centre, immediately west of St. Stephen's Church in Old Chelsea, Que. For you attenders it will be in the same place where we have had our last three meetings.

The place will be the same but the talk will be very different.

### LAST MEETING

A goodly number were attracted to our last meeting on 31 March 1981 - a number which fully filled the smaller room in the West Hull Community Centre to which we were consigned because of a demand for space that evening by two other groups. The resulting shoulder-to-shoulder attitude made for a certain intimacy which brought us closer together.

Bob Phillips was his usual articulate and knowledgeable self and he made many enticing revelations about the East Block and its occupants through the years - occupants who had generated a good deal of Canadian history. His talk was nicely complemented by that of Bruce Lorimer and his excellent slides which gave some idea of what had been accomplished in the restoration/renovation of the building. Bruce, who has lately joined the Society, was Chief Project Officer directing the very extensive and detailed work which followed long and penetrating research.

Our evening was capped by complimentary cups of coffee kindly provided by the Centre.

### CUR LOSS

It is with much sadness that we record the death, on 1 April 1981, of May Mulvihill, of Ottawa but formerly of Kingsmere.

Although several members of the Society, past and present, were involved in the development of the Tea Room and Museum at Moorside, the prime movers of the Tea Room project were May Mulvihill and Jean Chapman. After much preparatory work it opened for business in the summer of 1964 and for many years thereafter May and Jean directed the operation and established the very special character of the Tea Room which was reflected in the operations under succeeding managers. Although the Society did not benefit financially from this project it did receive much favourable publicity because of its association with such a successful and well-received venture. The reputation of the place, its atmosphere and its 'home-cooking' spread far and wide and the business grew steadily from year to year. May and Jean had established some very firm foundations. The Society's connection with the operation is currently being wound up after 17 seasons in the Tea Room business.

As well as her family a host of friends will mourn May's passing.

### DUES STILL DUE

By now this probably sounds like the proverbial 'broken record' repeating itself but the fact remains that there are still a number of 1980 members who have not renewed and, on the assumption that you wish to continue, we invite you to send your cheque for \$3.00 single, \$5.00 family to Sheila Strang, Old Chelsea, Que., JOK 2NO right away.

At this point, if we do not hear from you before the mailing of the next Newsletter in about a month we will have to assume, with regret, that you no longer desire to be one of us and we will remove your name from our mailing list. We shall miss you but, on the other hand, we do not wish to continue to 'hound' you.

### UP THE GATINEAU! '81

If present plans come to fruition the 1981 edition of our annual booklet should be off the press by the time this Newsletter is mailed and all paid-up members will receive their complimentary copy in the same mailing. If you are paid up and you do not get your copy please do not call us because our plans may not have 'fruited' and you will get it next month. Incidentally, if you renew subsequently you will receive your copy at that time.

The booklet will soon be delivered to our numerous outlets up the Gatineau and in Ottawa where it will sell for \$1.50. Members, however, may buy extra copies through our Secretary-Treasurer for \$1.00. There is one small hitch. Sheila Strang will be on a well-earned holiday from 25 April to 25 May so do not try to reach her on 827 0420 during those four weeks. She will be available only via transatlantic telephone to somewhere in Ireland or, if you prefer, Eire.

### ODDS AND ENDS

1. Please plan to participate in our 1981 Essay Contest or, at least, bring it to the attention of those of your acquaintances who might like to try for one of our prizes totalling over \$1,000.00.
2. Because they wish to make the running of the Moorside Tea Room competitively commercial in the future the National Capital Commission has lately advertised for tenders covering the operation for the next three seasons.
3. If the protection of the Gatineau is your 'bag' and you wish to show tangible support may we recommend your joining Conservation Gatineau for a nominal fee of \$3.00 per year. For more information call Bob Phillips on 827 3164 or Ann Chudleigh on 827 1560.
4. As a fitting memorial to the late John Fisher - "Mr. Canada" - the John W. Fisher Society has been formed and our Society has already established a connection therewith.
5. Do not forget the Antique Show and Sale at the Arena on Argyle Street in Renfrew sponsored by Heritage Renfrew.  
(April 24 and 25)

For more information on any of the above please call Sheila Strang - when she is available - or the undersigned by telephone on 235 1064 or, after 24 May, for the summer, on 827 2598.

*Arthur Davison*  
Arthur Davison,  
President.

14 April 1981