

## THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

### NEXT MEETING

We are fortunate in having a return engagement of one of our more popular speakers in the person of Bob Phillips. He addressed us previously, almost exactly two years ago. The date for the current occasion is Tuesday, 31 March 1981 - the day when March goes out as either a lion or a lamb. The time is 8 p.m. sharp and the place is the West Hull Community Centre (just west of St. Stephen's Church in Old Chelsea) where we have had our last two meetings. The facilities are first class and we can hope that the parking area will have either stiffened up or dried up since our last experience - this is not really a problem so do not be deterred.

Bob was the first Executive Director of Heritage Canada and, as such, he built some sound foundations for it. Fourteen years ago he wrote a book - now sold out - on the East Block of the Parliament Buildings. The book is currently being revised. In the meantime, this building has had extensive work done on it to restore it to much of its former splendour and character. Bob will tell us all about it. This talk is timely as the official re-opening of the building is scheduled for mid-April.

Bruce Lorimer, Architect with D.P.W., who was the Chief Project Officer for the restoration will collaborate with Bob on this presentation. Bruce, who lives in Old Chelsea, was one of our guests at the last meeting.

We look forward to a large turn-out on the 31st.

LAST MEETING Some forty-odd members and guests showed up for our last meeting on the 25th of February and they were the beneficiaries of a fine talk, illustrated by 80 excellent slides, by Ewan Caldwell who, very quickly, caught our attention and held it throughout his dissertation. The slides, made from rare photographs of early days in the lumbering business in the Ottawa Valley, were a most appropriate supplement to his warm and witty talk - a palatable combination which we digested with pleasure.

### UP THE VALLEY

-the Ottawa, that is - not the Gatineau, specifically Renfrew, Ontario - will be the scene of an Antique Show and Sale on Friday, April 24, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Renfrew Arena on Argyle Street. This event is being sponsored by a sister society - Heritage Renfrew.

Why not treat yourself to a fifty mile drive through a lovely countryside to the old town where you can expose yourself to the appeal of whatever the 40 exhibitors will have to offer? What a pleasant early Spring outing this could be!

### WRITE ON

We invite you, your family, your friends, or anyone to whom you can convey this message, to compete in our tenth annual Essay Contest, with the possibility of winning one of the prizes totalling over \$1,000.00.

Authors may choose their own subjects providing that they pertain to the history of the Gatineau Valley (i.e. be about places, events or people of the area). Anyone is eligible except members of the Essay Committee and the judges.

Compositions should not exceed 3,000 words, may be illustrated by photographs, maps, etc., and may be submitted in French or English. Manuscripts must be mailed, or delivered, on or before 15 September 1981 to: Secretary-Treasurer, Historical Society of the Gatineau, Old Chelsea, Que., JOX 2N0.

The results will be announced publicly not later than 15 November 1981.

Be sure to write, or print, your name, address and your age (if 18 or under) on the first page of the essay. Essays will not be returned so keep a copy. Winning entries may be published by the Society under the name of the author.

We ask all of you to please 'talk up' our Essay Contest and 'get into the act' yourself. You might even like to clip out this item and tack it up on a bulletin board where it could be seen by a potential author.

### FEES-ABILITY

We hope that those of you who have not yet paid your 1981 membership fees will demonstrate to yourself that you have the ability to overcome any tendency toward inertia by sitting right down and sending a cheque - \$3.00 single, \$5.00 family - to Sheila Strang, Secretary-Treasurer, Old Chelsea, Que., JOX 2N0.

To make it easy for you to check on whether you have paid or not - if this paragraph is marked in red it means that, according to our latest records, your fees are still due.

Please get me off this subject by you getting off your cheque. Thank you!

### 'UP THE GATINEAU!'

The material for the 1981 issue has been typeset and proofread. We are in the process of assembling photographs for inclusion. The paste-up (dummy) of the booklet remains to be done and then the final printing will be completed for an anticipated delivery in April or early May - after which it will be for sale and you paid-up members will get yours - free.

### OUT OF THE PAST

We have had the pleasure, recently, of perusing a fascinating old scrapbook of the 1890's made available by Miss Barbara Potter of Ottawa through the courtesy of Reginald and Grete Hale who are members of the Society. Here is a selected thought:

#### LETTERS

For mischief done naught can amend  
The letters men have failed to send.  
And hearts are pierced with harsh intent  
By letters better left unsent.  
Great woe comes to us, I believe  
From letters that we don't receive.  
But heaviest on my soul doth sit  
Those letters that I've never writ.

17 March 1981

*Arthur Davison*  
Arthur Davison,  
President.