

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE GATINEAU

NEXT MEETING

Our first meeting of the 1981 Fall season will take place on Wednesday, 28 October 1981 at 8.00 p.m. sharp in the West Hull Community Centre in Old Chelsea, Que.

One of our members - Frances (Mrs. Allan) Jamieson - is to favour us with a paper on Count Rumford who, as Benjamin Thompson, had distant connections with her mother's family and with that of Philemon Wright who was a contemporary. Frances, who was, for three years, the National President of the Canadian Home Reading Union, will reveal her very considerable knowledge of this versatile American physicist who was born in Woburn, Mass. in 1753 and who subsequently followed a variety of pursuits in the United Kingdom and on the Continent. He made a number of scientific discoveries in his wide-ranging and varied career.

When a good story-teller combines with an interesting subject the result should be an evening which deserves a "must" on your calendar.

AUCTION '81

Considering the generally poor weather in recent weeks it appears, in retrospect, that our sale day on 29 August was not so bad. We did have a little rain early in the morning and that may have discouraged some potential visitors from coming out. However, before the sale was over we had an increase in registered bidders to 245 from 216 last year.

Our 'gross' was down from last year by about \$400.00 to just over \$4,000.00. We had fewer items this year which brought high prices. We had but one \$100.00 sale and all the rest were \$77.00 or lower with a great many under \$5.00. The Society should net about \$1,500.00.

The final figure on consignment lots 403, increased from 366 last year. There were 58 consignors, up from 46 last year. The last item was sold at 7.50 p.m. after close to 10 hours of steady selling.

We thank the consignors who made the sale possible. We thank the 9 people who donated their share of the proceeds to the Society. We thank the officers of the West Hull Community Centre and of the Municipality for their co-operation. And we especially thank the many volunteers who contributed of their time and talents in a wide variety of ways to make our 19th Annual Auction Sale another success. Worthy of special mention is our genial Secretary Treasurer, Sheila Strang, who, among many other duties, contributed to the public image of the Society by issuing cheques to consignors and paying our bills well within a week after our Auction Sale day. Good show!

DISP DISPOSAL In connection with the announcement in our Newsletter of 15 May 1981, with the exception of three people, to whom reminders have been sent, all 30 members have picked up their orders which totalled \$239.45. In addition, we set up a table at the Auction Sale which was most capably manned - or should that be womanned? - by Joyce Neale who, through her superior and subtle salesmanship, sold \$80.60 worth of items - mostly chipped china although a few new souvenir pieces were included in the total.

This whole venture should add over \$300.00 to our coffers and a large number of people will have souvenirs to remind them of the 17 seasons when The Historical Society of the Gatineau was in the tea room business. From the occasional comment which we have heard those memories should be happy ones.

HERITAGE CANADA FOUNDATION The Annual Business Meeting and Conference will be held this year in Halifax from Friday, 23 October to Saturday, 24 October with workshops on the preceding Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. After the Conference there will be a choice of tours on Sunday and Monday - either to Annapolis Royal or to Louisburg National Historic Park.

Members of the Foundation are welcome and if more information is needed please telephone Ursula Kroll at H.C.F. Headquarters on 237 1867 or 237 1066.

The writer expects to attend.

SISTER SOCIETY NEWS In its August 1981 Newsletter The Ottawa Valley Historical Society, based in Pembroke, Ontario, reveals some interesting facts about its Champlain Trail Museum.

By August 17, 1981 the season's attendance had reached a total of 5,000, made up of visitors from Africa, Peru, Bermuda, Mexico, India, Iran, Germany, France, Finland, The Netherlands, England, Scotland and Ireland in addition to a number of Americans and Canadians.

There are many fascinating displays in this well-setup museum and since the writer has had the privilege of visiting it twice within the last two years I can heartily recommend it to you for a visit next season. Being in the heart of the early Ottawa Valley lumbering industry it has some unique artifacts of the industry as well as some more personal relics of the people involved in lumbering and in the pioneer days of the area.

FORUM ON REGIONAL HISTORY

For anyone interested in local history in all its variety you are invited to this Forum to be held in the Université du Québec in Hull on Friday evening, 13 November 1981 and all day Saturday, the 14th and Sunday the 15th. The theme will be 'Defining our Regional Identity' (as Western Quebecers)

Some important speakers will appear and simultaneous translation will be provided. The scene will be enhanced by appropriate exhibits.

The Forum has a distinguished group of sponsors including the Cultural Affairs Department of the Province of Quebec; the National Archives of the Province - Regional Centre; the National Capital Commission; the Université du Québec and the I. H. R. O. (come and discover its identity).

It is hoped that this will be an opportunity for Francophones and Anglophones to mingle freely, having been drawn together by mutual interest.

For more details, please telephone Pierre Louis Lapointe - one of our members - on 777 2900 during business hours. This would appear to be a rare opportunity to learn and be stimulated by participation.

Arthur Davison
Arthur Davison,
President

14 October 1981