



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE GATINEAU

February 1988 NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING

TIME: 8 p.m. Monday, February
15th, 1988
PLACE: Maison des Citoyens, corner
Laurier and Hotel de Ville,
Hull
PARKING: Under Hotel de Ville. Free at
night.

"Heritage Chaudiere"

A Special Heritage Day programme arranged by our Society with the Chaudiere Committee of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

EXHIBIT in place: Historic photo display depicting the history of the Chaudiere

MODERATOR: Pierre-Louis Lapointe

WELCOME: Mayor Michel Legere

8:00 p.m. Programme
**IF THE CHAUDIERE
COULD TALK**

An Overview: An historian (to be announced)
Industry at the Falls: E. B. Eddy and his Company
Graham Greig, Director of Operations, E. B. Eddy
8:40 — 9:00 p.m. Discussion

9:00 p.m. **THE FUTURE OF THE
CHAUDIÈRE**

The Chaudiere in the National Capital Plan:
Denis Major, NCC Director of Planning
The Museum at the Chaudiere:
Dr. Bill McGowan, Director, Museum of Science and
Technology
9:30 p.m. Refreshments.

This major Heritage Day observance in Hull is a public event and will be well advertised. It will be bilingual with simultaneous interpretation and should prove an exceptionally interesting evening attended by many outside the Society who also have a vital interest in preserving our heritage.

**PASS THE WORD. BRING YOUR FRIENDS.
WEAR YOUR SOCIETY BADGES**

Annual Meeting

The last meeting of the Society was the annual general meeting held on January 18, 1988.

All reports, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, were accepted with the exception of the financial and budget reports. These last two reports could not be prepared in time for the meeting because bank statements were not yet available. They will, however, be distributed with the March edition of the Society's newsletter.

This annual meeting saw the retirement from the Executive of some of the Society's most experienced members including our President of the past four years, **Bob Phillips**. **Tony German** thanked Bob, on behalf of the Society, for his extraordinary efforts during his much-extended term of office. As Tony, pointed out so eloquently, many of the significant achievements made by the Society over the past four years bore Bob's personal mark. We will miss being able to turn to him for leadership but we are comforted by the thought that he remains an active member and one on whom we will continue to rely for guidance. Bob Phillips will continue with the Executive as Past President.

The Society has elected a new Executive and Advisory Committee. In the absence of a candidate for President, the Society elected to share the responsibilities of office between two Co-Presidents: **Ann Chudleigh** and **Charles Landon**. **Tony German**, **Eric** and **Katharine Fletcher**, **Carol Martin** and **Joanne MacDonald** were re-elected as Directors of the Society. **Jon Purcell** was appointed as the Society's Auditor.

Retiring as Directors, after many years are **Ray Daly** and **David Morisset**. Without Ray we might never have had a museum. We are especially sorry that ill health has slowed down his tireless work for the Society.

David Morisset is the permanent owner of Auction Bidder's number 001. That is a little indication of his special place amongst all who have worked so hard to make the Auction successful. We also owe him much for his organizational work on membership.

Arthur Davison, who has given new meaning to the phrase "above and beyond..." was aptly, and

unanimously, acclaimed Honourary President.

The Society's Advisory Committee this year is comprised of:

David Castleman
Pat Evans
Paul Fydenchuk
Stuart Geggie
John Hazen
Rick Hofer
Pierre-Louis Lapointe
Rolph Latté
David Lewis
Beth McFie
Margot Panet-Lederman
Cyril Payne
Jon Purcell
Clifford Quince
Rae Moore
Anne Fleming

The presentation of Honours and Awards is a very important part of the Society's Annual General Meeting. This year the Arthur Davison Prize was presented to **Gunda Lambton** for her many contributions to "Up the Gatineau!"

An Honourary Life Membership was presented to **Sheila Strang**. Sheila Strang was a mainstay of the Society as Secretary and Treasurer through many years.

Special Awards of Honour were presented to **St. Stephens Church, Father Gauvreau**, for beautifully preserving and illuminating the exterior for the pleasure of all passers-by and to **Place 1870, Jon Purcell**, for saving and preserving this historic corner of Wakefield.

The Annual General Meeting was not all pomp and circumstance. A highlight of the meeting was the traditional and entertaining 'Show and Tell' period which covered an eclectic range of subjects from Canada's passion for the beaver to tales of thwarted robberies on the 'moors.'

Help Wanted . . .

As everyone now knows, or should know, Bob Phillips is no longer writing the Newsletter.

This awesome responsibility has, temporarily I hope, fallen to me. And it is with some trepidation that we step into Bob's mighty shoes, teeth clenched and eyes closed. But duty calls and so we press on.

We do not pretend to possess anything like Bob's great editorial talent nor his ability to rise at

an uncivilized hour and still work late into the night to meet publication, and other, deadlines. But in spite of our shortcomings we do not ask only for your patience, your comments, your suggestions or even your sympathy.

Instead, we want your time, your mind and your body. If you are capable of even a minimum degree of mind-hand coordination then we expect you to contribute to the writing of the newsletter and some of the Society's other publications including news releases and promotion copy.

The newly-formed Publications Committee has already met and is now in the early stages of organizing its affairs, budget and recruitment of talent. Chaired by the same Royal we, the Committee takes the view that the purpose of a committee is to organize, to undertake responsibility for projects and to delegate duties and responsibilities to others. It is the 'others' that we are now seeking.

And not just us. There are a number of Society committees, new and old, who are now looking for support for activities covering every aspect of the Society's operation. Spurred on by an Executive that is simply possessed by the notion that voluntary societies should be run by volunteers, Committee members will be recruiting with a fervor unprecedented in the history of the Gatineau Historical Society.

So . . . if you don't want to be dragged screaming from your bed in the middle of the night, come forward now; of your own accord, quietly and with your hands raised, you scribes, you museum docents, you painters of walls, you telephone callers, you sellers of publications, you keepers of cemeteries and you runners of auctions.

Volunteers

You are needed. If you wish to assist the Society with its many endeavours, please contact Rae Moore, 827-1995, to offer your services.

The National Capital Commission:

This is a statement on the Park approved by the Executive of the Historical Society of the Gatineau and sent to the NCC on December 8, 1987.

The Historical Society of the Gatineau appreciates the opportunity to participate in the consultations on the future of the Park. In advance of those discussions, the Society offers the following principles.

1. The Gatineau Park is an extraordinary,

fragile and irreplaceable asset on the edge of a major metropolitan area. The inevitably increasing pressures on it must be met by a determined government policy which preserves the park for the maximum enjoyment of the greatest number of Canadians consistent with the need to ensure that overuse does not damage the park's essential value.

This implies that any additional facilities, including roads and buildings, be planned with cautious regard for the pressures they may themselves create. It implies also that in any conflict between private and public interests in the Park, the administration will respect the need to ensure that the Park is maintained and preserved for the greatest long-term enjoyment of the greatest number.

2. The natural environment is a priceless asset. The Society naturally supports every effort to preserve and use it widely. It makes no substantial comments on that aspect only because it knows that other, more appropriate, organizations are eloquently doing so.

3. The Society would welcome greater attention to the human environment, and particularly to important heritage buildings in the Park, than is indicated in the briefing papers.

4. The administration of Park property with historic value must adhere to the principle that the user adapts to the property, and not the property to the user. The outstanding example of flagrant disregard for this principle over the years has been the Mackenzie King estate where historic buildings were destroyed for bureaucratic convenience or adapted to the whims of current tenants without respect for their national heritage value. We note with satisfaction that this is not the current policy of the NCC. History must be shared with the maximum number of Canadians consistent with proper preservation.

5. Other than the Mackenzie King Estate which was willed to the nation, the Park has other historic properties such as the Willson and houses and the Prime Minister's summer residence which are preserved only for the use of officials. Security is the commonest excuse used to defend official privilege. We respect genuine needs of security if and when they exist, but we believe the government must explain and justify security or any other reason for private privilege which conflicts with public access to historic places.

6. The Society is gratified by the interest of current NCC management in the wise preservation of history, but it is mindful of the irreplaceable damage done by previous generations of a closed bureaucracy. The Society therefore proposes that some simple, permanent machinery be created to enable the administration to have the free and sometimes useful advice of local historians. An advisory committee would be of value not only in planning maintenance and reconstruction, but in fostering public education about human history in the Park.

The Society looks forward to participating in the current discussions about the future of the Gatineau Park, and to continuing, meaningful consultations.

Readers interested in this question may also wish to read the "View from the Outaouais" columns in the Outaouais edition of the Ottawa Citizen of January 5 and 12, 1988.

New Members

We welcome as new members **John Austin, Benoit Brunet, Cheryl Bryce, George and Margaret Gould, Ronald and Dee Grant, Brian L. Neilson, Lloyd R. Thomas and Father Andrée Gauvreau.**

Membership Renewals

Once again, we remind members that all memberships (except for 2-year memberships) have now expired. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so immediately. Every month that a membership renewal is delayed is causing more unnecessary work for our volunteers.

Also, it would greatly help us if you would consider the two-year membership for \$15.

If you are unsure of your current membership status, please call the Society Secretary, Rae Moore, at 827-1995.

The Society needs your help in
recruiting new members. Please
pass this application for membership
along to a friend.

The Historical Society of the Gatineau
P.O. Box 485
Chelsea, Québec
J0X 1L0

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fee: 2 years \$15.00

Date: _____

1 year 8.00

I would be interested in helping with the activities checked or noted:

- Auction
- Museum
- Cemetery
- Membership
- Historic Tours
- Oral History
- Research
- Publications