



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE GATINEAU

March 1988 NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting

Monday, March 21

8:00 p.m.

West Hull Community Centre

"Fur Trade in the Gatineau"

an over-looked chapter comes to light
with

Mr. Michael Newton

NCC Historian

author of two books on Lower Town and
"The History and Heritage Bibliography"

Our co-presidents would like to meet
more of the Society's members.
You are invited to join them at 7:30 p.m.
before each monthly meeting for
conversation and refreshments.

Meet fellow members.

Show your enthusiasm!

See you at 7:30.

Meetings will start at 8:00 p.m., as usual.

Last Meeting

The February meeting of the Society was held on Monday, February 15th, 1988 at the Maison des Citoyens in Hull.

The special Heritage Day programme, organized around the theme "Heritage Chaudière", was arranged by our Society with the Chaudière Committee of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. The meeting was open to members of the public.

Before and after the meeting, members and guests had an opportunity, to view an exceptional collection of historic photographs depicting the history of the Chaudière. Coffee, juice and refreshments were available and the many publica-

tions of the Society were on display and available for sale.

The moderator for the evening, **Pierre-Louis Lapointe** of Archives de Québec, welcomed **Conseiller Cyr** who brought greetings from the City of Hull. **Mayor Michel Légère**, who was attending a meeting of municipal officials in Edmonton, sent his regrets.

The first half of the evening was dedicated to the theme, "If the Chaudière Could Talk". **Graham Greig**, Director of Operations for the E. B. Eddy Company, gave a dramatic presentation on the development of industries on the Chaudière. The spirit of Ezra Butler Eddy materialized for the occasion in stove pipe hat and fur collared coat. He outlined the early evolution of the lumber trade, the later development of subsequent industries and the unique role played by the founder throughout these formative years.

The second half of the evening's programme focused on the theme, "The Future of the Chaudière". **Denis Major**, NCC Director of Planning, discussed the importance of the Chaudière in the National Capital Plan. Multi-projector, dual-screen slide presentations, aided by simultaneous interpretation, carried us back to the early years of LeBreton flats.

Bill McGowan, Director of the Museum of Science and Technology, ended the evening with an informal and open discussion of the plans for "The Museum at the Chaudière".

This was an especially interesting and ambitious event for the Society timed to coincide with Heritage Day. Programmes Chairman **Tony German** deserves a special vote of appreciation for his skilful organization of this occasion

Membership Renewals

We appeal to all members who have not yet renewed their Society memberships to please do so immediately.

If you are unaware of your current membership status, please call the Society Secretary, **Rae Moore**, at 827-1995 (or, after March 15, 827-4432).

Helping Hands

As always, the Society is looking for volunteers to assist with its many endeavours.

We now have a new structure comprised of a number of self-motivating, active committees. These have all met and are now organizing their affairs accordingly.

The Society's new philosophy is that committees should be self-directed and active in their approach to projects. This will make for a very interesting and dynamic environment in which a number of ambitious projects are already underway. Many energetic bodies will be needed to help with this very exciting work.

Committees are in need of assistance with: research, writing and editing, proofreading, publication design and distribution, publicity and promotion, membership promotion and renewal, finance, programmes and events, the cemetery, the museum, the auction and flea market.

An exciting new development is that, thanks to **Mayor Judy Grant** and her colleagues, the Historical Society of the Gatineau now has a physical presence — a tiny office in the West-Hull Community Centre, upstairs. Once fully established, we will be looking for volunteers to assist with secretarial and related duties.

If you have even just a little time to spare, won't you offer to help?

Call us! A telephone and answering machine will be installed by March 15. Our number is **827-4432**.

Finances

Our apologies, again, for the delays in getting the Society's year-end financial statement to you.

We will include the financial report in the April edition of the Newsletter.

And Coming Up ...

"Heraldry in Canada"
with
Terrance Manuel
Past-President, Canadian Heraldry Society
April 18, 1988

From the Society's Archives



Dunn Hotel, Old Chelsea, Québec

Through the years it went under several names — Dunn House, Dunn's Inn, Dunn's Stopping Place.

It was built between 1820 - 1845, by Josiah Chamberlain who had come from Lowell, Mass., with his three brothers to set up Philemon Wright's mills in Hull. To be near the new mill site it would seem that Josiah constructed the house in the photo. If one looks through a magnifying glass it can be seen that Josiah's original home has been extended under one roof.

The building was acquired by Johnny Dunn, a "river driver" on the Gatineau River, some time in the last quarter of the 19th century, receiving one of the names of previous mention. It burned to the ground in 1900 and was replaced by a "carbon copy" of the original within a year.

The photo dates from about 1890 but unfortunately no person on the two verandahs can be identified.

An interesting part of the story is that Josiah's brother, John, who stayed in the area was an ancestor of Jean Piggot, Chairman of the N.C.C.