

HERITAGE RENFREW
 Participating with Heritage Canada
 Affiliated Member of Ontario Historical Society

No 12

NEWSLETTER

October, 1977

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NOTICE OF MEETING

The October meeting of Heritage Renfrew will be a Bus Tour to Portage du Fort, Quebec followed by a dinner at St. George Anglican Church Hall, Portage with a short program after the meal.
 Saturday, October 15, 1977

Bus will be leaving Bus Terminal, Renfrew and Argyle Sts,
 at 2.30 p.m.

Tickets: (including dinner) \$5.00

Phone Dorothy Skinner 432-2302 for reservations

Tickets may be picked up from Helen Clark 163 Argyle
 or from Contempora Jewellers, 162 Raglan St.

(We suggest getting tickets early as number is limited)

On the Bus Tour Mr Peter Brotherhood, of the Geography Dept. St. Joseph's High School will be commentator. He will point out many of the geographical, geological and historical (and pre-historical) points of interest almost at our own back door. After seeing some of the unusual features of our area - and we strongly recommend that you bring your camera and field glasses - we will follow the scenic River Road along the Ottawa River, through the Timbertown project, past Storyland and across the old Champlain Route and Gould Road to Cobden and pass by the Chenux Hydro Development on the Ottawa River.

At Portage Mrs. Gordon Gibbons, Mayor of Portage, is to take us on a tour around the village and some of the nearby country area. We will see many century old stone buildings and houses and hear something of their builders. There will also be a chance to visit the three old stone churches all of which predate Confederation.

The dinner will be smorgasboard style, prepared by the good ladies of St. Georges congregation and that is sufficient guarantee of its excellence. After the dinner we will hear some of the history of Portage du Fort and area by two authorities:

Mrs. Gordon Gibbons, Mayor of Portage and Ex-warden of Pontiac County

Wymar McKechnie, ex-Warden of Pontiac County and author of the book "What Men they Were".

Portage du Fort is an early settlement on the Ottawa River and dates back to long before Renfrew.

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING

Mr Clyde C Kennedy, author of "The Upper Ottawa Valley" is to be our speaker at the November Meeting which is to be held on Wednesday, Evening, November 16th, in the Collegiate Auditorium.

Mr Kennedy's talk, which will be illustrated with slides will be on "Explorations in the Ottawa Valley." This topic would cover discoveries of Indian campsites ranging in age from the time of Champlain to several thousands of years ago. He would also describe searches along lines of the Champlain Sea of about 11,000 years ago where local sand pit operators and others have found the bones of a large bowhead whale and parts of the skeletons of smaller white whales.

He will also talk on Champlain's maps that show falls, rapids and portages along the Ottawa River in this area. For several years he has made an archival study of early maps related to the Ottawa Valley and has presented papers on this subject to the Sixth Algonkian Conference in Ottawa and to the Ontario Archeological Society in Toronto.

There will be more about this meeting later. Watch the Mercury.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

"During the Sessions of the Annual Meeting of the American Association for State and Local History it was noted that the trend of local historical society activities is away from the management of small specialized pioneer museums. Instead the local societies are centering their activities in one of two projects. First, there is a strong movement toward setting up permanent headquarters for the society with space for library, and/or archives and rooms for meetings and administrative offices. This building would be restored to its original condition, as far as possible and an attempt made to tell the story of the district through the life of its first occupants?"

"As the small local historical museum field in Ontario is now almost to the saturation point, it

might be advantageous for new societies to consider seriously this trend in the United States." - From Bulletin of Ontario Historical Society.

GREAT CANADIAN HERITAGE HUNT

Much of Canada's Heritage remains to be discovered. We don't know where all the historical treasures are located and we should. That is why HERITAGE CANADA wants you and your friends to come on a great Canadian Heritage Hunt.

You don't even have to go far from home because your heritage is all around you. Every community has traces of the past. It may be an old house, a neighborhood, a church, names and dates in a cemetery, a lumber mill or school, a special way of making porridge, a custom, a legend or song, ways of keeping warm, a beautiful place where long ago people had picnics or played games. Your search for heritage treasure can lead you to all kinds of places. And you can look for old books, or old newspapers or old pictures and records. You can look carefully at buildings, especially the upper storeys. Are there interesting carvings, different shapes of windows, patterns in the brickwork or stone? If the building is unusual have discovered a heritage place. If you are really lucky you may find someone who remembers when it was built or who might have lived there. Imagine what might have happened within those walls!

By Heritage Canada.

Historical Plaques of the Valley No. 12 On Highway 17, near Cobden
Nearby was found in 1867 by Edward George Lee an astrolabe bearing the date 1603. The instrument, used for determining latitude is believed to have been lost by Champlain about 6th June, 1613 on his exploratory expedition up the Ottawa River.

-Historical Sites and Monuments Board of Canada