

C.I.H.S.

BULLETIN

S.H.I.C.

I.S.B.N.

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C.P./P.O. Box 9502, Terminal/Terminus Postale, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3V2

1. THE CIHS BULLETIN/LE BULLETIN SHIC

The Editor and the Publisher (i.e., read clerk-typist) are eagerly looking forward to the day when the Society will be able to afford to move publication from our kitchen-tables to a more professional milieu. In the meantime, we hope that this issue will serve to clarify the statement under this same heading and number in our first issue. The format of the Bulletin itself will not change, although we would hope in time it will grow to standard paper size. The Bulletin will confine itself to the internal or housekeeping items of the Society; the Supplement, which we hope to limit to one in most issues, will be the information piece for members, and others, on what the Society is doing to achieve its objectives. In spite of its deficiencies, Number 1 did receive some compliments; we expect your criticism also. As we grow, we hope to be able to develop our capacity to accept and publish member's contributions.

In the meantime, to answer the question you must have been asked, "What is the Society going to do?" , why not circulate the supplement to friends and associates.

2. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 1987

Enclosed in this mailing is the formal notice of the meeting, required under the constitution and bye-laws. It will largely be a housekeeping operation but the presence of all who can attend is important to the business of the Society. The slate of officers the Interim Executive Committee is presenting is consistent with the wishes of all individuals concerned and is intended to begin both the introduction of regional representation, and a start on some examination of the role of a Society such as ours in electronic archives. We have been queried by Consumer and Corporate Affairs on one or two minor points in the bye-laws, and it may be necessary to consult the membership on our drafting revisions. Another important item, since it will be at the Chapter level that our programs will operate and volunteers be identified, is the question of formation of an Ottawa chapter.

The notice emphasizes that only "members in good standing" are eligible to vote, and hold office. For economy and efficiency, every voluntary group needs to establish with its members a simple principle on subscriptions and their due date. In our case, we have chosen the date of the Annual General Meeting; this year, if you have sent a subscription, in 1986, or in 1987 on or before June 13, you are in good standing. As mentioned in the notice, the Treasurer will be available at the Pearson Building from 9:30 a.m.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL REPORT

We have 219 membership forms in our Register; however, only 87 are members in good standing, 75 Annual, 3 Sustaining, 2 Patron, and 7 Life members. Since we did not make a general request to members for payment of subscriptions until the March Bulletin this should be noted only as a reminder. For the financial year ending April 30th, 1987, membership subscriptions totalled \$741.00, and expenses \$758.84, [Office Supplies \$80.71, Printing and Copying \$144.74, Postage \$168.91, Other \$327.88. and Bank Charges \$36.60]. Membership Subscriptions to date [May 6th] for the current financial year total \$1,025.00, and our liquid assets [the bank and imprest accounts] are \$1,007.16. Note that our new address, a postal box, was acquired for a number of reasons, including Consumer and Corporate Affairs requirements. We wish to acknowledge again the kindness and help we continue to receive from the Immigration Appeal Board, and our member, the Chairman.

4. COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

This has been established as one of the Society's principal objectives. We had hoped that before this we would be in a position to notify the many members who have a particular interest in this aspect of our program just how we proposed going about the acquisition, review, and deposit of documents and personal papers which may have historical value. Our problem, of course, is that we do not have any storage capacity. The Research and Publications Committee have come up with a possible solution which they will be discussing with Archives during the Summer months.

1. PIER 21/THE HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS BOARD OF CANADA

We made a brief mention of this in Bulletin No. 1. The Society began contact with the Historic Sites and Monuments Board in early December, to find, much to our gratification, that we were preaching to the converted.

At a semi-annual Board meeting in June, 1984 the H.S. & M. Board went on record on Immigration in the following positive vein:

"The peopling of Canada through Immigration is a theme of great national significance, which should be the subject of major commemoration.

Since it is apparent that the complexity of this theme cannot be dealt with adequately at a single site, the Branch (i.e. Parks Branch) should investigate sites with appropriate concentration of surviving resources to interpret it, having regard for both historical periods and geographic distribution."

Reporting through the Minister of the Environment, who is responsible for government Policy on Federal Heritage Buildings, the role of the Board is to investigate, evaluate and decide on the merits of a request for the designation of a particular site. They cannot act as the advocate for a particular group, nor yet as a negotiator of arrangements between various groups. One serious limitation on their work, which may be a factor to be overcome in respect to Pier 21, is that the government's policy on the preservation of heritage structures and sites relates only to Crown-owned or Crown-held property. It does not apply to Crown Corporations; we understand Ports Canada to be the agency which "owns" Pier 21.

The procedures for review and designation of a site are serious and exhaustive, and the Board, themselves experts, are assisted by professional historians and specialists in the department who undertake the necessary research and preparation of the brief for a designation. First, they document the general historical argument for commemoration, and then they zero in on the specific case. In respect to Immigration they chose to split

the historical review and supporting documentary material at the year 1914. The 1984 decision that Immigration to Canada was of such national significance as to deserve major commemoration, based on the pre-1914 documentation, also resulted in the following designations:

- Grosse Isle, a quarantine station in the St. Lawrence below Quebec,
- Partridge Island, a quarantine station off St John, N.B.,
- as yet unspecified Immigration stations in Western Canada

The Secretariat and other officials at Environment have been most co-operative and helpful with the Society. They have agreed to provide us with copies of their 1984 study, and have already given us an Appendix which details the location and history of the Land Offices and Immigration Agencies across the country, from 1815. It alone makes fascinating reading, and has some real nuggets of information for our publications; those of our members who may have an interest or any information concerning a possible designation of specific Canadian ports of entry in Western Canada should make themselves known to the Membership Secretary by letter.

Regarding Pier 21, the Society has been assured that our request for its designation as a national historic site will, if at all possible, be considered at a meeting of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to be held, coincidentally, in Halifax in late June of this year. Consideration at that time is dependent on the post-1914 documentation, and a place on the agenda, being available. The fact that the initiative has been taken, however, and the evident good will and support that exists for Pier 21's preservation, has, for the moment, lessened the sense of apprehension about its future that was developing. John LeBlanc continues to be active in organizing this Society's presence in Nova Scotia, and the Halifax area, and in developing community support. Apart from the over 1,500,000 new Canadians who joined our country through its portals, Pier 21 also has an

2. COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON WAR CRIMINALS  
MR. Justice Jules Deschenes

The Report of the Commission, Part 1: Public, dated 30 Dec 1986, was tabled in the House on Thursday, March 12, 1987, pp. 4075 - 4084, by the Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.

Neither Mr Hnatyshyn nor the press reports we have seen made reference to a postscript which Mr Deschenes added to the report personally. It reads in part as follows:

" One of the questions asked of the Commission by the Order-in-Council of 7 February 1985 was when and how they [war criminals] obtained entry to Canada. .... Out of all that evidence, both general and particular, a grand picture could be drawn showing not only how individual suspects obtained entry into Canada, but what was the evolution of the policies which may have, at times prevented, at other times favoured, such entry.

..... Among the various studies [which the Commission has] mandated is one which deals directly with this aspect of the Commission's terms of reference: 'Nazi War Criminals in Canada: the Historical and Policy Setting from the 1940s to the Present', by Mrs Alti Rodel. This substantial study no doubt constitutes an outstanding contribution to the knowledge of this particular question and deserves wide distribution. .... Should the Canadian government wish still a more complete examination of the matter, it ought then to appoint a professional historian to make a thorough study of the question: the evidence and the material gathered by the Commission would prove of considerable help and interest towards this task. "

The Society is keeping in touch with the Deschene Commission staff, and the Privy Council office, to try to learn what consideration, if any, may be given to these recommendations. We understand that a request has been made on Mrs Rodel's report under the Access to Information Act.

important place in Canadian history as the "Eastern Canadian Port" from which the Canadian armed forces left for Europe in World War II.

We will continue to monitor developments, and keep you informed. It will be evident from the foregoing that to assist in trying to meet the objectives of the Society, this and subsequent Executive Committees, and our members, should accept that a continuing and important element of the Society's annual program should be the identification, review, and possible submission to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, of other historic immigration sites in Canada that may be suitable for commemoration.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- that the first entry in the immigration records of ship's manifests is the arrival of the S.S. Peruvian at Quebec on May 1st, 1865.
- that in the boom period of 1911-1912, as many as 1,000 persons were accommodated each night at Immigration Hall No. 1 at Winnipeg.
- that during the Riel Rebellion (1885) part of the North West Expeditionary Force sent to put down the rising was housed in the newly-completed Immigration shed at Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan.