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James Warren
Editor

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Christmas Party, on 13 December, was a delightful departure from our usual format. We were pleased to present Dr. Margaret Angus with our Kingston Historical Society Award for her uncountable contributions to our knowledge of Kingston and regional history and her continuing efforts to preserve our architectural heritage through almost sixty years of energetic residence in our city. We were pleased, too, that Dr. William Angus was able to join us for the ceremony.

President Bill Fitsell announced the minting of Kingston's first two dollar coin, commemorating 150 years of the city's incorporation. Now on sale in banks and trust companies throughout Kingston, they are selling like hotcakes.

We were then treated to the recollections of Don McCallum, tracing the history of big band music and some of its practitioners in Kingston, accompanied by lively musical demonstrations by the Dixie Six + One. Some of us even danced and it was swell! To add to the fun, we were treated to a friendly greeting from Mayor Gary Bennett and the presence of several councillors, not to mention wine, cider, coffee and delicious goodies. You should have been there!

NOVEMBER MINUTES

Scrolling backwards like the spirit of Christmas past, we present the Minutes of our November meeting:

The president welcomed the 32 hardy souls who braved cruel winter to attend.

Jim Warren served as secretary.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

With January 1996 comes our hope for better times ahead for our fellow countrymen and women, our families and our Kingston Historical Society.

January is the time for our Annual Meeting, when officers are elected, members of council appointed and other duties assigned. Present nominees are listed at the end of the newsletter, however you are welcome to make nominations from the floor if you have confirmed that your candidate is willing to serve. Please note the late date: Wednesday 24 January 1996 at 7.30 pm in the Wilson Room of the central Kingston Public Library. There will be no guest speaker in the usual sense, but, traditionally, members may wish to bring unusual historical objects for show and tell. Guests are always welcome.

The January Executive Meeting is on 10 January in Fort Frontenac at 7.30 pm.

Correspondence included a notice of a meeting in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on 26 November to unveil a plaque commemorating Sir John A. Macdonald.

Ben Ackerman of the Prince Edward Historical Society wrote to request a speaker for their 17 April 1996 meeting.

Dr. Jennifer McKendry wrote to your editor suggesting consideration of an amalgamation of the Kingston Historical Society and the Frontenac Historical Foundation.

Announcements referred to: a guided tour of Cartwright House at 191 King Street East at Gore, conducted by Jennifer McKendry on 30 November, at 7 pm, followed by her illustrated talk in the Wilson Room of the Public Library at 8 pm.

An illustrated lecture series by Jennifer McKendry based on her book 'With our Past Before Us: 19th Century Architecture in the Kingston Area'. This is part of Queen's Enrichment Studies programs. Her lectures will be on Tuesdays, 7 to 9 pm, 16 January to 12 March. Fee \$100. Information, call 545-2473.

Membership: Joe Boucher announced four new members: Terry Hicks, who is President of the local branch of the United Empire Loyalists Association; Ed Grenda, President of the Ontario Soccer Association and a keen snowshoer; David St. Onge, Curator of the Correctional Services Museum and Brian Hubner a promising Queen's student.

Members' Comments: Phil Quattrocchi suggested a waterfront garden party on St. Andrew's night. Isobel Trumpour noted the need for repairs to a Murney Tower window. Wally Breck reminded us that 1996 is the 200th anniversary of the death of Molly Brant, and noted some of the

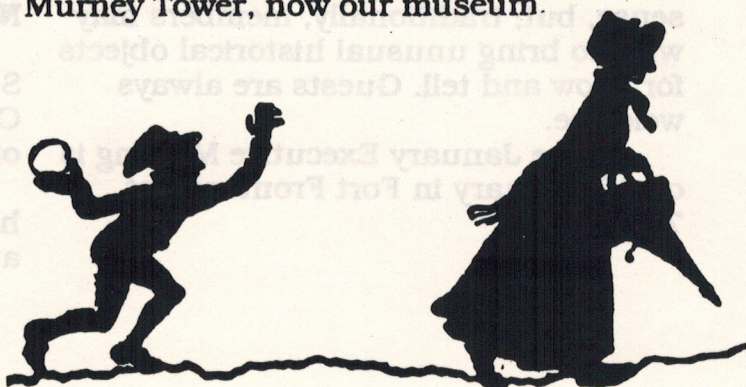
ideas being considered to commemorate her death.

Reports included one from Jim Warren describing the well-attended meeting with heads of other historical societies in the area to consider obtaining the old artillery barracks building in Artillery Park as a common meeting place and civic museum. Much interest but no commitments.

Our guest speaker, Michael Dawber, then gave a lively, fast-paced talk about some of the curious place names in Eastern Ontario and the light they shed on local history. His book 'Where the Heck is Balahech?', an expansion upon his talk, was offered for sale for \$14.95. This was followed by delicious goodies, thanks to Ken Rutherford and good fellowship between one and all.

KINGS-TWO-NEYS

Our sesquicentennial coins have enjoyed a phenomenal success in some thirty local banks and trust companies. To date, some 3500 nickel/steel coins have been sold, some 6000 are on reorder. All 100 solid silver and 500 gold-plated coins have been sold and may be reordered. And now, an antiqued set of three, one of each finish, will be available soon in a presentation box for the person who has everything. Get your coins soon or you may miss out on a particularly handsome commemoration of the city's 150th anniversary and the building of Murney Tower, now our museum.



LOYALIST DAY PROCLAIMED

New member Terry Hicks is nothing if not a go-getter. As President of the Kingston and District Branch, United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, he approached the Mayor and council to proclaim 12th June to be Loyalist Day. Since there is some dispute as to the precise date of Michael Grass' landing at Cataraqui, Terry took the date that Royal assent was given to Governor Haldimand's plan for the settlement of Cataraqui: 12 June 1784. Our Mayor and council have proclaimed the day to be our official Loyalist Day. What remains is for all true loyalists to be fitted with appropriate 18th century costumes to take part in the celebrations.

Terry quotes author Larry Turner: 'Previous settlements, comprised of colonial officials, soldiers and Indian agents at Niagara and Detroit, were regarded as strategic bases rather than permanent communities, and Haldimand's decision to throw open the frontier was the spark that transformed the wilderness peninsula north of Lake Ontario and Erie'. Kingston thus became the first community and the first Loyalist community in what was to become Ontario.

Terry invites all of us to join the next Loyalist meeting on 27 January at 1.30 pm in St. Paul's Church Hall, when Larry Turner will speak about events leading up to 12 June 1784.

The Ontario Historical Society presented its 1994 Joseph Brant Award to Prof. Donald B. Smith in Calgary for his book 'Aboriginal Ontario: Historical Perspectives on the First Nations'. He was nominated by Dundurn Press.

Still on a Loyalist theme, the Lennox and Addington Historical Society advises that a number of George III coins (1775), tokens and

buttons were found at a site on the Napanee River. They are now on display in their Napanee museum. They believe the artifacts were lost on a tavern site upriver, confirming that Loyalist settlers were locating along the Napanee River, taking advantage of saw and grist mills at Napanee Mills built as early as 1796. The oldest coin in the cache was a 1723 Spanish Reale.

'Meyer's Creek' is a novel by former Peterborough school teacher Connie Brummel Crook, published by Stoddard Press in Toronto. It provides a fictionalized account of the exploits of the Meyer family, whose patriarch, Captain John Meyer, was the legendary Loyalist scout, spy, soldier and officer. It tells of various members of the Meyer clan as they establish their lives, farms and businesses around the mouth of the Trent and Moira Rivers. Some returned to their abandoned homes after the Treaty of Paris to reclaim heirlooms and greet estranged relatives, a curious experience. The book is \$6.99.

KINGSTON HERITAGE DIRECTORY

Bill Fittsell gets many calls from those seeking historical information, mainly because of the Society's phone number: 544-9925, which is switched to his home number in winter. To help him direct callers to the most knowledgeable source, Bill has sent around a questionnaire to all local historical groups asking for their best contact person. When compiled, this will provide one more means of coordinating our various societies, something that is long overdue.

CANADIANS IN THE CIVIL WAR

Lorraine Bogardus, President of the Morristown Foundation across the St. Lawrence River, advises us that

some 54,000 Canadians served in the American Civil War, 3000 of them in the Confederate army. Can anyone confirm these figures, which seem quite high? Many Canadian cities on this side of the border enjoyed a booming business supplying both sides during that war.

WITH OUR PAST BEFORE US

Jennifer McKendry has produced a most interesting reference for those who share her interest in architectural history. 'With Our Past Before Us: Nineteenth-Century Architecture in the Kingston Area' covers some 500 buildings of which 107 are illustrated. The book is organized around building functions rather than styles, a chapter each on houses, churches, commercial buildings, civic structures, schools, the penitentiary and the asylum. Her study deals with often-neglected aspects like heating, cooking facilities, social influences on style and life with servants. In some cases, only plans or building contracts have survived. Now in local bookstores, the book costs only \$29.95. Jennifer is now working on a guide to historic Portsmouth and asks anyone with early pictures of the village to call her at 544-9535.

NEW MEMBERS

In addition to the four new members announced in the November Minutes, we are delighted to welcome back Ted and Amy Storey to our fold. Ted has developed a skill in bird carving; Amy has a remarkable collection of orchids, not to mention their many other talents.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE

The Nominating Committee has put forward the following slate of candidates for your consideration at our Annual Meeting:

Past President	Bill Fittsell
President	Joe Boucher
V.P.Membership	open
V.P.Programs	Lou Grimshaw
V.P.Museum	Ken Rutherford
Treasurer	Desmond O'Meara
Exec. Secretary	open
Recording Sec.	James Warren
Ed.Historic Kingston	Don Redmond
Ed.Newsletter	James Warren
Publications	Margaret and Bernard Burdsall

Council:	Wally Breck
	George Henderson
	Marjorie Simmons
	Jack Pike
	Doug Petty

Murney Tower Museum:

Chair	Ken Rutherford
Treasurer	Beverly Lazier
Curator	Doug Petty

Please note that you are welcome to nominate alternative candidates or fill posts for which there are no nominees. All we ask is that you ensure that your nominee is willing to serve. We commend the deliberations of the Nominating Committee who are: Isobel Trumpour, Chair, Wallace Breck, Don Redmond and Fred McConnell. Most importantly, please try to attend our annual meeting, vote with conviction and give the successful candidates your wholehearted support!

A HAPPIER NEW YEAR TO ALL!



EXECUTIVE 1996 KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Past President	Bill Fitsell	549-8354
President	Joe Boucher	548-8181
V.P.Programs	Lou Grimshaw	549-2500
V.P.Museum	Ken Rutherford	548-8674
Membership	Edward Grenda	544-3715
Executive Secretary	Joe Boucher	(by default)
Recording Secretary	James Warren	544-7410
Treasurer	Desmond O'Meara	546-5439
Editor Historic Kingston	Donald Redmond	546-7728
Editor Newsletter	James Warren	544-7410
Publicity & Publications	Margaret Burdsall	531-8948

COUNCIL	Marjorie Simmons	542-9847
	Wallace Breck	544-4876
	Doug Petty	546-0422
	Jack Pike	546-9187
	George Henderson	545-2378

MURNEY TOWER MUSEUM

Chairman	Ken Rutherford	548-8674
Curator	Doug Petty	546-0422
Treasurer	Beverley Lazier	542-7012

NOTE

The KHS listing in the phone book, 544-9925, is directed to the Murney Tower during the summer season and to Major Lou Grimshaw at other times.

PROGRAMS for 1996

KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Note that all regular meetings of the Kingston Historical Society are held on the third Wednesday of the month, except June and December.

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| 21 February | Dr. David Lyon | St. James Church: 1845 to 1995 |
| 20 March | Dr. Michael Chiong | Manufacturing Patent Medicine
in Kingston: The N.C. Polson Co. |
| 17 April | Ms. Sue Bazely | Molly Brant in Kingston: After 200
Years an archaeological and social
assessment |
| 15 May | Mr. John Hall | Music in Kingston: 1833 to 1963 |
| Thursday 6 June | Executive | Sir John A. Macdonald Graveside
Memorial Service |
| 18 September | Dr. Charles Hayter | Making Sense of Shadows:
Dr. James Third and Early X-Rays
in Kingston: 1896 to 1902 |
| 16 October | Dr. Jennifer McKendry | Guide to Historic Portsmouth
Village |
| 20 November | Dr. Ken Rutherford | Historic Aspects of the Disposal of
Domestic and Metabolic Wastes in
Kingston |
| Date to be
announced | All members | Annual Christmas Party |