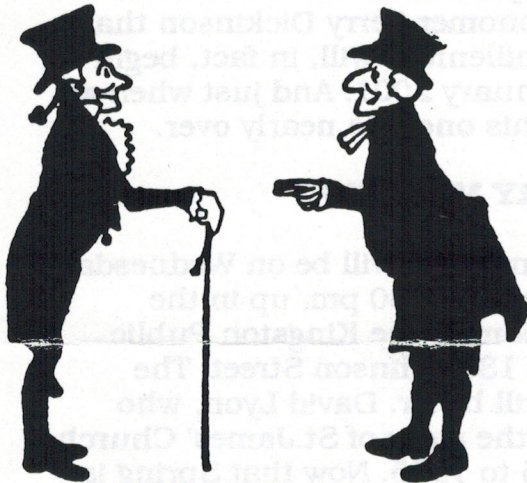




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Editor



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Well, the highlight of our January Annual Meeting was the election of a new President, Joe Boucher, and the elevation of Bill Fittsell to the high post of Past President. All other elected positions were filled by acclamation, with a Council consisting of Wally Breck, George Henderson, Marjorie Simmons, Jack Pike and Doug Petty. On our last page we present the complete list of suspects with phone numbers and, on the reverse, the schedule of speakers for the season February 1996 to June 1997. Twenty-six members were in attendance.

The Minutes, for those who insist, follow:

Margaret Angus and both Redmonds, respectively, moved, seconded and thirded that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of January 1995 be accepted as read. This was carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Terry Demers has appealed for a loan of old

pictures for a 'Down Memory Lane' feature on the Business Consumer Network. Call 634-3309 for details.

Terry Hicks extended a warm invitation for us to join the Loyalists' meeting at St. Paul's Church on 27 January to hear speaker Larry Turner, an authority on the life of Michael Grass.

Bill Fittsell noted that 19 February was Heritage Day and that each of us must embrace our neighbour in a warm expression of our love for Canada. Figuratively, of course.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

These were available at the meeting and may be available at the February meeting. Motions and seconds for approval follow. All were carried.

Murney Tower: Rutherford/Petty

Programs: Grimshaw/McConnell

Membership: Boucher/Gibson-Langille

Publications: Report from M. Burdsall

Newsletter: Warren/Peggy Cohoe

Historic Kingston: Redmond/M. Angus

COMMENTS: Bill Fittsell noted that all but 25 of the Sesquicentennial Coins have been sold, reaping a profit of between \$15,000 and \$20,000 for the society, depending on how many more we order. Joe Boucher moved and Lou Grimshaw seconded a proposal to invest a large portion of this money. Carried.

Bill also noted the pleasure we derive from coffee and cookies provided by Ken Rutherford after our meetings.

He circulated a card on which other volunteers might agree to act as host once a year. Six volunteered.

Len Hyslop suggested that we all volunteer to help in recruiting more members. If each of us recruited one other member, our financial difficulties would be over. Great idea.

NOMINATIONS: Isobel Trumpour, as Chair, conducted nominations. Without further nominations from the floor, she moved that the candidates be elected. Margaret Cohoe seconded the motion up to the level of first Vice President. Carried. Bill Fittsell then nominated Joe Boucher as President, seconded by Al Cohoe. Carried.

Assuming office, Joe asked Jim Warren to present our compliments to Bill Fittsell who received, with our thanks, two books: Jennifer McKendry's 'With Our Past Before Us' and a picture book of the Rideau. Also a pewter lapel pin of Murney Tower. Isobel then recorded the event with her camera.

Joe Boucher outlined the interesting assortment of events to occur in 1996 including the ongoing coin project, a book about Molly Brant, the Sir John A. Macdonald service, Don Redmond's index of recent Historic Kingstons, a visit by the new ship HMCS Kingston, the Heritage Fair, the celebration of Kingston's Sesquicentennial as a city, a service to honour the 200th anniversary of the death of Molly Brant, another busy season for Murney Tower Museum, our annual KHS Award and our annual Christmas party.

SHOW AND TELL

After the formalities, Lou Grimshaw conducted a Show & Tell, to wit:

Isobel Trumpour displayed a panel of photographs of the century old Carruthers House which, in later years, was made available as a summer girls camp.

Pat Fleming showed a scrap book of old Valentines and noted that she was a member of the Carruthers family.

Thelma Mills showed a silver cup, asking for identification. None was forthcoming, though there were several

suggestions for appropriate contents.

Doug Petty presented some large old biscuit, candy and cigarette tins.

Ruth Redmond announced a Valentine Party in the style of 1896.

Terry Hicks noted information from astronomer Terry Dickinson that the new millenium will, in fact, begin on 1st January 2001. And just when we thought this one was nearly over.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 21 February at 7.30 pm, up in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library at 130 Johnson Street. The speaker will be Dr. David Lyon, who will trace the story of St. James' Church from 1845 to 1995. Now that Spring is nearly here, we do urge you to help us swell the ranks of those attending our meetings. We miss you.

PRESIDENT JOE BOUCHER

Although Joe Boucher seems a shy and self-effacing sort of fellow, he has done a magnificent job as former editor of this newsletter, membership chairman, publication chairman (much assisted by the Burdsalls) and the person who picks up all Society mail and distributes it to our doors.

Joe was born in Peterborough and received his education there and in Toronto. He spent 14 years as a field surveyor for the Department of Highways, charting highways, roads and bridges, rising to Field Supervisor. One job was a 105 mile cold winter trek 160 miles north of Thunder Bay. Another was from Wawa to White River to open up the last missing link of the Trans Canada Highway. He covered Highway 401 from Windsor to the Quebec border. He moved to Kingston in 1962 as Regional Supervisor of Engineering

Surveys for the Eastern Region and in 1983 celebrated the two hundredth year of surveying in Ontario.

VERNA WILSON

It is with sadness that we record the death of Miss Verna Wilson, a member of our Society since 1963. She was a staff member of the Kingston Public Library for 43 years, 15 years as Chief Librarian. The room in which we hold our meetings is named in her honour, and the portrait of this most gracious lady hangs outside the door. Miss Wilson was an active member of the Elizabeth Cottage Board of Directors and a devoted member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. She graduated from Queen's with a Bachelor of Arts degree and from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Library Science. She received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for the significant role she played in the community. Our sympathy goes out to her family and friends.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome two new members, Leonard Hyslop and Louise Sampson-Hyslop who live at 33 Ontario Street, apartment 201. Their telephone is 549-2375.

WATERFRONT INVENTORY

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority and Earthling Communications (sic) have taken the first step toward an inventory of natural and cultural assets along the waterfront, potential lands for a waterfront trail and connecting links in the Kingston bio-region, to be completed shortly. The data collected will be used to facilitate co-operation

with other agencies to protect and enhance the waterfront. Eventually, this will link up with the greenway strategy developed by the Waterfront Regeneration Trust which has traced a 325 kilometre trail from Burlington to Trenton. The local effort will extend from Adolphustown to just beyond Howe Island in the St. Lawrence. More information from Alan Campeau at 531-1883.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation announces a new Historical Resources Consultant: Christine Sampson at (416) 314-7150. Presumably her first task will be to advise heritage groups that grants for 1996-1997 will be cut 25%.

MOLLY BRANT YEAR

As mentioned before, Molly Brant died two hundred years ago and is buried in St. Paul's churchyard. Her contributions to the Loyalist cause and to the establishment of the Anglican Church in Kingston were considerable. Many events will honour her this year. A memorial will be placed in the courtyard behind Rideaucrest, originally the site of her home, with appropriate ceremony. Sue Bazely will describe the archaeological dig at the site at our April meeting. Earl Thomas is writing a history, much of which will expand upon Molly's interesting life. We hope to have the participation of native people from Tyendenaga. Even our Mayor and members of Council may get into the act. Details later.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Joe Boucher advises that, to save postage, no receipts will be issued for

membership fees except when paid in cash. A record is kept in the deposit slip stubs, however.

HELMA MIKA

The historical communities in eastern Ontario are grieved to learn that Helma Mika has died. With her husband Nick Mika, they published a wide variety of well-illustrated new books on local histories and reprinted many significant heritage books, including the 1878 Meacham Atlas of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Counties. Their colourful illustrations provided a much livelier idea of our history than the more commonplace dry text of other references. Our deepest sympathy and profound thanks are extended to Nick.

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION

Thanks to an Ontario Government grant of \$2506 and the proceeds from Bill Fitts's phenomenally successful commemorative coin, our Society is in the black. Without them, however, we would have had a deficit of about \$3000 despite efforts at cost reduction. Our only hope of healthy survival is a dramatic increase in our membership, which is why, once again, **we need your help! GET A NEW MEMBER!**

TIRELESS PEGGY COHOE

Peggy Cohoe is not a new member of our Society, but she does have the energy and initiative to fill the shoes of a dozen of us, not to mention her considerable contributions to the Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. Since she joined them in 1973, she edited their newsletter, co-ordinated research, and chaired their committees for tours, programs, welcoming, and libraries.

She also transcribed early church registers, indexed wills, catalogued the Branch library, indexed the 1871 census and transcribed burial records of Cataraqui Cemetery. She has also worked on the 1840 census of Kingston Catholics, recently completed an index to the six-volume Buildings of Architectural and Historic Significance and other publications, as well as providing guidance in formal classes and informal chats to those needing help with their genealogy. The Kingston Branch has conferred upon her a life membership, to which we add our warmest congratulations.



HISTORY FOR HOLLYWOOD

The Ontario Heritage Foundation earned \$50,000 last summer alone by leasing its historic buildings as settings for six major motion pictures and two television commercials. Obviously, they dealt effectively with the need to protect the fabric of the historic sites from the hazards of heavy equipment and harsh

floodlighting.

Given the historic sites, buildings and streetscapes which grace our city, this suggests other ways in which our Society might broaden its horizons.

HISTORIC PORTSMOUTH

Jennifer McKendry, who lives in Portsmouth and has contributed many historic tales about the village to the Whig, is preparing a Guide to Historic Portsmouth Village for release in October. She is seeking sponsorship for the book and the loan of old photographs which she will copy and return promptly. She will also present a photographic exhibition in the Kingston Public Library and address our Society then.

If you have read her current book 'With Our Past Before Us' you will appreciate the extensive research, enlightening text and excellent photography she brings to her work. We look forward to the finished project. If you can help her, call 544-9535, or write her at 1 Balden Street, Kingston K7M 2J7.

Incidentally, the Lakeview Manor has disappeared and in its place are four unfinished dwellings and excavations for more. We also have a new butcher shop, a bakery and will soon have a take-out Chinese food emporium. And they say there is no culture in Portsmouth!

THE EDITOR COMMENTS

As you may have noticed, the piece on our Annual General Meeting makes for rather dull reading because the editor was trying to combine three conflicting requirements: reasonably complete Minutes, enjoyable reading and minimal space to conserve postage. Another problem is a tendency toward duplication if items in the Minutes are also discussed in the general narrative. At the risk of hackle-raising, the editor proposes to place the Minutes at the end of the newsletter, but not to duplicate anything that has already been discussed. This is contrary to Queensbury's Rules of Order for Historical Records (1764), but should be a little easier to stomach for both writer and reader. Should a majority of our members object (50% plus one) then, of course, we must review the situation.

