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James Warren  
Editor

### LIFE OF MOLLY BRANT

For our 17 April meeting, we welcome back Sue Bazely, energetic archaeologist, who has dug deeply into the life of Molly Brant in Kingston and beyond, and will show slides of her investigations at the site of Molly's now-vanished Kingston home. As usual, our meetings are held in the Wilson Room, upstairs in the Kingston Public Library at 130 Johnson Street at 7.30 pm, the third Wednesday in the month.

Whether a member or not, you are always warmly welcome at our meetings. This month, Dick Bray will arrange refreshments.

The Executive Meeting is at Fort Frontenac, Wednesday 10 April.

### SIR ARCHIBALD MACDONELL

In March, effervescent Wally Breck (did you see him when he effervasn't?) traced the colourful careers of the distinguished soldier named above, briefly outlined in the March newsletter. Cider and her own oat cookies were provided by Fiorrie Warren.

### OUR MEMBERS

We honour Dr. William Angus who, on 23 March, reached his 99th year. Our kindest wishes and sympathies are extended to the Anguses in coping with the pains and disabilities inflicted by Father Time. We hope that our love and respect provide some small comfort.

We welcome new member Lt. Col. Dorothy McClelland, retired, who joined the RCAF in 1959 as a nurse and survived three changes in uniform design. Moving to Kingston in 1992, they live at 12-1 Place d'Armes, alongside their boat and motor home. Dorothy volunteers at the Tourist Bureau and has instituted guided bus tours in the city. We welcome her to our Society.

New member Alan Campeau, whom we welcomed last month, has a successful business called Eathling Communications with a talented team of players who undertake the concept, production, writing, videography and presentation of documentaries and training programs, in such fields as natural resources, biological sciences, land use planning, energy saving and corporate restructuring. He has suggested several ways in which our Society could promote and expand our historical mission electronically.

### ONCE MORE UNTO THE BREACH!

The Fort Henry Guard is threatened once again. No, it is not the Americans, returning to avenge their misfortunes in 1814. It is the number-crunchers in Ottawa, attempting to sweep everything before their path. Fort Henry and its troops are vital to Kingston's history and its economic health. If you want to defend Kingston and this critical link in our defensive chain, draw your vorpal blade and send a supportive letter to Gary Clarke, Chair of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, RR#1, Morrisburg, Ont. K0C 1X0. A financial contribution would also help.



## HISTORY ON THE NET

Alan Campeau has suggested some alternative avenues to our historical destinations:

1. Videotape oral history through interviews with voluble oldtimers.
2. Develop a series of half-hour illustrated chats on Cablenet, a more intimate version of our monthly lectures.
3. Promote membership in our Society by placing our 'home page' on the internet.
4. Offer a film development service which would advise North American film-makers of the great historical backdrops to be found in Kingston streets and interiors.
5. Produce two-minute historical videos of Kingston history, illustrated with old photos and maps, as public service slots for television.
6. Experiment with video animation of historic maps to show changing population patterns and scan across old views of Kingston to reveal details of the old city.
7. In time, when the technology is more accessible, put the contents of Historic Kingston (all of them) on a CD ROM. For example, the four volume set of the Canadian Encyclopedia is available now on CD ROM for about \$75, including coloured maps and illustrations.

Today, this is the cost of access to the internet, taxes included:

Computer (my Mac)	\$2875.
Printer	430.
Graphic Software	70.
Modem / FAX Machine	170.
Bell Telephone Hookup	80.
Online Service Hookup	40.
Home Page Site	60.

Plus monthly charges:

Telephone Line	15.30
Online Service	17.20
Home Page on WorldWideWeb	14.38

These costs compare favourably with what we pay for Historic Kingston and our newsletter, and will become cheaper in time while paper costs go up. However, to be practical, going electronic is only practical if all our members have computers, modems and printers. Furthermore, the nature of our members' various chores would change, from quill to mouse, as it were. This prospect will seem abhorrent to many of our members, but quite commonplace to younger generations. Should we be thinking about this now, long before our Society succumbs to dotage?

## KAM PLANS HERITAGE TRAIL

The Kingston Association of Museums, Historic Sites and Art Galleries have initiated a project called SITEscapes to raise awareness of the cultural and natural resources in Greater Kingston through the establishment of an urban and rural interpretive trail. Navigable by foot, bicycle, car or bus, the trail would be punctuated with interpretive signs, while trail maps would be available to travellers. The trail would also serve to connect our museums and other sites of historical, architectural, archaeological and natural interest. They seek a grant from the Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Foundation under its Urban Issues Program. Susan Bazely can provide more information at 542-3483. We wish them success.

## PUBLICATIONS TO SCHOOLS

Margaret and Bernard Burdsall, with executive blessing, have presented sets of 24 volumes of Historic Kingston to the secondary schools of Frontenac County and the separate schols of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington.



In addition, the Schools of Continuing Education and the Teachers Resource Centres of both school boards have welcomed copies. This is an excellent way of reaching out to young people. Teachers tell us that Historic Kingston has been a popular resource for students studying local history. Moreover, we have taken boxes of copies of old volumes out of the dusty archives and given them new life. Each book is stamped 'Donated by the Kingston Historical Society', which also helps us.

Meanwhile, copies of volumes 12, 13 and 16, long out of print, are sought by Margaret A.W. Clark, 17 Parkway Place, Kingston K7M 2C9. If you can help in her family research, please call her at 547-1667.

### **SAVING THE MAYORS' PORTRAITS**

President Joe Boucher, on behalf of our Society, presented a cheque for \$1000 to City Hall on 5 March to support Council's drive to finance the restoration of portraits of former mayors. Joe was presented with a certificate of appreciation from Councillor Meers, Chairman of the city's Sesquicentennial Committee. Joe also serves on this committee, which has, so far, been more concerned with saleable trinkets to raise money than with imaginative ways to celebrate the city's 150 years. Well, a buck is a buck, as they say.

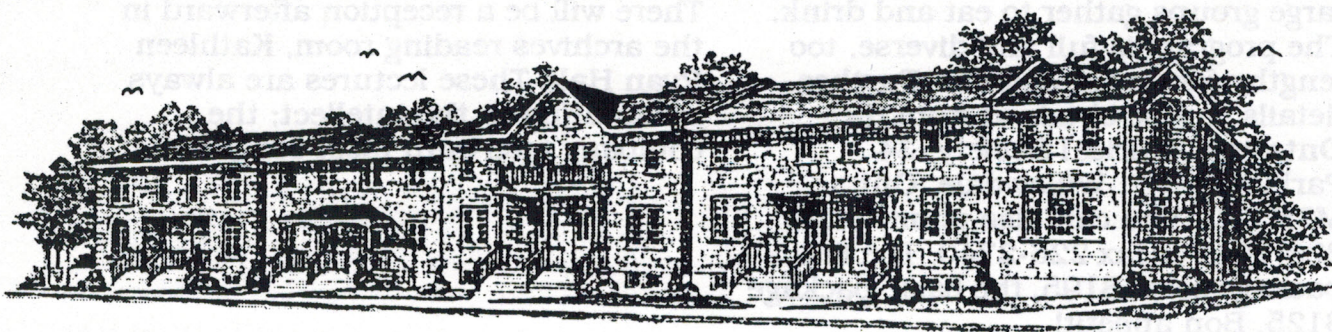
On the other hand, city hall staffer Doug Duncan, whose office is on the fourth floor near the city hall ghost, has saved some 230 slides taken during the renovation of City Hall in 1973, a valuable historical record. Your editor is studying them with a view to making copies for his/our own collection. I now have two or three hundred slides of Kingston subjects, which we use in our slide cabinet or lectures spreading our historic message. Additions are always welcome.

### **MACPHERSON HOUSE IS OPEN**

The Lennox & Addington Historical Society announces that their charming historical home Macpherson House in Napanee is now open from noon to 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday. For 475 you can enjoy their membership package which includes tickets to the Wine Tasting, 2 to 4 on Sunday 21 April, later a Strawberry Social, Lobster and Harvest Suppers, not to mention afternoon teas with fried cakes in July and August. Or a simple membership is only \$15. Call Elizabeth Hunter at 354-5982.

### **PORTSMOUTH VILLAGE**

Now is your chance to move to Portsmouth Harbour Village, rapidly filling the void left by the Lakeview Manor. Here is your first look:





## **UNITY PARTY ON THE SHORE**

Phil Quattrocci has an imaginative plan to celebrate our unity as a multicultural people, have fun and bring life to Block D. He proposes a parade from City Hall, old time fiddlers, folk art groups, a 500 foot garden of perennials, a fragrant, raised garden for the blind and wheelchair bound, ethnic finger food, native drummers, dances around a huge bonfire, donations to the food bank, tours of the Marine Museum and more,

Phil envisages the enthusiastic co-operation of city officials, service clubs, native people, firepersons, business people and you and you and you. This is the kind of colourful affair at which Phil excels and we hope that Kingstonians and their neighbours of all ages and conditions will come out and participate. It will be our own midsummer revel. Call Phil to offer your help at 546-9793.

## **ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Annual Conference of OHS will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Ottawa on the 2, 3 and 4 May 1996 with the attractive theme Consuming Passions. No, no, not *that* kind of passion but rather the passion for food in the historic context of first nations celebrations, lumber camps, pot luck suppers, airline meals, farmers' markets and great banquets, wherever large groups gather to eat and drink. The program is full and diverse, too lengthy for our newsletter. Further details can be obtained from the Ontario Historical Society, 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale, Ont, M2N 3Y2. You can also phone (416) 226-9011 or fax 226-2740. The full package costs \$195, the basic package \$125. Bon appetit!

## **SESQUICENTENNIAL LARGESSE**

The gallant efforts of Bill and Barbara Fittsell, Christopher Rosser and others to sell our famous toonies has paid off handsomely in the budget for other enterprises:

City Hall pictures	\$1000
Murney Tower	\$3000
Molly Brant	\$3000
Heritage Fair	\$2000
Vosper Photo Prints	\$500
City Hall Plaque	\$300
Investment	\$20,000 and counting

## **BROCKVILLE ANTIQUE SHOW**

On April 26 to 28 the Brockville & District Historical Society will hold its annual antique show and sale at the Brockville Country Club. I have no idea where the Brockville Country Club is, but if you see cars approaching with Boston rockers lashed to the roof, it is probably somewhere behind them.

## **SLEUTHING IN SCOTLAND**

George Henderson advises us of the 14th Annual Queen's Archives Lecture on Thursday 18 April at 3.30 pm. The guest speaker will be the distinguished art historian Professor Emeritus Gerald E. Findley who will lecture about Archival Sleuthing in Scotland: On the Trail of J.M.W. Turner. The event will be held in the Lecture Theatre, Room 102 Humphrey Hall. There will be a reception afterward in the archives reading room, Kathleen Ryan Hall. These lectures are always stimulating to the intellect; the company afterward most congenial.



## JOHNSON HALL

The home of Molly Brant between 1763 and 1776 was Johnson Hall, now a beautifully restored estate in Johnstown, New York. It was built by Sir William Johnson, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern Department, as both home and office. She was his second wife, and they had eight children there. He died in 1774. The family was forced to flee their home in 1776.

Today it is authentically furnished with both Georgian and Iroquois artifacts. It is well worth a visit, not all that far from Kingston. Curator is Bonnie Pulis who can be reached at (518) 762-8712. The mailing address is Johnson Hall State Historic Site, Hall Avenue, Johnstown, NY 12095. We thought you might like to see what it looks like.

