



Vol.23 No.6  
1 September 1996

James Warren  
Editor

### GEORGE KENYON RUTHERFORD

It is with deep shock and sadness that we note the sudden accidental death of our dear colleague Ken Rutherford on 25 August 1996. As Vice President of our Society, Dr. Rutherford played a pivotal role in the success of our Murney Tower Museum. His wise counsel and gentle humour added much to our executive meetings. But it is his warm friendship that will be most deeply missed by fellow members.

Born in Christchurch, New Zealand, he received a degree in Geology and Chemistry there, continued his education in Australia and Cambridge, and received his doctorate in soil sciences in Norway. He carried out land resource surveys in South America, the Caribbean, New Guinea, Australia and Nepal. At Queen's, he was Professor Emeritus in Geography.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Anne-Marie and to his family here and abroad.

### OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING

For our September meeting, we welcome Dr. Charles R.R. Hayter, Radiation Oncologist with the Kingston Regional Cancer Centre, who will give a talk entitled "A Soldier, a Singer and a Shadowgraph: The Arrival of X-rays in Kingston". Born in England, Dr. Hayter grew up in Winnipeg, graduated with a BA from

Queen's in 1974, then did graduate work in drama before entering medical school, getting his MD from Queen's in 1984. Specializing in radiation oncology, he is now both a staff oncologist and assistant professor with particular interest in prostate cancer and the history of radiotherapy and cancer control.

Some may remember Dr. Hayter's talk to our Society in 1978 about a Victorian actor's reminiscences of Kingston.

The meeting is on Wednesday 18 September at 7.30 pm in the Wilson Room, upstairs in the Kingston Public Library.

### MOLLY BRANT IS CELEBRATED

From 2 until 7 pm on Sunday 25 August, more than two hundred people from Kingston and Tyendinaga commemorated the life of Kon Watsi Tsialenni (1736-1796), our Molly Brant, in services at St. George's Cathedral, St. Paul's Church and the site of her former home, now the Rideaucrest Home. Here, a plaque, stone cairn and a bust of Molly were unveiled, the latter the work of Kingston sculptor John Boxtel. Since no portrait exists of Molly Brant, Boxtel took as his model Mohawk Kaneitohawi, Rachael Claus, now a Queen's student, but also an eighth generation descendant of Molly's brother Joseph.

While speeches went on forever, the highlights were the laying of wreaths at Molly's grave, the sweetgrass ceremony conducted by Mohawk Elder Ernie Benedict, a welcome dance by the Quinte Mohawk



dancers, the singing of Oh Canada in Mohawk by Charles Maracle, and in rousing English by the assembled company, and a prayer by Mohawk elder Eva Maracle, who will be one hundred years of age on 6 October.

While many were involved in planning the occasion, it was largely the enthusiastic efforts of Wally Breck which saw the idea through to fruition. We commend you, Wally.

We must also remind you of the book 'The Three Faces of Molly Brant' by Earle Thomas, to be published shortly by Quarry Press. Look for it in your book store.

### **SIR JOHN REMEMBERED**

Our annual service to commemorate the life of Sir John A. Macdonald was held in Cataract Cemetery on 6 June with guest speaker our Mayor Gary Bennett. Arrangements are made each year by George Henderson and a small but dedicated committee.

With less reverence, the Grand Theatre presented a curiously comic opera 'Sir John, Eh?' which juxtaposed a reincarnated Sir John and his family with a noisesome and cynical female punk of today.

It was more curious than comic, though actor Damon Redfern made a creditable portrayal of our first prime minister.

### **HERITAGE FAIR VOLUNTEERS**

The Kingston Regional Heritage Fair, held last May 23 and 24, was a great success. Over 1300 students were directly involved in some 300 historical projects. An estimated 6000 students and 1000 adults attended the fair over the two days. Forty-five community groups, including our Society, set up interactive exhibits, offered workshops and contributed

their time and effort.

Our exhibit consisted of a 7'x 8' mural of the 1878 birdseye view of Kingston, in front of which artist Don Connolly's lifesize cutout portrait of Sir John A. Macdonald greeted visitors who could be photographed shaking his hand. Press photos hit the front page of the Whig and the Globe and Mail.

We would like to thank those of our members who volunteered to attend our exhibit: Bill Fittell, Joe Boucher, Lou Grimshaw, Ted and Amy Storey, Desmond O'Meara, Marjorie Simmons, Shirley Gibson-Langille and Fred McConnell.

### **PORTSMOUTH IN PICTURES**

Dr. Jennifer McKendry, architectural historian, author and photographer, invites us all to the opening of her photographic exhibition of Portsmouth Village from 2 to 4 pm on Saturday 5 October in the upstairs foyer, Kingston Public Library.

Remember, too, that Jennifer will address our Society and the Frontenac Historic Foundation with further pictures on Wednesday 16 October at 7.30 pm during our regular meeting, in the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library.

Portsmouth is enjoying a revival with restored homes, craft shops, tea rooms, houses abuilding and the annual visit of sailors from around the world to CORK. Jennifer's photographs will be a crowning touch.

### **NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS**

We add our congratulations to two distinguished members of our Society. Dr. Jane Errington has received the J.J. Talman Award from the Ontario Historical Society for her book *Wives and Mothers, School Mistresses and*



Scullery Maids: Working Women in Upper Canada 1790-1840.

Dr. Thomas Stewart Webster has received the Distinguished Service Award from Queen's University. Dr. Webster began his career as a rural school teacher in the dirty thirties, earning two degrees by degrees from Queen's and his doctorate in Chicago. A distinguished historian and scholar of Sir John A. Macdonald and Napoleon, he also served as Dean of Student Affairs during the turbulent sixties and, in retirement, put names to faces in 175 alumni photos from the war years.

### **KINGSTON PLAQUE**

While Kingston probably has more plaques per square mile than any other community in Canada, it has never had a plaque about itself. This is to be remedied. A plaque will soon appear directly across from City Hall:

#### **Kingston A City Since 1846**

Successively an Indian encampment, a French fort and a trading post, a United Empire Loyalist settlement and a British Garrison town, Kingston owed its continuing military and commercial importance to its strategic position at the head of the St Lawrence River and the foot of the Great Lakes. Founded as Cataraqui in 1673, it became known as Kingston in 1788. It was the site of the first school and the first successful daily newspaper in Upper Canada. From 1841 to 1844 Kingston was the capital of the United Province of Canada. Late in the nineteenth century Kingston declined as a port and transportation centre; it has become a city of institutions and service industries—recreation, education, military, penal and health care.

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The French translation appears below the English in lettering of the same size, Quebec please note. The ceremony to accompany the installation should take place in October.

### **IRISH FAMINE COMMEMORATION**

In the early 1840s, rapid growth in the Irish population whose chief diet was the potato, was met by a devastating potato blight that virtually wiped out the crop. The result was massive starvation, made worse by outbreaks of typhus and cholera. Thousands emigrated to Australia and Canada; the United States closed its doors in 1847. Some twenty thousand emigrants died en route to Canada aboard ship or in the quarantine station at Grosse Isle in the St Lawrence. For many who survived, Kingston became a staging area for those intending to settle in the hinterland. Many of them contracted cholera, overwhelming the facilities in Kingston despite the efforts of Roman Catholic charitable groups and local hospitals. Some 1400 were buried in a common grave.

An Irish Famine Commemoration Committee has been formed to carry out historical research, publish books and raise funds for a Celtic Cross to be erected along the waterfront in memory of those unfortunate Irish, many of whom died unknown. If you are interested and would like to help, call or write Tony O'Loughlin, 107-1010 Pembroke Crescent, Kingston K7P 1A3, or phone him at 389-0754.