



Vol. 24 No.5
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James Warren
Editor

KGH AS A NATIONAL TREASURE

For our next and last regular meeting before a summer break, we welcome Dr. James Low, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Kingston General Hospital, who will discuss the 1995 designation of the original hospital building as one of historical and architectural significance by the Historical Sites Board. It has been one of the longest-serving continuously-operating hospital buildings from its founding as a charitable institution to its present role as an active treatment centre.

The meeting is on Wednesday 21 May at 7.30 pm in the Wilson Room, downtown Public Library, 130 Johnson Street. Please come and bring a friend. Guests are always welcome.

Our next Council Meeting will be at Fort Frontenac on 14 May at 7.30 pm.

SIR JOHN A. LIVES AGAIN!

On Friday 6 June we conduct our annual celebration of the life of Sir John A. Macdonald, our first Prime Minister and the chief architect of confederation. The service will be held at Sir John's grave site in Cataraqui Cemetery, attended by local officials, the Fort Henry Guard and, we trust, many of our loyal members. The guest speaker will be the Reeve of Kingston Township, Isobel Turner. Will she be able to resist an analogy between Sir John and confederation on the one hand and municipal amalgamation on the other?

MURNEY TOWER REOPENS

After a major restoration, new sidewalk, fresh sod, monumental housecleaning and bilingual exhibits, the sterling efforts of the Murney Tower Committee and fresh-faced members of the summer's Interpretive Staff will be revealed to a breathless world on Thursday 15 May 1997. Open seven days a week, 10 am to 5 pm, free to our members, we welcome back Chief Interpreter Sarah Gibson and new Interpreters Elizabeth Christie of Napanee and Trent University, and Sven Walker of Kingston and York University, the cream of 47 highly-qualified applicants. We wish them well as they further their careers.

HERITAGE FAIR IS BACK AGAIN

The third annual Kingston Regional Heritage Fair will be held once again at Royal Military College. The dates are Thursday 22 and Friday 23 May. Some 72 people are involved in the planning. Last year, over 1300 students were directly involved in projects for the fair. Some 6000 students and 1000 adults attended. This year we will instal the same display as before, a smiling, life-size Sir John A. Macdonald against an 1875 backdrop of Kingston., our continuous slide show and a slightly more aggressive effort to sell our publications. We do need your help to attend our booth, greet visitors, sell books and encourage membership in our Society. I will help with suitable posters, written instructions and, of course, in setting up the exhibition. Please phone me now if you can spare a two-hour stint during the show. Call me at 544-7410. Thank you.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

We are unhappy to report that our dear President Joe Boucher has had to retire until the Fall due to ill health. Wally Breck, a Past President and member of our Council has also sent in his resignation. We extend our very kindest wishes that both may regain a measure of good health. We miss them. In Joe's absence, Vice President Lou Grimshaw is holding the reins as acting President.

Meanwhile, Bea Corbett on our Council is setting up a telephone reminder list to extend a more personal encouragement to members to join us at meetings. She will need volunteers.

Talking about volunteers, there is **increasing urgency** in seeking people to help out with **membership, executive secretarial and publicity** duties. Please volunteer. We are a warmly congenial bunch on the executive and we would enjoy your company. Call Lou Grimshaw now at 549-2500.

OUR ARCHIVES EMERGE

With the assistance of Paul Banfield and George Henderson of Queen's Archives and our own efforts, we have identified the ownership of most of the furniture in our 'Heritage Room'. Most of the filing cabinets belong to Queen's, but we hope we can borrow some for our own storage. Other bulkier furniture may be able to be disposed of, freeing space for a more orderly and efficient use of the room for our own ancient Minute books, maps, pictures and other archival material. One useful piece is a 4' x 8' table which will facilitate the sorting and filing of valuable papers for easier accessibility. We deeply appreciate Queen's Archives' cheerful assistance.

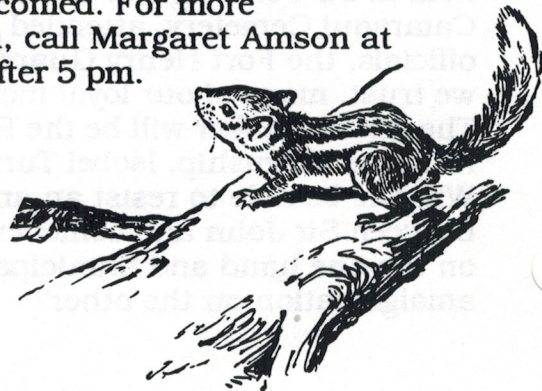
LAND REGISTRY RECORDS

Last month we reported the provincial governments' intention soon to destroy original land registry records and related documents, relying on microfilm and computer copies. We are pleased to report that through the prompt voluntary efforts of the civilian group APOLROD, our political leaders have agreed to extend the destructive deadline for two years, permitting voluntary historic associations to inventory, sort and arrange for alternative storage of the priceless originals. Moreover, APOLROD has prepared guidelines and forms to facilitate this task, an action which has earned the admiration of the minister responsible for land registry.

Paul Woodrow of the Ontario Genealogical Society is busy putting together a local band of volunteers to deal with the Registry Office here in Kingston, with a meeting tentatively set for 10 May. If you share our concern for saving these historical records, please call Paul at 384-4275 and join us.

KINGSTON GENEALOGISTS

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library, Saturday 10 May at 9.45 am. Kathy Staples will speak on 'Resources for Genealogists at the Loyalist Cultural Centre in Adolphustown'. Visitors are always warmly welcomed. For more information, call Margaret Amson at 389-1503 after 5 pm.



MUSIC LOVER'S HOUSE TOUR

The Kingston Symphony Association announces its second annual Music Lover's House Tour. Nine unique homes and a church in historic Kingston and Portsmouth Village will be opened, to those with passbooks, from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday 24 May. Musicians will entertain for an hour of the afternoon in each place.

Your passbook will provide a map of the various sites, brief historical and architectural notes and a picture of each building. They are available for \$20 from the Grand Theatre Box Office 218 Princess Street; Tourist Information Office 209 Ontario Street; Uniglobe Bennett Travel 855 Norwest Road; Reid & Siemonsen Design Group 27 Place d'Armes or the Kingston Symphony Association 77 Brock Street

At **St. John's Anglican Church** (1849-50) at 41 Church Street in Portsmouth, lunches will be served between 11 and 2.

St. John's Rectory (1855) at 176 Mowat Avenue.

At the **Penthouse**, a modern condominium at 1000 King Street West, high above Portsmouth, Virginia and John Gordon will present an aerial view of Lake Ontario.

Wesley Terrace (1856) 272 Johnson Street.

Belvedere Hotel (1880) 141 King Street East.

Murney House (1841) at 53 King Street East.

Elmhurst (1852) at 26 Centre Street.

The Chimneys (1856) at 56 Alwington Avenue.

McLeod House (1842) at 42 Kennedy Street.

Gervan House (wartime bungalow) at 256 Mowat Avenue.

This fine effort by the Volunteer Committee of the Kingston Symphony Association helps to raise funds for the Symphony and Youth Orchestras as well as the Kingston Choral Society.

MOLLY BRANT BOOK

Earl Thomas' book *The Three Faces of Molly Brant* has been most successful in the booksellers. There is even thought of another printing run. One of its attractive features is an extensive collection of illustrations. Pop in and buy your copy now, or buy another for a friend.

INTO THE SILENT LAND

Jennifer McKendry is at work on a book about garden cemeteries, those delightful parks with curved roads and paths, specimen trees, statuary, flower beds, urns and grave stones, an early example of which is the 1850 Cataraqui Cemetery near Kingston. Others were developed in Hamilton, St. Catharines, Ottawa, Toronto, London, Stratford, Belleville and Picton. Jennifer invites your relevant photographs, plans and histories. Call her at 544-9535 and look forward to the book.

FOR ALL TRUE LOYALISTS

Prepare now for Loyalist Day on Thursday 12 June. Fly the first Union Flag of 1606, combining the Cross of St. George for England and the Cross of St. Andrew for Scotland, the flag under which Loyalists were driven from their homes by American rebels in the 1770s. Officially called the United Empire Loyalists' Flag after 1974, they can be purchased in Kingston from Canadian Church Supply, 79 Princess Street, 544-3346.

GOD SAVE QUEEN VICTORIA

When I was a small boy, I attended a two-room brick schoolhouse, SS No. 5 on a wooded hill surrounded by pasture and fruit farms, now buried beneath Mississauga, Ontario. While the portrait of King George V and Queen Mary hung above the blackboard, it was the spirit of Queen Victoria and the British Empire that haunted the classroom. With the coming of spring, melting snows provided the freshet that carried our makeshift boats along the 'crick' that ran towards home. By mid-May we were ready for a break from classes and the treble voices of students could be heard as we scuffed out through the cinders in the school yard:

"It's the twenty-fourth of May,
The Queen's birth day.
If we don't get a holiday,
We'll all run away!"

We are no longer small boys and girls, quite a few springs have passed, but may we all have a happy summer, a holiday, and we'll all run away.



ANTHONY JENKINS/The Globe and Mail

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Enclosed with this newsletter is your opportunity to nominate one of our members or a worthy person or group to receive the Kingston Historical Society's annual Award. Give it some thought, write down your comments in support of the nomination and send them in to Awards Chairman Jack Pike, 150 Macdonnell Street, Kingston K7L 4B8. You can call him for details at 546-9187. The deadline for nominations, by the way, is the first of September. Awards are presented at our Christmas meeting.

GREAT BOOKS FOR SALE

As V.P.Publications, I intend to hound every Society member until she or he has a full library of the Society's publications. Many old Historic Kingstons are still in stock, each filled with fascinating accounts of Kingston's people, places and events, perfect for summer cottage reading or gifts for friends. To complete your set, here is the current inventory. I will have an assortment of a dozen or so at each meeting, my grasping hand outreached. Books are \$5. vignettes only \$1. Or send your order to Margaret Burdsall at 960 Killarney Cres. Kingston K7M 8C6, who will tack on postage charges.

Index to Vols. 1 to 20	23 in stock
21 to 25	21
26 to 33	none
34 to 44	175

Index to Story of Old Kingston 9

Sir John A. Macdonald
1815 - 1891 A Remembrance 19

In the following inventory of Historic Kingston, the date of publication is the year after lectures were delivered.

Volumes of Historic Kingston:

1 1952	No more in stock
2 1953	4 in stock
3 1954	3
4 1955	4
5 1956	0
6 1957	0
7 1958	0
8 1959	0
9 1960	2
10 1961	5
11 1962	0
12 1963	0
13 1964	0
14 1965	0
15 1966	3
16 1967	2
17 1968	1
18 1969	2
19 1970	4
20 1971	6
21 1972	17
22 1973	4
23 1974	47
24 1975	3
25 1976	9
26 1977	86
27 1978	1
28 1979	5
29 1980	2
30 1981	2
31 1982	6
32 1983	38
33 1984	12
34 1985	2
35 1986	34
36 1987	10
37 1988	2
38 1989	3
39 1990	3
40 1991	35
41 1992	15
42 1993	18
43 1994	4
44 1995	12
45 1996	In stock at \$20. post paid.

No GST yet on Society publications!



STELLA BUCK BUILDING STATUS

The historic Stella Buck building, home of the Archaeological Research Foundation, was threatened with self-destruction in 1993 and with it the future of Kingston's archaeological facilities and more than a million artifacts collected since 1986. A team of us worked with the City Parks Department to find funds to have the building repaired before it collapsed.

The structural repairs to old stonework was completed by Hans and Michael Mason Contractors in the fall of 1996, supervised by Roney Engineering.

Meanwhile, a toxic substances survey was carried out in 1996. Bad news again. Asbestos and lead-based paint were discovered by Water & Earth Science Associates Ltd. Price tag: \$100,000. Corrective action is underway.

Alexander Wilson Architects are designing and supervising internal demolition and renovations to include plumbing, electrical and mechanical upgrades, entrance accessibility, main stairwell enclosure, insulation, fire alarms and sprinklers and interior walls, to make the building attractive to prospective tenants.

On 22 February, gale force winds blew a portion of the west roof off, flattening a parked car but without injuring anyone. Insurance did not cover the damage. Ricardo Roofing are carrying out repairs.

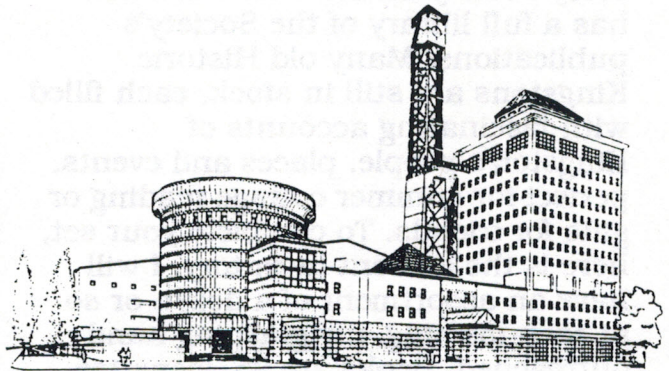
The original Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Grant of \$553,500. will be reduced to zero with these expenditures. However, a historic building will have been saved.

STUDY ARCHITECTURE IN CANADA

The Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada is a registered charitable organization, founded in 1974 to encourage a better knowledge of Canadian architecture including buildings, streetscapes, cities and the countryside from both a historical and cultural perspective.

Through scholarly publications, its newsletter and its annual meetings in different parts of the country it brings together architects, archivists, geographers, folklorists, historians, planners and public servants for their mutual benefit.

Membership is \$40. payable to the Society at PO Box 2302, Station D Ottawa, Ont. K1A 5W5.



You can see the need for knowledge!

