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Editor

SHOULD WE LET IT DIE?

The diminishing number of volunteers needed to keep the Kingston Historical Society afloat is placing an unfair burden on the handful of members who are doing all the work. Many older members have done more than their share in the past and, now in their seventies and eighties, should not be expected to continue to assume leadership roles. Death, disability and other interests have decimated our excellent cadre of current officers.

The membership fees of other members are much appreciated but, without more help, there is the distinct possibility that our 104 year old Society may die. This would be a sad finale to the century of effort our Society has made to preserve and propagate our history, a history badly neglected in our schools.

ACTING PRESIDENT UNAVAILABLE

With Joe Boucher's resignation due to ill health, Lou Grimshaw bravely took on the job of Acting President. But in retirement, Lou has his militaria business to manage along with consultant duties for the military. He has announced that he must withdraw from active participation in the Society at the end of this year.

MEMBERSHIP NEEDS HELP

Desmond O'Meara, who is already our Treasurer, has agreed to help in keeping our membership list up to date, as well as other responsibilities

of the empty Membership Chair. Those duties include invoicing our members (mailed through the newsletter), checking obituaries and recruiting new members.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Lou Grimshaw has done a champion job of arranging guest speakers a year ahead, introducing and thanking each. With his retirement, the search for speakers has become a little desperate, as some have commented. Treasurer Desmond O'Meara, Past President Bill Fittell and Marjorie Simmons have become an ad hoc committee to fill in the empty Program Chair until the end of the year. Fortunately, they have matters under control, as you shall hear:

OCTOBER MEETING

Our speaker at the October meeting will be Michael Dawber who will share his knowledge of the unusual place names of Lennox and Addington County. Many have enjoyed the book the Old Ontario Strand which he co-wrote with Bill Fittell. The meeting is on Wednesday 15 October at 7.30 pm in the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library, 130 Johnson Street. Please come and bring a friend.

One week earlier, on 8 October, the long-suffering Executive and Council meets at 7.30 in Fort Frontenac, Room 111 in the Bradstreet Block.

PUBLICITY CHAIR

Our Society has long needed more effective publicity, not only to promote attendance at our meetings, but to recruit new members. While none has come forward to take on the responsibilities of Chair, we are pleased that Margaret O'Meara has agreed to ensure that announcement of meetings will appear in the media.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Ed Grenda has been an effective Vice President Museums, serving as Chair of the Murney Tower Committee, a major responsibility. He, too, has been doubling as Secretary for our Executive Meetings, a chore of which he would like to be relieved. Bill Fittsell has agreed to fill in for now, bless him.

PUBLICATIONS

During the summer, Sarah Gibson noted the need for a colouring book for children visiting Murney Tower, and asked me for help. I loaned her my three-volume Picture Gallery of Canadian History, suggesting its author-illustrator Charles W. Jeffreys (1869-1951) would be the perfect illustrator. His charming and historically accurate pen and ink drawings enriched school history books for several generations. I confess that they got me hooked on history when I was a boy.

The copyright on Jeffreys' work is now held by the National Archives, and I have written them for permission to use his work for the colouring book. I also wrote to Mrs. Elizabeth Fee in Toronto, Jeffreys' daughter, to obtain her blessing. I am hopeful that we will be successful.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

There is somewhat happier news in the Council which works with our Executive Officers. With the retirement of Wally Breck, we are happy to welcome Stewart Renfrew and Terry Hicks to our ranks. They will join other Councillors Marjorie Simmons, Bea Corbett, Doug Petty and Jack Pike, all of whom work very diligently for the Society.

HISTORICAL AMALGAMATION

Jennifer McKendry has very sensibly put forward the idea that our Society should amalgamate with the Frontenac Historic Foundation forming a new organization, the Frontenac Historical Society. She states:

"KHS members have a deep interest in architecture, and who among the FHF members would deny the importance of history? Let us draw upon one pool for directors, officers and fund-raisers. One newsletter. One annual publication. One meeting every two months (including the summer? Perhaps a relaxed affair with a walking tour or garden party). Costs are thereby reduced and hopefully audiences increased. Less cost for those members in both organizations. One focus for publicity and lobbying. Less confusion for the public and media, who tend to muddle the names. One super booth at the Heritage Fair!" Jennifer sees us drawing upon the larger area of Frontenac County for expanded membership.

While some remain opposed to the idea, it shows common sense and imagination, and deserves the close examination and attention of members in both organizations.

MORE STORAGE SPACE

Paul Banfield has helped us by arranging the removal of bulky and unwanted card file cabinets, belonging to Queen's, which have been stored in the attic room of their Archives. This will make it much easier to make our own archival material more accessible and in better order.

AT HOME IN UPPER CANADA

Jennifer McKendry will present her general interest (non credit) course on the houses and furnishings of 19th century Ontario with slides, discussion and field trips as a part of Queen's University Part-Time Studies. The course runs Tuesdays (usually) from 21 October to 16 December from 7 to 9 pm. The fee is \$130 including GST. For registration call 545-2471 or FAX 545-6903. How to research houses and properties will also be discussed.

A TO Z OF CANADIAN ART

This is the title of a useful new reference text by Blake McKendry encompassing the entire field of Canadian painting, sculpture, folk art, art terms and artists, some 2500 entries in alphabetical format with a bibliography of 1000 titles. Blake is an established authority on Canadian art, the decorative arts and folk art. The book has been edited and designed by Jennifer McKendry. At 242 pages, letter sized, it costs \$35.

COL. MARSHALL H. TWITCHELL

Little known today, Col. Twitchell was the Consul of the United States in Kingston from 1878 until his death here in 1905. With a remarkable but often tragic career as a union soldier during the Civil War, and as provost marshal for the American government afterward in the angry south, he suffered injury and persecution.

He was very popular in Kingston where he became president of the Kingston Historical Society a year before his death. We hope you can read the whole story in *Historic Kingston*.

CANNON FOR SALE

While we do not usually include commercial advertising in our newsletter, we could not ignore this one with its historical connection.

Bob White, a neighbour of mine at 11 Richard Street in Portsmouth, is offering for sale a 3/4 scale replica of a 7 pounder army cannon of late 18th century vintage. It actually fires, but with the shortage of iron balls, Bob arms it with concrete-filled soup cans, firing it out into Lake Ontario. This not only discourages American naval attacks but disposes of unwanted soup cans. You can see the cannon on his front lawn or telephone him at 545-0542. He is asking \$4000.

