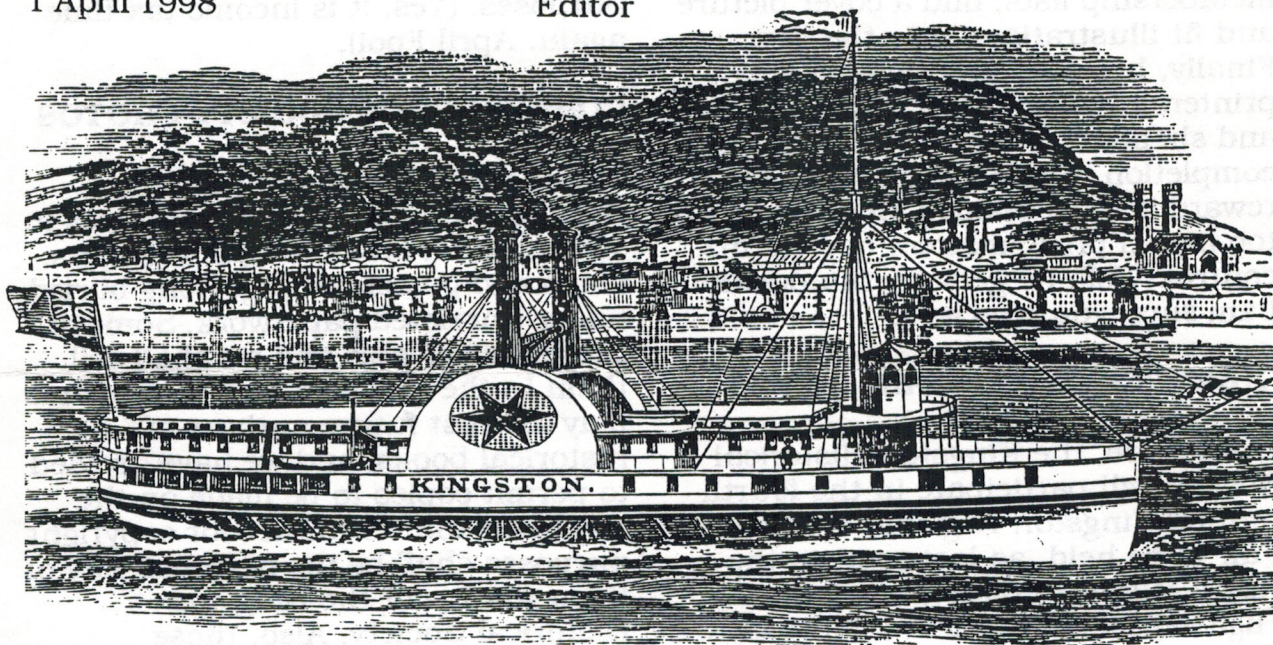




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James Warren
Editor



THE STORY OF THE KINGSTON

For our April meeting, we are delighted to welcome back Rick Neilson who will present the colourful story of the 1854 steamer Kingston which served the Prince of Wales on his visit to Upper and Lower Canada in 1860 and is now a dive site.

Rick is a ten-year member of our Society and a Life Member of the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston. He has been a certified diver since 1971 and has written articles on marine history in Freshwater and Diver magazines and a talk about black businessman George Mink to our Society last February.

The meeting is at 7:30 pm, Wed. 15 April in the Wilson Room, Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson Street, downtown. Guests are always warmly welcomed, and there are refreshments to enjoy.

OUR MARCH MEETING

Jonathan Moore's talk in March about the LaSalle Causeway, Warf and Bridge was most interesting, including a presentation of original construction drawings and old photographs at different stages of construction. It covered the more recent history of the causeway from the turn of the century to the present. Attendance was nearly seventy. Well done, Jonathan.

HISTORIC KINGSTON

Editor Donald Redmond's annual compilation of papers presented to our Society in 1997 should appear in your mailbox shortly. His job is not an easy one. First, he must pursue speakers to ensure that a printed copy of their talk can be published in Historic Kingston. Then he must ensure that the piece is typographically and

syntactically correct. Then, if necessary, he must make it readable; not all historians are graceful writers, as many can testify. Then he must add a contents page, the executive and membership lists, find a cover picture and fit illustrations into the text. Finally, he must negotiate with printers to get an advantageous price and shepherd the thing through to completion, ready for mailing. His reward is to be blamed for lateness or too high a price, matters beyond his control. Well, he gets my thanks and, I am sure, yours as well.

HERITAGE FAIR AGAIN

Once more, the Kingston Historical Society will participate in the fourth annual Kingston Regional Heritage Fair to be held, as last year, in the Royal Military College, north of Highway 2. The dates are Thursday 21 and Friday 22 May. The hours of the Fair will be 12 to 7 pm on Thursday and from 9 until 2 pm on Friday. It is not too early for you to volunteer enthusiastically to staff our booth for a two-hour stretch, charming little kiddies into an interest in local history.

Last year, the Fair was an enormous success with participation and visits from 6000 students and 1000 adults. Don't miss it this year.

HAIL THE TREASURER!

We are delighted to announce that Society member George Dillon has volunteered to become our Treasurer. As Chair of the Financial Committee, he has the capable assistance of Alan Cohoe and Mary Clarke. George's phone number is 542-6519. We extend our thanks for the excellent job that Desmond O'Meara has done as Treasurer until now. What better way

to show our thanks than to make a generous donation to the Society, over and above your membership fees. Last year, \$865. was donated. Benefactors will receive a receipt for income tax purposes. (Yes, it is income tax time again. April Fool).

COPYRIGHT ON SOCIETY PHOTOS

In our ongoing effort to put our Heritage Room at Queen's Archives in some kind of order, old photographs, maps and posters emerge, long buried under unrelated paperwork. Some of these are saleable and we shall sell them in the Heritage Fair. Old photos may interest future authors of historical books, and we have decided to permit copies to be made on the condition that clearance for copyright purposes shall be the responsibility of the author, not the Kingston Historical Society. Also, those photographs which the Society owns may be copied on condition that the following credit is given: "Photo: Kingston Historical Society".

VOLUNTEERS NOMINATED

The provincial Ministry of Citizenship and Culture makes Volunteer Service Awards to worthy individuals nominated by their mother societies. Your Executive has been pleased to nominate George Henderson and Fred McConnell for 20 year awards, and Peter Gray, Desmond O'Meara and Doug Petty for 5 year awards. We salute their noble efforts.

HOUSE HISTORY HUNTING

Those of us with elderly abodes often seek to learn their history. An excellent guide is the little book 'The Complete House Detective' written by Donalda Badone, published by the

Boston Mills Press in 1988. It is the story of the author's search for the history of her own home in Willowdale, well illustrated with maps, posters, documents and sources of historical information in Ontario. She also provides a chart of types and varieties of early Ontario homes with photographic examples, her research methods and a bibliography.

Also useful and closer to home is Jennifer McKendry's article, 'Researching Historic Properties', which appeared in the newsletter of the Frontenac Historic Foundation on its 25th anniversary. She can be reached at 544-9535.

YOUR EDITOR IS ON THE NET

One of our younger members, Jonathan Warren, aged 12, has assisted his grandfather, your humble editor, in installing The Net, E-Mail and heaven knows what all on his trusty Macintosh LC575. Jonathan's next job will be to explain to grandpa how these sophisticated methods of communication actually work. Whether the editor can master them or not, their colourful icons instil a fierce pride to the human spirit. It is much like the television antennas of the fifties which appeared on rooftops before there was a TV set inside.

MURNEY TOWER UPDATE

Many of us may be unaware that 'our' Murney Tower Museum is owned and maintained by Parks Canada. This summer, they will conduct an archaeological dig at its base, repairing the south scarp and extending the roof slightly so that rain water will not drool onto the stone walls below and freeze.

Meanwhile, we can announce that the summer staff of the museum

will consist of Elizabeth Christie as Chief Interpreter, assisted by Interpreters Jane Griska and Dominique Clement. More details in the May newsletter.

HISTORY AT KINGSTON CITY HALL

With the amalgamation of Kingston with its neighbouring townships there was a need to collect, preserve and organize the historical artifacts and records which have accumulated in City Hall. Answer: a new Archives and Records Committee for the City of Kingston, with a contingent of civilian volunteers. Our Vice President Ed Grenda has been appointed Vice Chairman of this committee. We also commend Bob Cardwell of the Pittsburgh Historical Society as another of its members.

GENEALOGISTS MEETING

Our brethern and sistern in the Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society have their regular meeting in the Wilson Room of Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson Street on Saturday 18 April at 9:45 in the morning. The speaker is Jane Foster of the Lennox & Addington County Museum. Her topic: Early settlers of Bath and researching their museum. As at our meetings, visitors are always welcome.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The Society's attempts to more sharply clarify the responsibilities and duties of its committees has at least two objectives: to ensure that the work is carried out effectively, and to give candidates for new posts a better idea of what is involved.

As Chair of the Program Committee, Jim Warren with Marjorie

Simmons, Audrie Cossar and Shirley Gibson- Longille, is putting together a Programs Guidebook setting out its terms of reference, schedule of meetings, floor plans of meeting places, guidelines for speakers, sources of program material, annual reports from recent years and the costs involved. While the job isn't finished yet, we are hoping that Team Program will have a successful year.

PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES

Desmond O'Meara has been most helpful to Publications Chair Jim Warren in seeking ways to bring down the cost of Society publications and their distribution. The Publications Committee includes Don Redmond, Margaret Burdsall and liaison with Publicity Chair Margaret Moore O'Meara.

Publication activities extend beyond Historic Kingston, our THEN newsletter and the vignettes to include exhibitions like the Heritage Fair, our slide collection storage and projection cabinet and the design of our various brochures, business forms and stationery.

A Publications Guidebook is also in preparation.

OUR MEMBERS

We regret the passing of a long time member of the Kingston Historical Society, Kathryn Billings. We wish her well on her journey beyond.

HELP SAVE THE DIEU

In 1841, the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph of Notre Dame Convent in Montreal sent Sister Amable Bourbonnière to Kingston to establish a boarding school for the Catholic education of young girls. With the

help of four more nuns, they settled in two empty houses at 231 and 233 Brock Street in 1845. Their duties as teachers was to be expanded rapidly to provide care for the sick, orphans and destitute women.

Thousands of poor and sick Irish immigrants, fleeing the potato famine at home, flooded through Kingston on their way west, bringing an epidemic of cholera and typhus. By 1847, more than 1500 died in what was then a city of 8000.

Over the 153 years since they began their benevolent work in Kingston, the Sisters of Hotel Dieu built an institution and expanded medical services that are respected far beyond Kingston. Large sums have been invested in modernization over the past twenty years, \$5.6 million in just the last year and a half.

How inexpressively sad, then, that our provincial government has seen fit to close the hospital, discharge or scatter its dedicated staff and tear a hole in the lively fabric of downtown Kingston. We all need to help. Please write letters, sign petitions or send a cheque before 14 April to:

SAVE THE DIEU CAMPAIGN

c/o Hotel Dieu Hospital
166 Brock Street
Kingston, Ont. K7L 5G2

For more information, call 544-3400, extension 2025. Let us try to save it!

