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James Warren
Editor

CAN HISTORIANS COLLABORATE?

In our October meeting we present a panel discussion examining whether Kingston's various historical groups should work more closely together for their mutual benefit. The participants will be representatives of the Pittsburgh Historical Society, the Frontenac Historic Foundation, the United Empire Loyalists, the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation and the Kingston Historical Society. The moderator will be Jim Warren and we hope for your spirited discussion with all who attend.

The date is Wednesday 21 October at 7:30 pm in the Wilson Room, upstairs in the Kingston Frontenac Public Library, downtown at 130 Johnson Street. Members and friends of all historical groups are most welcome and share refreshments.

HISTORY IS BEING REVITALIZED

At our September meeting, Prof. John Fielding presented a strong case for the efforts being made, now, to teach Canadian and related history more effectively in the classroom. He demonstrated the technique of involving his students (ourselves!) in discovering the implications of historical events and debunked many of the presumptions about our strongly multicultural society. Finally, he described the excellent efforts of the C.R.Bronfman Foundation in promoting Canadian history.

HERITAGE MINUTES AND MORE

The CRB Foundation has initiated a variety of projects to remind us, and particularly students, of our rich but largely forgotten history:

Heritage Minutes appear regularly on television and in theatres, dramatically presenting highlights of our history. Though they cost the CRB Foundation and other sponsors many thousands of dollars to produce, you can buy all 60 of them on one video for \$25. To order: 1 (800) 567-1867.

We Are Canadians is a series of ten chronological kits for grades 7,8,9 which contain maps, photos, portraits, posters, diaries, videos, journals, student worksheets and teacher guides to stimulate student interest and role-playing. These are sold to primary schools.

Canadians in the Global Community consists of four more advanced multimedia kits for sale to high schools on the topics Images of Canada; War, Peace and Security; Sustaining our Environment and Decisions for Development.

Regional Heritage Fairs are held annually across Canada. Kingston has pioneered them and held the first National Heritage Fair last year. In these, thousands of students present displays of models, posters, songs, dances and their own video heritage minutes, competing for prizes.

The CRB Foundation must be commended for providing considerable seed money, sponsoring up-dated historical research, attracting other sponsors and providing attractive packages of its documentary material. For more details about the kits, write

Prentice Hall Ginn Canada,
1870 Birchmount Road
Scarborough, Ont. M1P 2J7

For prices or to arrange previews
of kits call toll free:
1-888-867-7772 or FAX (416) 297-2601

HERITAGE KINGSTON

Our newly amalgamated city of Kingston has established an advisory committee called Heritage Kingston. It is in essence, the former LACAC (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee) whose function was to provide advice to City Council and the public on the identification, protection and alterations to the city's heritage buildings and districts.

Its membership consists of 6 people appointed from the community and one member of Council. However all citizens are encouraged to submit their views on Heritage Kingston's role and how best it can protect our heritage. The Chair is Paul Ross, whose phone is 544-6739.

Kingston was the first municipality in Ontario to seek protective legislation in this regard, persuading the province to enact the Ontario Heritage Act in the mid-70s and carrying out an exhaustive survey of its heritage buildings. These were described in the plump six-volume series *Buildings of Architectural and Historic Significance*.

THE NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS

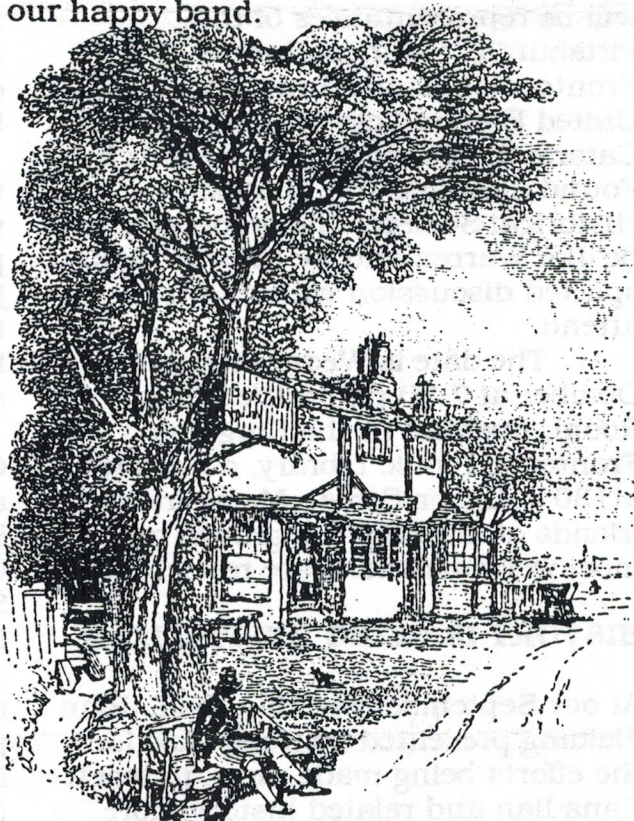
Three members of our Executive Council have indicated their intention to resign their duties in the new year.

Donald Redmond, who has served as editor of *Historic Kingston* for 12 years, will pack up his excellent work with publication of the 1999 issue.

Bruce Cossar, who has done a fine job as our Executive Secretary will discontinue his duties in January 1999, the end of the present term.

Jim Warren, Editor of this newsletter and a few other duties, will retire in January 2000 to pursue another career in creative work.

All of which indicates that our Society desperately needs cheerful volunteers like you to provide these and other duties if it is to continue to carry out its important work. If you cannot help, perhaps you can recruit talented, new young members to join our happy band.



ST. ANDREW SOCIETY CALLS

Douglas R.G. Smith calls upon all those of Scottish heritage to assist him in compiling a list of Scots who have made a distinguished contribution to Kingston's history in any field. You can reach him at 548-3727.

MURNEY TOWER SEASON IS OVER

Ed Grenda reports that the 1998 season has been about even with that of 1997 in both attendance and revenue. Its artifacts have been stored away for the winter by Curator Doug Petty who has also dealt with firearms registration under controversial Bill C68. Our rifle collection has also been given its annual cleaning and oiling, ready for any attacks upon Kingston.

WOLFE ISLAND HISTORY

Ms. Renie Marshall is undertaking a history of Wolfe Island, updating previous histories in 1964, 1967 and 1973. An experienced feature writer and poet, Renie would welcome contributions of unpublished historic material. You can reach her at P.O. Box 74, Wolfe Island, Ont. K0H 2Y0 or phone 385-1570.

TIME FOR MEMBERSHIP FEES

Enclosed for your kind consideration is an invoice for your membership fees for 1999. Payment by new members at this late date will cover the remainder of this year. Note that there is no income tax receipt for membership fees, it being the opinion of government that the services provided by our meetings and publications amount to equivalent value.

However, if you wish to make a generous financial contribution over and above membership, we shall be happy to issue a receipt promptly and gratefully.

Our invoice and a self-addressed envelope are enclosed. Please indicate whether your address has changed since last year, so we can correct the address list and keep you in touch.

COST OF HISTORIC KINGSTON

For almost a half-century, Historic Kingston has recorded the transactions of the Kingston Historical Society, enabling distant or infirm members to participate in our activities and providing historical resource material for libraries, schools and universities.

In 1997 (our latest figures) this publication cost \$6,217 to produce. Sales to institutions amounted to \$1,469.95. The remaining cost of \$4,747.78 is supported by the membership fees of our 236 members, or \$20.12 each. Since this is more than half the membership fee and some have suggested that our membership fees are too high to attract younger or older members on limited income, this has a bearing on the availability of 'new blood' to assume the various offices of our Society.

It should be noted that our present constitution requires that each member is entitled to a 'free' copy.

OUR ANNUAL AWARDS

The Kingston Historical Society Award is presented, from time to time, to worthy individuals, groups and institutions in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history.

Members of the Society are invited to nominate recipients for the award, using the enclosed nomination form. These should be mailed to the Award Committee, Kingston Historical Society, Box 54, Kingston, K7L 4V6.

From the President

The time has come when planning for the AGM gets the attention of the Council. The need to fill Executive and Council positions and to deal with financial issues looms large.

The good news is that the Society has some \$60,000 of reserves; a situation which many other societies would envy. The bad news is that regular income from dues, investments and Government grants falls short of regular expenses and hence we tend to erode these reserves. Perusal of the accounts for 1997 (Tables I & II) show this quite clearly.

We have a number of choices

- 1 Raise dues
 - 2 Reduce services e.g. fewer meetings and newsletters, curtail publications
 - 3 Change investment policy
 - 4 Periodic fund raising project such as the 1996 coin project
 - 5 Increase membership
- 1&2 To raise dues and/or reduce services is likely to be generally unacceptable and thus detrimental to the Society as a whole.
- 3 The reserves have been invested solely in GIC's (Table III) but, after much soul-searching, we have begun a limited (max. 30% of the total) program of investment in mutual funds in order to increase investment income over the long term.
- 4 The very successful 1996 Sesquicentennial coin project enabled us to carry out a number of activities in that year and at the same time strengthen our reserves. BUT we need new ideas and involvement from our members to identify and carry out such projects from time to time, the Millennium perhaps.
- 5 Recruitment of new members (18 in 1998!) is obviously of prime importance for the Society and therefore, we should all actively promote membership as and when the opportunity occurs.

At our next meeting on October 21st. there will be a panel discussion to explore how the various societies interested in history might co-operate or co-ordinate activities. However, it must be borne in mind that societies such as KHS, the Frontenac Historic Foundation, the Pittsburgh Historical Society etc. have quite different aims and structures and there is already considerable cross-membership. The discussion should be enlightening and hopefully, will lead to some new ideas and initiatives.

Nominations, 1998

Lou Grimshaw as Nominating Committee Chair has a very demanding task this year. Bruce Cossar has decided he cannot continue as Secretary; likewise after many years of service Don Redmond wishes to relinquish his duties as Editor, Historic Kingston, and Jim Warren has decided that 1999 will be his last year on the Executive. Jim currently covers several functions and part of Lou's challenge is to find individuals who can take some of Jim's load in 1999 while his experience is still available.

THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY DEPENDS HEAVILY ON SHARING THE LOAD INVOLVED IN RUNNING THE SOCIETY.

When contacted by the Nominating Committee please think carefully and say YES!
The initial commitment is only for one year.