



Vol.26 No.2
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James Warren
Editor

FOR OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Now that our societal world has returned to something approaching normal, we are pleased to welcome Gordon Smithson as speaker at our next meeting on 17 February. He has discovered a photo album from the 1930s and, with his customary diligence, identified a Kingston house, a school, aeroplane views, grain merchants, swimware, the waterfront and a luxurious houseboat. Our meeting will return to the Wilson Room, Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson Street 7:30 pm.

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Despite wind, snow and cold, 24 loyal members contributed to our January meeting in which annual reports and the election of the executive council were featured. Just as significant, some creative ideas were generated for the future of the Society. The names of our executive people and the programs for 1999 appear back-to-back, farther on in this newsletter.

President Desmond O'Meara raised questions which demand action in this new year:

How can our Society better fit in to the Kingston community?

How can we work more effectively with other heritage groups?

How can we work best with Heritage Kingston at City Hall?

Should we become involved in preserving heritage architecture and streetscapes?

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Kingston Historical Society now has 237 members, of whom 66 regular members have not yet paid their dues for 1999. Margaret and Bernard Burdsall are not amused; please bring joy to their hearts and strength to your Society by sending your cheque as soon as may be, and our blessings to the others. The various categories of membership follow:

Life Members	45
Honourary Patrons	5
Honourary Members	1
Institutional Members	10
Complimentary Members	3
Regular Members	173
TOTAL:	237

Life Members are those who contributed \$500 in the earlier years of the Society. Patrons include the Hon. Peter Milliken, MP, Kingston and the Islands

Hon. John Gerretson, MPP, Kingston and the Islands

His Worship Gary Bennett, Mayor of Kingston

Dr. William Leggett, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University

Brig. Gen. K.Hague, CD, Commandant, Royal Military College.

Institutional Members are those universities, schools and libraries who subscribe to receive our publications.

OBITUARIES

The Society notes with sorrow the passing of Life Member Syl Apps on Christmas Eve, a distinguished athlete, politician and benefactor.

Sadly, Member Marjorie Sylvester has lost her husband, Jack. Our sympathy to both families.

A WEB SITE FOR OUR SOCIETY

At our January meeting, Jennifer McKendry made a strong, convincing statement of the value of a web site to our Society, especially if we shared the cost and advantages with other heritage groups in Kingston. This would enable all of us to reach out to a broader and younger audience.

There was broad support for the idea at our meeting and to enable you to share her enthusiasm, we include Jennifer's entire message in this newsletter.

CHOO/COPO OTTAWA

Coincidentally, the Frontenac Heritage Foundation invited Cliff Scott, president, Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa (CHOO) to describe the nine year old, bilingual umbrella group he leads in Ottawa. It has had success in providing an opportunity for heritage groups to work together while maintaining their individual identity, promoting the conservation of the built, natural and cultural heritage of the national capital area.

Their bilingual newsletter (two editors) provides communication, while individual members produce cable TV programs, walking tours, publications, community activities and the monitoring of municipal, provincial and federal government activities that affect the heritage of the city.

The French name of the group is Conseil des organismes du patrimoine d'Ottawa (COPO). Thus CHOO/COPO. Its address is P.O.Box 7061, 250 Durocher St., Vanier, Ont. K1L 8E2.

Why not write for their brochure?

PLAQUE FOR ABERDEEN PARK

The Society executive has approved a plaque for Aberdeen Park in Portsmouth, a good example of cost sharing. Portsmouth Villagers will contribute \$300, Ontario Heritage will contribute \$400 with our Society picking up the rest, about \$400. The City of Kingston provides the park and will carry out the groundwork.

MURNEY TOWER REPORT

Vice President Ed Grenda reports that the name of our museum is now the Murney Tower National Historic Site, in line with its official identity with Parks Canada since 1973. It has also applied for affiliation with the Organization of Military Museums of Canada, involving a memorandum of understanding with the Canadian War Museum. This should broaden our outreach to military historians and allow us to benefit more closely from the resources of the national body.

Seven thousand four hundred people attended the tower this year, many from Quebec, the United States, Germany and Canadian classrooms. Revenue included operating grants of \$2000 from the City of Kingston and \$2750 from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation.

Two highlights of the season were an *Open House* for Society members on 28 May 1998. Forty attended. Also *Defending the Decades: Military Re-Enactment Day* on 15 August 1998, in which static and active exhibits traced the history of the Canadian military from the 1700s to World War II.

Finally, archaeologists uncovered a buried drainage ditch and small artifacts during repairs to the 150 year old foundation masonry.

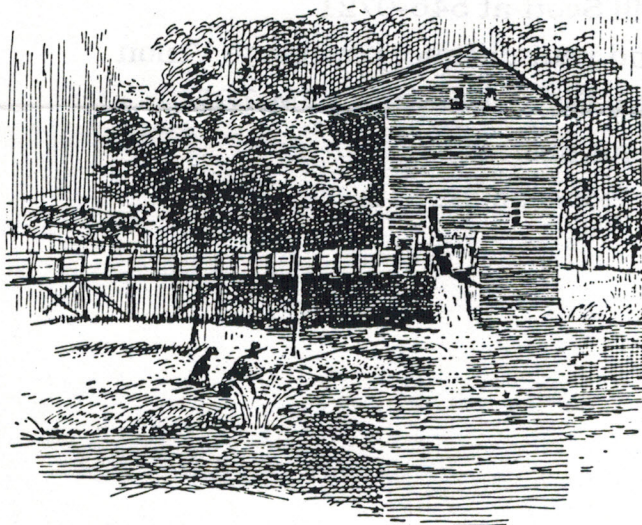
WHERE WERE WE ON D-DAY?

Clifford Chadderton, Chief Executive Officer of The War Amps, notes the dramatic reaction to the film 'Saving Private Ryan' and the lack of reference to the landings of Canadian troops at Caen. He raised some corporate funding and produced the video "D-Day: The Story of the Canadian Assault Troops and Operation Charnwood: the Canadian Battle for Caen"

The videos were very popular, appearing on more than 100 community channels. They are available to you for a cost-recovery price of \$12. You can get yours by phoning 1 (800) 250-3030.

REVISED HISTORY CURRICULUM

I have obtained a copy of the 70-page 1998 Ontario Curriculum for Social Studies (Grades 1 to 6) and History and Geography (Grades 7 and 8). Considering the difficulty we have had in the past in attempting to obtain and penetrate the schools' history curriculum, I commend this document to you. It is available from Patti Hannah, Limestone District School Board, call 544-6925.



SOCIAL STUDIES

HERITAGE AND CITIZENSHIP

- Grade 1: Relationships, Rules and Responsibilities
- Grade 2: Traditions and Celebrations
- Grade 3: Pioneer Life
- Grade 4: Medieval Times
- Grade 5: Early Civilizations
- Grade 6: Aboriginal Peoples and European Explorers

CANADA & WORLD CONNECTIONS

- Grade 1: The Local Community
- Grade 2: Features of Communities Around the World
- Grade 3: Urban and Rural Communities
- Grade 4: Provinces and Territories of Canada
- Grade 5: Aspects of Gov't in Canada
- Grade 6: Canada and its Trading Partners

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

HISTORY

- Grade 7: New France
British North America
Conflict and Change
- Grade 8: Confederation
Development of Western Canada
Canada: A Changing Society

GEOGRAPHY

- Grade 7: Themes of Geographic Inquiry
Patterns in Physical Geog.
Natural Resources
- Grade 8: Patterns in Human Geog.
Economic Systems
Migration



J. Warren

This illustration shows what Braebury Homes intends to build at 77 Clarence Street- an eight storey, mixed use building. This section of Kingston is zoned Heritage Commercial, which limits new buildings to four storeys or 55 feet. Despite these conditions recorded in the city's Official Plan, the Planning Department, the Planning Committee and City Council have all approved Braebury's application, passing a new by-law allowing them to bypass the Official Plan.

Twelve citizens of Kingston, many of them members of Vision Kingston, have appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board to have Council's zoning amendment repealed. Their hearing is set for Monday 22 February at 2 pm in the Council Chamber. It is important that the OMB chairman see evidence of strong public concern, so we ask you to take part. Please help us to achieve our objective, to preserve the character of historic downtown Kingston.

For more information, call Yvonne or Bill Scott at 546-0721.

For membership in Vision Kingston, send your cheque, payable to Vision Kingston to Vision Kingston, 220 Country Club Drive, Kingston K7M 7G5, along with your name, address and telephone number.

For Seniors: \$5, for Singles: \$8, and for Households: \$12.

Thank you for your support!

JENNIFER McKENDRY Ph D

Architectural Historian

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25 January 1999

President, Board of Directors, and Members of the Kingston Historical Society

Dear Madames and Sirs,

We have had some discussions at a monthly meeting in 1998, among individual members, and in various committees about the value of a web site for our society exclusively or on a shared basis with other heritage groups. I propose we acquire one in 1999 - on a shared basis - as part of our recognition of the millennium. Our major millennium project is a book on regional heritage plaques, and this ties in with the need for a web site. The plaque committee has proposed posting the plaque texts on the web, so that the information will be available to student and researchers internationally. We have, therefore, a need for a web site in the not too distant future.

There is agreement about the desirability of the various heritage groups becoming more co-operative, sharing resources, and promoting their common interest in heritage (perhaps a more inclusive word than history). Communication is a significant means of achieving this, and it seems inevitable that the 21st century will communicate electronically to a greater degree than we have or have even imagined in the current century. Now is the time to be proactive in acquiring a web site and in registering an appropriate name (good and simple web names are being taken up at an alarming rate - leaving one with poorer choices for names). An example of a web site name that suggests the "umbrella" aspect of many groups and individuals is **www.heritageKingston.org** (likely still available). One can go ahead and register such a name, and then take one's time to design and post material.

I realize that a good number of KHS members do not own or use computers or if they have computers may not be on the web (although the proposed new site may motivate them to join the net!). This would be an overriding objection if present KHS members were the only target for readers. KHS has often expressed a wish to acquire new members, and I think that middle-aged persons are important candidates - and likely to possess computers. We should also be interested in reaching out beyond on immediate membership to share knowledge, for example the plaque project. There has been much attention paid to interesting students in Canadian history, and the web can play an important role. Furthermore, KHS would only be one of many groups and individuals who would be posting material for their members and the public.

If the participating groups are uncertain about whether their members are on the web, they could delegate a volunteer to check the site for new and relevant material before their meetings or newsletter deadlines,



*L*ecturer, writer & consultant on Canadian architecture, restoration design, & decorative arts. Specializing in historical research, photography, custom artwork, brochure & book design.

and report verbally or in writing to their members. An example would be a lecture, tour, or new publication by one group that might interest other groups.

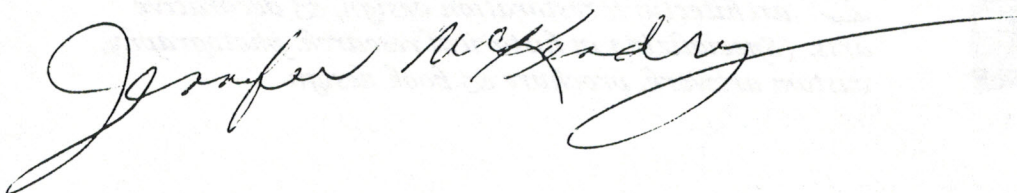
Should KHS have an exclusive web site (www.KHS.org)? This would be better than no site at all, but does bring back - in a stronger manner - the problem of seeming to address only its own members, only some of whom are on the net, plus the cost of running a web site (discussed below). Why should KHS take the initiative to organize this "umbrella" web site? Why not? - some group has to, and needs start-up money to establish the site. Unless volunteers come forth, I suggest we hire an agent to register a name, design the site, post it (for around \$ 500), and then post new material as it is sent to him or her by the participating groups or individuals on a contract basis (up to a suggested maximum per year - \$ 400?). There are, in addition, ongoing maintenance fees for the site and name (around \$ 400 yearly).

KHS would recover this money from the participating groups and individuals, such as the Frontenac Historic Foundation, the Pittsburgh Historical Society, Heritage Kingston, Bellevue House, Fort Henry, Friends of Fairfield House, Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Queen's University Archives, McKendry Books, Special Collections at Queen's, the Kingston Collection at the Kingston Public Library, the Cataraqui Archeological Society, the Marine Museum, the Kingston Genealogical Society, the United Empire Loyalist Society, André Schienman as a heritage consultant, Cataraqui Cemetery, Heritage Fair, the City of Kingston, the Woodworking Museum, the regional Museums Association, etc. Groups and individuals who already have a web site would be offered links in exchange for a link on their site, yet still be encouraged to post information on the "umbrella" site for a fee. We would look for links to and/or postings for groups of a broader geographical status, such as the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Parks Canada, the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada, the Ontario Historical Society, the Belleville Historical Society, and the Ontario Architectural Conservancy Society who may be hoping to attract new members from this area. The initial joining fee might be \$ 30 to \$ 50 (depending upon the number of participating groups or individuals) plus \$ 40 to \$ 50 yearly maintenance fee, which KHS (as the organizing body) would invoice and collect. This is a lot less money and effort than maintaining one's own site. The participants would phone or mail new material to the agent on contract who would post it, keep track of his or her time, and bill KHS.

The site would have a home page giving an overview of the Kingston region (geography, etc.), our history, our cultural assets, etc. and links to all the participating groups and individuals who have posted a page on their own organization. In addition there will be links that take the user to the homepages of certain web sites. KHS should be acknowledged on the main home page as its organizer with information on how interested groups and individuals could join this "umbrella" site. KHS own page would contain our objectives as an organization, how to join, our publications and how to acquire them (*Historic Kingston*, its index volume, the new book on plaques, etc.), information on the newsletter, monthly meetings, calls for volunteers, samplings from past articles in *Historic Kingston* and, most importantly, the plaque texts (although this might warrant a separate link on the web site's home page). The site would support illustrations, although our agent would have to advise how many are technically acceptable.

It is apparent that this site would be very useful for tourists, potential residents and conference organizers who are trying to decide whether to come to the Kingston region. The City of Kingston, business bureau, tourist centre, etc. will be anxious to have our link on their home pages.

Can we take action on this in the near future? Sincerely,



1999 EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL

The following members were elected at the Annual Meeting of the Kingston Historical Society on 28 January 1999

Past President	Maj. Lou Grimshaw	549-2500
President	Dr. Desmond O'Meara	546-5439
Vice President Preservation	Mr. Ed Grenda	544-3715
Vice President Programs/Publications	Mr. James Warren	544-7410
Vice President	Dr. Brian Osborne	389-3080
Secretary	Mrs. Marjorie Simmons	542-9847
Treasurer	Mr. George Dillon	542-6519
Councillors	Mr. Doug Petty	546-0422
	Curator	
	Mrs. Margaret Burdsall	531-8948
	Membership	
	Mr. Barry Russell	542-7019
	Editor, Historic Kingston	
	Mrs. Mary Clarke	389-3276
	Dr. Jack Pike	546-9187
	Awards	
	Maj. Warren Everett	545-9316
	Capt. John Grodzinski	547-0184
	Mr. Stewart Renfrew	545-2378



*Fond Pride of Dress is, sure, a very Curse;
Ere Fancy you consult, consult your Purse.*

1999 PROGRAMS

The Kingston Historical Society
presents the following programs for
the year 1999:

28 Jan.	Annual General Meeting Reports and Election	
17 Feb.	Gordon Smithson: A 1930s Photo Album	634-0362
17 Mar.	Amanda Gray and David St. Onge: Art Conservation and Inmate Identification	546-3272 531-2626
21 Apr.	Rev, Bruce Cossar: Church Union in 1925	546-6790
19 May	Marc Raymond: Market Square	389-0677
6 June	Sir John A. Macdonald at Cataract Cemetery	
July-Aug.	Summer Break	
15 Sep.	Dr. Stewart Fyfe: Kingston Ice Storm 1998	542-2346
20 Oct.	Michael Dawber: Kingston Street Names	1 (613) 278-0083
17 Nov.	Bill Thomson and James Bergendahl: Canadian Locomotive Company	389-9392 544-0705
Dec.	Christmas Party: details to be announced	Volunteers?