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Editor

### THE PENITENTIARY GUARD

For our next meeting, we welcome Amanda Gray and David St.Onge in a co-presentation about the restoration of an 1873 oil painting by Augustus Kruger, an artist-inmate. Amanda Gray has a private conservation practice in Kingston and teaches in the Masters of Art Conservation Program at Queen's where she received a BA Honours in Art History 1977 and the Masters Art Conservation in 1986.

David St.Onge has served the Correctional Services Museum for 15 years, serving as curator since 1990. He received a BA in History and a BA Honours in Classical Studies from Queen's in 1987. He is also President of the Frontenac Historic Foundation.

The restoration revealed curious details, concealed by a previous effort in the 1950s. David was able to uncover facts about the inmate and the reasons for his incarceration. Sounds fascinating!

The meeting is on Wednesday 17 March at 7:30 in the Wilson Room, upstairs in the Kingston Frontenac Public Library, 130 Johnson Street, downtown Kingston.

### OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Gordon Smithson did it again, presenting slides and prints of 1930s street scenes, the waterfront grain elevators and early DeHaviland aircraft, relating them, with his usual humour, to current streetscapes.

### PRESIDENT DESMOND UNWELL

It is with some concern that we have learned that our President, Desmond O'Meara, has been hospitalized at KGH with coronary trouble. As we write, he has spoken on the phone with his usual good spirits and we all hope that he will be able to rejoin us soon, much the better.

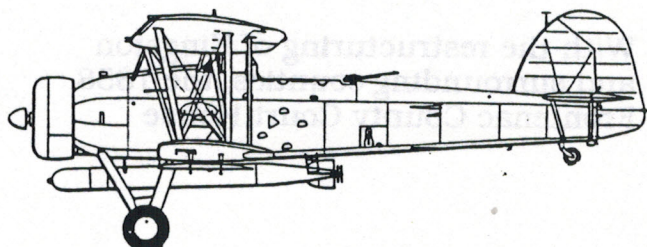
### HMCS CATARAQUI EXHIBITION

HMCS Cataraqui's Naval Air Reserve Squadron VC 921 has issued an open invitation to attend a multi-media exhibit honouring Canadian naval aviation. It will include films of the aircraft carriers of the RCN, aircraft models, trade badges, personal artifacts, photographs and uniforms.

A special presentation will be made honouring Sub-Lieutenant (P) Julian Freeman, RCN(R) who was killed 27 August 1957 at HMCS Shearwater, near Dartmouth, N.S.

A reception will be 27 March 1999 from noon until 4 pm in the Chief & Petty Officer's Mess, in HMCS Cataraqui, the east side of the causeway. A \$5 charge will help cover the cost of refreshments.

Incidentally, there is a Shearwater Aviation Museum where are housed, under restoration, several naval aircraft, including the ancient Swordfish biplane, affectionately called the Stringbag, which I flew a few times in 1946.





## **KINGSTON GENEALOGISTS**

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet in the Wilson Room of the public library (see above) on Saturday 20 March to hear Bea Corbett speak on 'Research into those Family Members'. Visitors are always welcome, and for further information, please call 389-1503 after 5 pm.

## **HERITAGE CONFERENCE**

Heritage Kingston, the former LACAC for the new City of Kingston, has agreed to host the annual Community Heritage Ontario Conference in May, Friday 28 to Sunday 30. The theme is appropriate: "Making Heritage Pay" given government attitudes toward cultural matters. Our Society has been asked, with other heritage groups, to share in providing speakers, media coverage, displays, marketing, registration, sponsorship, tours and transportation. The City will provide conference facilities, a reception, a banquet and accomodation for delegates.

Paul Ross, Chair of Heritage Kingston, can be reached at 546-4291, extension 1204.

## **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Margaret Burdsall reports that of our 10 institutional members, 6 have paid, 4 remain unpaid. Of our 131 regular members, 70 have paid, 61 remain unpaid. If you have paid, we thank you. If not, please let us have your cheque to keep the old firehorse going.

## **FORMER COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

With the restructuring of Kingston and surrounding counties, the 1858 Frontenac County Court House

became surplus and was turned over to the City of Kingston. Short of money, the City seeks to sell it. Queen's University is considering its use as an up-scale School of Business. The Frontenac Law Association would prefer to preserve its present function to consolidate all court and legal functions around the city in one place.

On Tuesday 9 March, the City Council will be hearing delegations regarding the disposition of the building and the Kingston Historical Society will be making its pitch to preserve the building's historic function.

The Court House was built between 1855 and 1858 to the design of Edward Horsey. The cost was L20,000. Guttled by fire in 1874, it was rebuilt to the same plan by George Newlands. Another fire in 1931 damaged one of the wings. The interior was almost completely rebuilt in the mid 1960s, though the exterior is mainly original. A more extensive history of this building may be found in Volume One of "Buildings of Architectural and Historic Significance" pages 28-32 and in Margaret Angus' classic "The Old Stones of Kingston" pages 58-59.

## **KAM**

The Kingston Association of Museums, Historical Sites and Art Galleries (KAM for sort) is an umbrella group representing the city's various historical and cultural groups. We are happy that our Society is represented on it by Barry Russell, our new editor of Historic Kingston, and Arthur Fox.



## CANADIAN GRAFFITO RESPONSE

To the bold-faced exclamation of a local skin head on a parking garage wall- "KEEP CANADA WHITE" a gentle soul has written beneath in delicate ballpoint: "Why not wait until Spring?" How nice to realize that Canadian culture is alive and well.

## ON TO THE WEB SITE

To Jennifer McKendry's suggestion that our Society should acquire a web site, a sub-committee has been formed to explore the details. The Chair is John Grodzinski working with Jennifer McKendry, Lou Grimshaw and one member of the Murney Tower Museum Committee. Stay tuned.

## PUBLICATIONS COSTS

From the Society's 1998 statement, we report the costs of our publications and exhibition in 1998:

Historic Kingston:	Costs	\$5,441.41
	Sales	\$1,058.93
	Loss	\$4,382.48

THEN Newsletter	Costs	\$2,516.95
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Historic Vignettes	Costs	\$53.77
	Sales	\$188.75
	Profit	\$134.98

Heritage Fair	Costs	\$439.43
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## HISTORIC PLAQUES

Chair John Grenville and his Plaques Committee are moving rapidly forward in applying for grants for the production of the city plaques book and data base. The Aberdeen plaque for Portsmouth is expected to be unveiled on 1 July with suitable celebration by the Portsmouth

Villagers. A plaque honouring Dr. Jenny Trout, pioneering woman physician and founder of Queen's School of Medicine for Women, will be unveiled in City Hall around 12 March, open to the general public. Our Society members will receive invitations shortly.

## APOLROD

The Association for the Preservation of Ontario Land Registry Office Documents (APOLROD for short) has largely completed its work of sifting through the Ontario government's records of land transfers, so useful to historians and genealogists, separating plans or surveys from the key facts. The originals were threatened with destruction to be replaced by shoddy computer copies.

Over 500 volunteers worked in every registry office across the province to create over 5000 pages of inventory which will be put into careful computer format by 20 more dedicated volunteers. This material is to be distributed between the Archives of Ontario, local registry offices for operational purposes and local heritage repositories.

The next problem is to find suitable repositories that are dry, safe and accessible. Groups like us are urged to find a place for this material.

The final product that APOLROD will leave the heritage community will be the final placement of all Land Registry Office records from 1868 to 1955.

To help support this noble effort, please consider becoming a member. Send your cheque for only \$5 to APOLROD, 251 Second Street. Stouffville, Ont. L4A 1B9 or phone (905) 640-9359 for more information.