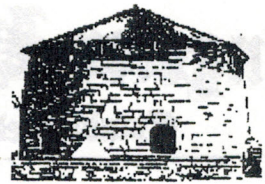


Limelight ...

History in a news dimension



Millennium
Series.
Vol. 1: No. 1
September
1999.

ISSN: 1488 - 5565

President announces millennium policy

The normally reserved Kingston Historical Society (KHS) broke a century-old tradition recently while acknowledging the inevitability of having to seek patrons and donors if it is to survive as a vigorous and important organization into the new millennium.

Dr. Desmond O'Meara, second-term president of the society, told council that KHS shall have to remake itself completely in a modern style for the year 2000. "We shall have to become more relevant to the youth of the community if we are to survive into the new age," Dr. O'Meara said.

Barry Russell, editor of *Historic Kingston*, the society's annual scholarly journal, added that a recruiting campaign including a new system of membership should be considered.

"We could set a low annual membership fee for a new category of associate, non-voting members," he said. "Shut-ins, sojourners, travellers, etc. They might receive the newsletter for as little as 25 dollars a year."

Dr. O'Meara hastened to reassure long-time members by explaining that membership fees and voting rights would remain the same as they are for the time being.

"Although the costs involved in publishing a scholarly journal are incredibly high," he said. "As things are we must at least attempt to recover most of that from the contributors. After all, we're offering them the chance of immortality."

Members showed interest in the proposal that a "new look" newsletter be created, and a lively discussion of several new formats ensued. A four-column newspaper format was particularly favoured, but was thought "a tad too ambitious," by some members.

Others thought it "tacky."

One new member suggested that the quite considerable cost of producing the newsletter could be recovered if it were made appealing to the public by the inclusion of articles with a popular bent, especially in the summer.

Appropriate advertising could be incorporated to create income and the publication could be sold in tourist centres, art galleries, restaurants and ferry queues. This would also heighten community awareness of the Society's activities.

The focus of the society could also be expanded to take in areas surrounding Kingston. "There's great potential in joining an umbrella group formed by several area historical societies, which would all be possible advertisers in and buyers of the new publication," he said.

A member of long-standing voiced the concern that the society would be diminished if its publication became no more than a vehicle for hamburger joints and pizza palaces. He said that though the basic idea of paid advertising was sound enough, still, great care would have to be taken that the businesses participating would be the appropriate types.

KHS had a 100-year tradition to uphold and pass on to those who come after the present members, he explained.

Inside

- Editorial
- Summer Notes
- Features
- Gift-giving
- Quiz
- Sponsors
- Last Post

Kingston Historical Society



Established 1893

Box 54 Kingston Ontario Canada K7L 4V6

CPC Publications Mail Agreement No. 1573691.

Timelight ... is published nine times a year - September to May. Copyright vests in Kingston Historical Society (KHS).

Submissions (maximum 450 words) should be addressed to the editor.

Past President: Maj. Lou Grimshaw. President: Dr. Desmond O'Meara.

Vice-President: Mr. Ed. Grenda (Murney Tower). Vice-President Programs: Mr. James Warren.

Vice-President: Dr. Brian Osborne. Secretary: Mrs. Marjorie Simmons.

Treasurer: Mr. George Dillon. Councillors: Mrs. Margaret Burdsall (membership);

Mr. Barry Russell (Editor *Historic Kingston*); Dr. Jack Pike (awards);

Major Warren Everett (finances); Capt. John Grodzinski (website); Mr. Stewart Renfrew.

Copyright © KHS 1999.

Editor: Terence Cottrell. Phone: (613) 547-5555.

Editorial

As the Society moves into its second century on the cusp of a millennium, the time has come to put our newsletter into a form that will maximize the potential of this important asset: We live in exciting times; we need a new image. For practical as well as for aesthetic reasons we also need a title with significant semantic content. I have chosen *Timelight ...* - a distinctive name and style incorporating a hint of limestone, the shedding of light in a dramatic setting, historical emphasis created by old English type, a forward-looking aspect provided by italics, an upward and onward notion provided by a 10 degree tilt, and three bullets in flight aimed at the symbolic Murney Tower. The shadowing indicates depth. The title is correct and complete only when incorporating the three bullets. The angled title meets a horizontal base-line formed by the slogan: "History in a news dimension," thus completing the "flag" of the publication.

The Society's name followed by the address and the slug "Established 1893," appear on page two, above the masthead. Within the masthead appear information about Kingston Historical Society (KHS) office-holders, our International Standards Serial Number (ISSN), our mail contract number, copyright symbol and editorial information regarding submissions, etc. The words "stable," "stability," and "establishment" are all semantically implicit in the word "Established."

Kingston Historical Society has a grossly under-employed potential. In our newsletter we have a grossly underused asset. *Timelight ...* will henceforth be used to develop new members and will become the main propaganda arm of the Society. It will be used to generate both revenue and prestige. It will be used to develop "clout."

I propose to do this by attracting community sponsors, who will each receive a tastefully presented mention in our annual 2700 (and growing) copies of *Timelight ...* and other exposure as occasion permits. Thus a considerable annual debit could become a credit of some sort, or at least reduced to zero. This may be augmented by millennium limerick and essay contests and other revenue producing activities.

KHS exists as a society only to the extent that its individual members have a shared idea of all the Society's parts, all the Society's values and all the Society's functions. The empirical basis essential to both a vibrant newsletter and to the value orientation of the Society depends upon input from the members and readers. I thus look forward to receiving much mail. I want to know what everyone is doing and what everyone thinks. I want interesting snippets of news - of historical or of current interest. I want information, ideas and comment. *Timelight ...* will be your forum - whether as a bear-pit or as a supreme court is for you to decide.

What John Stuart Mill wrote in 1825 about a free press applies as much to societies as it does to governments: "So true it is ... that the discontent of the people is the only means of removing the defects of vicious governments, that the freedom of the press, the main instrument of creating discontent, is, in all civilized countries, among all but the advocates of misgovernment, regarded as indispensable security, and the greatest safeguard of the interests of mankind."

So don't just gossip. We all want improvements. Let's hear from you!

If anyone knows of "shut-ins" or of a person far from home who would like to receive and participate in *Timelight ...*, a person who is not able to be an active member of the Society, please forward the details and we will work out a subscription rate.

Terence Cottrell.

SUMMER NOTES

MAY:

Millennium Project

Early in the month local MP Peter Milliken announced that the Canada Millennium Partnership Fund had granted KHS the sum of \$5,000 to assist in the publication of a glossy illustrated book on local historical plaques and monuments. An internet site dealing with the same material is being developed as part of the project.

On 13 May, John Grenville, area superintendent for Parks Canada and author-to-be of the book, told council that the costs of the project could run as high as \$20,000, with KHS providing \$5,000 right away as start-up capital.

Anyone knowing of interesting or out-of-the-way monuments, memorials or plaques that might "contribute to the greater understanding of the history of Kingston" is urged to submit photos, especially of unveilings or dedications, and short descriptions, to Mr. Grenville, who may be reached at 545-8666, Ext. 203.

Mr. Grenville reported that a publications and website intern, Mr. David Kasserra, had been hired jointly by KHS and Parks Canada under the federal "Career-Edge" program. Mr. Kasserra's training expenses and salary were to be paid for by the federal government, he said. Mr. Kasserra, who could be contacted through Bellevue House, Sir John A. Macdonald's former residence, had already started work compiling information on plaques, etc., for the millennium project.

President Dr. Desmond O'Meara announced that Councillor Major Warren Everett had agreed to establish a fund-raising committee; he will devise a strategy for the plaque book project and other KHS tasks. Kingston architect and historian Dr.

Jennifer McKendry and Councillor Capt. John Grodzinski were also working on the development of the website and its integration with a wider network of historical organizations and web sites, Dr. O'Meara said.

Capt. Grodzinski has asked that any person having information that should be included in the site should contact him, especially regarding: general background on the aims of the Society; historical information on the Society since its establishment in 1893 and historical photographs of Kingston and Kingstonsians. John can be reached at (613) 547-0184.

Bilingual Brochure

Royal Military College (RMC) professor Dr. Claude Bordeleau addressed council on behalf of L'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario, which publishes an attractive glossy brochure on the French settlement of Kingston. The association now wishes to print it in English as well as French. Council agreed that KHS would underwrite \$300 of the \$1500 costs to print 10,000 brochures subject to approval of the final English text prior to publication by Councillor Dr. Jack Pike and Vice-President Ed Grenda.

Heritage Fair

Under the direction of Vice-President Jim Warren, for the fifth year in a row KHS operated a display among the exhibits of 30 area schools at the Kingston Regional Heritage Fair held on 13-14 May in the Sir Archibald Macdonnell Centre at RMC.

The Society's display, designed and built by Mr. Warren, featured a blow-up of his sketch, "1875 Birdseye View" of Kingston. The event is one of 50 such fairs sponsored by the Bronfman Foundation held across Canada to celebrate the growth of the cultural mosaic of this diverse country and to show the matrix out of which it arose. The young winners of the competition go on to the National

Heritage Fair, held this year 12-18 July in Edmonton.

Kingston, a long-time supporter of the regional fairs, was host to the national fair in 1997.

Tower Talk

About 30 KHS members and guests braved a cool blustery afternoon on 25 May to attend the annual members' day reception at their very own museum. Murney Tower National Historic Site, which opened to the public on 17 May, is the focus, symbol and logo of the Society.

At the Martello tower located on the lakefront to the south of City Park, the celebrants were entertained to impromptu tours of the three floors by the three knowledgeable young interpreters, Sven Walker, Pauline Fu and James Fletcher. These tours were available in Chinese, English, French or German.

The *pièce de resistance* of the cosy afternoon in the tower was the gourmet smorgasbord of culinary delights professionally laid out by Chief Interpreter Sven Walker and his friend Sonya Diesberg, who are to be commended for service above and beyond the call of duty.

Imaginative selections of the grape in bottled form supplied by Curator Doug Petty gave the jaded palates of this favoured group a full range of noble restoratives that, alas, merely re-equipped their taste-buds to withstand yet another round of gustatory assaults. Such decadence could become addictive.

During the first 15 days of operation in May, 850 persons visited the Tower for an average of 56.7 a day, down slightly from last year possibly owing to a slow start in our advertising campaign. The Tower received a federal grant of \$2980 this year to assist with operating expenses.

Any Canadian history buff who hasn't taken a tour of this fine national monument has missed one of Canada's mature treats, which at \$2 a

head - children under six, free - is an economic bargain to boot. If you haven't done it yet, put it at the head of your list for next May.

Market Square

On 19 May, at the Society's last regular meeting before the summer break, Mr. Marc Raymond, chair of the Market Square Committee, spoke at length and with great wit on the past and future of the square. He outlined the concerns of local merchants and market vendors.

With the imaginative use of slides he showed how economic aspects of development can be made to dovetail with public access to year-round enjoyment of this important downtown asset, which as a market and "shambles" (butchers' shops), pre-dates City Hall itself.

Phase 1 of the Market Square face-lift is complete, he reported. The centre sidewalk and parking meters have been removed.

The next phase, planned for this fall and next spring, will be to open up and renovate the sunken courtyards. The one on the south side of City Hall will be turned into an amphitheatre suitable for small music groups, puppet shows, etc.

The north courtyard will have a corridor allowing access to washrooms and more space for craft stalls.

Kingston Association of Museums

On 28 May, *Historic Kingston* Editor Barry Russell attended the monthly KAM meeting at the Marine Museum as KHS representative. Brian Mercer, a marketer with Kingston Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO), spoke on behalf of a sponsor who will underwrite the "racking" costs (\$150 a year) for placing brochures at the tourist centre.

The brochure itself (and related website), called "Trip Through Time," was being developed with funds from a Summer Experience grant. KAM was to pay the \$200 balance.

Members discussed the poor advertising that heralded Tourist Awareness Week. Solutions to the problem were to be debated at the June meeting at RMC.

It was decided that since museum staff may visit each other's museums free, the Kosovar refugees should also be given passes, to be used in conjunction with proper ID. Proposals were made that taxis and bed-and-breakfasts could be asked to publicize area museums.

JUNE:

Sir John A. Macdonald Memorial

If symbolism means anything, it was fitting that the dedication of a plaque at the graveside of the man responsible for the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway was interrupted several times by the haunting moan of a passing locomotive. At one point during the beautiful spring afternoon it overlapped the poignant notes of the piper's lament played to honour the great man who died on 6 June, 108 years ago.

The commemoration under the National Program for the Preservation of Grave Sites of Canadian Prime Ministers at Cataraqui Cemetery was hosted jointly by KHS and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

In the official party, Mr. George Henderson, Chair of the Cataraqui Cemetery Committee, Mrs. Marjorie Simmons, Vice-Chair, and President Dr. Desmond O'Meara, represented the other 150 members and guests of the Society who attended.

The metal information panel presented on behalf of Parks Canada by Secretary of State Andy Mitchell is something of a departure from the traditional austere Protestant limestone cross preferred by Sir John. It seems rather in the eastern European tradition since it includes a reproduction of a photograph of Canada's first prime-minister.

A Canadian flag that had once flown from the Peace Tower in Ottawa presented by MP Peter Milliken was hoisted on the site by members of the Fort Henry Guard (FHG), who posted and changed sentries with their usual perfect attention to 19th century drill and historical detail.

An FHG bugler sounded last post and reveille as if in response to the locomotive horn; politicians spoke; the congregation prayed; the Parr Christie Singers sang Oxenham's *My Own Dear Land* and *O Canada*.

Wreaths were laid by the 12 organizations such as the Orange Order to which Sir John belonged.

Frontenac County Courthouse

KHS won a small victory on 9 June when the welcome news came that Queen's University had given up its strongly-contested bid to buy the impressive 1858-era limestone palace of justice that dominates the Cricket Field and City Park.

Queen's had wanted to incorporate it into a new business school. KHS and the Frontenac Law Association among others had opposed the plan and had presented briefs on the matter to a city council that seemed determined to sell the asset they inherited during the municipal mergers that took place earlier.

But the future of the fine neoclassical building is still in doubt. The Province of Ontario has offered to consolidate all local courts on the site on a leasehold basis, which would require the city to turn the property over to a developer. The cash-strapped city has reluctantly agreed to pursue this option, but nothing has been decided yet. Their preference clearly is to sell what they look upon as a white elephant.

First Capital Day

Kingston celebrated the 158th anniversary of becoming the first capital of the United Province of Canada (Ontario and Quebec) on 15 June.

Federal and provincial recognition of Kingston's unique status during the 1841-44 period was largely brought about by the efforts of retired businessman Ian Milne and KHS life-member Margaret Angus.

Dr. Angus has published a book on the subject: *The Kingston Connection: The Story of Kingston as the Capital of the United Provinces of Canada*. The 64-page text with a cover illustrated by Kingston artist Peter Dorn will be used in local grade seven and eight classes starting in September. Thanks are due to the Frontenac Historical Foundation for a \$3500 grant towards the project.

Led by piper Kevin Goligher of the Princess of Wales Own Regiment, the citizens of Kingston marked the day by a well-attended parade from Frontenac County Courthouse to City Hall - itself built to be the parliament building of the united province but never used for that purpose. The year it was completed - 1844 - the capital was moved amid much local bitterness to Montreal.

Many of the First Capital Day participants, Dr. Angus, Mayor Bennett, and the Fort Henry Guard among them, wore period costume. A touch of authenticity was added by horse-drawn carriages supplied by Wolfe Island's White family.

Several classes of children under the supervision of their teachers took advantage of the day's special bargain entrance fees to tour Murney Tower.

During the final two weeks of June, the Golden Rooster Delicatessen hosted an exhibition of the remarkably mature and authoritative early paintings of historical artist and KHS member Shirley Gibson-Langille.

Kingston Association of Museums

Historic Kingston Editor Barry Russell reports that local authorities are attempting to involve heritage groups in the controversial "work-fare" scheme.

Linda Harp and John Cross of the Ontario Works Program outlined the procedure for receiving the unpaid services of an able-bodied welfare recipient when they addressed the monthly assembly of KAM representatives at RMC on 25 June.

Such persons are made to undergo a "real job interview" by the "employer" but may not work more than 70 hours a month for up to six months in order to receive the legal minimum wage. There is thus not much encouragement for industriousness or reward for dedication to the job. Workers may be discharged for unsatisfactory performance, which implies the cessation of welfare benefits at the whim of the sponsor. On the other hand, after successfully acquiring "valuable work experience" in this manner, the candidate is normally provided with a reference by the employer.

The pair reported that owing to the pressure put upon candidates, at least two or three persons usually apply for each position available. Employers may thus pick and choose.

The KAM group further discussed the proposed website, the suggested advertising of the *Trip Through Time* brochure (and website) in *Key to Kingston* - a tourist guide - and a possible compact disk project to advertise Kingston museums.

Mr. Kevin Fox of the Kingston Mills Lock-gate Museum suggested a "passport package" with prizes, to celebrate the millen-nium, and offered the services of a student to verify information on the website.

He said that the Kingston Mills "ghost night" party - even without a bonfire - raised \$1500.

Kingston Area Artists Incorporated (KAAI) reported that they had received funding for a gallery assistant and volunteer coordinator.

The Archeology Museum and RMC were scheduled to hold a summer camp for the second year; 28 July was to be a public day with a dig at the Naval Cottages site near the airplane.

The Nurses' Museum hosted more than 200 persons at the 5 June dedication of the Ann Baillie building on George Street in Kingston.

A plaque was unveiled marking the national historical significance of the former nurse's residence, which is now known as the Museum of Health Care for Eastern Ontario. The museum was to employ two student cataloguers for the summer. Katherine Connell Crothers (class of '45) has published a related book: *With Tender Loving Care: The Story of Kingston General Hospital Nursing*.

The McLaughlin Woodworking Museum has installed a new forge. And the Military Communications and Electronics Museum reported large-scale visits by bus-loads of cadets.

JULY:

Aberdeen Park

On Canada Day, KHS with the assistance of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and Portsmouth Villagers unveiled a plaque that will stand in the park at Portsmouth Village.

The bronze inscription reads:

"Originally part of Kingston Township, this area was granted to United Empire Loyalists in 1874. A village, first known as "Hatter's Bay," grew in response to the establishment of the Provincial Penitentiary in 1833, and was formally incorporated in 1858.

King Street West was extended across a bay south of here in 1845, and a stone town hall, designed by William Coverdale, was erected on the reclaimed land in 1865. This common was named Aberdeen Park by 1900.

Villagers worked in tanneries, breweries, shipyards, sawmills, as well as the penitentiary and nearby asylum, but economic opportunities declined in the late 19th-century.

The village was annexed by the city of Kingston in 1952. Many interesting early stone, brick, and frame buildings have survived in this area."

A Story of Our City (Based on an article submitted by David Kasserra)

The bells of nearby Kingston Penitentiary rang out as KHS Plaque Committee member Dr. Jennifer McKendry began the Aberdeen Park celebration of Canada's birthday.

The official party comprised Mayor Gary Bennett, Anne Milina, President of the Portsmouth Villagers, Peter Milliken MP, John Gerretsen MPP, Peter Jardine, Councillor for Portsmouth, Mark Fluhrer of City Parks, Arthur Jordan of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and KHS Plaque Committee members Ted Storey and John Grenville.

William Baden, a member of one of Portsmouth's founding families, unveiled the bilingual plaque, which will stand on the corner of King Street West and Yonge Street. KHS Vice-President Dr. Brian Osborne then read the text aloud, giving a resonance to the whole thing.

The Portsmouth Villagers presented a special "thank you" gift to Anne Milina for all her hard work in helping to bring about this important event.

After the ceremony, the crowd of more than 100 moved on to the festivities of the annual village picnic, and visited St. John Ambulance House, the original Portsmouth Village Hall.

On view were some of Dr. McKendry's photographs, a village history and information about Lord and Lady Aberdeen. His lordship was once Governor General of Canada.

KHS member and curator of the Correctional Services of Canada Museum David St. Onge, showed material about Kingston Penitentiary; KHS Vice-President Jim Warren exhibited a large drawing; Doug Thompson displayed a history of the Fisher family.

The KHS Plaque Committee would like to thank the staff of Bellevue House National Historic Site for their assistance in bringing this project to fruition.

Last Post

On 8 July from Sydenham, Ontario, came the appalling news of the violent deaths of Bonnie Larmon (Boucher) and her husband David, their lives possibly taken by a person they had befriended. She was 33.

Bonnie Larmon was the daughter of Armand "Joe" Boucher, president of KHS from January 1996 till his death in office in the fall of 1997. Joe had previously been vice-president membership and publications, secretary, and had held other executive posts.

Members will recall that Bonnie, David and Bonnie's sister Leslie Allen accepted a KHS posthumous award on behalf of Joe at the 1997 Christmas party. The Society's deepest sympathy is extended to mother Doreen Boucher and the family in what must be their darkest days.

Archives

On 9 July Heritage Minister Sheila Copps announced that Ian Wilson, Queen's senior archivist during 1970-76, had been appointed Canada's seventh national archivist since 1872. Mr. Wilson served as KHS secretary from 1968-71; president 1972-76; archivist of Saskatchewan 1977-86; archivist of Ontario 1986-99. He was Kingston's first City archivist. He will supervise a staff of 550.

KHS has a large collection of unanalysed documents and artifacts in a room set aside for us at Queen's University, KHS Archivist Barry Russell reports. Anyone wishing to emulate Ian Wilson's stellar performance by becoming Barry's assistant, is urged to contact Barry at 542-7109. Enthusiasm is the only qualification required.

Since the Society ultimately intends to establish a general museum of documents and artifacts relating to Kingston history, this position has interesting potential.

Ongoing Business

At the 5 July KHS Executive and Council meeting, a number of outstanding issues were discussed.

The translation of the French language brochure was still not complete. Major Warren Everett presented a paper outlining ideas for funding KHS projects. He was appointed chair of a fund-raising committee. He was authorized to examine all possibilities and report back no later than the November meeting.

Vice-President Ed Genda's report on the year-round illumination of Murney Tower was discussed at length. Certain points regarding funding were clarified. Though funds are approved and in place, before proceeding Ed was asked to report by October on maintenance costs and possible partnerships.

Timelight ... Editor Terence Cottrell revealed the new newsletter flag, masthead and format, and explained procedures he was following to obtain an ISSN, a Canada Post mail contract, and possibly a federal Publications Assistance Grant. He was given a free hand in the matter of sponsors provided KHS traditional standards and objectives were maintained.

Treasurer George Dillon and others discussed the KHS bank account and it was confirmed that one signature alone is required for expenditures of up to \$500. Cheques for more than that require any two signatures of the president, vice-presidents, treasurer or secretary.

It was established that KHS accounts for 1998 have been audited by Auditor Douglas Maybee. According to custom he will be presented with a gift certificate to a local restaurant in the amount of \$100 as an honorarium.

Committee Chair Dr. Jack Pike presented the latest draft of the new constitution and by-laws and a lively discussion followed. Clause by clause analysis was put over to the August meeting, which was to be devoted entirely to constitutional matters.



Tower Talk

Despite cool and rainy weather, the Kid's Free Fun Day held at Murney Tower on Saturday, 10 July, was a success. This was due mainly to the energy, imagination and organizing skills of Sven Walker, the national historic site's chief interpreter.

Billed as a day of fun to introduce children from a variety of backgrounds to Canada's military past, the ambitious program devised by Sven would have done credit to the training of any military unit, past or present.

With diabolical accuracy, a dozen children or more managed to hit the mark with a soccer ball and dunk several of Sven's cohorts into a tank of frigid water.

There were guided tours of the tower itself; "haunted" walks starting at the tower and visiting a number of Kingston's haunted houses; tugs-of-war; and displays of Victorian foot-and-arms-drill by red-coated members of the Brockville Infantry Company.

Thanks to 28 Kingston businesses are in order for support to the value of \$1,110 for this event; and to RMC for supplying the tug-of-war ropes. KHS also thanks the Brockville Rifle Company, salutes Sven Walker, and tips its hat to Sven's long-suffering, water-logged comrades. Well done!

The quiet diplomacy and public relations skills of Murney Tower Chairman, Vice-President Ed Grenda, in organizing such an event, is hard to quantify but is of high value. Well done! Ed. (Ed recently had to submit to the indignity of a CPIC police

record check merely because of his direct supervision of youthful staff at the tower. A nasty business. Again, Good on ya! Ed.)

August:

Ongoing Business

At Queen's on 10 August, Council discussed and amended Draft 5 of the new KHS constitution and by-laws.

After a marathon session of three and a half hours, this contentious chore was still not completed. Draft 6 was to go through the finishing process at yet another special meeting to be held at Queen's on 31 August.

Tower Talk

On Saturday, 14 August, some 400 people attended the third annual Murney Tower "Military Bash" to visit about 40 separate displays depicting military life in Canada over a 300-year period.

Exhibits ranged from parents and children in costume playing with toys such as straw dolls and clay marbles of the 1758 period, to soldiers of the Brockville Rifle Company casting lead bullets in the manner of 1867. A big hit with the kids were the Second World War vintage "19-sets" used to demonstrate the wireless communications of the time.

Participants came from as far away as Belleville and Ottawa.

As Murney Tower historical interpreter James Fletcher said: "Although Murney Tower is only representative of a mere 50 years of Canadian history, we're trying to present as much military history from before the tower was constructed."

Last Post

It is with great sadness that the Society notes the passing of long-time member Dr. David Spens Alexander, MB, ChB (Edinburgh), FRCPC, FRCP.

Dr. Alexander was a prominent Kingston pediatrician and educator who was also known as "Poppa of the funny faces" to his grandchildren. He is mourned by an extensive family both in Canada and in his native Scotland, to whom we send our condolences.

He died peacefully at home on Friday, 6 August 1999, after a serious illness.

Post Script:

Sports Award

KHS Councillor and Queen's archivist Stewart Renfrew was honoured recently for his diligent research. Along with colleague Dr. Joan Stevenson, he represented Queen's University sports legend, the late "Captain" Guy Curtis, when that amazing athlete and sports promoter was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame at Kingston Memorial Centre.

Stewart was instrumental in documenting Curtis's efforts to popularize international competition in hockey and football. Curtis, who was born at Delta, Ontario, died on 4 September 1930 but is immortalized at Queen's by the words in the third verse of a popular student song: "Remember Captain Curtis, the conqueror of Yale," a hockey exploit dating back to 1893, the year KHS was established.

Stewart is shown in a cheeky picture in the latest *Queen's Alumni Review* standing beside another award recipient, Kingston's own Don Cherry, who was accepting on behalf of his late father. Both Stewart - a big man with a heavy beard - and Cherry - a small man with a big mouth - are giving Cherry's characteristic thumbs-up signal.

New Member

It is with great pleasure that the Society welcomes an old friend, well-known Kingston optician Mr. Marc Raymond, to our ranks. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial association with him.

CHAT ROOM

This department will be earmarked for letters to the editor, comments, questions, answers, snippets of information, discussions, suggestions, criticisms, etc. This is the members' section - please feel free to use it. Submissions should be limited to 350 words. Longer items will be considered but may be subject to editing. All articles will be copy-edited for spelling, grammar, paragraphing, etc., so don't be bashful. If you've got a good story to tell - let's have it. All submissions should be typed; but clearly-printed, double-spaced hand-writing is acceptable.

Feature

When Colonel John Graves Simcoe stood on the steps of St George's Church on 8 July 1792 and read the proclamation of government for the new Province of Upper Canada, he made no mention of Kingston as its capital. The people were disappointed; they knew that if Sir John Johnson had been appointed - as recommended by Governor Haldimand and as expected by his Loyalist followers in the settlements along the upper St Lawrence and the Bay of Quinte - he would have made Kingston the seat of government. After all, he owned 20 acres of land in the town with a house at the junction of present-day Brock and Montreal Streets. But Colonel Simcoe had different ideas. Before setting out for Canada from his home in lovely Devon, he had studied assiduously all the maps and charts he could find and laid detailed plans for the new colony. He had marked a dot in the wilderness for his capital; that dot was the spot on the map where the city of London now stands. After three weeks in Kingston he set out with his retinue to establish his temporary capital in Newark, the name he gave to present-day Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Earle Thomas

Dr. Thomas is a member of KHS and is author of the vignette, *Molly Brant, Mohawk Loyalist*.

VIGNETTES

Kingston History in a Nutshell
Aboriginal Life Around Kingston
Molly Brant, Mohawk Loyalist
French Nobility at Cataraqui
Surveying Loyalist Settlements
The Rev. John Stuart, Loyalist Preacher
Merchant Mansions
Kingston to York by Stagecoach
On the Kingston Waterfront
Murney Tower
Kingston Street Railway
Pump House Steam Museum
Canadian Locomotive Company
Kingston Shipyards in World War II
British Army in Kingston 1783-1870
Naval Base at Kingston 1812
A Story in Stone (Murney Tower)

James Warren
 Hugh Daechsel
 Earle Thomas
 Wallace G. Breck
 A.G.(Joe) Boucher
 Sylvia Waller
 Yvonne Scott
 Mark Mihorean
 Patricia Fleming
 James Warren
 Bill Thomson
 Colleen Rock
 James Warren
 Maurice D. Smith
 Louis B. Grimshaw
 Richard A. Preston
 W.S. Lavell (revised by R.A. Preston)

Vignettes are available for \$1.00 each plus \$2.00 postage and handling. The complete set of seventeen may be ordered from Margaret Burdsall at Kingston Historical Society for \$20.00 (postage included).

Top Ten

A puzzle devised by Quiz-master and *Historic Kingston* Editor Barry Russell will appear in this department every month. This will consist of 10 questions about places, events, and personalities to be found in *Historic Kingston*. A bonus question of general reference to Kingston will be added. Questions may sometimes be cryptic - as in crossword puzzles - but will not be unfair. Entries must be received no later than the 20th of the month of issue. Address entries to "Quiz." The answers and the winners' names will be published in subsequent issues of *Timelight* ...

The decision of the Quiz-master regarding the accuracy and fullness of answers shall be final.

Quiz

1. What is depicted on the front cover of *Historic Kingston* 1998? 2. In what year did the October influenza crisis strike Kingston? 3(a). Whose cannon is mounted outside St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church? 3(b). Where did it come from? 4. In what year did the Town of Kingston become a city? 5. Where and when was Sir John A. Macdonald born? 6. How many islands make up the Brother Islands? 7. What was the name of the fort on Carleton Island that guarded British interests during the American Revolutionary War (1778-1783)? 8. What black businessman prospered through mail coach business in 19th century Kingston? 9. What was the first name given to Kingston Penitentiary by King William IV on 1 June 1835? 10. Has capital punishment ever been conducted at Kingston Penitentiary?

Timelight question: (a). Who is the figure on top of the fountain in front of Frontenac County Courthouse?
(b). What is the significance of that figure?

Margaret Burdsall still has some issues of *Historic Kingston* from earlier years on her shelves and would be pleased to supply them at \$8:00 each plus \$2 postage. This is a bargain; these high quality authoritative journals - so essential to any realistic research of Kingston history - cost \$20 each to publish. Anyone wishing to donate back issues may also call Margaret at (613) 531-8948.

Editor's Guidelines for Submissions to *Historic Kingston* The Annual Scholarly Publication of the Kingston Historical Society

Historic Kingston reflects a scholarly approach to the history of Kingston. It usually includes eight or nine articles based on presentations made at monthly meetings during the year. Since some presentations may not be suitable for publication, articles are also sought from the community at large. If you wish to submit an article please follow these guidelines precisely to help the editor facilitate the publisher's specifications and to help reduce the soaring costs of publishing.

- 1) Text should be typed on regular 8 ½ x 11 plain white paper.
- 2) Double space the text.
- 3) Number all pages in the centre at the bottom of the page.
- 4) Leave margins of 1 ½ inches on top, bottom, and sides.
- 5) Centre the title at the top of the first page.
- 6) Documentation should follow the method used in the humanities. A full account can be found in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (73-161) by Joseph Gibaldi and Walter Achtert, 2nd ed., New York, 1984. Documentation is important but **excessive notes are discouraged**. Please put relevant information in the body.
- 7) A computer disc **MUST** accompany the text version. The disc **MUST** be formatted using a recent edition of Microsoft **WORD** or **WordPerfect**.
- 8) Photos and other graphic material **MUST** be either original or very clear copies.
- 9) **Upon request**, materials will be returned after publication.

Persons submitting articles for consideration are expected to become members of KHS upon acceptance. If you have any questions please call *Historic Kingston* Editor Barry Russell at (613) 542-7019.

Some egg sample!

John Richardson, author of *Wacousta* (1832) - the first Canadian novel - once lived in Kingston (1843-44). He ran a rabidly anti-government newspaper called the *Canadian Loyalist and Spirit of 1812*. In his book *Eight Years in Canada* he describes Lord Durham's stay at the British-American Hotel (at King and Clarence streets; burnt in 1963). He relates that his lordship - author of the famous *Report on the Second Lower Canadian Rebellion* - demanded an egg "warm from the nest" for breakfast every day. Each morning the landlady showed him an egg that had been dipped in hot water for a few minutes.... One wonders what else his lordship may have got wrong about Canada.

Art in Kingston



Agnes Etherington
(by Grant McDonald)

The history of art in Kingston begins in the 1860s, with an art section of the Provincial Exhibition held in the then recently-built Crystal Palace. Daniel Fowler, a water colourist who lived and worked on Amherst Island, in his autobiography mentions exhibiting in the Crystal Palace in 1863.

Robert F. Gagen, in his *Ontario Art Chronicle*, describes the paintings in the exhibition buildings at the Crystal Palace as hanging from wooden slats that had been nailed on the window frames and brick walls by a local carpenter.

Daniel Fowler submitted articles on many subjects to a wide range of contemporary publications. And this aspect of a gifted artist's accomplishments has yet to be adequately researched. His autobiography, unfortunately, was never completed owing to ill health following a fall that ultimately killed him. But his legacy to Canada is rich. Many of his works hang in the National Gallery.

A retrospective 85 pieces of his work out of an astounding *oeuvre* of at least 950 items was held at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre in 1979, and this eventually travelled to Halifax, Ottawa, Toronto and Victoria.

A historic plaque marks his house at Emerald on Amherst Island.

(See Frances K. Smith: "Daniel Fowler of Amherst Island," *Historic Kingston*, Vol. 28, 1980, 25-34. See also Vol. 8.)

The principal benefactor of the present Etherington art centre was Agnes Etherington. As Agnes Richardson she inherited from her father the house that became the basis of the centre. She continued to live in the house after her marriage to Dr. Frederick Etherington who was for many years Dean of Medicine at Queen's.

But in this Victorian house, which was re-modeled in the Georgian style during the 1920s, she created the Arts and Music Club, from which developed the Kingston Art Association. In her enthusiasm and generosity, Mrs. Etherington was matched by Dr. R. G. Trotter, who, as head of the History Department for many years and first chairman of the University Art Committee, foresaw the need for the creative arts within a University structure. As a result of their efforts, in 1934 Queen's University assisted by the Carnegie Corporation established one of the first Art Departments in a Canadian university. The first resident artist was Goodridge Roberts. He was succeeded in 1936 by André Bieler of Montreal.

In accordance with plans made by Agnes Etherington and André Bieler, upon her death in 1954 Agnes willed the house to the University to develop art and music to enrich the lives both of those on campus and in the community. After major reconstruction, planned and guided by Professor Bieler and made possible by a gift from Mrs. James Richardson, the house was reopened in September 1957 as the Agnes Etherington Art Centre. In accepting, Principal Mackintosh committed the University to the spirit of Agnes's wishes. The gallery thus serves as both a university and a community art centre. Mrs. Etherington had developed a bequest from the estate of George T. Richardson to establish a memorial fund to help support the activities of the Queen's Art and Music departments. From this fund an annual grant is made to purchase works of art.

The new Agnes Etherington Art Centre will open in May 2000. It will feature seven galleries that flow into each other with deliberate transitions, yet each room will be distinct and appropriate to its contents. The Dutch "old masters," for instance, will now have a room of their own. And everything will be better protected from the vagaries of temperature, humidity and light. More and better community programs will be offered within an expanded range.

As an example of community outreach, the Centre is inviting eastern Ontario visual artists and crafts-persons to apply for grants to support exhibitions of their work. Funded by the Visual Arts Office of the Ontario Arts Council (OAC), from a minimum of \$500 up to \$1000 an artist a year is available. Deadlines for applications are 30 September 1999 and 14 January 2000. Contact Jan Allen at the Centre (Queen's University, K7L 3N6). Phone: 533-2190. Fax: 533-6765.

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED NOW

Like the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, the Kingston Historical Society embodies and supports principles and values that are hard to define but easy to understand. Like the "Agnes," KHS has limited sources of income and depends heavily on the goodwill and commitment of the members of the community it serves. As distasteful as it may seem, the facts of life demand generosity from members of an institution now well into its second century as the guardian of everything worth preserving - the kind of frankness, integrity and generosity displayed so well by the late Agnes Etherington.

A gift made to the Kingston Historical Society - a registered charity - will stand throughout history yet to come as a tribute to you, your family or your business. It can also provide you with significant tax benefits right now. Most importantly, it will involve you as an active participant in safeguarding a heritage that will enrich future generations of Canadians. Please consider making a donation to the Kingston Historical Society today.

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

Gifts of cash or other tangible assets. In addition to cash donations, Kingston Historical Society welcomes gifts of stocks, bonds and other negotiable securities. We provide charitable tax receipts for gifts of cash and for the appraised fair market value of other negotiable assets. Donors of publicly listed stocks and bonds may also take advantage of recent changes to tax laws, which now permit a donor to minimize the capital gains tax associated with such gifts.

Bequests. Gifts of cash, property or other tangible assets can be made through a bequest in your will. You control these assets during your lifetime and have the satisfaction of making a future contribution to the preservation of Kingston's heritage. The charitable donation receipt your estate will receive may provide considerable tax savings.

Gifts of certified cultural property. KHS can accept gifts of property designated by the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board. These gifts, representing important aspects of our cultural heritage, generate tax receipts that can offset up to 100% of a donor's net income in the year of the gift. Capital gains tax does not apply to these gifts.

Life insurance. The gift of a life insurance policy - paid-up, partially paid-up or newly purchased - can provide you with immediate tax benefits and the knowledge that the Society will receive a substantial sum in the future.

Residual interest/Charitable remainder trusts. You can make a gift of real estate, property or money to KHS, but retain the use of the gift for the rest of your life. You receive a tax receipt when you make the donation; the Society receives the gift upon your death.

Strip (zero-coupon) bonds. When you register a strip bond in the name of Kingston Historical Society, you make a modest investment now with the satisfaction of knowing that the Society will receive a greater benefit in the future. You also receive a tax receipt for the purchase price of the bond.

Gifts of other heritage property. Kingston Historical Society can also accept gifts of other non-certified built, cultural and natural heritage properties; furniture, art, artifacts and collections. Tax receipts are issued for the appraised fair market value of these gifts.

ALL DONATIONS are acknowledged both as they occur and in the Christmas issue of *Timelight*... Kingston Historical Society will also be pleased to help you identify additional forms of recognition such as memorials, scholarships or plaques that appropriately reflect your generosity and civic pride.

KHS Registered Federal Charity Tax Number: 0793 - 752 - 50.

For sound legal advice, consult

Black, Lloyd, Caron & Minnema - Barristers and Solicitors
Specializing in Real Estate, Wills, Estates and Estate Planning
549-3262

247 Brock Street, Kingston, K7L 1S3

Fall Calendar

Regular monthly meetings and presentations will take place as usual at 7.30 p.m. in the Wilson Room at Kingston Public Library, main branch, Johnson Street, Kingston.

15 September: Dr. Stewart Fyfe. Kingston Ice Storm 98.

20 October: Michael Dawber. Kingston Street Names.

17 November: Bill Thomson and James Bergendahl. Canadian Locomotive Company.

? December: Christmas Party. Sandy Wilson. The *Whig-Standard* Building.
(Volunteers needed)

*

Timelight ... is sponsored by the following public-spirited merchants and professionals.
Please patronize them and tell them how much you appreciate their support of KHS.

**Renaissance
Music**

(Kingston) Limited

Established 1973

(613) 384 - 9225

1057 Midland Avenue
Kingston, ON K7P 2X8
info@renaissance-music.com
sales@renaissance-music.com
http://www.renaissance-music.com

(613) 384-9225
FAX: (613) 384-9227
1 800 561-5809
TOLL FREE IN CANADA

to arrange for delivery

**TARA
& NATURAL
FOODS**

81 Princess Street, Kingston
(613) 546 - 4439

LOCALLY OWNED & STAFFED.
SERVING KINGSTON & AREA SINCE 1968

- Fashion Frames
- Contact Lenses
- Special Lenses
- Artificial Eyes

- Sunglasses
- Sport Shields
- Binoculars
- Telescopes

Marc F. Raymond
OPTICIANS
LTD.

324 King St. E. 549-2020

FREE PARKING STAMPS
BUS RIDE VOUCHERS

MON.-THURS. 9:00AM-5:30PM, FRI. 9:00AM-7:00PM, SAT. 10:00AM-4:00PM



Since 1920



Graham Thomson
Real Estate

Terry and/or Brian
Stafford and/or Stafford

(613) 546-3171

For "Ultimate Service"



ROBERT J. REID & SONS
FUNERAL HOME

309 Johnson Street (at Barrie) • Kingston

(613) 548-7973

"Our family serving your family"

PROUDLY CANADIAN

Old Time Quality



A Tradition of Hand-Craftsmanship
694 McKay Street, Kingston, K7M 7G2

Tel (613) 384 - 4571

Fax (613) 384 - 4655