

LIMELIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For some time, the KHS Constitution has been more honoured in the breach than in the observance. Accordingly, during his term of office as President, Joe Boucher set up a committee with a view to revising it. When this committee was stood down, a new committee with Dr. J. Pike as Chair was set up during 1998. This year, the committee presented a proposal to Council. It was approved after much discussion.

The proposed new Constitution and By-Laws, and the current Constitution and By-Laws, were circulated to our membership with the October issue of **Limelight**. A number of important substantive and procedural issues emerged during the discussion of the proposed Constitution at the October General Meeting.

The new Constitution and By-Laws will be discussed and open for amendment and/or addition at the next General Meeting on Wednesday, 17 Nov. Commencing at 7:00 p.m., discussion will continue until 7:45. It will be followed by the speaker -- a presentation on the Canadian Locomotive Company -- at 8:00 p.m. Hopefully, there will be sufficient time for all those interested to air any concerns they may have.

In order to facilitate discussion, it is requested that proposed motions be presented in writing before the meeting to either Dr. Pike (546-9187) or me (546-5439). If it is the will of membership, further discussion will be accommodated by calling a Special General Meeting to be held in December or early January.



Constitutional matters aside, I am also concerned about the need for slaves, drones and volunteers. As the January 2000 AGM draws near I am worried, not about Y2K, but about the list of positions and activities to be covered. In particular, we **must** find, a Secretary, a Membership Secretary, a Program Chair, and a Publications Chair. Also, some well established committees have need for new members to ensure overlap and continuity as long-

standing members decide to move on.

And then there are the other functions which help to keep KHS running. For example, incoming mail must be collected from the P.O. box and got to the relevant individuals, and we have a telephone answering machine which needs to be monitored about twice a week. These are not very demanding responsibilities, but they are essential. **KHS NEEDS YOU!**

(Desmond O'Meara)

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Kingston Historical Society

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...AND ONE FROM THE EDITOR

Several of the items in this November newsletter seem to be preoccupied with remembrance and commemoration. Jennifer McKendry provides us with another taster of our forthcoming Millennial "Plaque Volume." Other items refer to plaques at Elizabeth Cottage, and plaques and monuments at RMC. Indeed, since its establishment in 1919, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) has erected close to 2,000 plaques across Canada to commemorate historic sites, events, and people of note. Others have been established by the province and local historical societies. As befits our historic past -- and as our forthcoming volume illustrates -- Kingston has a considerable share of these retrospective landmarks.

According to HSMBC, their mission is to "reflect the diversity of cultures, geographical settings and time periods of Canada, symbolizing its national identity and human heritage." Why the modern age is so preoccupied with a rear-window gaze on the past is a provocative question addressed by David Lowenthal in his

Heritage Crusade:

All at once heritage is everywhere -- in the news, in the movies, in the marketplace ... To neglect heritage is a cardinal sin, to invoke it a national duty... Why this rash of backward-looking concern? What makes heritage so crucial in a world beset by poverty and hunger, enmity and strife? We seek comfort in past bequests partly to allay these griefs.

But remembrance is not only a matter of static plaques and silent monuments: it is also the act of commemoration. For many of us, one of the most evocative day in the calendar of performed memory is 11 November -- Remembrance Day. And some of our community's most resonant historic sites are to be found in Memorial Hall, City Park, RMC, Cataraqui cemetery, and in several churches and institutions. It is in these plaques and monuments commemorating sacrifice, commitment, and dedication that an important part of our history and future is symbolically represented -- "Lest we forget."

LETTER BOX

Dear Editor:

I have been meaning to write to you about a comment in Vol.I, No.1, page 10 of **Limelight** concerning Daniel Fowler. It is stated there that "His autobiography, unfortunately, was never completed owing to ill health...." However, a very considerable part of it was completed (the last part with the help of his daughter). It was reproduced, in full, directly from the manuscript in **Daniel Fowler of Amherst island, 1810-1894**, my catalogue and study of his work which accompanied the 1979 exhibition. I believe some copies of this are still available in the Agnes Etherington Art Centre. It is well worth reading and perhaps a note to this effect could be included in **Limelight**. The manuscript was given to the AEAC.

I enclose a donation to the good work of the KHS.

Sincerely and best wishes,

Frances K. Smith

BOOK CORNER

Three recent books underpin the theme of remembrance and commemoration in this November newsletter.

David Lowenthal is perhaps the doyen of heritage studies and his **Possessed by the Past: The Heritage Crusade and the Spoils of History** (New York: The Free Press, 1996) plays with the difference between what we mean by -- and what we do with -- "heritage" and "history." His point is that they are not the same, though often confused.

In **Inventing the Loyalists: The Ontario Loyalist Tradition and the Creation of Usable Past** (Toronto: University of Toronto Press,

1997), Norman Knowles examines how the Loyalist tradition was produced, established, and maintained over the last two centuries. Knowles demonstrates how Loyalism was an "invented tradition" steeped in controversy.

Finally, as yet another 11 November prompts our remembrance of things past, some may be interested in Jonathan F. Vance's **Death So Noble: Memory, Meaning, and the First World War** (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1997). This is perhaps the definitive study of Canada's experience of the Great War, the cultural reaction to it, and the emergence of the rituals of commemoration.

KHS SPEAKERS

At the October meeting of KHS, Michael Dawber's address on "Kingston's Street Names" prompted much interaction from the audience. All of us were anxious to share our own anecdotal concerning the history -- and often the comedy -- recorded in the named places that surround us.

The next meeting of KHS will be on Wednesday, 17 November, in the Kingston Public Library's Wilson Room, when **Bill Thomson** will address KHS on the topic of "**The Canadian Locomotive Works**." Note that the business section of this meeting will commence at 7.00 p.m. prior to the speaker at 8.00 p.m.

Special notice should be made of the **December meeting of KHS**. As is customary, we will meet on 15 December to socialize, partake of refreshments, and congratulate the recipients of the annual KHS awards. Also, **Andrew Dobson and Kim Donovan** of Kincore Developments will give a presentation on their approach to the restoration/renovation/rejuvenation of the Whig Building which is such an important component of our Market Square. The meeting will commence at 7.00 p.m. in Memorial Hall, City Hall.

CONGRATULATIONS

On October 19th, during "Architecture Week," the Ontario Association of Architects and the St. Lawrence Valley Society of Architects awarded "Certificates of Recognition" to two prominent Kingstonians: **George Muirhead**, retired head of the Kingston Planning Office and advocate for the preservation of historic buildings; and **Jennifer McKendry**, architectural historian and active KHS member. Both received certificates that acknowledged "their outstanding contribution to the built environment and to the architectural profession." Dr. McKendry's book, **With Our Past Before Us: C19 Century Architecture in the Kingston Area**. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995) was cited during the presentation ceremony.



Veterans



Memorial Highway

LEST WE FORGET

OUR CONSTITUTION

In keeping with the existing procedural requirements, the proposed revision of the Constitution and By-laws was formally presented for consideration at the October General Meeting. After discussion and possible amendment at the November meeting (note the 7.00 p.m. starting time), the revision will be presented for acceptance at either the next General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called in December or early January for that specific purpose. Copies of both the existing Constitution and By-laws and the proposed revised form were distributed to all members with the October **Limelight**. Members are encouraged to study these documents in preparation for participating in this continuing process. (Prepared by Jack Pike).

REMEMBERING

Have you ever thought how we remembered those who had fallen in "The Great War" in the first November after the cessation of hostilities? Eighty years ago, the now-well-established rituals were not yet in place. None of the monuments and memorials we now know so well had been erected.

Nor was the symbolism of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month enshrined as yet in the national psyche. During the war, the original "Remembrance Day" was commemorated on 4 August -- the date of the commencement of hostilities in 1914. "Peace Day" marked the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 19 July 1919 and was the occasion of much revelling throughout Canada. It was not until 23 May 1921 that "Armistice Day" was legislated into our calender as the national day of remembrance.

So how did Kingstonians mark the first 11 November after World War I? The pages of the **Daily British Whig** suggest that -- as elsewhere throughout Canada -- the community engaged in several local initiatives.

On the evening of Thursday, 7 November, a banquet was held for the comrades of the 21st Battalion. But the main ceremonies were on Sunday, 9 November. In the afternoon, a crowd gathered at Cataraqui cemetery where a monument inscribed with the words, "Bivouac of the dead of our Army and Navy" was dedicated "as a memorial to departed veterans of the Great and other wars, back to the Crimean." The "Last Post" was played, a wreath was placed, all of the individual graves were decorated, and the ceremony closed with "God Save the King" performed by the RCHA band. Later that evening, Mayor Newman unveiled a memorial tablet in Cooke's Church in honour of the 14 men of the congregation who had fallen. The next day, Cooke's threw a banquet for the 40 men of the congregation who had served in the war.

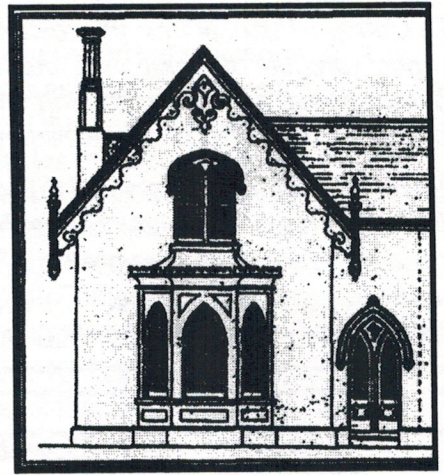
As for the 11th -- Armistice day itself -- one suggestion was to repeat the spontaneous church-service that had been held in St. George's Cathedral on the night of Armistice Day, 1918, "which proved to be so uplifting and inspiring." But H.W. Newman, Mayor, had a more formal idea. On 10 November, he issued a "PROCLAMATION" in "respectful compliance with H.M. the King's own proclamation that there be a public recognition of "Armistice Day." The good mayor requested four things: at 11.00 a.m. "all business and domestic activities of every description should cease for a period of two minutes"; that "patriotic and thanksgiving" services be held in schools and colleges; that churches hold mid-week thanksgiving services; and that citizens fly flags at their residences and places of business.



And that is how Kingston commemorated Armistice Day, eighty years ago, on 11 November 1919 -- with the two minutes of silence that many are now urging us to recognize in 1999.

ELIZABETH COTTAGE

On 15 October, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church hosted the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Elizabeth Cottage. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada was represented by Dr. Jacques Monet, Jennifer McKendry provided an historical context for the event, while the Horsey family -- the original occupants of Elizabeth Cottage -- were represented by Dr. Julia Horsey-Rose. Also present were Leslie Pugh (Elizabeth Cottage Board), Mayor Gary Bennett, John Gerretson MPP, and Peter Milliken MP. The prayer of dedication was offered by Rev. Bruce Cossar.



The work of Kingston architect, Edward Horsey, Elizabeth Cottage has been designated as a National Historic Site because of its architectural distinction as a fine example of a nineteenth century Gothic Revival villa. Of no less importance to our community has been its charitable role as a "a warm, caring home for elderly ladies." The Elizabeth Cottage Corporation was established by Louisa Anderson Fowler in 1947, the property and generous legacy was bequeathed by her on her death in 1954, and it was recognized as a charitable foundation in 1993. On the occasion of the unveiling of the plaque, Peter Milliken, MP for Kingston and the Islands, spoke on behalf of the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Sheila Copps. What follows is an edited version of his talk.

"Ladies and Gentlemen: It is a great pleasure to join you here today, officially to commemorate a venerable Kingston treasure, the Elizabeth Cottage.

En fait, la conservation de ce bâtiment montre une fois de plus l'intérêt renouvelé du gouvernement du Canada pour les lieux historiques nationaux et les parcs nationaux. Nous sommes déterminés à protéger le patrimoine naturel et historique de ce pays et à le rendre accessible à tous les Canadiens et les Canadiennes.

Kingston is a city with so much heritage and so many striking landmarks -- we truly enjoy an embarrassment of riches. It is a genuine privilege to be present to see one of Kingston's most charming monuments officially recognized and preserved by the Government of Canada. This is a chance for all of us to reflect on our heritage, a common bond that we all share.

Heritage is about more than old bricks and influences our lives and our actions. Elizabeth play such an important role in the everyday life by local Kingston architect Edward Horsey in Revival style of architecture -- the first and territory of Canada... The many which make it so striking and interesting to the villa. The graceful projected bay windows, the finish of the building are all part of its historic generations to see and enjoy.



mortar. Heritage is a living presence that Cottage, which has played and continues to of its community, is a perfect example.... Built the early 1840's, it is an example of the Gothic architectural style to spread to every province architectural details of Elizabeth Cottage, modern eye, are typical of a Gothic Revival decorative drip mouldings and the stucco fabric -- and will now be preserved for future

Today we are here to witness the unveiling of the HSMBC plaque that commemorates the historic significance of Elizabeth Cottage. Furthermore, I am pleased to announce that the Government of Canada, through Parks Canada, is contributing the sum of \$121,000 toward restoration work on the building's exterior, and also toward presenting the story of Elizabeth Cottage to the public.

I would like to take a moment to commend the hard work and determination of the Elizabeth Cottage Foundation. Under the National Cost-Sharing Program, the Foundation has had to match Program funding in order to qualify. The Foundation demonstrated its commitment to preserving the heritage character of Elizabeth Cottage by its efforts to raise funds and match the Parks Canada contribution. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Foundation, and its supporters and volunteers, for the important heritage preservation work they are doing - they deserve all our thanks.

(PLEASE SEE 'COTTAGE'; PAGE 6)

ELIZABETH COTTAGE (CONTD)

Le Cottage-Elizabeth est plus qu'un bâtiment pittoresque. En tant que lieu historique national, il est un rappel tangible du passé du Canada et de notre identité nationale. Son architecture distinctive nous ramène à une époque où le Canada était en voie de devenir une nation à part entière. Nous devons absolument préserver les endroits qui permettent de retracer, à l'instar de celui-ci, l'évolution du Canada.

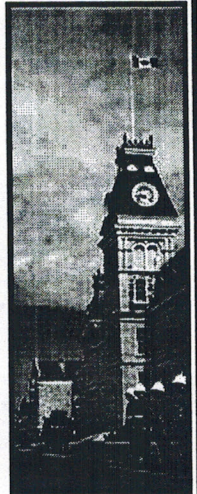
Elizabeth Cottage has graced this city for more than 150 years. Those many years have not faded its appeal in the least, and this beautiful landmark continues to attract the attention of visitors to Kingston and residents alike. Our lives are enriched when we value and preserve key examples of our heritage, as we are doing today at the Elizabeth Cottage. This site is a vibrant, thriving institution in modern day Kingston, and its long and honourable heritage has a continuity that carries over into contemporary life in very tangible ways.



RMC/CMR'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Since its founding in 1876, the Royal Military College has been concerned with the training of Officer Cadets and Commissioned Officers for "careers of effective service in the Canadian Forces." The college plans to mark its 125th anniversary by several commemorative and monumental initiatives.

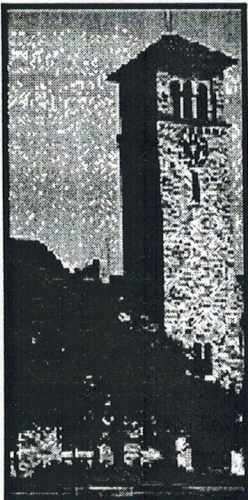
The story of RMC will be rendered by historic markers arrayed along a pathway connecting the college with Kingston. Also four landmarks will be developed on the grounds of RMC to emphasize college traditions. First, the well-known Memorial Arch -- which serves as the inspirational, spiritual, and cultural focal point of college life -- will be restored. Second, an impressive monument of Canadian Shield granite is to be erected at the intersection of Precision Drive and General Crerar Crescent to symbolize the college motto of "Truth, Duty, Valour." Thirdly, a new courtyard -- "Principal's Square" -- will be dedicated in the vicinity of the Massey Library. Finally, adjoining the Parade Square, the "Smart Commons" will be created as a mustering space for parades and a quiet meeting place for officer-cadets, staff, and the public. The plan is to be initiated before 2001.



For more information, see <http://www.rmc.ca/125plan/index.html>



A KING AT QUEEN'S



Eighty years ago, on 16 October 1919, only two months after being elected leader of the Liberal Party, William Lyon Mackenzie King received an honorary degree from Queen's. The degree was conferred at the ceremonies marking the installation of Edward Beatty as Chancellor and Bruce Taylor as Principal. In the evening, King spoke at a dinner given by the Board of Trustees in Grant Hall. The citation for King's degree read,

Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament of Canada. A most happy combination of the scholar and the man of affairs. An interpreter of the claims of labor upon the community and of the claims of the community upon labor. We honor him because of the useful work which lies behind him; we wish for him a future which will place his fellow-man even more largely in his debt.

He -- and Pat! -- must have been very pleased with this honour. It was his first honorary degree. No doubt, it indicated to King that he had attained a position of national importance. As for Queen's, it was a canny piece of prescience: they had honoured someone who was to become Canada's "most successful" PM -- according to Michael Bliss -- and a major force in Canadian politics for the next three decades. (Prepared by George F. Henderson).



MILLENNIUM PROJECT of the KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DIRECTORY OF HERITAGE MARKERS IN THE KINGSTON AREA

compiled by

the Kingston Historical Society Plaque Committee: John Grenville, David Kasserra,
Jennifer McKendry, William Patterson, and Ted Storey

This forthcoming book commemorates the new millennium by publishing the texts of more than 180 plaques, monuments, and memorials that record the history of this area from the 17th century to 1945. The information is taken from bronze plaques mounted on steel posts or fixed to stone cairns and the walls of various buildings, as well as from inscribed benches, sundials, and statues. The earliest installation date is 1826 (the Rev. Barclay's monument in McBurney Park) and the most recent 1999 (Elizabeth Cottage). Sponsors vary but many were, of course, erected by the Kingston Historical Society. The markers are grouped geographically for ease in touring, assisted by helpful maps. Additional information provides greater depth to the marker's text or supplementary material such as an architectural description of a building related to the marker. Suggested readings are given, so that a researcher can delve further into a subject. The readings, given in short form in the individual entry for a marker, have a full citation in the extensive bibliography. More than 150 interesting illustrations - contemporary and historic - are found throughout the *Directory*. This publication will appeal to tourists as a guide to the Kingston area, students, researchers, and those of us who love all things historic. It will be available in early 2000 at KHS meetings, by mail order, and in bookstores. Here is the entry for ROCKWOOD VILLA:

Rockwood was built in 1842 as a country villa for John Solomon Cartwright (1804-1845). Designed by George Browne, architect of the Kingston City Hall, in a monumental phase of the Regency style, it is a stone structure covered with stucco but lined to suggest ashlar masonry. Cartwright began to practice law in Kingston in 1830 and in 1831 became president of the Commercial Bank of the Midland District. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada in 1836 and of Canada in 1841. The government acquired this property in 1856 as a site for a "Criminal Lunatic Asylum." With another building erected in 1859, it became the nucleus of the present psychiatric hospital.

Location: on the grounds of the Kingston Psychiatric Hospital, 753 King Street West.

Sponsor: Ontario Heritage Foundation

Date Erected: 1968. *Readings:* Pratten 1969; Stewart 1973; McKendry 1993; McKendry 1995; McKendry 1996.

Additional Information: The other building mentioned in the plaque is Rockwood Lunatic Asylum (located to the rear of Rockwood Villa), designed in 1859 by architect William Coverdale and completed in 1870, five years after his death. A high stone structure in the classical style, the asylum was considered a state-of-the-art hospital modelled after "Kirkbride's linear plan."



Rockwood Villa.

Photo courtesy Queen's University Archives

article contributed by Jennifer McKendry

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