



Vol. 19 No. 3

Editor: Jim Warren

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### MARCH PROGRAM

Our next meeting is Wednesday 18 March, usual time and place. The speaker is one of our newer members and now vice-president in charge of programs, Major Lou Grimshaw. The subject of his talk follows naturally from the one before. 'Fort Frontenac, 300 Years of Service' will trace the changing military and administrative roles of the fort through four historic periods, the French, the British colonial, the Canadian dominion and the turbulent post war years. Lou can speak with authority; he serves in the National Defence College, within the fort's sturdy walls, one floor above the ghostly battlements of Count Frontenac's original.

### THE HECTIC DECADE

In February, Dr. Wallace Breck presented one of the Society's most colourful and interesting programs on 19 February when he recounted Fort Frontenac's hectic decade, from 1680 to 1690. Not content with slides, overhead transparencies and his own enthusiastic delivery, Wally was assisted by a chorus of young Voyageurs in costume, singing three historic songs of the French period. These were followed by two stalwart members of the Regiment Carignan-Salières, dressed in uniform, who demonstrated their musketry drill. Much credit must go to two modern teachers who directed the costumed recreation, Gloria Amodeo of KCVI and Carol Cartier of Polson Park Public School. Both teach French immersion. Would that our history teachers were so involved in our history.

### OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome many new members to the Kingston Historical Society. They are Ethel Lee, Elaine Hopson, Martin Betcherman, Tina Warren, Desmond and Margaret O'Meara, Gordon and Mrs. Hammond and Ron and Mary James. Col. James retired in 1991 after thirty-eight years of service including staff and command appointments in Canada, Germany and Belgium. His interests embrace strategic studies and military collections. Mary James is a paediatric nurse, a graduate of the Royal Conservatory of music and teaches piano in Kingston.

We would like to know more about all of our members, and are overjoyed that many of you have filled out our survey form. When renewing your membership, please complete the page and send it along to us.

### EVERYONE RISE

National fragmentation, curiously enough, has regenerated our love of this great country and a new respect for our national anthem. Perhaps it would be appropriate to begin our meetings by singing it to the rafters, regardless of our political persuasions:

O Canada! Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all thy sons command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
The true North, strong and free.  
From far and wide, O Canada,  
We stand on guard for thee.  
God keep our land glorious and free!  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee!

Ô Canada! Terre de nos aïeux,  
Ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux!  
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,  
Il sait porter la croix!  
Ton histoire est une épopée  
Des plus brillants exploits.  
Et ta valeur, de foi trempée,  
Protègera nos foyers et nos droits.  
Protègera nos foyers et nos droits.

O Kanata tsi tewanákere  
Onkwenhwéntsia Kanatakwe'ní:io  
Ichontsí:io entewatkátho  
Enkwanorónhkwake  
Tentewá:ta'n O Kanáta  
Enkwanorónhkwake  
O Kanáta onhwentsí:io  
O Kanáta Kwarihwakweniéhsthá  
O Kanáta Kwarihwakweniéhsthá

We are indebted to Dorothy Lazore of the Quinte Mohawk School in Deseronto for the Mohawk translation, and to Gloria Amodeo of Kingston Collegiate & Vocational Institute for the original French lyrics, written by Sir Adolphe-Basile Routhier



(1839-1920). The music, as I am sure we all know, was composed by Calixa Lavallée (1842-1891). Both were from Quebec.

### MURMURS FROM THE TOWER

The Murney Tower Museum, the jewel in the crown of the Kingston Historical Society since 1925, opens for the summer season on Victoria Day, the 18th of May. Volunteers are needed after the 6th of April to help set up displays, plan programs for visitors, sell gifts, cut grass, punch the computer and generally help out. If you would like to make it all work, do please call Mrs. Beverley Lazier at 542-7012. Our new curator will be announced shortly.

### LISTEN TO THE MUSIC

If the sounds of Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday or Arty Shaw stir your soul, set your clock radio at 5 am to CBC FM, 107.5 in Kingston. Host Bert Atkins presents an hour of historic jazz and big band sounds under the title 'Listen to My Music'. Between discs, he provides an affectionate commentary on the composers, the arrangers, the bands, the musicians and the changing musical styles from the early twenties to the late forties. A special treat is to hear the same composition in two interpretations. Bert Atkins has been with CBC since 1956, hosting jazz shows out of Montreal. Now based in Ottawa, he rounds out his musical expertise and news reading with stage performances as an actor.

### GENEALOGISTS

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogy Society will meet Saturday 21 March in the Kingston Public Library at 10 am. Speaker Dr. John Thompson, Kingston paediatrician, will shed light on the cottage industry of Ireland in the 19th century, particularly the production of linen. Visitors are welcome and are invited to join members afterward for lunch at a local restaurant.

### MILITARIANS

Collectors of medals, badges, buttons, prints and other of the rich lore that grows out of our military heritage will want to attend the exhibit and sale at the Armoury on Montreal Street, on the 11th and 12th April from 11 am to 4 pm (or until 1600 hours if you insist). For more information, call the Deputy C.O. of the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment, Major Mike Shultz at 541-5880, the armoury, or at 387-3773 his home.

### REBELLION IN THE WEST

On the 5th June 1872, as rebellion was brewing in Manitoba, Canadian-born Ensign Philip Bajus, brewer, age 27, was promoted to the rank of Captain by Colonel D. Callahan at the 14th Princess of Wales' Own Rifles. He had qualified under section 33 of the Militia and Defence Act of 1871, and replaced Major Herchimer, who headed west. The Bajus Brewery buildings survive, at Wellington and Bay Streets, currently undergoing renovation for offices.

### HOCKEY AND ART

Irene McKim, artist and long-time member of our Society, was saluted by the International Hockey Hall of Fame and Museum in February during the Historic Hockey Series weekend. Two of her oils, painted in 1986 to celebrate Kingston's hockey centennial, were displayed during the weekend's hot stove league and reception after the game. Her pictures capture the action of red and white uniformed soldiers and cadets playing old-style on the harbour ice. One shows the Shoal Tower in the background. Her work has hung in galleries from New York to Edmonton.

Bill Fittell suggests that an art exhibition would be a good way to celebrate our centennial in 1993. He notes that in addition to work by artists like Irene and Shirley Gibson-Langille, there are Kingston scenes in the collections of Marjorie Simmons, Nan Yeomans and perhaps others. If you have material for such a show, call Bill Fittell.

### ONTARIO MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

If you are an infrequent visitor to museums, you may be unaware of the Ontario Museum Association, the umbrella organization that is made up of professional museologists and enlightened amateurs across the province. The OMA has published useful technical booklets, runs training courses for its members and arranges an annual seminar and museum displays. It now announces a new Annual Publication to be launched in the Fall of 1992 which will contain both feature articles of museological interest, and abstracts of research papers.

It will also publish a bi-monthly newsletter called 'Currently' which will deal with more current issues (what else?) like museum fires and closures, advocacy issues, new museums, jobs available, or other stories.



Good photographs are welcome. The deadline for this year's annual is past, but if you wish to submit for next year or for Currently, write the Ontario Museum Association, George Brown House, 50 Baldwin St., Toronto, M5T 1L4 or phone (416) 348-8672. Membership, incidentally, is \$50 for seniors and students, \$60 for ordinary mortals.

### KAM ANYONE?

The proliferation of acronyms in our language makes KAM a welcome relief. It abbreviates Kingston Association of Museums, Galleries and Historic Sites. It meets monthly at each member museum in rotation, sharing problems and solutions with the Kingston Area Economic Development Commission to invite distant visitors to our fair city. For example, with KAEDEC and many local hotels, restaurants and other attractions, we contributed to the colourful Greater Kingston Visitors' Guide, a 40 page booklet for distant Canadian, American and European travel agents. This will be revised annually. Other KAM activities include the compilation of museum attendance and financial statistics and the development of a heritage pass to encourage visitors to visit all of our museums.

It is not generally appreciated that Kingston museums provide an important subsidy to Kingston restaurants, hotels and other businesses. In 1989, for example, our museums attracted 335,000 people, provided employment to 300. Our operating budgets of \$8 million included \$7.8 million from outside sources spent here in town. While some have said that Canadians have an anti-intellectual bias, attendance at museums, art galleries, theatres, bookstores and concerts roughly equals attendance at sports events, couch potatoes not included. Many museums are closed during the winter months, but come spring, why not visit and enjoy every one of our two historic houses, twelve specialized museums, two historic sites, the art gallery and the Cataraqui Archaeological Centre? And do not fail to explore the delightful private galleries, bookstores and craft shops that make Kingston such a delightful town for the thoughtful visitor.

### VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

If, like your editor, you are more attracted to historical sawmills, factories and the hovels of the common man than to the mansions of the rich and famous, you may enjoy a conference on Vernacular Architecture in Ontario, sponsored by the

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

Dates: Friday 24 and Saturday 25 April.

Place: Woodland Cultural Centre, near Brantford.

Cost: \$75, including two lunches, a reception and tour of vernacular buildings in the area. Papers are still being accepted; call Julia Beck in London (519) 672-3124.

### LENNOX & ADDINGTON

One of the most delightful and informative museums in Eastern Ontario is the Lennox & Addington County Museum in Napanee. Constructed within and around the old county jail, it opened in 1976 and houses a well-displayed collection of Loyalist regimental uniforms, vignettes of L & A history and an unusually large collection of agricultural implements. It is open year around, 10 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday, Wednesday evenings 6 to 9. Manager Jane Foster advises that a full time Archivist will be on staff in April. For a county of under 35,000 people, the museum in Napanee, should be the envy of all of us.

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Your editor always welcomes news items about our distinguished members, historical highlights or revelations of historical impropriety. Our deadline is usually the first Monday in the month. Call the editor Jim Warren at 544-7410 between 7 am and 8 pm. Fear not the haunting greeting of the dreaded answering machine. If the editor is absent, you may not be greeted at all! You may also mail or deliver written copy to the family mail box at 17 Richard St., Kingston K7M 2J3, strategically located between the Kingston Penitentiary and the Psychiatric Hospital in beautiful downtown Portsmouth.

### PUMPHOUSE STEAM

Before 1835, Kingston was a little town of 5000. Its inhabitants were frequent victims of fire in its small frame buildings. Many died from repeated epidemics of cholera and typhus because their drinking water came from polluted wells and the lake front. However it was not until 1849 that a group of business men were empowered to form the Kingston Water Works Company and a steam-driven pump, water mains and hydrants began to serve the old lower town. In 1887, the waterworks were taken over by the city and, in 1943, electric motors replaced the giant steam engine. In 1973 it was lovingly restored by a team of volunteer steam and railroad



enthusiasts the Frontenac Society of Model Engineers who also displayed their operating model steam engines and railroad memorabilia there. In 1990, Klaus Jechel contributed his large collection of O gauge model railroad rolling stock and track. There is also a small oval of HO track with a steam locomotive and freight cars which runs through a scenic countryside. The tiny locomotive valve gear, operated at the touch of a button, is my grandson's favourite attraction. He has never seen a real steam locomotive in action.

This important piece of Kingston's history is largely neglected by visitors and it was very nearly shut down by the city as an economy measure. It was saved by the spirited objections of other museum curators and historians at city hall. However, a better solution is for all of us to visit all of our museums more frequently, whether the displays have changed or not. It is the attendance figures against operating costs that determine museum survival. And if you find a museum boring or failing in some way, tell the curator. Do not just write in the visitor's book "Very Nice". Better yet, volunteer to help in some way. If you are too old to grease the machinery or push a lawn mower, learn how to record artifacts, paint a picture, letter a sign. We haven't got through a long life learning nothing, and what you have learned, plus a little imagination, is what our museums need.