



### AVIATION IN KINGSTON

For our September season-opener we are delighted to welcome Don Connolly, professional aviation artist, who will share both his knowledge of the history of aviation in Kingston and slides of his dramatic paintings of historical aircraft. One depicts a flight of Hawker Furies diving over Kingston City Hall in 1936. These aircraft evolved into the Hawker Hurricanes which, with Spitfires, won the Battle of Britain. Don Connolly was born in Kingston, served as a navigator and project director in the RCAF. Entering civilian life as manager and co-owner of private businesses in 1966, he pursued painting as a hobby and, in 1979, made a professional career of art and aviation history. His work is represented in many military museums and in corporate and private collections. Don't miss his presentation at the Kingston Public Library, Wilson Room on Wednesday 16 September at 7:30 p.m.

### MURNEY TOWER MUSEUM

Our Curator Adrienne Holierhok with her staff Megan Mainwaring, Christopher Rosser, Annabel Dinsdale and Paul Kerekes have carried out a lively transformation of our Murney Tower Museum. The energetic troop did a massive cleanup last spring, after Parks Canada had completed structural repairs to roof and stonework and installed new, brighter, low energy lighting. Since then, Megan Mainwaring developed five new displays 'Land of Hope and Glory' on a Victorian theme, 'Defending our

Past' about Murney Tower, 'Women in Kingston', 'Old Kingston Businesses' and 'Indigenous Peoples of Southern Ontario'. Annabel Dinsdale spearheaded publicity which generated sold-out attendance at four performances of 'Murder mystery at the Confederation Ball'. Meanwhile, Adrienne Holierhok supplemented her managerial role with a long-overdue housecleaning of the Society's attic room in the Queen's Archives. She discovered, and put in order, a collection of old Kingston newspapers, boxes of deeds and other archival material, back copies of Historic Kingston and more. Our small but valuable collections of artifacts are stored in the Murney Tower. These include the Gardiner collection of commemorative china, the Robb collection of Indian artifacts and an eclectic mixture of wooden tools, militaria, a sword, a wooden leg and what have you! Sadly, the Tower closes its creaky iron doors and the staff disperse after Labour Day, allowing the ghosts of a one hundred and forty-six year history to play freely among the shadows until next spring.

### MARGARET ANGUS CM

We were all pleased to learn that our distinguished member, Margaret Angus, was honoured for her extensive historical work by being named a Member of the Order of Canada by Governor General Ray Hnatyshyn in June. While best known for her book *The Old Stones of Kingston* (1966 and still in print), Dr. Angus has written a *History of the Kingston General Hospital*, *Queen's History in Names*, pieces for our



annual Historic Kingston and edited the six volume Buildings of Architectural and Historic Significance in Kingston (1971 to 1985) to name only a portion of her work.

Her awards have been many, including the Cruikshank Gold Medal of the Ontario Historical Society, the Silver Jubilee Medal, and awards from Heritage Canada, Parks Canada and the Ontario Association of Architects. Our city and our society is much the richer for her noble efforts.

### HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Our friends in the Frontenac Historic Foundation are to be congratulated on their quarterly newsletter, which contains copious illustrations and descriptive notes on many historic buildings in the Kingston area. Former editor Liz Mullan and new editor Diane Duttie deserve much of the credit. Individual membership in the Foundation is a modest \$20. Why not help them in their work? Write to Frontenac Historic Foundation, P.O. Box 27, Kingston, K7L 4V6. Liz Hamacher is Membership Secretary at 549-1591.

### POSTCARD PICTORIAL

Those who missed Gordon Smithson's video of old Kingston postcards will have a second chance on Monday 14 September at 5 pm on Cablenet, TV Channel 13. Title: 'Kingston a Postcard Pictorial.'

### CENTENNIAL VIGNETTES

Even as we speak, two hundred authors' fingers and fifty thumbs are flying across keyboard and paper, composing the 25 vignettes of Kingston history which will illuminate the hundredth birthday of our Society in 1993. Already, four preliminary drafts have been received with a scattering of illustrations. To the authors, my kindest regards for their enthusiastic response and my eager anticipation of receiving their copy before the October deadline. If in writers' block, call Jim Warren at 544-7410.

### WOLFE ISLAND TOWNSHIP HALL

On August 15, Wolfe Island celebrated the unveiling of a plaque for its historic Township Hall, built in 1859 to the design of Kingston architect Edward Horsey. Unlike many of the small, one-room frame buildings which housed municipal offices after the Municipal Act of 1849 brought self-government to rural Ontario, this structure is quite handsome, in hammer-dressed limestone with fashionable Italianate detailing. Organized by Parks

Canada in Cornwall, the ceremony was not attended by the Hon. Jean Charest, Minister of the Environment for Canada as billed.

### MACLACHLAN WOODWORKING

Public programs are the lifeblood of museums, and on 16 August, the MacLachlan Woodworking Museum, just 16 km (10 miles) east of Kingston, pulled all the stops out. There were demonstrations of traditional weaving, spinning, log squaring and sawing, shingling, doll making, wheel wrighting, gun smithing and black smithing. There were hayrides, pony rides, miniature horse rides and classic English automobiles. There were the Rob Roy Pipers and Dancers, country fiddlers, western hurtin' music, square dancers and Irish Ceils. There was basket making, lacemaking, sailmaking, musical instrument making, pottery making and ... but you get the idea. The weather was sunny and the place was crowded. We congratulate curator Rick Gold, resplendant in the dress of a 19th century country squire mounted on his stead Benji, for a most remarkable job of co-ordination. A good time was had by all.

### OUR MEMBERS SPEAK

During our spring survey of members we invited comment and suggestions for our Society's second century. Here they are, anonymous, but unexpurgated.

- There is too much of an emphasis on all aspects of Sir John A. Macdonald. The Society has studied, admired, written about, and celebrated (him) for too long. How about outlying districts, battlefields, farms, political aspects around Kingston. Let us broaden our outlook on our history.
- It might be interesting with so much attention focused on the Native People to hear something of the tremendous contribution to the well being of the Indians by the sisters of Hotel Dieu when they arrived in Montreal and set up their hospital.
- Rarely attend because of other commitments, but definitely interested in membership to receive publications.
- Enjoy the new newsletter format.
- Enjoying your program.
- Celebrate the anniversaries of historical events as they come.
- As a new arrival to Kingston (1978) should like a small article giving a line or two for some of the street names.



- From out of town so unable to be of much help but do enjoy reading your newsletters.
- Lobby to prevent any further deterioration of Kingston's architectural heritage. Make examples of those who offend. Do not, I counsel you, seek vitality at the cost of forsaking Kingston's true history and the traditional interests of the Society.
- As a Society member, I learn about the struggles, set backs and achievements that have produced this beautiful city. Last year it was an exceptional benefit to learn, through Jennifer McKendry's eyes and research the history of some heritage buildings. The Society is a vital organization. Maintain this level of operation.
- Pleased to note the Society's progress.
- More joint meetings with other heritage organizations.
- Tours of historical homes and other historic buildings King, Ontario Streets, north Kingston, Bath, Gananoque, Perth.
- Very impressed by your new logo design and typeface. It is so much cleaner, more modern, shows what a progressive society KHS is!
- The new format, newsier newsletter really keeps us in touch, too.
- We need another Col. Flynn!
- More publicity needed. TV, radio we seldom if ever use. We could use some different types of brochure, other than existing one, for schools, other groups and mail-outs. We need to send emissaries to speak to other community organizations, apprising them of the benefits of a healthy historical society. Much more promotion needed for Murney Tower. Our own archives need sorting, cleaning, preservation and computer indexing.
- We have now made good contact with the French teachers in both public and high schools. But we have not made any significant impression on the History teachers with the notable exception of Gary Shultz.
- Leadership to date has been and is first class and this quality is unlikely to change in the future. This, in itself, will ensure vitality in the second century.
- You might tap non-resident members for articles. To them, almost all Kingston stories and recollections are important. Human interest articles by 'laymen' could widen your constituency.
- A project to encourage Kingston school children and adults to draw or paint sailboats as they look on an August morning when 500 to 700 boats leave

Portsmouth Olympic Harbour. Kingston people do not seem to appreciate the indescribable beauty we have free.

- My present view is that the Society would be better served by producing a Visitors Guide to Kingston since the Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Bureau appear to be doing virtually nothing by way of publicity or information which is of any advantage to any tourist.
- Make the meetings more appealing to the audience. Any meeting is to some extent a performance, a kind of theatrical event. Keep the business talk and the minutes of the last meeting to a minimum. Young people won't sit still for that - perhaps that is why we have so few. Executive business could be done in caucus before or after the formal meeting. The formal meeting should be short, perhaps, but in any event, should consist of the main speaker.
- I have found the KHS to be a lively, friendly and very active organization, with interesting programs. The executive is to be commended particularly for the activities of the past year.





## EDITORIAL

Our recent survey seeking member information and comments was only moderately successful because of incomplete or missing responses. Eighty questionnaires were received from our 235 members: 34%. We were reluctant to pry too closely into members' ages, yet we needed to get an idea of the age distribution of our membership to enable us to plan Society activities more appropriately. Some strangers think that the Kingston Historical Society is a private club for ancient Kingstonians, a kind of elephants' graveyard. Of course we know better. Newer and younger members may be unaware of the great contribution of time and talent by members who may now appear a bit greyer than themselves. On the other hand, those whose membership dates from an earlier time may be unwilling to accept that public perceptions and attitudes have changed dramatically since the fifties (never mind the thirties!) The graveside celebration Sir John A. Macdonald is unlikely to stir those under forty who have been conditioned to a diet of schlock movies, television, sitcoms and laser concerts. The tedious litany of Society business before our monthly lectures, and sometimes the lectures themselves, can have little appeal to a generation that is stimulated by colour, light and action. Like it or not, we must change with the times or fade away. The evidence is already before us in the reluctance of newer members to consider office in our Society or to volunteer for museum duty. A few months back, I suggested that we begin to plan and build a museum of Kingston history. This could take full advantage of the dramatic visual impact of real artifacts, models and dioramas. The reaction was lukewarm at best: 40 in favour, 22 maybe, 10 against, 163 no comment, perhaps another indication that our group has lost its vitality. Will our Society survive beyond its centennial? I invite you to write me with your comments. This is Jim Warren, 17 Richard St., Kingston, K7M 2J3.