



### OUR PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY

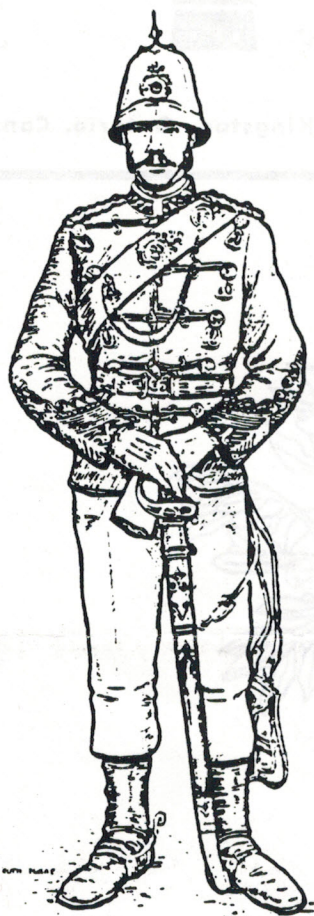
For our November meeting, we are delighted to welcome Prof. Marion Meyer from Queen's Department of Sociology. She will present an account of Portuguese immigration to Canada through the lives of four Kingston families. The Portuguese were early visitors to our shores. Diogo de Teive is believed to have touched our east coast in 1452 (Christopher Columbus please note) and Portuguese fishermen were regular visitors to the Grand Banks since then. With our need for farm labour after the war and a crowded population in the Azores, immigration greatly increased after 1953. We look forward to Prof. Meyer's account and especially welcome neighbours in the Portuguese community. Join us Wednesday evening at 7:30 on 18 November in the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library.

### SAVING OLD ARTIFACTS

Conservator Krysia Spirydowicz of Queen's presented a most interesting account of professional conservation practice at our September meeting. First she showed slides illustrating the destructive effects of acid rain, auto exhaust, birds and vines on the ancient monuments and architecture of Europe. In many cases, sculpted faces had become unrecognizable. Distinctive architectural detail had been reduced to darkened clinkers. Where restoration was impractical, some artifacts were replicated

in more durable materials. Some were moved indoors, where the environment could be more carefully controlled. Prof. Spirydowicz then described the restoration of furniture from an ancient royal tomb near Ankara, Turkey. Dating from about 700 B.C., the timber and earthen roof of the tomb had collapsed, crushing the furniture inside. The tomb was discovered in 1957 and the contents removed to a museum for restoration. The wooden artifacts were initially given a waxy protective coating, but this had darkened and attracted dust. In 1982, conservators began the tedious task of removing the old coating, cleaning the fragments and applying more modern penetrants to consolidate the fragile material. Only then could the parts be assembled on a clear acrylic armature to approximate the original appearance of the piece, an inlaid table of intricate design. Prof. Spirydowicz now has charge of the artifact conservation laboratory in Queen's art department. When I was investigating the requirements for a Kingston Museum last spring, she was kind enough to give me an extended tour of the facility and I noted many processes with which I was familiar in industry. The juxtaposition of ancient artifacts and modern technology is always an intriguing one.





## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wasn't it a fast year? Never mind, come and celebrate the definite end of a wet and windy summer and the approach of Christmas when we will be guests of the Princess of Wales's Own Regiment at the Armoury, 100 Montreal Street. Note the time and date: 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday 8 December 1992. The program will begin in lecture room 44, on the second floor, with a history of the PWOR, then a tour of the Armoury, built in 1902, and a visit to the new Regimental Museum. Afterwards, we are invited to the officers' mess for coffee and the cash bar. Jingie, jingle, jingle!

## PROGRAMS FOR 1992-93

Program Chairman Lou Grimshaw has now lined up an intriguing assortment of programs for our Society, during the year ahead. Take your calendar now, including 1993, and write in these dates. All are on Wednesday nights except as noted.

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| 18 Nov. 92      | Prof. Marion Meyer<br>The Portuguese Community in Kingston |
| Tues. 8 Dec. 92 | Major Mike Schultz, host<br>Christmas Party at PWOR Museum |

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| 20 Jan. 93     | Annual General Meeting, reports and election of officers and counsel |
| 17 Feb. 93     | Dr. David Alexander<br>Early paediatrics in Kingston                 |
| 17 Mar. 93     | Paul Banfield<br>Queen's Semi-Centennial of 1883                     |
| 21 Apr. 93     | Mrs. Patsy Fleming<br>A 19th Century Kingston Family                 |
| 19 May 93      | Mr. Douglas Fetherling<br>Early Days of the Kingston British Whig    |
| Sun. 6 June 93 | Executive: Memorial Service for<br>Sir John A. Macdonald             |
| 15 Sept. 93    | Mr. Stephen Ross<br>McBurney/Frontenac/Skeleton Park                 |

We hope that you come to enjoy them all, and please bring a friend because all are welcome.

## NEW MEMBER

Our latest member is Rod Cumming, a Queen's student in the School of Urban and Regional Planning. This is a two-year masters program for those seeking careers in the planning of cities and regions, including the environmental, social and heritage aspects of the profession. A native of Oakville, Ontario, Rod took his undergraduate degree at Trent University and is a newcomer to Kingston. We welcome him aboard and invite all students with an historical interest to join our ranks.

## HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

In our last letter, typographic gremlins made an error which your aged, dim-eyed editor failed to catch. The price for Volumes 39 and 40 of Historic Kingston should read \$20. each. It is the three index volumes which are \$3. each. I cannot commend to you too strongly the importance and delight of having a complete set of Historic Kingston in your own library, whatever the cost. Having just done so myself, I can testify to the feeling of smug intellectual superiority with which I can now greet my neighbours in Portsmouth. Mind you, one of them heaved a stone through my front window in an obvious demonstration of diminished self-worth.

## REMEMBER JOHN A.

Copies of our book Sir John A. Macdonald 1815-1891 A Remembrance are still available at \$18. Compiled by Margaret Cohoe, it contains fond tributes to our first Prime Minister from distinguished scholars and political



leaders, a chronology of his life, a useful bibliography and fourteen photographs. One photo shows our present Prime Minister, whose appearance one day may be sufficiently rare to raise the value of the book. Get your copy now in time to celebrate Sir John's birthday 11 January 1993. He will be one hundred and seventy-eight.

### **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**

Your executive and all members would be eternally grateful if you, dear reader, would offer your time, talents and smiling countenance as a volunteer. Through volunteer co-ordinator Dr. Ken Rutherford, 548-8674, you can arrange times and duties most convenient and gratifying for yourself. We need you for such activities as:

Preparing coffee and cookies for conversation after our meetings.

Creating costumes for our museum guides, and miniature clothing for an 18" puppet of Sir John A. Macdonald.

Distributing small posters which promote attendance at our meetings. We'll prepare the posters for you.

Crafting small historically accurate toys and gift items for sale in our museum.

Listing our small collection of artifacts on our computer. Most are already listed.

If you have other skills, hobbies or interests which are not being fully utilized, let us know. We can undoubtedly think of an outlet for your talents. For example, if you are a potter you could mold and cast little replicas of Murney Tower. Or make 19th century hats or shoes. Or whittle tiny 19th c. figures. Or ... but you get the idea.

### **PIONEER WOMEN**

Despite electricity and Labour-saving Devices, the role of women has ever been one of hard work, emotional stress and no time off for good behaviour. It was even more difficult in pioneer days. On Tuesday 24 November, Katherine McKenna will present *Lives of Early 19th Century Women in Upper Canada* at the regular meeting of our neighbours the Pittsburgh Historical Society in the Pittsburgh Township Firehall Station 3, Gore Road and Hwy. 15, Barriefield. The family of Ann Murray Powell (1755-1849) were active letter-writers, and from their surviving correspondence Dr. McKenna will describe the lives of daughters Anne, born 1787, Elizabeth 1789 and Mary 1791 showing the life options available to women in early Upper Canada. All without daycare and the family van. Incidentally, publication lists are available from the Pittsburgh Historical Society by calling Margaret Mason at 542-4822 or writing her at R.R. #1, Kingston, K7L 4V1. Their annual collected talks from 1978 to 1990 are \$4. each.

### **EARLY VIEWS OF CANADA**

The Agnes Etherington Art Centre on the Queen's campus has an interesting exhibition called *First Impressions: European Views of the Natural History of Canada from the 16th to 19th Century*. How did Canada's first European visitors - explorers, botanists, travellers and immigrants - depict the New World? How did they show its flora and fauna, strange geological formations, rivers and waterfall? The show includes original watercolours and sketches, engravings, lithographs, rare books and antique maps. It continues until 22 November. Guest curator is Victoria Dickenson. An illustrated catalogue is promised.

### **MEMBERSHIP NOTES**

Our Membership Chairman Joe Boucher advises that for next year, membership fees will be invoiced in January with a return envelope. This will assist forgetful members who, like me, cannot believe that a whole year has gone by since sending their last cheque. I don't suppose Joe will mind if you wish to send your cheque even sooner. Membership cards have been redesigned for our Centennial 1893-1993, displaying our new logo and typography. Why not buy an extra membership for a friend, a student or dear old Aunt Martha who so looks forward to the mailman.

### **STUDYING ARCHITECTURE**

Member Jennifer McKendry extends a warm invitation to architectural buffs to join the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada. This Society, founded in 1974, serves as a means of communication between architects, archivists, preservationists, scholars and organizations with architectural interests. For their Annual Conference, 27-29 May 1993 at Queen's, they invite papers on urban and rural topics, resort architecture and architectural education. Abstracts should be submitted in English or French by 15 January 1993 to Jennifer McKendry, 1 Baiden St., Kingston K7M 2J7, phone (613) 544-9535 or FAX (613) 545-6891 at Queen's Art Department. Membership is \$30. for individual or family. The Society address is P.O. Box 2302, Station D, Ottawa K1P 5W5. Membership includes a quarterly Bulletin in which papers are published, as are reports of research in progress, regional activities and book reviews.

### **MARINE MUSEUM MEET**

Our friends in TMMOTGLAK will be holding their annual general meeting at the Kingston Yacht Club on Monday 9 November at 8:30 p.m. To include dinner in your evening, inform Carole Pensom at the Marine



Museum beforehand (613) 542-2261, arrive at 7 p.m. and pay \$25. per person. If, on the other hand, you prefer more convivial fare, attend their Christmas Party at the Marine Museum on Friday 11 December at 7 p.m., calling Carole in advance. Earlier the same day, attend their famous Christmas Gift and Book Sale.

### ANTIQUÉ CERAMICS

The Kingston Antique Ceramics Society invites our own members to attend their special meeting on Tuesday 17 November. The speaker will be Ron Whate, archaeologist in charge of Material Culture Research at Parks Canada in Ottawa. He will discuss early porcelain and related historical matters. The time is 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Church Hall, Montreal and Queen Streets. If you would like to join, call Audrey Stinson at 548-8276.

### OLD FASHIONED SKATING

Resourceful and energetic Phil Quattrocchi announces plans to build an outdoor skating rink on Block D, a winter counterpoint to the garden and palisade he initiated last summer to commemorate the early French, Henri di Tonti (1649-1704) and aboriginal settlements in Kingston. Grading will be carried out by the Parks Department with an assist from guests of the Frontenac Institution. The rink will consist of a speed skating oval 106 metres long. Refreshments may include hot chocolate at Stoney's and washrooms at the Marine Museum. Now if only they could moderate those chilly breezes off Lake Ontario.

### CHRISTMAS WORKSHOPS

The stately Glanmore House in Belleville, home of the Hastings County Museum, will host a series of Make and Take Christmas Workshops as a fund-raising venture. Reservations are necessary, to ensure a maximum of 20 participants per session, by calling 1(613) 962-2329 during museum hours. Here are the choices: Victorian Christmas Crackers \$15. 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday 15 November. Instructor Anne Rector shows you how. Annual Wreath-Making \$15. per adult and children. Sessions at 10, 1 and 3 p.m. on Sunday 6 December. Cedar for adults, cranberries and popcorn for kids. Bring your own clippers and ornaments. Music and Magic \$3 adults, \$1.50 children Sunday 13 December from 1 to 4:30 p.m. An entertainment featuring magician Stephen Dafoe, musician Andy Forgie and an old-fashioned magic lantern show.

Yuletide at Home \$3. on Sunday 20 December. The museum auxiliary hosts this festive event with home baked goodies and Victorian hospitality with a delightful display of Frank Foley's fascinating music boxes.

Tree of Lights Carolling on Wednesday 16 December, 6:45 to 8:00 p.m. featuring the Albert College Choir, the Town Crier and the Salvation Army Band. The happy procession begins at the museum, 257 Bridge St. East in Belleville K8N 1P4, marches around the historic East Hill area and concludes with the Tree of Lights ceremony at Belleville General Hospital. They provide song sheets. You provide a flashlight and your golden voice. Enjoy hot chocolate, goodies and old Santa. All together now!

### LIBRARY REVIEW

Our Kingston Public Library at 130 Johnson Street near Wellington is a pleasant spot to pursue knowledge. Its Kingston Room has an extensive collection of books about the city including a sometimes complete set of Historic Kingston and newspaper references on card files. The library has embarked upon a review of its services and would like constructive suggestions for making it more effective. If you have comments or ideas, send them along to the Chief Librarian Lynne Jordan at the library, postal code K7L 1X8.

### GANANOQUE AND HISTORY

John Nalon is a Gananoque letter-carrier with imagination. An avid stamp-collector, he specialized in Canadian until he had amassed an almost complete collection. Then he switched to postcards. The word got around; then everyone in the Gan started sending him postcards. Then old letters from their attics. Then historical artifacts. A Gananoque Historical Society had begun in the thirties but declined in recent times. John Nalon decided to revive it. His first meeting, in the church hall, attracted nine people. The second, fifteen. The third, thirty. His society now boasts one thousand and five, including 132 life members, 88 business/corporate/club members and 785 ordinary mortals. His bi-annual newsletter is twenty-two pages long, and contains historical notes, letters to the editor and twenty-five photographs of historical groups and scenes, not to mention a lively response from its Gananoquian and more distant readers. Now he plans a new museum to house his historical collection and tell the story of Gananoque. John Nalon reminds me of a feller called Tom Patterson who had a similar hare-brained scheme to build a Shakespearean theatre in a little Ontario town called Stratford. Don't know where these crackpots get their crazy ideas. They cost too much for one thing. And dang it all, who would want to visit a museum? And what kind of a name is Shakespeare?



## CANADA OH CANADA

The rejection of constitutional proposals after an exhaustively long examination of our regional diversity, and the euphoria that followed the World Series; both have revealed how much closer we are as Canadians than politicians and pundits give us credit for. We can no longer be as easily swayed by costly promotions and patronizing speeches. Most of those who voted No did not reject the aboriginal peoples or the Quebecois, nor did they seek to maintain the status quo. Instead they expressed their disenchantment with a political process that equates the building of a nation with the tricks used in selling a used car. Harry Truman once said about politicians, "We are increasingly urged to do what is pragmatic, what will work, what is popular, what has been approved as acceptable by the polls. I sometimes think that many men currently in public life would be hard put to commit themselves on whether or not it was raining without first finding out what reply would be most acceptable to the electorate." He also said, "It isn't hard to know the right thing to do. It's just hard to do it." If nothing else, the referendum may have provided a useful lesson to politicians. Perhaps, like Atlanta baseball fans, they have learned something about Canadians. This is Jim Warren.

