



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Come Wednesday 20 January 1993 we will enter our 100th year in business and, to celebrate, conduct the election of our new officers and members of council. The prospect of an Annual Meeting strikes different people in different ways. Those with a healthy interest in politics will be curious about movement upward through the ranks. Some will be curious, hoping to assign a face to a name in print. Others will enjoy the social occasion. Instead of the usual lecture afterward, we hope that you will participate. From your own precious historical collection, try to find a mysterious object for our Show & Tell. It should be large enough to be visible to the audience, yet small enough to be portable. An elaborate sleigh with eight harnessed reindeer would be unmanageable, I think. If you are too shy to reveal your treasure in front of the class, make a label for it and we can display it on a table. Most important of all, please come along to cheer those hard-working souls who keep our Society alive and well!

LAST MONTH

At our November meeting we enjoyed a talk by sociology Professor Marion Meyer of Queen's about the immigration to Canada of four Portuguese families in the 1950's and their progress from farm, construction and domestic labour in the beginning to ownership and management of large commercial enterprises employing many others today. She noted that this was due to hard work, frugal investment and strong family team work. Her statistics showed their increasing concern for education. Many first generation immigrants had arrived with little or no formal education. Their children and grand children progressed farther along the academic road, many now in university. We were happy to welcome many Portuguese family visitors to our meeting, which encouraged a livelier discussion afterward than is usually the case.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Because of the peculiarities of our publishing schedule, to say nothing of the editor, this note is written before our annual Christmas Party at the Armoury on 8 December, but not read until afterward. Dare I assume that a delightful time was enjoyed by all, and that the festive evening was not disrupted by, say, a rogue meteorite? In an uncertain world, one can never be too careful. In any case, allow me to wish each of our members and their families and friends the happiest of holidays.



NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome five new members to the Kingston Historical Society. Dr. David Alexander is a retired paediatrician. Originally from Edinburgh, he has taught and practiced in Kingston, on and off, since 1955. Beside golf, curling and Scottish dancing, he will address our Society next February. His wife Dr. Jean Alexander, also a paediatrician, practices in the Child Development Centre of Hôtel Dieu Hospital. They have four children. Bert and Bettina Henderson have also joined us. Bert is

a retired teacher and artist with a particular interest in ancient and Latin American history. Betty was a general insurance underwriter before retirement; is now an opera fan and volunteer in the archives of the Marine Museum. They are relative newcomers to Kingston, moving here from Kitchener in 1989. Our latest Honorary Member is Hugh MacDonald Gainsford who has the distinction of being a descendant of Sir John A. Macdonald. He lives in Winnipeg, and we have sent him our book of remembrances about his distinguished ancestor along with our best wishes from Sir John's home town.

MURNEY TOWER PEOPLE

Bev Lazier has decided to step down as Chair of our Museum Committee. We regret this. She has laboured bravely to keep our museum an effective showcase for our societal efforts, despite its frustrating financial problems. However we are overjoyed to hear that she will become Museum Treasurer, a daunting task, but one for which she will prove dauntless. Further joy, we learn that Ken Rutherford will take on the job of Museum Committee Chairman. Our 1846 tower could not be better defended, though the need for loyal volunteers is ever with us. What about you?

Some months ago, vandals broke off and stole the plaque which told the story of Murney Tower. Parks Canada to the rescue! An elegant new plaque, coloured bronze and maroon, in two languages, has been mounted upon a solid new stone plinth upon a concrete foundation. Let's see the bastards move that!

Museums are an important drawing card for visitors to our fair city, and the Murney Tower has contributed for two years to the cost of producing the Visitor's Guide for Greater Kingston, co-ordinated by the Kingston Area Economic Development Commission. KAEDEC, as they are called, is supported by the city of Kingston, and the Townships of Kingston, Pittsburgh and Ernestown. It serves as an umbrella for both tourism and industrial development. Its Greater Kingston Business Directory, which lists virtually all commercial and industrial establishments in this area, costs \$25, a useful source book for newcomers to the city, marketeers and those who have fallen into unemployment, for whom the cost is mercifully waived. KAEDEC is doing a splendid job of promoting all of us. Why not call and tell them so? They are at 275 Ontario Street, across from S & R. Their telephone is 544-2725, Fax 546-2882. Help them promote our favourite city.

HISTORIC KINGSTON

Don Redmond, intrepid editor of our annual Historic Kingston, explains that, in a perfect world, talks delivered at our monthly meetings appear a year later in that august publication. There are exceptions however. Talks which are the subject of academic theses may not be directly available to our annual. Theses are submitted for copyright to the National Library who use the services of Micromedia Ltd. in Toronto to microfilm these works, distribute them in Canada and the United States when requested and collect copyright fees. Thus, Historic Kingston cannot scoop that agency without causing untold embarrassment to the writer and incur the payment of fees. Bureaucratic though that may seem, it relieves our academic colleagues of legal entanglement over the protection of their intellectual property. This frees them to emulate the Laputans, one of whom spent eight years upon a plan to extract sun beams from cucumbers, placing them in sealed bottles to be used to warm the air during wet summer months. On the other hand, Editor Redmond advises, a really good historical piece which was not delivered at one of our meetings might be considered for inclusion in Historic Kingston. As he says this, Don Redmond waves his blue editorial pencil, and a fiendish smile illuminates his face. So be warned.

GENEALOGISTS ARISE!

Climbing your family tree? Our own Peggy Cohoe provides a ladder with 'Tips on Beginning Your Genealogical Research', when she addresses the next meeting of the Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. Afterwards, you can explore the society's own genealogical library. All take place on Saturday 16 January 1993 at 10 a.m. Where? The Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library at 130 Johnson Street. Visitors are always welcome, whomever their ancestors.

ONTARIO HERITAGE WEEK

Our provincial Minister of Culture and Communications, Karen Haslam, has invited our Society to join with other cultural groups across the province in celebrating Ontario Heritage Week which will occur 15 to 21 February 1993. Many of her suggested projects are like an inventory of our Society's activities over the past century; but some are new and deserve our consideration:

Organize a speakers' bureau.

Awards to craftsmen who are 'community treasures'.

Joint meetings with other local historical groups.

Produce a historical kit for newcomers.

Oral history tapes by seniors for students.

Demonstrate traditional crafts and technologies.

Soon, we are advised, we shall receive posters and information kits to assist us in planning our Heritage Week. The Heritage Policy Branch invites your questions at (416) 314-7177. Please, ma'm, may we have some more money for our museum?

WHERE TO TURN

Up the steps and in the rear door of St. Paul's Church at 137 Queen Street you will discover the kindly and hard-working staff of the Kingston District Community Information Centre. Their information hotline 542-1001 answers hundreds of monthly calls from people in Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington. They ask about community and social services, government offices, self-help groups, sports and recreation. The trained counsellors' assistance is free and confidential. If you need more general information in print, CIS produces a variety of directories including Where to Belong, listing special interest clubs and societies like our own. This costs \$7. Where to Turn lists social services and where to get help, for \$17. Where to Turn in Lennox and Addington costs \$15. A directory of Service Clubs is free to non-profit organizations, \$5 to businesses. A Data link disc for your computer covers a broader base for \$350. Call them for (what else?) further information.

BUY A BRICK

The Ontario Historical Society, of which we are a member, has struck on a novel method of raising funds for its first permanent home, Parkview, built 1913 in Willowdale. To give your contribution a sense of identity, you may purchase a nail for \$1, a shingle for \$3, a brick for \$5, and on up to a room for a cool \$5,000. Originally the home of the pioneer family of John McKenzie, it contains 12 rooms, 3 bathrooms, a coach house, a brick milk house, 1907, and the 1915 stable. As might be expected, the house is in the Edwardian style known variously as Queen Anne, Arts and Crafts, Art Nouveau or Mission. Call it what you will, but try to send them your cheque, payable to the Ontario Historical Society, 5151 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario. M2N 5P5. For further information, call (416) 226-9011. Incidentally, the Ontario Historical Society was founded in 1888, five years before ourselves. Makes one feel a little parvenu, doesn't it!

DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN?

In 1894, the Mayor of Kingston, Dr. J. Herald, noted the need for "a museum in the City buildings in which could be collected specimens of the natural products of the surrounding country, and samples or models of the various articles manufactured in our different establishments. This would serve a double purpose, as an education to our citizens and a place of interest to tourists. Perhaps the recently formed Historical Society might be induced to take hold of this matter and undertake its management." Perhaps.

GOD BLESS US EVERYONE

Santa has reappeared in his thousand incarnations, urging us, in his jolly fashion, to consume as conspicuously as possible while, around the world, each nation observes its traditional form of ethnic intolerance.

Somewhere along the line, we seem to have forgotten the philosophy of Him whose birthday we celebrate. As Swift said, we have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another. Perhaps, between the presents and the plum pudding, we should pause a moment to recall what Christmas is really about. May your holiday be a happy one for you and your family. In the new year, may all of us, Catholic and Protestant, Muslim and Jew, realize how much more we have in common than that which separates us? Could we, one day, not just tolerate but love one another?

