

# THEN

## Kingston Historical Society



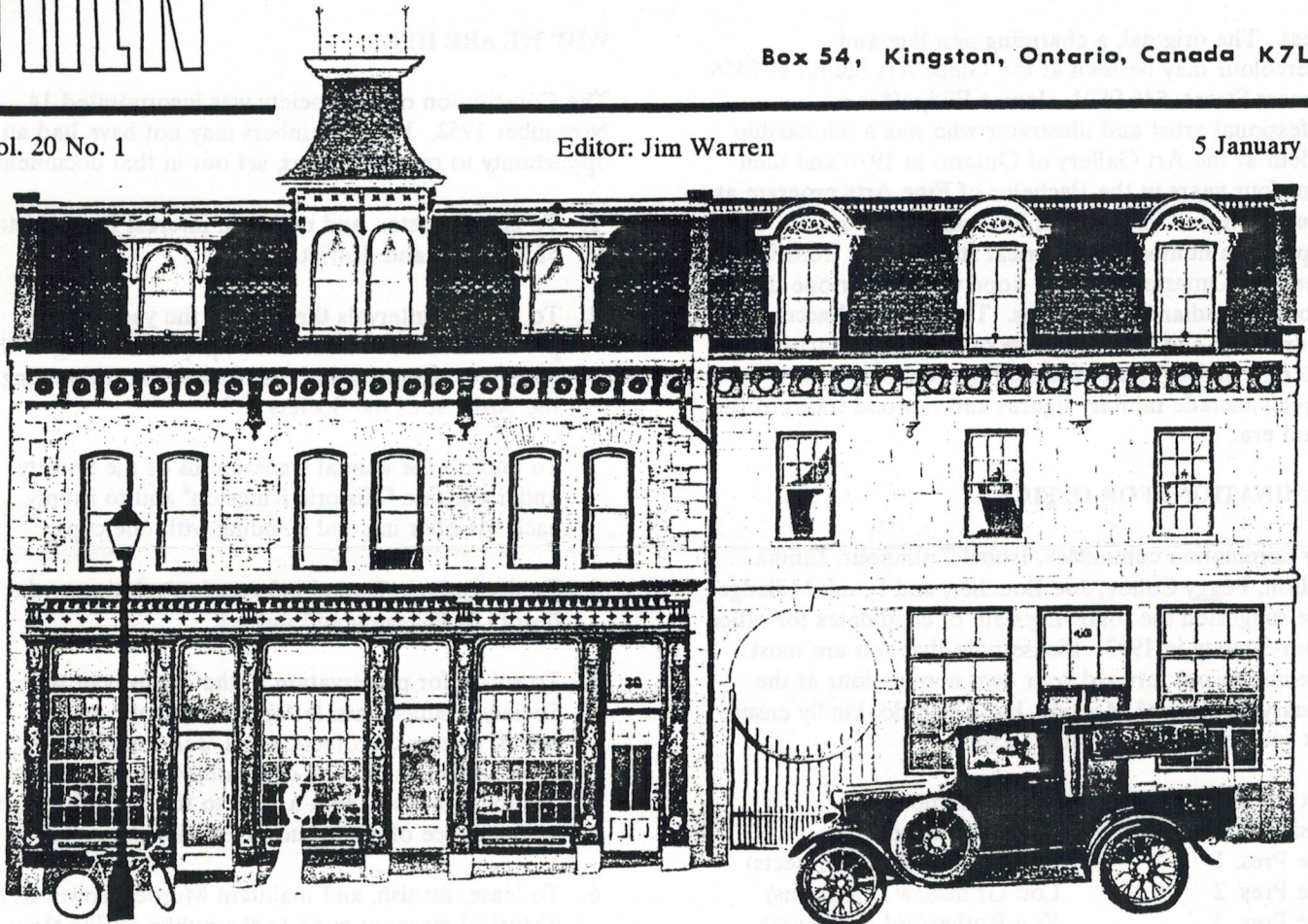
*Since 1893*

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Editor: Jim Warren

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### CHRISTMAS PARTY

As it turned out, we had a delightful Christmas party at the Armoury on 8 December, hosted by Major Mike Shultz, deputy CO of the Princess of Wales Own Regiment. His talk traced the history of the various small militia regiments which amalgamated to form the PWOR. Afterwards, we visited the PWOR Museum, which contains several photographs revealing early Kingston backgrounds, the recent paintings of Ted Zuber when illustrating the Gulf War and, of course, medals, weapons, colours and uniforms galore. We then repaired to the officers' mess which was resplendently restored for Princess Diana as Colonel of the Regiment in October 1991. There we enjoyed delicious sandwiches, sweets and a modicum of liquid cheer, mainly coffee. The regimental history will appear in the next volume of Historic Kingston.

### SHOW AND TELL

At our first meeting of the new year, Wednesday 20 January, we invite you to Become Involved, as they used to say in the sixties. Instead of our usual lecture after the election of officers, we would like you to select a prized, peculiar and portable object from your historical collection and present it at the meeting. Program Chairman Lou Grimshaw asks, if you can help, please inform him in advance at 541-5917. There are reasons for this. First it helps him plan the meeting. Second, if no one volunteers, Major Lou threatens to sing bawdy barrack-room ballads which will embarrass us all.

### CANADIAN MAIN STREETS

The illustration which heads our newsletter is the work of James Fillipoff of Lanark, Ontario. We recognize the subject immediately as the Kingston Brewing Company with the Classic Video store to the right, on Clarence



Street. The original, a charming pen line and watercolour may be seen at the Glebe Art Studio at 2456 Princess Street, 546-0891. James Fillipoff is a professional artist and illustrator who was a scholarship student at the Art Gallery of Ontario in 1978 and then spent four years in the Bachelor of Fine Arts program at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B. He is preparing a number of historical streetscapes from towns in eastern Ontario which we hope will appear one day in a book Canadian Streetscapes. The historical accuracy of his drawings and the subtle use of colour to render materials and light are outstanding. Others of his subjects include military figures and railroad trains of the steam era.

### NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE

Our nomination committee, Isobel Trumpour, Emma Molson, Peggy Cohoe, Joe Boucher, and Frank Milledge have suggested the following slate of candidates for office in our Society in 1993. Please note that you are most welcome to put forward your own nominations at the January 20 Annual Meeting, but if you do, kindly ensure that your nominee is willing to serve.

Past President	Isobel Trumpour
President	Frank Milledge
Vice Pres. 1	Bill Fittell (Special Projects)
Vice Pres. 2	Lou Grimshaw (Programs)
Vice Pres. 3	Ken Rutherford (Museum)
Secretary:	help!
Treasurer:	Desmond O'Meara
Membership:	Joe Boucher
Editor:	Don Redmond (Historic Kingston)
Editor:	Jim Warren (THEN newsletter)
Council:	Wally Breck George Henderson Mary Patterson Ken Buckingham Irene McKim Jack Pike Virginia Martyn Jim Warren

### Murney Tower Museum:

Committee Chair:	Ken Rutherford
Treasurer:	Bev Lazier

Please turn out to meet the candidates and during the coming year, give them your enthusiastic support. Remember the time: 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday 20 January at the downtown Public library.

### WHY WE ARE HERE

The Constitution of our Society was incorporated 14 November 1962. Many members may not have had an opportunity to read our Aims, set out in that document:

1. To create, foster, and maintain interest in the history of Kingston and district.
2. To meet at intervals throughout the year for the presentation and discussion of papers relating to the history of Kingston and district and for transacting the business of the Society.
3. To publish the annual transactions of the Society under the title "Historic Kingston" and to supply each Member in good standing with one copy.
4. To disseminate factual information relating to the history of Kingston and district.
5. To solicit for preservation in the archives of the Society, manuscripts, letters, documents, maps, books, pictures, artifacts, arms, uniforms, military accoutrements and any other objects or data of historical interest, with a view to the acquisition and maintenance of a Kingston Historical Museum.
6. To lease, furnish, and maintain Murney Tower as an historical museum open to the public during the summer months and/or any other museum property in the care of the Society for the length of season and in such manner as may be deemed advisable by the Executive of the Society.
7. To exchange historical information with other interested individuals or groups.
8. To maintain a list of historic sites and plaques in Kingston, and to assist in selecting other sites for plaques.
9. To lend all possible assistance in the preservation of buildings of historic interest in the City of Kingston and district.
10. To participate in all civic functions designed to perpetuate the memory of the past.

Should you wish to comment on our aims or our success in achieving them, why not dip quill into ink pot and address the editor? He hovers like Bob Cratchit before a tiny grate at 17 Richard Street, Kingston K7M 2J3. Do it now!



## THE WAY WE WERE

As part of our application to the Ontario Historical Society for the Scadding Award of Excellence, we submitted a brief history of our Society:

"The historical significance of the city of Kingston has inspired a legion of enthusiastic amateur and academic members of the Kingston Historical Society since it first met on 24 November 1893 in the council chamber of our City Hall. Here are just a few of our accomplishments over the years.

In 1923 we began to place permanent markers to identify historic buildings, sites and events around the city of Kingston. There are twenty-seven at present.

In 1925 the Society established a museum in the round stone Murney Tower redoubt. Originally built in 1846 to repel Americans, it now welcomes them and hundreds of Kingston students who enjoy its informative displays.

In 1952 we began the annual publication of Historic Kingston, providing a lasting record of the historic research and activities of members of our Society.

In 1962 our Society was formally incorporated, setting out its aims, constitution and by-laws. The historical minutes, reports and other archival material of the Society are preserved for reference in a room of Queen's University Archives. Our historical collection is displayed in the Murney Tower Museum.

In 1970, our Society assumed responsibility for the annual memorial service to Sir John A. Macdonald at Cataraqui Cemetery and, with the help of many community organizations and individuals, carried out the restoration of his gravesite in 1980.

In 1991 a special ceremony commemorated the hundredth anniversary of Sir John's death, including an address by the present Prime Minister and other dignitaries.

Over the years, the Kingston Historical Society has assisted city residents and visitors to become more familiar with our history by conducting guided tours, arranging exhibitions, answering enquiries and providing invaluable heritage resource material to students, scholars and amateur historians.

In 1993, the 239 members and many friends of the Kingston Historical Society will proudly celebrate our one hundredth birthday."

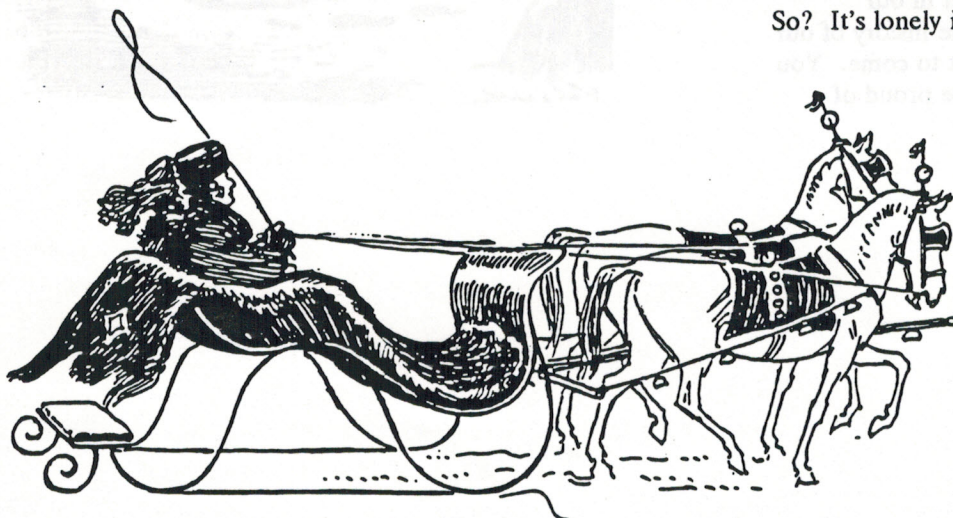
## GRANT HALL'S CLOCK

The tower of Grant Hall has become the architectural symbol of Queen's University. Ken Cuthbertson, Editor of Queen's Alumni Review, tells an interesting yarn about its four-faced clock. Through student enterprise, the tower was completed in 1903 and named to honour distinguished Principal George M. Grant who had died the previous year. To provide the clock, Nathan Dupuis, first head of the faculty of Practical Engineering (now Applied Science) undertook to design the works, based on others he had seen. One design change was to use copper instead of wood for the 13' pendulum arm. When the weather was warm, the copper became longer; when the temperature dropped, it shrank. Thus the weather determined the length of the day. The bronze and steel mechanism was installed in 1905. The wood faces and balsa wood hands followed, and the mighty machine was wound every Thursday since, until old age brought its lumbering escapement to a halt.

Time shift to 1993, the hundredth anniversary of Queen's Engineering faculty. Again, students to the rescue. The old clock works will become a museum piece, to be replaced by four electrical clocks. The four faces are now in aluminum, 8.5 feet in diameter. The cost: \$30,000, half of it already raised. But on 22 January 1993, the new clock will be there for all to see.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

So? It's lonely in here!





## HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHN A.

On January 11th we should pause at our labours and pay a friendly tribute to Sir John A. Macdonald, who will turn one hundred and seventy-eight. John A's life was filled with frustration and triumph despite the political odds and personal tragedies that never killed his dry humour. In my rural childhood school house, Canadian history barely got beyond the War of 1812 (the gravel country roads slowed communication) so it was with delight that I recently discovered Donald Swainson's little book 'Sir John A. Macdonald The Man and the Politician!' First published by Quarry Press in 1971, the second 1989 edition is still in print. It is not often that one enjoys a political history so much. The cover reproduces his election poster of 1891, John A. hoisted on the shoulders of a farmer and a factory worker. His party in trouble, he called an election for 5 March 1891. Despite his age at 76 he fought a strong campaign until he collapsed from exhaustion on 25 February. Amazingly, he won the election but suffered a stroke and died only three months later.

## LOOKING BACK: LOOKING FORWARD

The Roman god Janus was the patron of beginnings and endings, of exits and entrances. He was depicted in sculpture with faces fore and aft. He gave his name to the Janitor, who guarded the entrance to the Roman house, and to January where we perch precariously between recollections of the past and hopeful anticipation of the future. Unlike the popular practice of bacchanalia, the New Year is a time of reflection. What might we have done that we left undone? What might we have done considerably better?

However singular and vulnerable we may feel in difficult times, what might we accomplish in the year ahead? What can we do to build a more contented family, a more cohesive society, a happier world for millions who do not share our good fortune? Perhaps, as historians, we tend to look backward over much. Yet in our centennial year we must not forget that the history of our past is but an early stage of the history yet to come. You and I can make it a Canadian history to be proud of.

J.W.

