



ST. MARK'S IN BARRIEFIELD

Our November meeting will feature an interesting talk by distinguished historian Brig.Gen. Bill Patterson, whose roots in Pittsburgh Township go back several generations. He will speak about St. Mark's Church in Barriefield and its 150 year history.

Author of 'Lilacs and Limestone' and the just-published 'Courage, Faith, Love,' Bill has had a colourful career as Supervisor of Historic Sites for the St. Lawrence Parks Commission (Fort Henry, Upper Canada Village and Fairfield Park) and 32 years in the Canadian Army. In his retirement, he has been active with LACAC, the Pittsburg Historical Society and the United Empire Loyalist Association, to mention a few. We look forward to his talk.

CENTENNIAL FEAST

At the back of this newsletter you will see Lou Grimshaw's poster promoting our Christmas party at Fort Henry on 10 December at 7 p.m. in the Garrison Restaurant. An added note is to invite you to wear a costume of the nineteenth century, military or naval mess dress, traditional or modern evening dress or business

attire. Cross-dressing is not recommended, though the temptation to rent a costume from Gilbert and Sullivan is almost irresistible.

ACT NOW! Tickets should be purchased in advance from Virginia Martyn, 542-6828 or from Lou Grimshaw at 549-2500. The cost is \$40 per person for a splendid feast and good fellowship (personship?). You can write to Virginia Martyn, Unit 80, 1 Place d'Armes in downtown Kingston K7K 6S5. Or you can purchase tickets from her at our next meeting, 17 November. **BUT ACT NOW!**

OUR SOCIETY REBORN

Our October meeting was a compendium of newsworthy items whose highlight was a dramatic re enactment of the founding of the Kingston Historical Society and other colourful events of the year 1893, all in costume and glorious technicolour. Don Redmond, Margaret McKay and Richard Linley played multiple roles, changing hats and voices to suit the characters. It was a dramatic reading from the Daily British Whig and the Kingston Daily News with all the journalistic colour, pomposity and trivia that characterize local newspapers today, but brought to life by the talents of the performers. The

historic readings triumphantly survived the stultifying procession of announcements, promotions and the Reading of the Minutes with which our meetings are invariably peppered.

ART 100

This society's exhibition of historic art was a phenomenal success, and while it was an enthusiastic team effort by members and many non-members who share our love of Kingston's historic scene, Vice President Bill Fittell deserves the main credit for action above and beyond the call of duty.

There were 102 pictures in the show, filling all four walls of the library's Wilson Room. Favourite themes were Martello Towers, the old block house and the penny bridge with techniques ranging from delicate Victorian watercolours to bold oils and acrylics in an almost primitive style.

We must also thank Brenda Bass, who sold lottery tickets on Madeleine Lamontaigne's 'Calico Kingston', Hillenbrand Estates who provided delicious wine, Bruno's Bistro for delectable cheese, and many volunteers who baby-sat the artwork for three days so that it wouldn't walk away.

SELLING HISTORY

Jim Warren, editor of our fifteen True Tales of Kingston History, presented them to the Society for the first time on 20 October and was rewarded with cheques to the Society for five complete sets (\$17.00 each including postage) from loyal members and friends. Delivery has been delayed until the editor completes an illustration for the final vignette: 'Naval Base at Kingston 1812', which should be in print as you read this. Still to be heard from are members of the Publication Committee or other volunteers who would be willing to assist in the marketing and distribution of our vignettes. You can phone Jim Warren to volunteer at 544-7410, preferably between 5 and 8 pm. Please help.

HERITAGE STRUCTURES

When John Grenville was kind enough to present the First Annual Report of The Canadian Register of Heritage Properties at our last meeting, there was the impression that this was a first. In fact, Kingston has pioneered the identification and description of historic buildings since the early 1960s, and architectural schools have prepared scale drawings of old buildings since long before that. These are such a visual treasure house for architectural historians that they deserve to be identified once again.

First, of course, are the original working drawings of architects in such repositories as Queen's Archives (545-2378), the Archives of Ontario (1-800-668-9933) and the National Archives of Canada, Cartographic and Architectural Division (1-995-1079). A good overview may be obtained by searching out the books of such architectural historians as Eric Arthur (1898-1982), Anthony Adamson (1906 -), Peter Stokes (1926 -), Marion Macrae (1921 -) and our own Margaret Angus, whose 'The Old Stones of Kingston' first published in 1966, is still in print. She served as consultant to the National Historic Parks and Sites Branch of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs who, in 1970, inaugurated the Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings. Using students and 10 page recorder sheets, they attempted to document the exterior of buildings in Canada erected before 1914. This has been collected in the CIHB data bank and printouts of specific buildings are available at cost from the department in Ottawa, K1A 0H4.

Of more interest to Kingstonians are the six volumes of our Buildings of Historical and architectural Significance, available for \$15. a volume from the LACAC office in City Hall. Each has maps, photographs and historical notes of historical buildings which were standing in Kingston in 1971-1985 when the books were published.

Which brings us to the 'First' Annual Report of The Canadian Register of Heritage Properties, published under the authority of the Minister of the Environment on behalf of the Ministers responsible for Culture and Historical Resources, Ottawa 1992, to quote the bureaucratise. This booklet contains pictures and descriptions of five properties from each province or territory and ten owned by the federal government including our own Murney Tower. Happily, it includes a few humble dwellings and industrial plants like Gooderham and Worts Distillery in Toronto, not just government buildings and the homes of the rich and famous, which are often so architecturally pretentious and boring. Nevertheless the booklet appears to be more a work of political tokenism than a serious contribution to our cultural record. In times of penury, I suppose we must be content with crumbs from the table. To be fair to John Grenville, who has done so much to promote Bellevue House, John A. Macdonald and the Murney Tower, he presented his message splendidly and a framed photograph of Murney Tower to our President recognizing its historical significance.

AWARDS TASK FORCE

Under the chairpersonship of Joe Boucher, Isobel Trumpour and Jack Pike have formed a task force to establish the Kingston Historical Society Award as part of

our centennial celebrations. This will honour an institution, group or individual, whether member or non-member, and may be presented annually or at least every five years, at the formal December dinner meeting. The award will consist of a book of the recipient's choice and a certificate. While your editor has studied the Minutes of the Awards Task Force carefully, he can see no statement about the purpose of the awards or the basis for selecting candidates. Nevertheless, several names have already been put forward for the consideration of the Executive and Virtue will undoubtedly triumph.

TIMELESS HISTORY

Our president Frank Milledge was obviously proud to display an Award of Merit our Society has just received from the American Association for State and Local History, commending us for having one of the most active and effective historical societies in eastern North America. A little more stained and dog-eared than most such awards, it was dated 10 September 1953 and had lain concealed in the historical files of the Royal Military College. Doubtless a victim of the fact that our Society, despite its age, has no fixed address.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS REPRIEVED

The building housing the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation will be restored after all. The Stella-Buck Building in the J.K. Tett Creativity Complex at 370 King Street was threatened by serious deterioration in a structural wall and other results of old age. The city has agreed to invest \$250,000. in reconstruction providing this is matched by \$250,000. in public subscription.

At a brainstorming session on 28 October chaired by outgoing Mayor Helen Cooper, a variety of options were considered for controlling costs and increasing usage of the building. These included the possible use of apprenticeship students in restoration work, and creating a classroom or mini-auditorium for training and meetings of cultural groups.

Since the Kingston Historical Society could use space for its executive meetings, files and general work, not to mention our regular meetings, we should get involved. In fact, your editor is on their brainstorm committee and will report on progress.



GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Sue Bazely, the energetic archaeologist, extends a warm invitation to all of us to attend the Christmas meeting of the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation. The special talk is titled Ghosts of Christmas Past and will unearth the archaeology at Hay Bay Church Cemetery. When? Tuesday 7 December at 7 p.m. Where? In the Rotary Rotunda, next to Domino Theatre, in the J.K. Tett Creativity Complex at 370 King Street West. Can't you feel the chill moving up your spine?

PORTSMOUTH UNDERGROUND

Kingston's westerly heart, the village of Portsmouth, is undergoing another kind of archaeological dig as giant shovels, front end loaders and dump trucks penetrate the subterranean world beneath King Street West. Unsuspected basement windows have been revealed beneath the cracked sidewalks and fractured macadam of our main business street. Indeed, our main business street is gone for the moment as ancient water mains, storm sewers and pipes of no known function are replaced with fresh concrete and invulnerable plastic. All local

stores are open despite the din though they and their loyal customers will be glad when the job is done.

The garish but shabby Lakeview Manor still stands, nervously awaiting, we hope, the wrecker's ball.

IN THE INQUIRER

Not to be confused with the National Enquirer which serves a very different purpose, the Kingston Public Library now issues a newsletter, the Inquirer. The Fall 1993 issue, number 5, is especially interesting considering the changes that are taking place in the Central Library at 130 Johnson Street. The videos, audio cassettes, books-on-tape and compact discs have moved to the main floor. Films and AV equipment must be requested at the main desk. The children's library upstairs is expanding, and Automation is coming in November. Save your tattered library card; it will become a collector's item. Electronics and plastics will rule. Work stations will replace the rows of oaken drawers with their neatly typewritten accession cards.

Apart from Hi Tek, the library staff have become a friendlier bunch and we wish them well in their efforts to bring our library system into the twenty-first century. Be patient with them during the start-up period of the new technology. Meanwhile, why not become a Friend of the Kingston Public Library. For only \$10. you can be an individual member, or expend \$25 for the entire family. The library retains its telephone number, 549-8888, but now uses these extension numbers:

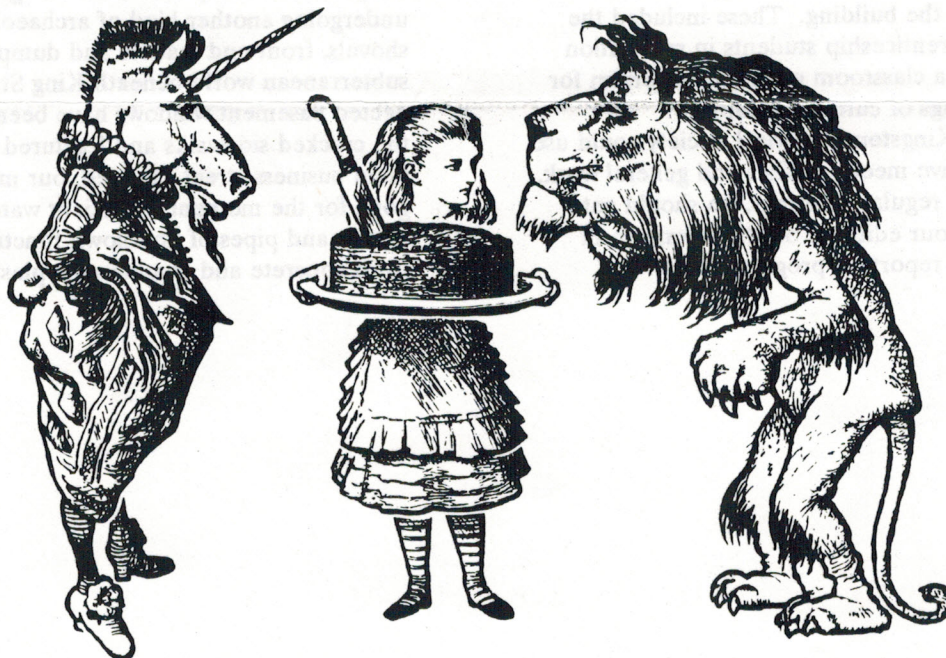
Circulation Desk	110
Children's Services	119
Information & Audio-Visual	112
Publicity & Outreach	131
Room Bookings	124
Get Canada literate once again.	

QUEEN'S ARCHIVES CITED

Queen's University Archives is noted for its collections and contributions to regional history far beyond its campi. The Canadian Historical Society has cited Queen's Archives for the Ontario Regional Award. To quote, "The archives' active approach to acquisitions beyond the records of the university has resulted in a close relationship with the City of Kingston ... as well as those of local organizations." It particularly commends the leadership of Anne MacDermaid over the past fifteen years. We extend our congratulations and thanks to everyone in the Archives' team, and wish continued success to the present University Archivist Dr. Shirely C. Spragge.

THE GREAT 1993 ELECTION

Our curiosity about the probable outcome of the federal election was only exceeded by our astonishment at the final results. Whatever our joy or despond, we must respect the noble and dignified manner in which the two women leaders accepted their defeat at the polls. They both struck a stately note that is rarely observed but sorely needed in our House of Commons. Despite the loss of seats of two of the traditional parties, we should remember that the popular vote was much more evenly spread. No party can afford to gloat over the results. We look forward to decisive action by the majority government and intelligent, incisive criticism by the two opposition parties. As citizens of a wonderful country, let us do what each one of us can to help them make it work. This is Jim Warren.



PROCLAMATION

by command of His Majorness, the President of the Society

The *Ancient & Honourable* **KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

will hold a

CENTENNIAL DINNER

at

The Garrison Restaurant, Fort Henry

on

Friday, 10th December, 1993

at 1900 for 1930 hrs

(7:00 pm for 7:30 pm, for those with only half a clock)

The **PROGRAMME** will comprise:

Reception and cocktails - 1900 hrs, Wellington Room:

Wassail Bowl

Greetings and Good Cheer!

Dinner - 1930 hrs, Victoria & Bonnycastle Rooms:

Welcome

The Grace

The Loyal Toast

Dinner (selected from *Her Majesty's Bill of Fare*)

Coffee

President's Remarks, *etc., etc.*

Cost: \$40. per person (includes all of the programme above). An optional Wine Bar will also be available with a selection of fine wines available by the glass or bottle.

Tickets must be purchased in advance from Virginia Martyn, Unit 80, 1 Place d'Armes, Kingston, Ont, K7K 6S5; or telephone 542-6828; also at Society Meetings in October and November. (or call Lou Grimshaw at 549-2500).

Dress: 1890s period costume is encouraged; military or naval mess dress, traditional or conventional evening dress or business attire are also appropriate.

Note: Available seating in the Garrison Restaurant restricts attendance to a **maximum of 100 persons**, so please purchase tickets early to avoid disappointment!