



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

January is the month in which we elect our Society's officers and council members, hear annual reports, bring along interesting artifacts for show and tell, and chatter over hot coffee. Please note that, this time, our meeting will be held on the fourth Wednesday 26 January 1994 at 7:30 in the Wilson Room of the central Kingston Public Library.

While we shall report all confirmed candidates in our February newsletter, we are delighted that long-serving member Bill Fittell has agreed to stand as our new President and that many other officers and members of our council have agreed to extend their terms.

Incidentally, to help the environment and minimize waste, we ask you to bring your own coffee cup. You might consider an historic theme. A disused powder horn, a silver slipper, a pewter tankard, or that charming little mug that your grand child painted with a glaze and 'they cook it in a big oven.' But mainly, bring yourself and join us to celebrate the beginning of our 101st year together. And enjoy a marvellous new year!

### OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

We must honour Major Lou Grimshaw, our Program Chairman, for his splendid organization of our Christmas party at Fort Henry on 10 December. It was a delightful affair, with many in costume including MPP Gary Wilson in Victorian dress and MP Peter Milliken in the kilt. Many another kilt was to be seen and an elegant representation of both the 18th and 19th centuries. Despite the hard stone walls and brick vaulted ceiling, the Christmas decor, the wine and delicious feast joined with the tide of conversation to create a delightful evening. God bless us, everyone. And now our centennial is over what lies ahead?

### AWARD RECIPIENTS

In case you missed our Christmas party at Fort Henry on 10 December, we want you to know the three distinguished recipients of our first Kingston Historical Society Awards "to recognize and reward Kingston-related historical activity and/or contributions to



Kingston's historical knowledge, preservation and prestige." Each received a certificate, a book and the hearty applause of those present. To quote the citations:

#### **Col. The Hon. G.F.G. Stanley**

Throughout his long residence in and continuing contact with Kingston, this distinguished Canadian scholar has been unstinting in his labours to develop a public awareness of the richness of the region's historical heritage. His enthusiasm, leadership and wisdom were vital elements in the post-war re-emergence of the Kingston Historical Society as an institution providing an historical sensibility within our community. That Dr. Stanley's proposals which led to the design of the Canadian flag were inspired by local influences is a source of quiet pride to us all. It is entirely appropriate that his many years of dedicated service be marked by his designation as an inaugural recipient of the Kingston Historical Society Award.

#### **Shirley Gibson-Langille**

This longtime member of the Society is an ardent observer of the local historical scene. Her ability to capture its variety and richness through the line and colour of her paintings has brought pleasure to Kingston citizens for many years. In particular, her recent series of works depicting historic buildings in various communities of the region have provided not only a pictorial record of these gracious structures but equally importantly a stimulation for pride in the existence and preservation. It is entirely suitable that this skilful artist be an inaugural recipient of the Kingston Historical Society Award.

#### **Dr. Wallace G. Breck**

Few historically related events in Kingston during the past twenty years have not benefitted from the effort and generosity of this dedicated citizen. The Society has been favoured by the rare combination of his deep historical sense and the ability to organize and attend to detail on numerous occasions, not least of which was his presidency during 1988 and 1989. His research into and the building of models of Fort Frontenac followed by their interpretation to local school children is only an example of his concern for the widespread understanding of our community's roots. This "wee McGregor" is a most fitting inaugural recipient of the Kingston Historical Society Award.

#### **PAY THE PIPER**

One of the joys of transition into the new year is your opportunity to renew your membership by dropping a few

pieces of silver into the eagerly out stretched hand of Joseph Boucher, our beloved Membership Chairman. Yes, dear reader, your fees are due now. Help Joe. Indeed, bring a broad smile to his face by paying promptly. You have no idea what light he brings to executive meeting when he can announce that memberships are ahead of last year; that payments are made on time despite hard times. Many of us may be unaware of Joe Boucher's related responsibilities. He picks up Society mail from the post office and delivers it, often in the dead of night through rain and snow, to the individual to whom it is addressed, day after day. Each day he combs the obituary columns in case a member has gone to his ancestral home. He ensures that new members are added to the mailing list for this newsletter and our annual Historic Kingston. And sometimes tearfully, he writes or phones a member who has forgot to pay his dues. (Women never forget). Think of him with gratitude as you send your cheque to Box 54, Kingston, K7L 4V6.

The fees have not changed:

Family	\$40
Individual	\$35
Student	\$25
Life Member	\$350

Incidentally, we are discontinuing the practice of printing membership cards. They are not needed, since all are welcome to our meetings, and we thought to save a few dollars.

#### **MISTER MONEYBAGS**

Another of our unsung heros is the Treasurer of our Society, the dry-humoured Desmond O'Meara. Few of us stop to think about the responsibility and shear work involved in keeping within our budget, receiving endless invoices from members and others for payment, allocating expenses to the appropriate account, making deposits at the bank, issuing cheques where justified and perhaps most important, keeping the books in order so that, at year's end, our auditor won't suggest he be packed off to jail. Along with Beverly Lazier, who carries out a similar task for the Murney Tower Museum, we extend our thanks for jobs well done.

#### **HISTORICAL VIGNETTES**

Your editor is particularly happy to report that Margaret Burdsall has kindly undertaken to distribute our historical vignettes. The job is in good hands. To order your set



of fifteen (count 'em 15!) vignettes, send your cheque for \$17, payable to the Kingston Historical Society, to M. Burdsall at 960 Killarney Cres., Kingston K7M 3K2. her telephone is 531-8948. Thanks, Margaret.

### **COURAGE, FAITH AND LOVE**

Our November meeting seems such a long time ago. Speaker Brig.Gen. Bill Patterson presented an absorbing account of the history of St. Mark's Church in Barriefield, Pittsburgh Township. His talk and slides paralleled his book 'Courage, Faith and Love' now in your favourite bookstore. It contains good reproductions of plans and views of this charming church, a treat for anyone with an interest in historic architecture. Why not buy a copy?

### **QUEEN'S ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER**

We commend to the historical community the new 'Queen's Archives Newsletter' under the direction of Editorial Board members George Henderson, Susan Office and Stewart Renfrew. It is an elegant leaflet with distinguished typography, a charming line drawing of Kathleen Ryan Hall, the archives building, on the mast head, and interesting stories of new acquisitions, and staff awards. There are testimonials to Mrs. Kathleen Ryan who continues to be generous to the archives, and to the late Dr. Frederick Wellington Gibson (1920-1992) in whose honour the archives reading room has been named. Queen's Archives are always deserving of our support. Your contribution to 'Friends of Archives' would be appreciated. Telephone (613) 545-2378 for more information.

### **JEFFERSON COUNTY GREETINGS**

We are delighted to receive the Christmas newsletter Museum Musings from our neighbours in the Jefferson County Historical Society, founded in 1886. They are located at 228 Washington Street, Watertown, N.Y. 13601. Their telephone is (315) 782-3491. Their Christmas announcements arrived too late for our newsletter, but provided visions of wassail, decorative art, miniatures, candles, silver crafts and jewellery to raise money for their museum in the Paddock Mansion. We have reciprocated by placing them on our mailing list and extend a warm invitation to them to join us at our meetings. We assure them that the cannons of Fort Henry and Murney Tower will be silent.

### **LARGE ARCHIVES COPIES**

George Henderson advises that Queen's Archives have revised their charges for copies of outsized and awkward ledgers and books like the Land Registry Copy Books. If

they are over 11" x 18", they will cost 50 cents a page. Don't blame George. It is just the way life is.

### **HISTORY WALK**

The Kingston and the Napanee Photographic Clubs ask our help during their annual convention at Queen's on Saturday morning 23 July 1994. They need a knowledgeable guide to conduct 20 or 30 adults on a historic walking tour from Queen's Victoria Hall to City Hall and return by tour train. If you can help, please call Reg Aitken for more information at 389-2431.

### **PALAEOGRAPHY**

Miriam Hayward will talk about handwriting in the 17th and 18th centuries in her address to the Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society on Saturday 15 January entitled Palaeography: Introduction to Old handwriting. That's at the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library at 10 a.m. In these days of wide spread illiteracy we would do well to recall a day when correspondence was by hand, graceful and intellectually elegant.

### **MERRY HEARTS MAKE LIGHT DAYS**

This War of 1812 Journal of Lieutenant John Le Courteur, 104th Foot is a lively memoir of a British officer who served in the United Kingdom and North America from 1808 to 1817, notably on the long march from Fredericton to Quebec in the cold winter of 1812-1813 and in the Niagara Peninsula 1813 and 1814. Le Courteur had a lively sense of humour in describing military and social life in Fredericton, Montreal and Kingston including the Royal Military College. Illustrated with his own sketches and watercolours, the memoirs is introduced and annotated by editor Donald E. Graves, an historian with Directorate of National Defence.

Published by Carleton University Press, the book is \$17.95 in paperback, \$26.95 in hardcover. Our members Nancy Greig and Terry Lyons, of the Armchair General bookstore, hope you can join them at a book-signing on 20 January from 7:30 in the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library.