



Vol. 21 No. 4

Editor: Jim Warren

1 April 1994

WATER WORKS

For our April meeting, we welcome Colleen Rock, who will present a talk about the Water Works in Kingston. Colleen is curator of the Pumphouse Steam Museum, and when it was placed under the custody of the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston (MMOTGLAK for short), contributed greatly to its interpretive displays. We look forward to her talk. Mark the date 20 April 1994, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library at 130 Johnson Street. Coffee and squares will follow.

OUR MARCH MEETING

Our meeting on March 16 was a delightful melding of members from the Pittsburgh Township and the Kingston Historical Societies. Eighty-two attended for a packed house, as we listened to John Grenville's interesting talk about the Penny Bridge, now the LaSalle Causeway. Illustrated with slides of old watercolours and photographs, he noted the Cartwright Ferry which traversed the Great Cataraqui in 1787, scows and rowboats that did the job in 1812, the first wooden drawbridge of 1829, the penny toll of 1845, a replacement built in that year and the 1912 swing bridge which replaced the drawbridge. Then, in 1917, the iron bridge and causeway we see today while waiting for traffic during current repairs. We greatly enjoyed the company of Pittsburgh C.H.S. President Shirley Fortier and her merry band, some of whom provided delicious sweets for our coffee.



A special surprise was a performance by the Kingston Ceili Band of lively, sometimes romantic Irish music on two guitars, an accordion, a hammered dulcimer, a penny whistle and two borhans, shallow drums that were thumped in olden times to frighten the enemy. They were a treat.

PROGRAMS

In our February newsletter we announced the subjects of papers to be delivered in 1994, except for September to November. We hope that you immediately noted them on your calendar, so that Vice President, Program, Lou Grimshaw will not have laboured in vain. He now informs us that the September 21 meeting will present Kingstons' Mysterious Mississauga by Dr. Brian Osborne, Queen's professor of geography. On October 19 the subject will be The Maple Leaf - Kingston's part in the US Civil War, by Evelyn Bishop and Bob Villebrun. November is yet to be announced. Meanwhile, Lou has issued a call for papers which cover any aspect of the history of Kingston and its vicinity, whether social, political, industrial, commercial, military, institutional, archaeological, architectural or whatever. These should deal with topics not previously researched or those involving new research. Scholars both amateur and professional, students majoring in history, all are welcome to submit their topics for consideration to Major Louis E. Grimshaw, V.P. Program, Centre for National Security Studies, National Defence College, Fort Frontenac, Kingston K7K 5L0. Or phone him at 541-5010 ext. 5917, FAX 546-0589. To further this cause, Jim Warren has copied the contents page of each of the 42 volumes of Historic Kingston to facilitate reviewing of past papers and an index committee has been formed to set up a key word index which can be put on the computer for rapid scanning. The committee includes Lou Grimshaw, Jack Pike, Don Redmond, Marjorie Simmons and your humble servant. Off like a shot, Marjorie Simmons has already suggested thirty topics and eight speakers. Incidentally, about forty papers have been presented on Sir John A. Macdonald.

OUR MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome some new members. Wife-husband team Carol Paradis and Sam Kelb moved to Kingston from Montreal late in 1993. Carol's family has a military background which led them to live on Armed Forces bases from the Yukon to New Brunswick and to travel throughout North America. In Montreal she worked as a Library Assistant at Concordia University. Sam, a native Montrealer, was an Administrative Librarian at Concordia and has now assumed a post at Queen's Douglas Library. We assure them that the snow in Kingston eventually disappears. Last month we noted with regret that member Mary Crothers had died. We are pleased that her daughter Peggy Noakes, from Calgary, has decided to continue the family membership and we welcome her into our fold. Sadly, we note the passing of member W.J. Redmond and extend our sympathy to surviving family.

FROM CANADIAN FORCES BASE KINGSTON

We received a friendly letter from Colonel Bill Richard, CD, addressed to our President Bill Fittsell. We thought you would like to hear it.

"Upon my appointment as Base Commander at Canadian Forces Base Kingston, I was pleased to discover that I was an Honourary Patron of the Kingston Historical Society. During the years that I have lived in this area, I have always enjoyed any contact that I have with your society.

I recently read your annual publication, Volume 42 1994, and enjoyed it immensely. I was eager to learn more about the history of St. Mark's Church and Bill Patterson's article was superb. I have always enjoyed Patricia Fleming's writings in The Whig-Standard and regret that her contributions to that newspaper appear to have been forgotten

with editorial reorganization. However, her article on the Scottish Settler reminded me of how interesting Kingston's history can be. And of course, as an Army Signals Officer, I was eager to read Robert Pike's article on the "Talking Machine" in Kingston.

Thank you very much for keeping me informed of the activities and publications of your Society. You make a very valuable contribution to our community and provide a great deal of enjoyment through your publication to interested citizens such as myself."

We extend our warmest greetings to Col. Richard and all personnel at Canadian Forces Base Kingston, including the French speaking.

QUEEN'S ARCHIVES LECTURE

Each year, Queen's University Archives invites a distinguished speaker to elaborate on the many uses of the archival record in his or her work. For its Twelfth Annual Lecture, the speaker will be Dr. Michael Bliss, Department of History, University of Toronto. His lecture is entitled "Discovering the Insulin Documents: An Archival Adventure." The public is invited to attend this event on Thursday 21 April at 3:30 p.m. in the Lecture Theatre, Room 102, Humphrey Hall, immediately northeast of the archives building, Queen's University campus. A reception will follow in the Reading Room of the Archives, Kathleen Ryan Hall.

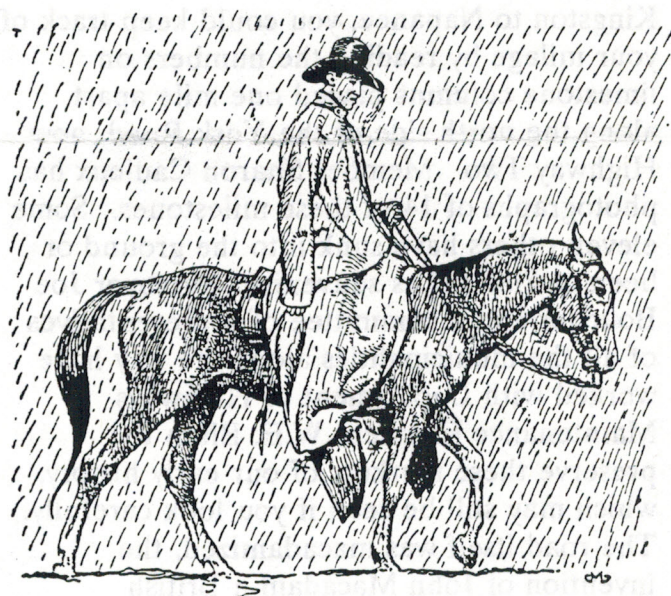
HISTORIC KINGSTON

For members of our Society only, the price of back copies of the Historic Kingston is \$5. (five dollars). For all others, the price is twenty dollars, as mentioned in our last newsletter. Margaret and Bernard Burdsall note that there are enormous numbers of the majority of issues from the past twenty years, some of them yellowing with age. She suggests a small but strong work party be

recruited to lift the heavy boxes of books down for inventory. She also suggests that one or two copies be sent to public and separate secondary schools in Kingston for their libraries, noting that one such contribution was frequently used by students in QECVI. Decisions are yet to be made in the matter of distribution, but if you are physically fit, call Margaret at 531-8948 and offer to help with the inventory.

JOHN A. LIVES AGAIN

Each June our Society celebrates the accomplishments of Sir John with a service at his burial ground. Now we have another group whose members suggest we celebrate his birth in January with a festive dinner. A fine idea. The group call themselves the Daughters of Sir John A. Macdonald or, more irreverently, Johnny's Girls. If you would like to take part in their efforts to get women more involved in the political process or in planning the dinner, we suggest you speak to President Elva McLean at 384-3808.



NEWSLETTER COSTS

Your editor is ever aware of the cost of printing this newsletter and getting it out into your mailbox. It has been suggested that a volunteer typist might substantially reduce the cost, but this is only a small part of the total. The cost of our March 1994 issue, for example, breaks down like this:

Typing the copy (1 hour)	\$27.50
Printing	40.80
Folding (by hand)	19.13
Addressing Envelopes	17.15
Adding names to list (when necessary)	1.80
Stuffing envelopes & metering	14.70
Postage	105.77
Taxes (GST but not PST)	<u>16.91</u>
Total cost of one issue:	\$243.76

While it is tempting to suggest that a troop of volunteers might undertake some of these tasks, the inconvenience and time delay in pushing the paper around is hardly worth the small savings.

YESTERDAY'S MILESTONES

If you harnessed up old Dobbin to the family buggy back in the 1840s and headed out from Kingston to Napanee, you could keep track of your milage by reading the numbers on limestone columns placed one mile apart along the north side of the York Road, now Highway Two. Member Sharon Cadieux has photographs of 14 of these milestones. Some eleven others have sunk into the ground or been carried off as souvenirs. Surveyor Joe Boucher and a committee of representatives of all the municipalities along the way have worked with Department of Highways Maintenance Engineer W.E. Blum to preserve these markers of our early history, which may still be seen if you look carefully. The road itself was macadamized, the invention of John Macadam a British

surveyor (died 1836) who combined layers of broken stone and tar pressed under heavy rollers to replace the rough roads of the time. To pay for roads and milestones, toll houses were placed at five mile intervals. A challenge for drunken coachmen was to race through the toll gate without paying, the nineteenth century equivalent of avoiding the GST.

ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 106th Annual Conference of the Ontario Historical Society will be held this year in Hamilton on 13 and 14 May at the Ramada Hotel. Their promotional information says "Let's Party! Feasts, frolics and fun." (Sounds a little decadent to me.) The Friday program will include alternative bus tours to Battlefield House, Stoney Creek, Whithearn and Dundurn Castle and lunch at the Royal Hamilton Military Institute or to the Museum of Steam and Technology and the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum with lunch also at the military institute. Later, OHS business, a fine dinner and awards. On Saturday, a panel discussion on anniversaries and celebrations and how Ontarians reacted to them, followed by concurrent sessions on researching communities' special events, the plants of celebration. After a presidents' luncheon, more concurrent sessions: researching and presenting special meals and events in Hamilton, parades and processions in 19th century Hamilton and celebratory music, with afternoon tea at Dundurn Castle, lucky draws and presentations. (Phew!) The price for all this is \$145. for OHS members, \$165. for others providing you register before 15 April. After that, \$165 for members, \$195. for others. However, lower rates are available for those interested in only part of the program. Call (416) 226-9011 or FAX (416) 226-2740 for more information.

Meanwhile, the Ontario Historical Society also seeks your Loonies to pay for repairs to the verandah of their home, The John McKenzie House at 34 Parkview Avenue in Willowdale, M2N 5P5. Come, or rather go, to that address on Saturday 30 April or Sunday 1 May from 1 to 4 p.m. and help cover their verandah with Loonies (I kid you not). All will receive a gift, including, if you are very lucky, a drill core sample from mining test sites in northern Ontario! Wow! Or just mail the money and get a tax receipt.

WHEN?

The title of our newsletter THEN begs the question. When did you first join the Kingston Historical Society? In an effort to know our members better and to pursue our own history, we would like to hear from anyone who can recall the exact year she or he joined our happy band. We know who served in office or on our council, because they are listed in most Historic Kingstons. We are informed that Bogart Trumpour has served in all offices at one time or another. Can anyone match this distinguished record? We challenge you.

SCHOOL HISTORY TRIPS

Retired Queen's professor of education Peter Hennessy has suggested a good idea to the Frontenac County Board of Education. Why not organize tours to historic places, where knowledgeable people can provide on-site explanations of what took place? Offer the tours to small groups of students in grades seven and eight where local history is taught in the curriculum. The knowledgeable people might be members of our Society. Your editor explained to Mr. Hennessy that our members, while interested in local history and the education of our young, may be unable to find the time or energy for this worthwhile task. Of course, we put him onto our

historical vignettes, designed for this purpose, but he feels that the on-site aspect of the idea is the important thing. The matter is still before the Frontenac Board and the details therefore unresolved. If you are interested, however, please call him, Peter Hennessy at 376-3963.

GANANOQUE NEWSLETTER

Back in November 1992, your editor told our members about the remarkable efforts of John Nalon to gather historic material about Gananoque, form a historical society, produce an extensively illustrated newsletter and work toward a museum. John is still at it, and his membership has grown from 1005 to 1043. His newsletters are full of nostalgic photographs and stories. If you would like to read them, call John at (613) 382-2282 after 6 pm. Issues 1 through 6 are \$1.50 each, 7 through 12 at \$2., the special Centennial Year issue \$3. and issues 14 to the present \$2.50. Postage is extra.

BROCKVILLE ANTIQUE SHOW

April 22, 23, 24 are the dates for Brockville's 23rd Annual Antique Show and Sale, to be held at the Brockville Country Club on Highway 2, just one kilometre west of Brockville. There will be 29 dealers from Ontario and Quebec, and some interesting curios offered for sale by the Brockville Museum. Hours and prices: Friday 22, \$3.50 with refreshments, 6:30 to 10 pm. Saturday \$2.50, 10 to 6 pm, Sunday \$2.50, 11 to 5 pm. The host is the Brockville and District Historical Society, phone (613) 345-5755.

KINGSTON ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

Few may be aware that representatives of Kingston's sixteen museums meet monthly to plot strategy for the year ahead and work through problems to their mutual advantage.

Desmond O'Meara and Joe Boucher represent our Murney Tower Museum. One of their current projects is to collaborate with Kingston Transit to offer visitors to the city a day pass to encourage them to soak up a little of our history. We will keep you posted as projects develop.

RENT A BUTLER

In one previous incarnation, Robert Doak was a Fort Henry Guard, resplendent in scarlet uniform. His photographic image, life size, was made a stand-up poster to attract tourists. In another incarnation, he was Senior Interpreter at our Murney Tower Museum where, with staff and volunteers, he performed energetically to help the museum recover from financial uncertainty. Now he is back, as a traditional butler no less, prepared to add a touch of class to your wedding, banquet or grand occasion. With Mark Bennet and Jody Digregorio, he has formed Rent a Butler, and will appear in proper formal attire to attend to your every wish (within the bounds of decency, or course). To place yourself in a class distinctly above your friends and neighbours, call him at 542-2540.

