



Vol. 21 No. 5

Editor: Jim Warren

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### OLD LEAD THREATENS

For our May meeting, the last regular meeting of the spring season, we welcome Dr. Kenyon Rutherford whose talk is entitled: "Historical Aspects and Ecological Consequences of Lead Processing in the Kingston Area." Ken is best known to us as Vice President responsible for the Murney Tower Museum, but his career has been both distinguished and far-reaching. Born in Christchurch, New Zealand, he received his undergraduate degree in Geology and Chemistry there, continued his education in Australia and at Cambridge, and received his doctorate in Norway in Forest Soils. His career involved land resource surveys in South America, the Caribbean, New Guinea, Australia and Nepal. At Queen's University he is Professor of Geography specializing in soil science and in 'retirement' teaches

courses in global change and waste disposal and the environment. The date of his talk is 18 May, the place is the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library.

### KINGSTON WATER WORKS

Colleen Rock presented a most interesting and informative account of the history of Kingston's water supply at our April meeting. She was also the author of one of our historical vignettes, "Pumphouse Steam Museum." The story showed the social and political ramifications: the epidemics of cholera resulting from contaminated well and lake water; the difficulties of fighting fires in early wooden buildings, high insurance rates; the high cost of digging water mains in rocky soil, and the never-ending competition between free enterprise and city hall. Even drainage and the law of gravity played a part. Read it all in Historic Kingston next year.

### MURNEY TOWER MUSEUM

The energetic museum committee, under chairman V.P. Ken Rutherford, has the 1994 season well under way. The Murney Tower will open to the public on 16 May, close 5 September. Hours will be 10 am to 4 pm seven days a week. Chief Interpreter Chris Rosser will be assisted by two Interpreters, Lynne Bellinger and Sarah Gibson who is bilingual. This will be Chris' third year, Lynne's second. We welcome them back. An encouraging note is that twelve people turned out for the last museum committee meeting a



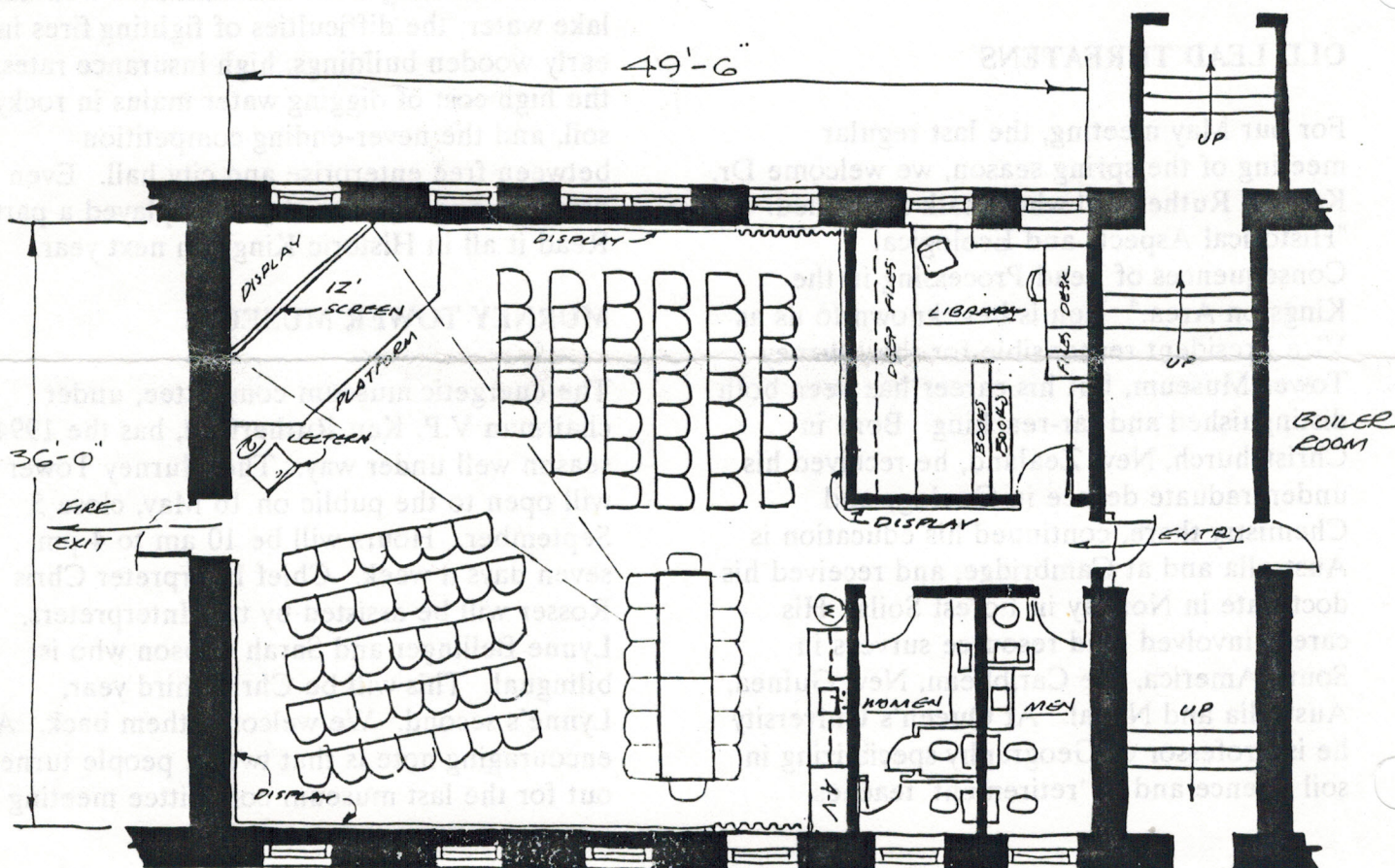
sign of its rejuvenation. Certainly, volunteers will be needed, particularly during lunch hours, to relieve the interpretive staff. If you can help for an hour or two, please call Ken Rutherford at 548-8674.

## A HOME FOR HERITAGE

The restoration of the historic Stella Buck building, at 370 King Street West, presents a golden opportunity for the Kingston Historical Society and other heritage groups to have a home at last. Originally the 1831 Morton brewery, the original frame buildings burned in 1835 and were replaced by the 1840s. In 1918, the complex became a military hospital; in 1927 a military headquarters for the region. The city acquired the property in the late 1960s and in 1975 established the J.K. Tett Creativity Complex, housing the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation, Domino Theatre, Theatre 5, craft groups for pottery and weaving and government offices.

An active committee is co-ordinating the Stella Buck building reconstruction cost estimating, fund-raising and application for Jobs Ontario grants. The city has earmarked \$250,000, if public funding can cover remaining costs, set at \$303,000. Some of the work can be carried out in stages, easing the pain. Other work can be undertaken by tenants to suit their particular needs under a leasehold agreement offering lower rent. At this stage, the Stella Buck Building Restoration Committee cannot provide firm information to prospective community group tenants (like our Society) but intends to keep leasing costs well below prevailing commercial rates.

A particularly good location for us would be on the ground floor at the north end of the building, adjacent to Domino Theatre. There is ample parking, and the location could be made wheelchair accessible. The sketch plan shows one way in which the interior could be adapted. The library could house our books and archives, now housed in



STELLA BUCK HERITAGE CENTRE



Queen's Archives attic. The auditorium could provide seating for 85 with audio-video facilities for our meetings. For executive meetings, folding tables could occupy one corner with a counter for coffee. The boiler room opposite will become available when the old steam heating is replaced with five zoned heating/air conditioning units. This is a cavernous space which might form the nucleus of a museum. While your executive has shown interest, we cannot commit ourselves to leasing space at this time until we have a clearer idea of the cost. The executive have, however, offered a token \$250. contribution toward the Stella Buck restoration, contingent upon its completion. We invite your comments at meetings or in our newsletter.

### REMEMBER SIR JOHN

Our annual Memorial Service for Sir John A. Macdonald will be held at his burial place in

Cataraqui Cemetery on Monday 6 June at 2:30 pm. Our distinguished guest speaker will be Dr. Agnes Benidickson, Chancellor of Queen's University. She will provide an account of Sir John's lively connection with Queen's during its early years.

Credit should be given to George Henderson who has organized the memorial service for many years. We hope that many of our members will join in commemorating Sir John's life in Kingston and his leadership in serving as our first Prime Minister. We should also commend Isobel Trumppour for her tireless efforts since 1982 to raise money through the Macdonald Memorial Fund, to maintain and improve Sir John's grave site, which is in a particularly beautiful spot in this historic cemetery.

Incidentally, in response to a query at one of our executive meetings, the statue of Sir John at the corner of King and West Street in City Park IS illuminated at night, according to Brian Sheridan, Parks Commissioner.





## HISTORY IN OUR SCHOOLS

We are delighted that our historical vignettes will be distributed, courtesy of the schools' courier system, to area schools. We particularly appreciate the prompt response of Dr. Gregory Cosgrove, Director of Education for the Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Separate School Board and Mr. John Bates, Director of Education for Frontenac County Board of Education, to a stirring letter from Joe Boucher promoting our Society's contributions to local history. As Vice President Publications, Joe has been mightily assisted by Margaret and Bernard Burdsall, who have compiled a list of our publications with prices appearing as an insert in this newsletter. Examine it carefully. Buy books for your own library. Buy them as gifts for your friends. Buy a set of 15 vignettes and mount them in a binder for an interested child. Help to tell everyone about our rich Kingston heritage.

Margaret Burdsall reminds us, from her own experience, of the loyal efforts of George Henderson, Past Publications Chair, when he carted bulky boxes of Historic Kingston to our regular meetings to save postage, and did so much to further our publication efforts. George continues to lend his knowledge and cheerful disposition while serving in Queen's Archives, so you can thank him in person.

## MUSIC FOR D-DAY

The celebrated Spitfire Band will open the Kingston Summer Festival at the Grand Theatre on Monday 6 June at 8 pm. The orchestra will swing on stage with the great tunes of the war years while the orchestra pit will serve as dance floor for those hep to jive. The tab is \$25.

Then, on Sunday 12 June at 2 pm, the Kingston Heritage Tattoo Society will present a special concert to mark the Normandy

campaign of June 1944. It will feature the farewell concert of CFB Kingston's famed Vimy Band, the Frontenac Community Band, the CFB Trenton Pipe Band and the Princess of Wales Own Regiment Pipes and Drums of Kingston. Adding to the nostalgia will be the appearance of men and women veterans in wartime uniforms and a sing-along led by Kingston soloist Barbara Marrison. This concert will take place at the Armoury on Montreal Street. Tickets are \$5 from Scotiabank branches or from Queen's Enrichment Studies 545-2473, ask for Debra Hamilton. Only room for 700 in the Armoury show.

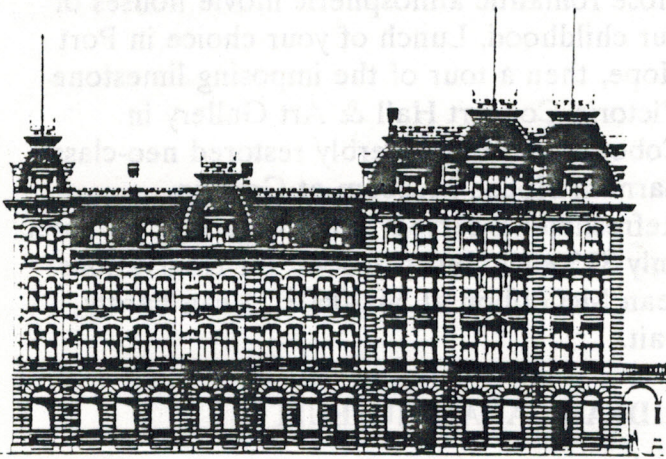
## WATERFRONT KING'S TOWN

Maurice Smith, curator of the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston, has proposed to City Council an imaginative plan to integrate the Marine Museum with the Pumphouse Steam Museum and future activities along the waterfront with the name King's Town. Though conjectural at this time, it would provide public access and a more effectively landscaped treatment of the steam museum's waterfront property, the empty pier where once was the wartime shipyard, and a pathway between the two museums. After that, a protective building might be built to house the steam yacht Phoebe, the draining and restoration of the historic drydock in which the ship Alexander Henry could be displayed as a dry exhibit, and the construction of new buildings for a restaurant, gift and book shop to be operated by private enterprise. Parking capacity would be increased and a new interpretive centre and theatre developed within the existing marine museum. Of particular interest is the concept of promoting this project as part of the city's other museums to provide a major (and profitable) destination for tourist visitors. The project is well-conceived and deserves our whole-hearted support.



## POINT FREDERICK HISTORY

A few KHS members joined with members of Pittsburgh Historical Society for an anecdotal, illustrated tour of the Royal Military College of Canada on April 26. Their guide was J.G. (Jack) Pike, of KHS executive council, who spent 30 years in Pittsburgh while lecturing in engineering at RMC. As a chair of the museum committee of the college, Jack gave a fascinating summary of the history of Point Frederick from its British naval dockyard inception to the present day as Canada's one and only and expanding military college. After colourful slides and comments in Currie Hall, the speaker guided the entourage through the history lined halls of the MacKenzie Building. Coffee and goodies concluded the evening. Our thanks and congratulations to Shirley Fortier, who was re-elected president of PHS.



## REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE AFTER 1850

Jennifer McKendry is well known to us through her extensive research into historic architecture in Kingston and her talks and articles in the newspapers. On Thursday 26 May at 8 pm she will deliver an illustrated talk in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library for the Annual Meeting of the Frontenac Historic Foundation. Her title is 'Kingston Approaches the 20th Century' and

will show changes in style, function and materials in regional architecture after 1850. We are sure you will not want to miss it.

## REGRETS

The historical community is saddened by the passing of three distinguished Canadians. Robert Legget, C.C., died 17 April in Ottawa. A professional civil engineer, geologist, historian and writer, he was the author of Rideau Waterway. He taught civil engineering at Queen's and Toronto Universities, founded the National Research Council's Division of Building Research and was Founding President of the Canadian Academy of Engineering. He was 89.

Col. David Francis, C.D. attended the Royal Military College in 1941 and served in the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery for 35 years. In wartime Italy he flew small aircraft, spotting enemy guns, as well as serving in northwest Europe, Vietnam and as military attaché in Scandinavian countries. In Barriefield he was active in the Pittsburgh Historical Society, a guest at our March meeting. He died in a small aircraft accident in Florida. He was 72.

Life member Charlotte Macaulay Abbott left this life on 18 April 1994. A quiet, stately woman, she did much to enrich the Kingston Historical Society as a member of its Executive Council in 1987-88 and as editor of the newsletter before Joe Boucher's time. She was a grandniece of Sir John Abbott, the first Canadian-born Prime Minister. She graduated from Queen's and the University of Toronto. She served as a WREN officer in the Royal Canadian Navy during World War II and was later a librarian in Oshawa. After retirement she was active in historical matters and in her membership in St. George's Cathedral. She will be missed by many of our members. Our hearts go out to the families of all three remarkable people.



## **ART 100 PHOTO REGISTER**

Member Doug Petty has undertaken a photographic register of the paintings which graced our ART 100 exhibition last October. This includes a colour print, the artist, subject and date when known. This will form a useful visual reference for historical research and, when completed in its binders, will be placed in the Kingston Room of the Kingston Public Library.

## **AWARD NOMINATIONS?**

In our March newsletter we appended a form upon which you were encouraged to nominate a 'worthy individual, group or institution in recognition of outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of local history.' If interested, we urge you to do it now, so that all nominations may be considered by the Awards Committee early in September. Comments in support of your nomination should be included.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Sad to say, about thirty of our members have still not paid their membership dues. Sadder still, if this unfortunate condition extends into June, we regret that their names will be dropped from our rolls. We would be unhappy to see that happen. Your company and your interest in history are what keeps us alive. If we are doing something wrongly, if it is something we've said, please let us know. (Write to the editor privately if you wish). But please don't leave us.

## **HOCKEY RESEARCH**

Bill Fittell, from his eyrie in the editor's gondola of the Society for International Hockey Research, is happy to announce the publication of SIHR-Plus, an informal newsletter of current events and works in

progress for hockey historians. It contains nostalgic accounts of old arenas in Chicago, Winnipeg and Detroit. The third annual meeting of the Society for International Hockey Research will be held in Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens on Friday-Saturday 20 and 21 May.

## **PORT HOPE SPRING TOUR**

If your family sedan is purring to get out on the road with spring or, sedanless, you would enjoy a bus tour, the Pittsburgh Historical Society has the answer. On Saturday 28 May, their bus will depart the Pittsburgh Municipal Office at 8:30 am returning by 5 pm. For where? For a tour of historic buildings in Port Hope: several early churches, the famous Bluestone House, commercial and private restorations, and possibly a glimpse at the restoration of the Capitol Theatre, one of those romantic atmospheric movie houses of our childhood. Lunch of your choice in Port Hope, then a tour of the imposing limestone Victoria Concert Hall & Art Gallery in Cobourg and the superbly restored neo-classic Barnum House Museum at Grafton. Refreshments served in the ballroom. It costs only \$15 each, but call soon for reservations: Jean McGibbon at 542-0608. I can hardly wait.

## **RIDEAU CANAL MUSEUM**

Curator Susan Frank extends an invitation to visit the beautifully designed Rideau Canal Museum in Smiths Falls at 334 Beckwith Street, telephone 284-0505. Housed in the historic Woods Mill Complex beside the lock station, it has four floors of dioramas, colour transparencies, computer monitors and models showing the history, geography and accessibility of the canal which links us to Ottawa. To a museum and display buff like me, it is a visual delight, featuring such treats as a 20 ft. model of the waterway, a Peplar's



ghost of two styles of Indian life, a push button map of the battles of 1812, a small forest with a live waterfall and a lookout at the top. Elevators and electronics everywhere! The museum is open 30 April to 30 October 1994, Tues. to Sat. 10 to 5, Sunday 1 to 5, closed Mondays. After 14 June, open every day 10 to 7 pm. And don't miss the Crown and Thistle Pub just across the stream.

### **GENEALOGISTS ALERT**

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library on Saturday 14 May at 10 am. The topic will be 'Genealogical Sources at Massey Library, Royal Military College' with guest speaker Benoit Cameron, Reference Librarian.

On Saturday 18 June, same time and place, their feature will be 'Threads of Family History' in which members are asked to exhibit their tapestries, shirts, needlepoint pillows or other fibre art related to their family history. Call Barbara Aitken at 389-2865 for details.





## Kingston Historical Society Book Store

Box 54, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 4V6

**Sir John A. Macdonald 1815-1891:  
A Remembrance**

Compiled by Margaret Cohoe, hard cover,  
139 pages. \$25. post paid in Canada, foreign  
orders US \$25. pp.

**Historic Kingston**

Our annual publication by various authors,  
soft cover.  
Vol. 42 (1994) \$20. pp in Canada, foreign US  
\$20. pp.

Vol. 21 (1973) to Vol. 41 (1993) where  
available, \$5. each, plus \$2.50 postage and  
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plus US \$2.50 postage and handling. On bulk  
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## HISTORICAL VIGNETTES from the KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Aboriginal Life Around Kingston

Hugh Daeschel

Molly Brant, Mohawk Loyalist

Earle Thomas

French Nobility at Cataraqui

Wallace G. Breck

Surveying Loyalist Settlements

Joe Boucher

Rev. John Stuart, Loyalist Preacher

Sylvia Waller

Merchant Mansions

Yvonne Scott

Kingston to York by Stagecoach

Mark Mihorean

On the Kingston Waterfront

Patricia Fleming

Murney Tower

James Warren

Kingston Street Railway

Bill Thomson

Pump House Steam Museum

Colleen Rock

Canadian Locomotive Company

James Warren

Kingston Shipyards in World War II

Maurice D. Smith

British Army in Kingston 1783-1870

Louis E. Grimshaw

Naval Base at Kingston 1812

Richard A. Preston