



MAPLE LEAF SUNK

Back in 1851, a fine steam-powered cruise ship was built beside what is now the Marine Museum. It carried passengers and light cargo from Kingston to Oswego to Toronto and return. It was torpedoed off Palatka, Florida in 1864 by the southern Confederacy.

At our October meeting, we welcome Ms. Evelyn Bishop who will share the curious tale of Kingston's connection with the Civil War. Mark your calendar for 19 October at 7:30 pm in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library at 130 Johnson Street.

WARREN GOES HITEK

Your editor is personally grateful to Society member Christina Warren for the gift of a fine new Macintosh LC575 on which to compose these humble ramblings, to another Society member David Warren for an explanation of some of the more mysterious intricacies of the machine and to grandson Society member Jonathan Warren, age eight who, in the beginning, explained to your editor how to turn the darn thing off. From now on, any typographical errors will be the fault of the editor alone. We hope that this will make things easier for loyal Betty Pickering of Copy & Addressing who, until now, has had to decipher our hand-lettered text.

PUBLICATIONS FLOURISH

Margaret Burdsall has now sorted out who gets what publication, who pays in advance, corrected addresses and chased payment for outstanding accounts. Our historical vignettes have been selling in Murney Tower and in the downtown tourist office, not to mention more than twenty-five sets sold to schools and members. We are deeply grateful for her efforts.

ARMCHAIR GENERAL BOOKS

Members Nancy Greig and Terry Lyons, proprietors of Armchair General Books, have closed their downtown store to set up a mail order service in historical and military books. They will also be selling our vignettes. If you would like to be on their mailing list, they ask that you send them five dollars to defray initial set up costs and they will send you their Christmas catalogue. Their address is 527 McEwen Drive, Kingston K7M 3W8, or telephone 384-0092.



MOLLY BRANT REMEMBRANCE

Molly Brant, the remarkable Mohawk leader whose contributions to the Loyalist cause in the American Revolutionary War were greater than those of her better-known brother Joseph, died in 1795 largely forgotten. Next year, we should establish a memorial in her honour. Should we name the new causeway bridge or a new park after her? What are your suggestions? Drop the editor a line.

HONEYMOON IN MURNEY TOWER

No, this isn't the National Enquirer. We wouldn't run a misleading headline. It actually happened. On Tuesday 15 July 1930 the Kingston Whig-Standard ran the story of Charles A. Gunn of Syracuse, New York who renewed old acquaintances in Kingston after a long absence. He said that he had spent his honeymoon in the Murney Tower where he and his bride were guests of Quartermaster Sargeant Walter Clifford of 'A' Battery, many years before. One comfort for the young couple was that their marriage could only improve from then on.

MURNEY TOWER TRIUMPHS

We extend our warmest congratulations to Museum Chair Kenyon Rutherford, his hard-working committee and their marvellously energetic curatorial staff for one of Murney Tower Museum's best summers yet. Paid admittances were up 12% at \$15,800. Visitors increased by 15%. Guided tours were bilingual. Guides were in authentic costume. The people were what made the difference. Desmond O'Meara took on the painful job of keeping the books, paying the summer staff, applying for grants and banking receipts. Doug Petty developed an effective poster and lent his knowledge to the preservation of

artifacts. Peter Gray lent his home for committee meetings and a windup bash. Chris Rosser did superb duty as Chief Interpreter and, with Sarah Gibson and Lynne Bellinger, provided a warm welcome to our many visitors.

The Canadian Armed Forces have agreed to clean our rifles and defuse some old ammunition. The only fly in the ointment is the deleterious effect that the damp, cold air of the Murney Tower is having on our collection of historical artifacts. This fall, they have been bundled carefully into boxes and will be removed for the winter. Problem: space to store them. If you have a dry attic or spare room and would like to help, call Ken Rutherford at 548-8674.

Would there be some merit in taking action on the suggestion two years ago that we begin to plan a new museum for the city of Kingston, now that we are beginning to emerge from the recession?

FORT FRONTENAC LIVES

Many of our members may be unaware that our executive meetings have been held in the Bradford Block of Fort Frontenac, courtesy of the National Defence College. Some may know that the National Defence College was closed on 30 June 1994. Not to worry. Many of the activities of the National Defence College have been taken over by a much smaller Centre for National Security Studies, same place, some of the same staff. Director of the Centre is Colonel David Harries, CD, PhD. Major Lou Grimshaw Chair of Programs for our Society. is responsible for research at the Centre which continues to let us use their board room.

The Centre for National Security Studies (CNSS) provides a variety of courses and functions for the professional development of senior officers, civil servants and officials from the private sector. These include the National Securities Study Course, the Defence Resources Management Course, the Chief of the Defence Staff's Single Issue Seminar, the production of reading packages on topics of current interest, the hosting of seminars and conferences on national security issues and, of course, the research necessary to make all this work effectively. Given the Canadian Armed Forces' great contribution to peace-keeping and the political uncertainty in the world, we can see how important are matters of national security. And thank you for the use of your boardroom, good people.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome several new members to the Kingston Historical Society. They are Colleen and Robert MacNaughton of Kingston. Colleen, formerly Colleen Rock, is a familiar face to those visiting the Marine and Steam Museums. Her main responsibility is curator of the Pump House Steam Museum, where she has done much to improve the interpretive displays. She plans on returning to Queen's to take postgraduate studies.

As new commandant of the Royal Military College, we welcome Brigadier-General Charles Emond as an Honorary Patron of our Society. As former commandant of College militaire royal de Saint-Jean he will bring a welcome French-speaking personality to RMC where French courses in the humanities will be added to existing French courses in the sciences. We hope that M. Bouchard will not mind.

Finally, we welcome Michel G. Fontaine whom we hope to learn more about shortly.

MORE OF VISION KINGSTON

Getting ready for our municipal election on 6 November, Vision Kingston will host an all-candidates meeting for mayoral hopefuls in the Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library on 26 October. All citizens are welcome and, after the Vision people have fielded their questions, you will have an opportunity to add your own. Members of our Society are especially welcome. As mentioned in our September newsletter, Vision is girding itself for battle with high-rise developers at an Ontario Municipal Board hearing on 24 January. They need all the moral support they can get. If you care about maintaining the architectural integrity of historic downtown Kingston, especially around Market Square, please offer to participate by calling Keith Bull at 546-9693.

1923 SKIDOO

Women teachers in 1923 were given a strict contract. No marriage. No after hours company with men. Get home between 8pm and 6am. Don't loiter in ice cream parlours. No smoking. No beer, wine or whiskey. No carriage or car rides with men other than brothers or father. Wear at least two petticoats and no bright colours. Dresses no more than two inches above the ankle. No dyed hair. And remember to scrub the classroom floor once a week with soap and

hot water, clean blackboards daily and keep schoolroom neat.
Anyone for women's liberation?

A FINE OLD REACTIONARY

I have long been an admirer of illustrator C.W. Jefferys (1869-1951) whose delightful pen drawings graced so many of our school history books. His style was well-matched with the stories of Sam Slick the Yankee clockmaker, written by Nova Scotia judge Thomas Chandler Haliburton (1796-1865). Jefferys once gave a lecture on Haliburton and presented this colourful portrait of the man:

"His mind and character were essentially Tory--he believed in pretty nearly everything that has been abolished or is now in process of demolition. He ridiculed and opposed pretty nearly everything that suggested reform or even change. He believed in the union of church and state, in hereditary titles, in an aristocracy of birth and property. He doubted the wisdom and justice of abolishing slavery, opposed any extension of the franchise, objected to the diffusion of popular knowledge, detested democracy, dissenters in religion, women's rights, temperance, self-government for the colonies, and altogether was a fine old reactionary."

THANKSGIVING CANADA

On Monday 10 October we celebrate our good fortune in living in this wonderful land. Thanksgiving Day reminds us of harvest and autumn leaves and all those memories of other Canadians we have known both here and abroad. When the Cape Breton Follies performed this summer in the Grand Theatre, my heart went out to those brave, cheerful, irreverent people who struggle to survive when the fishing and coal mines have faded. I remember the brash Calgarian student who lectured us central Canadians over the dinner table. I recall the tall airman from Vancouver who helped me pinch the stuffed deer head from the officer's mess at a RAF station in England to decorate our barracks. There was the solemn sculptor from Montreal who shared my views about design education. And a cocky young Ottawa visitor to our home in Pakistan who became chairman of the CRTC. I can especially remember a pretty red-headed nurse in Halifax who was willing to date a callow sub-lieutenant and become the mother of our children.

We have the most beautiful country in the world, but the best part is the people in it.

We thank you, God.

