

# Kingston Historical Society



Box 54, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 4V6

Vol.21 No.8 1 Nov. 1994



Editor Jim Warren

Margaret Cohoe will be our November speaker, and in her seventh paper delivered to our Society she will tell us about our City Hall's dramatic Memorial Hall and its beautiful stained glass windows. Margaret was born in Victoria, Australia and took her early education there, which explains her feisty spirit. She was a graduate of the University of London's Teachers College and the National Frobel Foundation. She holds the gold medal of the Association of Early Childhood and is a charter member of St.Lawrence College. We look forward to her slides and her always-interesting commentary. At 7.30 pm, 16 November, upstairs in the library.

KINGSTON'S MEMORIAL HALL

# TIME TO REMEMBER

November the eleventh is the day we remember fallen comrades and those vital days, fifty years ago, when we were engaged in a world wide conflict to contain the madness of dictatorship. For those who weren't

there, the poppy is our symbol of remembrance. For the Dutch now in Canada, the tulip has become a symbol of the liberation of their country by Canadian troops on the 5th May 1945. After a remembrance service in London, some years ago, as the troops marched off to return to base, I was deeply moved to see a platoon of Dutch women in native dress, oblivious of the heavy rain, sweep forward to present every soldier with a tulip. This year in Kingston, the Dutch Canadians have planted 2,100 tulip bulbs in front of City Hall and at the three local Legion branches. The Dutch do not forget. Let us ensure that our children and grandchildren do not forget either.

# ACCOLADES TO BEV LAZIER

In your editor's zeal to recognize the fine efforts of those who contributed to Murney Tower Museum's success, he not only failed to credit Beverley Lazier for her stirling role as treasurer, but gave the credit to somebody else. Flogging is too good for the editor and he shouldn't receive any leftover Halloween candy, either.

#### OCTOBER CORRECTION

For our October meeting, the talk was delivered by Bob Villebrun. We regret that Evelyn Bishop was unable to attend due to the death of her mother. The Society extends our deepest sympathy.

#### LOCAL HISTORY RESOURCE PEOPLE

The Frontenac County Board of Education has invited interested members of our Society to act as resource people for grade 7 and 8 students in local history. Wally Breck, of course, has been doing this for years with great success but, until now, our Society had been unable to penetrate the lofty precincts of the School Board itself. Retired professor Peter Hennessy was more successful and a strategy meeting was held 29 September between enthusiastic teachers and a few interested members of our Society, led by President Bill Fitsell. The historic topic and the nature of your participation can be as varied as your imagination. If you would like to help, fill out the enclosed information sheet titled Student History Plan and send it to the editor, address above.

# **GRAD HISTORY STUDENTS UNITE!**

One of our newest members, Sharon Rudy, shows every sign of being one of our most enterprising. A graduate student in history at Queens, she has offered to distribute our membership brochure to all her fellow scholars, encouraging them to become involved in our mission to share the historic wealth of Kingston and the area. Sharon has also undertaken to form a small committee to select a suitable memorial to Molly Brant, that remarkable Mohawk woman who did so much, with her people, to support the British side during the American Revolution. Quite apart from that, Sharon is working on her thesis examining American draft resistance during the Viet Nam War and those who took refuge in Canada. She has also recently married and survived a bout of pneumonia, mercifully not simultaneously. With women like Sharon Rudy in our Society, can we seriously worry about the future of our country?

# POLICE BLOTTER, KINGSTON 1797

At the session held October 1797, the following penalties were pronounced: Constables Purdy, Finkle and Huff, 20 shillings each for non-attendance at court. Wm. Newberry and Caleb Williams, for petty larceny, 40 lashes each on their bare backs at the public whipping post. Nicholas Tudor, for misdemeanours, to sit in the stocks for two hours. And they say that Kingston is soft on crime.

# NEW QUEENS PRINCIPAL

The Kingston Historical Society welcomes William Leggett as the seventeenth principal of Queens University, and as an Honorary Patron of our Society. Installed during a colourful ceremony on Friday 28 October amid graduating students, proud parents, trumpeting brass, a choral ensemble, kilted pipers, highland dancers, cheerleaders, the provincial premier and Boo Hoo the Bear, Principal Leggett donned a Queens tam and danced Queens' traditional tribal gyration, the Oil Thigh. What the hell.

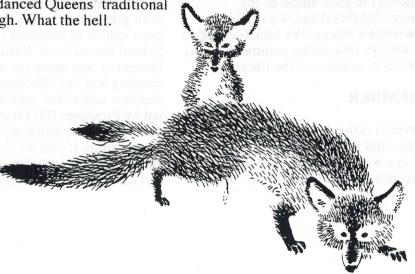
# WOMEN'S HISTORY NETWORK

The contribution of women to the development of civilized society and to our own lives is a phenomenon which receives little mention in our history books. The thought crossed my mind as a young airman, when introduced to the young ladies who packed our parachutes.

The goal of the Ontario Women's History Network is to reveal the many remarkable stories of women which have never been told. On 21-22 October, a conference on Women and the Canadian Military was held at the Royal Military College sponsored by the Network, the RMC Committee on the Status of Women, RMC History Department and the Faculty of Education at Queens. Among the panelists and speakers were Brig. Gen. (ret) Sheila Hellstrom, the first woman promoted to the rank of General in the Canadian Forces, Lieutenant Danielle Hards, a serving officer who has just completed her MA thesis at RMC, Dr. Katherine McKenna of Queens and Kelly Nesbitt from Fort York, who talked abvout the lives of 19th century army wives, and Dr. Margaret Allemang, University of Toronto emeritus professor, who spoke of nursing sisters' overseas service in World War I. In the audience was Society member Elizabeth Neil who, as Major Betty Pense, RCAMC, was the first Canadian matron to serve in the Korean war. Her aunt, Miss Emma F. Pense, joined the militia in Kingston in 1911 and sailed with the first contingent to Europe in 1914 as Matron in Chief, Canadian Army Overseas, serving until her retirement in 1942.

For more information about the Ontario Women's History Network, please call Jane Errington, History Department, RMC, at 541-5010, extension 6607.

On the fiftieth anniversary of the landings in Europe and the bloodshed which followed, perhaps we should also remember how much we depended on our women, at home and at war.

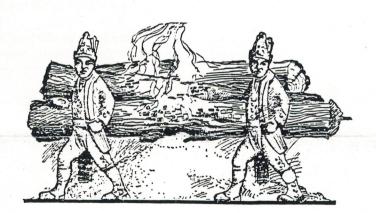


### **OUR ANNUAL AWARDS**

The three recipients of the Kingston Historical Society Award have been selected, and at our November meeting (breathless hush) the names will be proudly announced. Hint: all of the award winners are people who have contributed greatly to our Society and to historical scholarship over many years.

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

With Halloween is over and the autumn leaves have shrivelled in the dust, can Christmas be far behind? While your editor will take a holiday from the newsletter in December, the holiday spirit will be alive and well as we celebrate a combined Christmas meeting of the Pittsburgh and Kingston Historical Societies at RMC. The event will be held in the Senior Staff Mess, where Dr. Jack Pike and Ross MacKenzie will tell the tale of The Leinster Silver. Afterward, there will be a cash bar and delicious snackies provided by kindly ladies from both societies. One expects that it will be a dressy affair. each of us gliding about with dignified mien. nodding slightly at those we consider worthy of our attention. You know, the usual kind of thing. For those unfamiliar with the ground at RMC, the President has promised that a map will be supplied with the invitation. We always have a splendid party and we hope that you, especially, will come.



#### **MURNEY TOWER'S ARTIFACTS**

Over the years, the Murney Tower Museum has been given a large number of historic curio, many of them throwaways from the attics of former members. Too nice to throw away, but what to do with it? Give it to the museum! Without clear policies for the acquisition of meaningful artifacts or consistent records of the provenance of artifacts or their donors, the museum had become a kind of collective attic, only a few of its artifacts on display and many of the displays only peripherally relevant to the Murney Tower. To make matters worse, the cold, damp atmosphere of the tower, unheated in winter and humid in summer, caused metal to rust, wood and fabric to rot and vermin to proliferate. Obviously, action was overdue.

Ken Rutherford, Doug Petty and their colleagues decided to act. First, they sorted the stuff into two piles: that which was relevant and userful to the museum and that which was not. The good stuff was carefully packed in boxes and removed to dry storage for this winter. The remainder must be disposed of, and with the support of your executive, has decided on the following policy:

Where records of the identity of the donors survive, the articles will be offered to the donors or their immediate families and returned to them if so desired.

Where the identity of original donors cannot be determined or donors cannot be located, the unusable articles will be offered to other museums in the Kingston area.

All remaining articles will be sold at auction.
In particular, they will be auctioned off at our annual meeting in January, when you may find several items whose purpose completely mystifies your executive or the museum committee. Do come!

# PROVINCIAL LARGESSE

We are delighted and grateful for the receipt of grants from the provincial Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation for \$5,741. This greatly helps us to defray the cost of operating the Murney Tower Museum. Thank you, Minister Anne Swarbrick.

# STUDENT HISTORY PLAN

Local history can be much more interesting if young students can see where it happened, better still if they can discuss it with someone who was involved. History teachers in Frontenac County would like members of the Kingston Historical Society to help as resource people for their students. The historic topic and the nature of your participation can be as varied as your imagination. The details can be arranged in discussion with the teacher. To get things started, would you kindly indicate your interests:

Your Name:
Mailing Address:
Telephone at Home: Office:
Best Time to Call:
Favorite Historic Subject:
Career Experience:
Students will normally be in small groups, ranging in age from ten to twelve depending on their grade and special interests. What would you prefer:
O Walking Tour O On site visit O Classroom talk O Museum visit
O Lecture O Discussion O Slide Show O Demonstration O Interview
Can you bring: O Slides O Photos O Drawings O Models O Other?
Preferred Location: O Kingston O Nearby Township O Outlying Towns
Preferred Language: O English O French O Other?
Preferred Involvement: O One time thing Length of session hours
O Several visits as student project progresses
O Repeat visits at intervals of weeks
O Other arrangement:
What assistance or facilities would you like from the teacher?
What kind of activities do you suggest?